



NEWS

Colehill Community Library

March
2014
Issue 74

Incorporating Friends of Colehill Library News. Editor: Graham Mallett, focolnews@gmail.com

Colehill Community Library Ltd., Middlehill Road, Colehill BH21 2HL. Tel: 01202 886676 www.colehill.gov.uk/about-colehill Reg. Charity No. 1151552

Chairman's comments

What a terrific birthday celebration we had! It was great to see so many friends, volunteers and even ex-library staff again. The Community choir performed very well too and we had representatives of local authors in Malcolm Angel, Lys de Bray, and our very own Jan Seal. Peter Finney, Chairman of Dorset Library Services Committee was left in no doubt of the excellent support for the library from the community. Even a superb cake!

As well as the report in the "Stour & Avon", you may have seen the article about us in February's Mags4Dorset, with interviews and pictures.

Since then the special interest groups have started meeting in the library on Thursday mornings and it is good to see the community being able to make more use of the library facilities.

By the time you read this, arrangements will be in hand for the incorporation of the Friends as the fund-raising arm of CCL. Derek Henderson has done an excellent job, through the Friends, in maintaining awareness of the threat that DCC would eventually close Colehill library, and so when that threat became a reality, we were prepared.

Now that we have experience of running the library for a whole year, it is a good time to step back and to consider whether any changes may be needed, so will you please read and complete the survey (copies in the library or on the website under 'News').

John Gooch, Chairman

Library thoughts

What a great start to the year with well attended events demonstrating the wide community support for the library. When the Friends group was originally formed in 1992 its main role was to campaign against growing attempts by DCC to close Colehill library. Now, as its main objective is fund raising, it is clear that this would be better managed from within the existing CCL Management Committee. This gives the added advantage of more co-ordinated events and eligibility for Gift Aid.

Be quite clear, it is thanks to the Friends that we still have a library, but now it is equally very clear that thanks to the Volunteers we have an outstanding library. An important topic, to be addressed at the Friends' AGM.

The importance of libraries and their impact on literacy and education is recognised globally. This was demonstrated in the closing ceremony to the recent



Winter Olympic Games when by means of gigantic books it emphasised the importance of libraries and literature.

Keep up the good work and enjoy this vital local asset.

Best wishes, Derek, Chairman of the Friends

Attention members!

FoCoL 12th AGM

*Friday, 4th April at 7.30 p.m.
in the Library*

Paperwork was emailed on 6th March
– contact Graham or Derek if you haven't received it.

A Splash of Paint!

Now Spring is in the air, we are looking to freshen up parts of the Library. We need volunteers to paint the Foyer, Cloakroom and Office. This work will have to be carried out during the hours the Library is closed, so that means some weekday mornings or all day on a Wednesday.

If you have the time to spare to lend a hand with any of these tasks, please contact David Holder, Library Maintenance Manager. Tel: 01202 880775.

Windows!

You may not have noticed how clean the windows are at the Library.

They are being cleaned by Alan Tong of AMT Window Cleaning, who upon hearing of our efforts as fundraisers, said that although he lives in Bournemouth, libraries have been a most important part of his life and that of his children, therefore he would like to give something back, and would clean the windows as required at no charge to CCL.

Alan uses several methods to clean glass and always washes surrounding plastic.

Please support his efforts and get your windows sparkling clean by calling for a quote on 07584 038634 saying that you are a volunteer at Colehill Library.

Easter Closing

A reminder that the Library will be closed over the Easter holiday from Good Friday to Easter Monday inclusive.

The Library will re-open on Tuesday 22nd April at 9.30a.m.

Latest information on Activities & Events is always available on our website: www.colehill.gov.uk/about-colehill

Special Interest Groups

There has been a buzz of activity on Thursday mornings at the library recently. Several different special interest groups have started up and are open to anyone who would like to come along. Here's what's been happening :

Knit and Natter

The Knit and Natter group met for the first time and a dozen of us shared a variety of craft ideas such as knitting, crochet and embroidery, that we had tackled in the past, whilst having an enjoyable natter on topics of general interest. Members of the group indicated a willingness to share their expertise and a collection of materials and magazine articles which have been donated to us. We are looking forward to meeting each month.

Family History

The Colehill Library Family History Group provides an opportunity for local residents to meet others with an interest in family history, and to share skills and expertise. Complete beginners are able to take advantage of this expertise, to get started, and more advanced researchers can share their knowledge. The Library public computers have free access to Ancestry.com and our more experienced researchers can give advice on the many free resources on the internet.

Local History

The group is planning initially to investigate the large houses which were built on Colehill in the period 1850 to 1925 and who they were built for (although research can develop a life of its own and branch off at a tangent!) Questions arise such as who would build a house on Gooks Hill or on the site of the bullpit? Where was Gooks Hill? Who appointed herself 'Commandant' of Beaucroft in WWI? What natural hazards were best avoided on Colehill cricket pitch in 1920s? And more....

New special interest start ups for the next month include

Community Art Group

Meeting monthly on **Friday** mornings 10.30 – 12.30, we welcome all ages and abilities. With an informal, self-help approach, hopefully members can exchange experiences and techniques to try their hand with any medium within Creative Art that interests or intrigues them.

Just Write! - writing group

Starting Thursday March 20th 10.00 - 12.00. A relaxed, fun approach to developing creative writing skills. Thinking of writing a life story? Creating a thriller? Experimenting with blogging or exploring poetry? Come along and have a go...

No experience necessary!

Calendar – Come and join us in March.....

13th - Local History 20th - Just Write

27th - Knit and Natter 28th - Art

Waitrose ••Tokens••

We are delighted to announce that Colehill Community Library is part of the Waitrose Community Matters Initiative for March. Please consider us when placing your tokens!

Saturday Book Club

The first meeting of our Saturday Book Club for young borrowers was held on 1st March. Our first members enjoyed an hour talking about some favourite books, learning a little about how the Library works and making a badge.

The next meeting will be on Saturday 29th March where, among other things, members will be helping to decorate the children's area for Easter.

If you are between 7 - 11 yrs and would like to join us from 10.30 to 11.30 every four weeks, please leave your name at the Library and Hilary will contact you.

Mr Men and Little Miss Reading Challenge

Congratulations to all our readers aged between 3 and 7 years who are taking part in the reading challenge at Colehill Library.

Our youngest readers have been sharing five specially written Mr Men and Little Miss mini stories and completing five related fun activities. Those achieving all ten challenges are receiving a special certificate and (with their guardian's permission) will have the opportunity to be entered into a national prize draw with the chance of winning some book tokens and other items. If you haven't started the challenge yet there is still time to complete it before the 5th April.

Gardening

We are very grateful to Bill Seddon for all the work he has done on clearing the undergrowth around the Library – it has been quite a battle!

Bill is now very involved with the fund raising side of the Library and so has decided to let someone else continue the good work. Luckily Barbara Gooch has agreed to take on the challenge. If you have already put your name down as a gardening volunteer Barbara will be in touch. If you would like to help please contact Barbara via the Library.

Our thanks to both Bill and Barbara for past and future work!

Magazines

A huge thank you to those who are donating up-to-date magazines to the Library.

We have an ever expanding range of titles from "Good Housekeeping" and "Dorset Family History Magazine" to "New Scientist" and "Private Eye". Find them in the Library foyer.

Colehill Flower Club

We are very grateful for the delightful flower arrangements regularly exhibited in the Library lobby by the Colehill Flower Club.



Copy date for next issue: 2nd May