

## **Friends of Burton Bradstock Library**

On November 3<sup>rd</sup> the Central Library Service reduced the opening hours of the Burton Bradstock library from 10 hours to 6 hours per week, the so called 'Core Hours'. One of the aims of the Friends of Burton Bradstock Library is to provide Volunteer staffing to make up this 4 hour reduction in opening hours.

The original proposal by the Central Library was to have the Core hours such that the Burton Bradstock library was open on Tuesday morning, Thursday afternoon and Saturday morning. However analysis of the User Survey (made by the Central Library when the original Core hours were first proposed) showed a significant majority of respondents wished to retain the Friday afternoon opening hours, while there was little support for Saturday morning opening. Eventually the Central Library agreed to open the library for a reduced time on Friday afternoon, but said that they would also open the library from 10 to 12 on Saturday for a trial period of 18 months. At the end of the 18 months a decision would be made, based on usage, as to whether to retain the Friday opening and stop the Saturday opening, or vice-versa. Thus the current arrangement is that the Volunteers provide the Monday afternoon opening from 3 to 5 PM and from 5 to 6.30 PM opening on Friday afternoon.

During October the Volunteers were given basic library service training by Central Library staff, including usage of the new self service terminal for return and issue of library books. Burton Bradstock library was one of the first three Dorset libraries to be equipped with this system.

The 10 Volunteers have been organised into 4 pairs with 2 'back-ups' to cover for holidays etc. Each pair do 1 session per fortnight. After Christmas, and when the arrangements are running smoothly, consideration will be given a further 10 Volunteers being recruited and trained. In this scenario the 8 pairs will do 1 session per month.

On Monday 3<sup>rd</sup>. of November the first pair ran the afternoon opening, with a member of the Central Library in attendance to help deal with any problems. This was repeated for the Friday afternoon opening from 5 to 6.30. The remaining two pairs went through the same procedure in the week starting 10<sup>th</sup>. of November. From the week beginning 17<sup>th</sup>. of November the Volunteers are operating on their own! However there is help available to them via the telephone.

So far things seem to be working well, but there are some library procedures sufficiently complex to require them to be dealt with by the Central Library staff member, so they have to be left over until the next session staffed by a library staff member. If this happens to you please be patient, as we work to find the best way for the Volunteers to provide a service.

We have been negotiating with the County Council over details concerning the operation of the library building by the FBBL when the Parish Council take a 99 year lease on the library building. We now seem to have resolved various problems and have completed the Friends of Burton Bradstock Library Business Plan for the operation of the building and the raising of the necessary funding. This has now been submitted to the County Council for consideration by the County Council Cabinet.

We hope to receive acceptance of the Business Plan in January after which the details of the lease can be finalised and signed.

Part of the Business Plan is concerned with raising the funds necessary to operate and maintain the building. This is being done in part by subscriptions from members of the FBBL and in part by fund raising events. The first of these fund raising events was held on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. and was a Ploughman's Lunch held in the village hall. It was organised and run by the FBBL fund raising group led by Sandy Adderley, one of the trustees. 100 tickets were sold and it was a great success both socially and financially. The village hall was full, with a very good atmosphere. It was considered a great success and there were calls for it to be repeated next year (which it will be!). A magnificent £664 was raised, so congratulations all round to Sandy and her team! The next fund raising event will be held in April 2009.

Our application to establish the FBBL as a charity drags on as the Charity Commission raise queries with us then take one to two months to reply to our response. The most recent reply is to request that we re-word clause 3 of the constitution. There is no problem with the request, but it will require an Extraordinary General meeting of the FBBL to agree the change. Ian Wigglesworth the Treasurer will try to get agreement over the telephone as to the final wording of clause 3. Once this is done we can call the meeting, then report that the change has been made by a properly constituted Extraordinary General meeting. Hopefully our charitable status will then be established. We will send out notices about the meeting as soon as we are able. The one good thing is that it should be a short meeting!

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all Friends of Burton Bradstock Library.

R. J. Hynds – Chairman of the Friends of Burton Bradstock Library Trustees