



NEWS

Colehill Community Library

January
2015
Issue 79

Published every two months. Editor: Graham Mallett, focolnews@gmail.com
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Chairman's comments

A new year starts with our 2nd anniversary as a community library.

We are in good shape, thanks in great part to Linda and her wonderful team of volunteers, and the fund-raising team, who have recently welcomed Sarah Freeman to help with publicity. I look forward to seeing you all again at the birthday celebration on 31st January at the Memorial Hall.

The Sieghart report on the future of libraries sees the library as becoming a "community hub" offering services and advice beyond the traditional library facilities. We've made a start by installing the moveable shelving (mostly financed by grants) which makes better use of available space.

Meanwhile, in a county not unadjacent, talks about the successor to the Millennium system are under way.

Change is inevitable but let's hope it comes slowly!

Thanks to everyone for their past contributions and all best wishes for another rewarding, and possibly challenging, year ahead.

John Gooch, Chairman

Toddler Group - from Tuesday 6th January

The Toddler Group meets every Tuesday morning during term time from 10.00 – 10.30.

Special Interest Groups

For January, meeting dates are a week later than normal, except for Knit & Natter which is still on the last Thursday.

Special Event – February 5th, 10.00 – 12.00

"Life Stories" with guest speaker - author Tracy Baines

Have you -

Got a story to tell? Your own or someone else's?

Discovered some mysterious ancestors?

Been on interesting journeys?

Or do you just enjoy reading and writing real life and fictional stories...

Join us for an informal morning discovering how to be creative with the amazing resource of our own life experiences. No charge, donation to library funds.

All welcome.

The 100 Book Challenge

Congratulations to all our young readers who have signed up. Someone has already read over 60 books.

Lee Child - 'Personal' (2014)

I have a copy if anyone would like to borrow it (and doesn't fancy joining the '180 holds' queue for library copies!) *Ed.*

Get to Grips with I T in 2015

Book a one to one IT session with Jeff Webb on a Tuesday morning to master your tablet or smart phone or laptop software. Sessions last approx half an hour. The service is free but a small donation to library funds is appreciated.

Please note this is not for computer repairs although special rates are available for Colehill Library users.

Fund-Raising Events

The fund-raising team are busy planning for 2015. Please come along to the library's 2nd birthday celebration, we're having coffee and cakes, some art and craft tables, a huge book sale, and a raffle. We'd be grateful for any unwanted toys and games in good condition.

We'll be selling tickets for future events: **a Fish & Chip meal, followed by a Beetle Drive!** (that's on Friday, 20th February in St Michael's Hall) and **two coach trips** have been organised for this year, both on Wednesdays ~ 6th May to the BBC, and 16th September to Bletchley Park.

Put all these dates in your brand new diaries!

Tickets will also be on sale for the Co.Mad Panto.



to celebrate
Colehill Community Library's
2nd birthday

~ Crafts and Book Sale ~
~ entertainment by
the Jubilate Singers ~
~ Coffee & Cake ~



Saturday, 31st January

10 a.m. till noon in the Memorial Hall

Come along and bring your friends

For latest information: www.colehill.gov.uk/colehill-community-library or facebook.com/colehillcommunitylibrary

How many volunteers does it take to shelve a book?

Nearly three years ago approximately a hundred and fifty Colehill residents met in the Memorial Hall and signed up as volunteers to keep our library open. In February we will have been operating our Community Library for two years.

Almost unbelievably, most of those original volunteers are still with us and those who have needed to withdraw have been replaced by other, equally enthusiastic candidates. The age range is from 12 to 80+ years! Many envisaged spending a couple of hours once a week or once a fortnight, shelving and tidying a few books. Most of us now know different! We have all discovered how much more there is to running a library than keeping the shelves tidy.

Those stalwart regulars who open up the library for twenty hours a week have indeed shelved and searched for many books while getting to grips with the many services offered by the library. They also help to process the wonderful selection of donated books and run the Jigsaw library, and assist with the photocopying and laminating service.

Alongside them are the Gleam team who without fail, keep us spruce and hygienic. This includes the window cleaner and gutter cleaners and the lady who regularly washes down the frontage and notice board and fights to keep the pine needles and leaves from the pathways.

There are those who run the toddler group, and the Saturday Club, and help with school visits and the Summer Reading Challenge (and now the 100 Book Challenge) which have been a notable success.

None can have failed to notice the improvement in the library grounds, with the constant battle against ivy and brambles and the extended pathway.

A new front door and windows have been sourced, funded and installed and likewise moveable shelving and display areas have been chosen to give us more flexibility to hold meetings. General maintenance, shifting equipment and painting and decorating are a constant part of the mix.

We hope communication has improved with the development of the website and newsletter, and Facebook.

Our special interest groups have now been running successfully for a year. These are run by volunteers who offer their expertise and enthusiasm without charge.

Much of this would not be possible without the money raised by our splendid fundraisers whose imaginative ideas have swelled the coffers.

None of these activities would have been possible without the Chairman and committee who ensure that the money is accounted for, health and safety is maintained, safeguarding procedures adhered to, insurance is covered and all the legal requirements of running a charitable organisations are met. They also supervised tree maintenance, soakaway and roof repairs, painting of the library exterior and several electrical projects.

I believe that all the volunteers are encouraged by the continued use of the library by the community; if you

haven't used us recently make it your New Year Resolution to give us a try. We intend to be here as long as the Colehill Community wants us.

Wildlife Corner

We have been given some excellent bird feeders and boxes and are hoping they'll house some nestlings this year. Most of the boxes are the open-fronted kind especially for robins as we have several in residence. The nest boxes are all around but the feeders are at the back of the library for two reasons, there's less coming and going there, and the volunteers can enjoy the activity! We're most grateful to the people who have donated these, it saves us from putting our rather poor woodworking skills to the test.

Unfortunately one of the larger oaks will have to be felled as it has "significant risk of structural failure" but there are plenty of younger oaks growing on.

Nature Note

The long damp autumn has continued to throw up interesting fungi in local woodland areas and the triangle around the library has been one of the best.

There are half a dozen different fungi that often grow on fallen conifer cones, particularly when buried, with different species for different types of conifer. Two of these fungi thrive under the Scots Pine near the library. We found a few specimens of Conifercone Cap, a small buff toadstool with a long stalk leading to the buried cone. There was also a fine group of Earpick Fungi. These are small brown toadstool-like fungi. They have a brown furry stalk that bends over at the top and expands into a brown furry cap so that the stem appears to be at the side of the cap, not in the middle as you might expect. Furthermore the underside of the cap is furnished with spines in place of the normal gills. The other common pine cone toadstool, the Pinecone Cap, is a spring fungus and we'll look for that in April or May.

Returning to earthstars (see last month's column): we eventually identified three species from under the Pines by the library: Collared Earthstar, Sessile Earthstar and a third one which doesn't yet have a name (English or scientific) as it has only recently come to the attention of the experts.

That small patch of ground under the pines in front of the library is a real hotspot for interesting fungi!

Christine & Malcolm Storey



Photo: Malcolm Storey

COPY DATE for next issue: 26th February