



PLUM

Puddletown **L**ibrary, **U**pkeep and **M**aintenance

Now comes the really hard

part...

Can we convince our neighbours that computers won't bite them?

NOW THAT the first of our computers is safely installed — and connected to the wonderful world of the internet through our new telephone line in the library — we can get down to daunting business of organising our teaching programme. During the rest of this year we must find out just how many people in Puddletown and the surrounding villages want to take up our offer to show them how to use computers, either the ones provided by the county council in the library, or their own equipment. And once we've cracked that problem we'll then have to find enough people locally who'll give up their time to take on the teaching. 'We know,' says Friends' chairman Mike Chaney, 'that we have an encouraging number of volunteers who are willing to help those who haven't yet mastered using a keyboard, but if we get as many learners as we hope to' (Continued overleaf)



MIDDLE SCHOOL WINNERS: These six girls swept the board in the two top groups in our 'Reading is Fun' competition, run in conjunction with the Puddletown Carnival. They are (l to r) Megan Kellaway, Holly Townsend, Tilly Jeff, Danielle L'Oiseau, Fern Bartlett and Francesca Hearing.

Dampened but definitely not down-hearted

EVEN THOUGH the display of the winning entries on the Recreation Ground on Carnival Day was almost a complete washout, the reading competition the Friends organised as part of the Carnival was a triumph. 'We were simply staggered when we attracted well over 300 entries,' says volunteer Lizzy Peckover, who organised the prizes and was also one of the judges. 'And we were even more delighted by the high standard of the work they submitted.' The competition was divided into six different age groups. The tasks

they were set varied according to their abilities: the youngest (some less than three) had to make a model about the story that had been read to them; the oldest had to write a review, recommending a book to a younger reader. Every child who entered was given a certificate, specially designed by volunteer Annie Wheatley and either a book or a gift — with book tokens for the best entries. Our judges were former teachers Diana Foreman and Brian Turner, Mary Berry, Lizzy, Annie and Mike, who is full of praise for the help (Continued overleaf)



FIRST SCHOOL WINNERS: Scooping the First School prizes were (in the middle row, l to r) Gemma Knight, Becca Duffield, Tom Harries (on behalf of his brother Ben) and Cara Lee; Maria Marques-Brown, Kacey Hallett and Alaina Stevens in front, with judges Diana Foreman and Lizzy Peckover at the back.

(from the front page)

So once again, we're looking for volunteers

from page one

attract we will need a lot more teachers. What's important to stress is that we are not looking to teach people computing to a very high level of

WHAT CAN A COMPUTER DO FOR YOU?

THERE IS no doubt that the personal computer has revolutionised the way we live. The biggest advantage to most people, writes our technology correspondent, is the ability to send emails instantly and freely all over the world. But the internet will also save money, time and trouble when it comes to paying bills easily, buying cheaply and booking services.

proficiency: we just want to show people in the Puddletown area how to take the first steps along the path that leads to the many advantages of access to the internet.'

Mike explains that those who receive the free instruction will not need to buy a computer: they can use the two which are on permanent display in the library whenever the library is open.

'But there's no doubt,' he says, 'that to get the best out of the cyber revolution you need a computer of your own.'

and encouragement they were given by the staff at both the First and Middle Schools, and the people who run the pre-school and playgroups.

'We couldn't have reached nearly so many children without their whole-hearted co-operation,' says Mike, who explains that the competition was staged as part of the Carnival 2009 in gratitude for the support given by the Carnival Committee to the Friends of the Library in previous years.

'In our early days, says Mike, 'we were venturing into totally uncharted waters: we were taking on a job of keeping open our library in an entirely untried way at a time when we were desperately short of funds.'

FUNDS REMINDER: treasurer Stephen Buck, 3 High Street, reminds members who haven't yet paid their 2009 subs that the rate is still £5, with £8 for couples at the same address.

If you have an email address please send a note of it to Chaneatley@tiscali.co.uk. It'll save our legs — or postage