

Friends of Burton Bradstock Library

After the summer break, the activities of the FBBL are beginning to progress. We now know that the introduction of the 'Core Hours' changes in Dorset libraries will start on Monday 3rd. of November. We therefore need to have volunteers in place and trained by this date so that there is no change to the total opening hours of our library.

We have recruited our first 10 volunteers. They have signed up with the Central Library to become volunteers, and have applied for a CRB check (a DCC requirement for all library staff). The volunteers will work in four pairs (with remaining two acting as 'back-ups') with each pair doing one session per fortnight. When the system is established we will recruit a further 10 volunteers, after which each pair will do one session per month. The sessions will be from 3 to 5 PM on Monday, and 5 to 6.30 PM on Fridays.

The training programme for the volunteers will be held at Burton Bradstock library, and will consist of 4 half day sessions. These will take place on Monday morning 13th. October, Monday morning 20th. of October, Monday morning 27th. of October followed by one session in the week starting October 27th.

The Central Library service has made considerable progress with the new Customer Service Terminal system, which is being commissioned this autumn. This system works by placing a Radio Frequency Identity tag in each book, and which the terminal can sense. The library users can then return and take out books themselves by just 'showing' the books to the terminal. The new terminal will be installed in the Burton Bradstock library sometime in October, and will come into operational use on the 23rd. of October. Training of the volunteers in its use will be during the week beginning the 27th. October. ready for their start on November 3rd. By Friday 14th. of November each pair of volunteers will have done one session each. During these first sessions a member of the Central Library staff will be present at each session to provide support if problems arise. After that the volunteers will go solo!

Some small modifications to the library layout will be needed and these will also be done in October. The locations of the reception desk and the two public use computers will be moved and the new terminal installed near the entrance door.

The first Dorset libraries to use the new self service systems will be Burton Bradstock, Colehill and Puddletown, all from November 3rd. They were chosen because we all proposed to use volunteers to maintain our library opening hours. Burton Bradstock and Puddletown will be using volunteers, but Colehill changed its mind at the last minute. The first main library to go live with the new technology will be Weymouth in early December. There will then be a pause until after Christmas which will provide an opportunity for a review of the initial implementation. It is hoped to complete implementation in all 34 Dorset libraries by September 2010.

An important part of the implementation of the new system is the insertion of an RFI tag into each book. Two thirds of the books in the Burton Bradstock library have already been tagged, and the remainder (out on loan) will be tagged as they are returned to the library. The current bar code system will continue to operate for some time, so that books taken out from Burton Bradstock can still be returned to Bridport

library before it is converted to the new system. Dorset libraries contain approximately 600,000 items to be tagged, and as of September the stock on the shelves at 15 libraries (including Weymouth) have been tagged. In Dorset, the stock is circulated regularly between libraries, so it is important that the stock is tagged in every library. The tagging programme across all libraries is scheduled for completion by February 2009.

Our application for charity status for the Friends of Burton Bradstock Library is with the Charity Commission and so far we have had two requests for some clarifications from them. However they have a big backlog, and when we reply we seem to go to the back of the queue again, so it may be some weeks before we get final clearance.

We are in the final stages of due diligence on the costs of running the library building, which is a part of the negotiations on leasing the library building from the County Council. There are some problems but we hope to resolve these in the near future.

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