



# NEWS

## Colehill Community Library

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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

Welcome to the latest edition of the Newsletter, now under new management as they say. As we approach our first anniversary, I am pleased to report that the Library is thriving, which is entirely due to the support and hard work of the volunteers.

With winter in the offing I am pleased to report that the new frontage is in place and will help to keep out the draughts.

This improvement was financed by a grant from the Digby Trust, for which we are most grateful.



We are always looking for ways for the community to make use of the Library facility, and the item "Groups" overleaf gives some suggested activities which you might be interested in joining or even helping run.

I wish everyone "Merry Christmas" and thank you all for your excellent support. *John Gooch*

### Website

A major revamp of our web presence on the Parish website is under way. The section is now called 'Colehill Community Library' and consists of multiple pages combining CCL and FoCoL information. See [www.colehill.gov.uk/about-colehill](http://www.colehill.gov.uk/about-colehill). Please send any feedback to the Editor.

### Photocopying and Laminating Service

The Library has facilities for colour and black and white photocopying up to A3 size, and is now able to offer a **laminating service** up to A3 size.

### Coming events

**Visit to Parliament - 14th November.** Coach from Colehill. Tickets £20 at the Library.

**Film Night - 'The Italian Job'** Saturday, 16th November, in Colehill Memorial Hall. Doors open 7pm. Tickets from the Library (Fundraising for Colehill Memorial Hall).

**Grand Christmas Bazaar** at the Memorial Hall : **Saturday, 23rd November**, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., with refreshments of coffee, cake and soup. Twenty-plus tables of gifts, crafts, cards, books, jewellery, etc. etc. This will be our third Bazaar and they are proving really popular. Do come along and see.

**FoCoL AGM** on **Friday, 24 January** at St Michael's Church Hall will be followed by a Fish & Chip supper.

### Library thoughts - Friends of Colehill Library

Throughout our campaigning for libraries a common theme was the importance of their contribution to the literacy of the young. Sadly, the recently published OECD report, *Skills Outlook 2013*, highlights the declining standards here; England is 22nd for literacy and 21st for numeracy out of 24 countries.

According to the National Literacy Trust, "one in six people in the UK struggle with literacy. This means their literacy is below the level expected of an eleven year old." And in another OECD report it recognised that; "England stands out with a handful of nations where social background determines reading skills."

Although clearly not just a function of libraries alone, literacy most certainly relates to library availability and access. A British academic Dr James Campbell, has written *The Library*, a complete history of library buildings; the result of visiting more than 80 libraries in 20 countries. Its stunning photographs illustrate the world's greatest libraries built long before Kindles and iPads existed. However, whilst being certainly architectural wonders, they look more like literary warehouses; hardly a person in sight!

This more than ever, emphasizes the importance and value of the 'accessible' community library; it is heartening that so many of you are involved in ensuring our library prospers. As was said recently, "nothing compares to the warmth you get from holding a book, feeling it, flipping through the pages.....you cannot do these things with an e-book, kindles etc. you can be 'attached' to a book but not an electronic device." As reported in the *Bookseller* recently; "Some 34% of parents say children already spend too long looking at screens, and 74% say they would prefer their children to read a physical book." So it is disappointing to

### Christmas Opening

The Library will **open** at the following times:

Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December	2.00 – 5.00 pm
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	9.30 – 3.00 pm
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> December	2.00 – 5.00 pm
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> December	9.30 – 12.30 pm
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> December	2.00 – 5.00 pm
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> December	9.30 – 1.00, 2.00 – 4.00 pm
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January	2.00 – 5.00 pm
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January	2.00 – 5.00 pm
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> January	9.30 – 12.30 pm



Please note that there are **slightly shorter opening hours** on some days. Normal opening times will recommence on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January.

*"Season's Greetings" to all our readers  
and thank you for your support during 2013*

see such a significant drop in the attendance at recent talks. For example, the multimedia presentation by Brian Petitt on local wildlife was truly spectacular, but to an audience of only 21! On the other hand the *Friday Night is Music Night* at the Memorial Hall was an outstanding success; does this represent the way to go?

With this in mind, our **12th AGM on Friday, 24th January** at St. Michael's will be followed by a Fish & Chip supper and other attractions to make it a good social occasion. Look out for details soon in the library. Then will also be the occasion to renew your membership!

Best wishes ..... *Derek*

## Event reports

### Halloween

A goodly number of young witches and wizards joined the Library witches for the afternoon of Halloween. There were spooky stories, crafts and quizzes on offer.....

### Friday Night is Music Night

A light hearted evening of local musicians singing and playing folk and 60's music. This raised in the region of £400 which is fantastic. *Lots of photos on the website!*

### Jan Seal's talk "Wimborne in Saxon Times"

The Library was delighted to welcome local author (and library volunteer), Jan Seal. Nearly 40 people listened to some fascinating stories about the life and history of our locality and will doubtless be looking at some areas with new eyes. Anyone wanting to expand their interest further may wish to read Jan's newly published novel "**The King's Chalice – a novel of East Dorset in Saxon Times**". This may be borrowed from the library or signed copies purchased at the desk.

### Grant Shapps MP

Visited on 7th November to see a Community Library in action.

## A favourite author: Lee Child

Lee Child is the pen name of British author, Jim Grant, born 29 October 1954 in Coventry. Beginning in 1997 he has written a series of thriller novels based on the exploits of Jack Reacher, a former American military policeman who wanders the United States.

Child's early career was in television where he was a presentation director. He was involved in popular shows such as *Brideshead Revisited*, *Prime Suspect*, and *Cracker*, but in 1995, his career in television ended and he began writing novels. His first novel, "Killing Floor" won the Anthony Award for Best First Novel. Since then he has written at the rate of at least one a year; new books are eagerly awaited and always lead to a long waiting list at the library\*. He moved to the United States in the summer of 1998 and was elected president of the *Mystery Writers of America* in 2009; rapid recognition.

*Derek*

\* I have just acquired the latest book - 'Never Go Back' - there is a long reservation queue (200+!) so if you would like to borrow mine, contact me: [g@gpmcs.co.uk](mailto:g@gpmcs.co.uk) - *Ed*.

## Items for sale on behalf of library

I have 'The Graphic' 11/5/1910 (Edward VII Special), and 24/5/1910 (Edward VII Funeral), 'Thanksgiving' 6/5/1935 (Silver Jubilee), 'The Sphere' 1/2/1936 (George V Funeral), 'The Times' 4/9/1939, for a donation to the library. Could split. *Ed*.

*We are always delighted to welcome new volunteers and would be pleased to hear from anyone willing to do some light cleaning or internal maintenance.*

## An encouraging word from Tess Gerritsen

Tess Gerritsen (MD) is an internationally well known Chinese-American novelist and retired physician who has a well earned reputation for writing authoritative medical thrillers.

I have had an exchange of emails with her and I thought you would like to know that from as far away as San Diego, where she lives, she is aware of Colehill and recently as part of an email to me she said;

*"I'm glad to hear that Colehill Library is managing to hang on even in this digital age. My generation, I'm afraid, may be one of the last to prefer printed books to reading screens, but for now real books are still the most popular medium for readers. Let's hope that holds true for at least another fifty years! Tess"*

*Derek*

## Reading Groups

The Reading Group meets on the **1st Tuesday of the month** at the library, 1-2pm.

**December** : Other People's Money by Justin Cartwright.

Are you considering starting your own Reading Group? If so pop into Colehill Library and ask for a leaflet.

We can help you access the Dorset Libraries Reading Group Service which offers: A free Reading group Service pack; An eight week loan period; The opportunity to request and reserve up to ten copies of a title which can be collected at Colehill.

### Congratulations to Lynn Nelsey's daughter, Rebecca

Rebecca 13, entered the Young Writers Mini Sagas – A Twist in the Tale competition. Rebecca's story, 'The Big Bad Wolf', has been chosen for publication in A Twist in the Tale - Tales from the South West. A copy of the book will be sent to the British library and other libraries. Rebecca attends Parkstone Grammar and has helped out at the library and at Friends events.



## Groups

In the New Year we are hoping to offer the opportunity for interest groups to meet in the Library on a regular (monthly?) basis. If you would be interested in any of the following leave your name in the Library or e-mail us at [ccl.colehill@gmail.com](mailto:ccl.colehill@gmail.com)

### Family History Group

A relaxed meeting where members can share their interests and resources, ask for help and access the Ancestry website.

### Local History Group

The chance to share information and hopefully build an archive particularly about the history of Colehill.

### Writing for Fun Group

The chance to explore the possibility of creative writing in a friendly and relaxed and non-critical atmosphere.

### Knit and Natter

This is popular in many libraries. It offers the chance to meet up for a chat and a coffee and if desired bring your knitting or some other craft activity. We have already been offered some off-cuts of fabric which members might wish to use.

### JigSaw Library

A reminder that with the nights drawing in we offer a good selection of jigsaws for loan – no charge / no time limit! Just come to the Library, browse the colour catalogues in the lobby, select the puzzle you would like and ask a volunteer to bring it to you.