



## Make Friends with a Book

Poole Libraries have contacted RSVP East Dorset to invite us to get involved with a new scheme called "Make Friends with a Book", started at Broadstone and Rossmore (Parkstone) libraries.

The idea of the scheme is to have a weekly reading group where short stories, poems or instalments of a novel are read aloud to the group, followed by a discussion.

The facilitator (organiser) does all the reading,, there is no need for anyone to read anything in between meetings and no onus on anyone other than listen to the story and enjoy a cup of coffee or tea with some biscuits.

In practice, it appears that people do share their own stories, sometimes quite personal ones; also, they are making friends and coming back to reading after quite long periods away. The idea is to target isolated and lonely people and the two reading groups are definitely building social networks.

As the two existing groups are doing so well, Poole libraries are keen to expand to other libraries and possibly residential homes and day centres.

We are hoping that RSVP can recruit volunteers to help in this valuable social project, which could be taken up all over our area.

While it's early days for our involvement in this project, it's hoped good and interesting things can come from this scheme.

**If anyone is interested in facilitating at a meeting or organising a book club, please contact Judy Green on [01202] 625314**

