

Can this really be the end of the road for our library?

COULD THE days of Puddletown's library really be numbered, asks chairman Mike Chaney? Dorset County Council, which funds the county's library service, is trying to save £48.6m – with £800,000 to be cut from what it spends on its libraries.

To make such a huge cut the library service is planning to close 20 of its small libraries – and that includes ours. If the plan is approved at the crunch meeting in February, Dorset will be left with libraries in only its 14 biggest towns. Does this mean the end of the road for us as a group...and the end of a service here that we know is used and loved by many in our community? Can we save our library – and provide a service ourselves – if the county council withdraws its financial support?

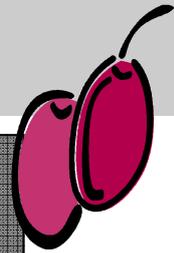
This is something we plan to chew over at the Friends' annual general meeting in the Church Room on Monday 24 January (see box on P2).

As you probably know, for almost half the hours that our library is open volunteers from the Friends give up their time to do the work. They have been doing this for more than two years now and they've never let our readers down. Could they realistically be expected to double the amount of time they give to the library? And would people who now use the place continue to do so if it were cut off from the services now provided by Dorchester: the ability to reserve books; the DVDs and CDs; the computers – and perhaps the

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PLUM

The Newsletter of the Friends of Puddletown Library. December 2010



Success in the spotlight

TWO FRIENDS have been honoured in recent weeks. They are pictured here proudly showing off the certificates they've been awarded.



Lizzie Peckover (*left*) won a Volunteer of the Year award at ceremony run by Dorchester's Volunteer Bureau for her work for the Friends, both as a librarian and for her work with pre-school children like the Pumpkins. She says she loves helping the children learn to enjoy books: 'They are so rewarding,' she says.

Diane Child (*right*) is the only student so far to have been awarded a certificate of distinction for the progress she made while being introduced to computing on one of the courses run by members of the Friends in the library. 'She was a joy to teach,' says her instructor Kevin Bumby. 'Her enthusiasm was boundless – and her progress took my breath away.'



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