

Colehill Clarion

Autumn/Winter
2012/2013

Issue 9



Cllr Davies & Andrew
Browning of Dumpton School



Cllrs Mitchell, Davies & Dover &
pupils from Colehill First School

Colehill celebrates the Queen's Diamond Jubilee

Colehill Parish Council organised a competition for all children attending school within the parish and the three categories were art, poetry and short story. The schools fully embraced the competition and over 1000 entries were received. The prize winners in each category received a £25 book token and every child attending one of the six schools within Colehill received a certificate commemorating the Jubilee. Each school was also presented with a beautiful signed book celebrating the Queen's 60 year reign.

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Message from the Chairman

It is six months since our last edition of the Clarion and much has happened locally and nationally in that time. The Queen's Jubilee events gave everyone reason to celebrate and here in Colehill we started with a Jubilee competition for all six of our schools. Art, writing and poetry were the themes and the children did not disappoint. The many entries were of such high standard and a delight to review. Our visits to the schools later to present prizes showed just why Colehill is so popular with parents with children of school age.

There were street parties and an excellent '**Garden Gadabout**' that brought people out in the hundreds to enjoy the many gardens opened for the event. This was then followed by the '**Big Bike Ride**' which, given the poor weather that we had been having, was extremely well supported. Many thanks go to all who helped in so many ways to make the bike ride and the Garden Gadabout so successful. In addition, the fund for the rebuilding of the 'Reef' benefited considerably.

Much is also happening now too. The passing of the **Library** into Community hands is imminent and again many thanks go to those who work tirelessly towards that goal. We hope that the facility will be better than ever in due course.

We are no longer trapped 'up the hill' by the Canford Bottom improvement scheme and like it or hate it, it is now completed and operational. Either way it is with us and we will all eventually adjust.

Many thanks too to so many residents who have responded to the consultation on the Core Strategy. This is very much work in progress as far as the East Dorset District Council is concerned and all your thoughts will go into the mix before the final plan is published sometime next year. Even then it is not the end of the matter. As each proposed development comes up for Planning consent we will want to hear from you if you have views on the proposed building of houses.

Now that the euphoria of the Olympics and the Paralympic Games has passed let us hope that some of that 'feelgood' factor can rub off and that we can add something to the lives of all who have the good fortune to live in Colehill.

David Mitchell
Chairman

Preparing for the winter

Keeping warm has to be the number one priority for all of us and with ever-rising fuel bills, it's important that we try to eliminate heat loss from our homes. One of the most effective methods is adequate insulation and there are still some government-backed schemes available to help offset the costs of installing both loft and cavity wall insulation. Contact your energy provider to see if you qualify for a grant.

TIP: Do not use the services of doorstep advisers or sellers. No energy company is permitted to cold-call customers.

TIP: Make sure your boiler is serviced before the cold weather sets in. Not only will the engineer make sure the boiler is working efficiently, he will also check the emissions ensuring that carbon-monoxide is not leaking into your home.

TIP: Check that fire alarms and carbon-monoxide detectors are all working and renew batteries if necessary.

Icy Roads, Paths and Driveways



The Parish Council has provided a number of grit bins around Colehill and these will all be filled by Dorset County Council with a mixture of salt and grit at the beginning of winter.

Those classified as **"strategic"** bins (*CPC is to be informed following inspection*) will be filled at no additional costs during severe weather. However, those classified as **"community"** bins will be replenished at a charge of **£45** per bin. The main thoroughfares will continue to be gritted by Dorset County Council throughout periods of ice and snow.

The salt and grit in the Parish Council bins is to be used for salting the roads only and is not for personal use by residents. Most reputable builders' merchants and DIY stores sell bags of 50/50 mix of salt and grit which residents can use for paths and driveways.

IT IS A CRIMINAL OFFENCE TO TAKE SALT AND GRIT FOR PERSONAL USE AND ANYONE CAUGHT REMOVING MATERIAL FROM THE GRIT BINS WILL BE CHARGED WITH THEFT AND PROSECUTED.

Street Lighting

Dorset County Council will be turning off the street lights between midnight and 5.30am within the next 6 months. Colehill Parish Council has requested that the chicanes in Middle Hill Road remain illuminated and that the crossroads at Lonnen Road/Wimborne Road (Co-Op) and at Colehill Lane (St. Michael's Church) remain lit. Our concerns with regards to safety at these particular points have been made known to DCC.

Waste and Recycling

All residents should have received notification from The Dorset Waste Partnership about the changes to waste and recycling collections. EDDC enjoys an enviable reputation for the level of recycling achieved but through the Dorset Waste Partnership, is keen to encourage residents to make further improvements.



The new system comes into force on the **29th October** and residents should have received their wheelie bins with detailed instructions as to how they are to be used. There are just a few roads within Colehill where wheelie bin collections are impractical and residents will continue with black sack collections for most household waste.

Weekly Collection: Brown, lockable outside bin for food waste only (small kitchen caddy for indoors)

Fortnightly Collection: Green lid wheelie bin for paper, cardboard, plastics, batteries
Grey lid wheelie bin for all other household waste (not food or garden)
Green box for glass
Green wheelie bin for garden refuse only (optional service, costs extra)

Assisted collections can be arranged for residents who may experience difficulty in moving wheelie bins. Biodegradable food bags, with the compostable logo, can be used to line the kitchen caddies for ease of disposal. Ordinary bin liners or plastic bags must not be used as they cannot be composted.

Contact Dorset Waste Partnership at www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk or telephone East Dorset District Council on 01202 886201 for help with either of these matters.



Core Strategy

Although things appear to have gone quiet, the development of the Core Strategy by East Dorset District Council continues to be a number one priority. The consultation is now moving into the 'Alternative Site' phase after which there will be further public consultation leading eventually to the publication sometime next year of the final proposals.

The nature of the Strategy is important to Colehill residents because of the proposed development within the Parish and because the final document will be the blueprint for all development for the next fifteen years.

With clear indications from Central Government that there may be a general relaxation of the Green Belt rules we need to be sure that our views on encroachment are firmly expressed and heeded by the decision makers.

No one questions the fact that more housing is needed in the area or that affordable housing for this part of East Dorset is vital. What we must ensure is that the Strategy does not result in urban sprawl and unsustainable living areas that are without adequate infrastructure and damage the existing quality of life of the residents of Colehill.

The consultative meetings will be advertised within the local media. Please ensure that your views are made known to the planners: decisions that will be made at the end of these processes will become permanent and very difficult to overturn.



UNICEF Award for Colehill First School

Colehill First School has achieved the status of UNICEF, Rights Respecting School (RRS), being awarded level 1 accreditation.

The Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA) recognises achievement in putting the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child at the heart of a school's planning, policies, practice and ethos.

A rights-respecting school not only teaches about children's rights but also models rights and respect in all its relationships: between teachers and pupils, between adults and between pupils.



Dorset Partnership for Older People Programme

Dorset POPP is primarily a partnership between Dorset County Council, NHS Dorset, the Third Sector and older people. Dorset POPP is a complex and ambitious, person centred programme, led by the needs, desires, and aspirations of Dorset's older people. The vision of Dorset POPP is to build supportive communities to enable older people to remain living in their own homes for as long as they wish by developing responsive, appropriate services and activities at a localised level.

POPP Champions work within the local community, find gaps within the needs provision and help local people develop new initiatives that will benefit them and the wider community. Local projects supported by Dorset POPP include *The Colehill Community Choir*, *The Rendezvous club at St Michael's Church*, *The Friday Morning Coffee Club at The Barrington Centre*, *Ferndown* and *The Wayfinder Programme*. If you need transport to hospital or the doctor, if you have financial worries, if you are caring for someone and need support, if you just need someone to talk to then your local POPP Champion can help.

For information on help and services available locally please contact **Sue Reynolds (Wimborne) 07760 769431** or **Dawn Jones (Ferndown & Colehill) 07825 206052**. A voluntary transport service is operated in Wimborne and Ferndown, contact **Jill Beech 07971 338473** or **Shirley Cowan 07971 338381**. A POPP Information event for the over 50's will be held in The Barrington Centre, Ferndown on Wednesday the 14th November between 1pm and 4pm. Various service providers have been invited to attend including The Hanham Centre, POPP Wayfinders, Mears, Police, Fire, NHS and many others to have stalls and give out information. This is a **FREE** event and everyone is welcome, refreshments will be provided.



Colehill Community Choir is up and running and meets every **Thursday evening** in **St Michael's Church, Colehill Lane**. The choir is open to anyone who enjoys singing, there are no age restrictions and no experience necessary. Peter Coole, retired professional musician and choir master, is leading the choir on a voluntary basis and is very keen that young people in particular, join the group. If you like singing and would like to come along, choir practise starts at **7.30pm finishing at 9pm**. Song sheets and music are provided and the cost is just **£2** per week. *Hope to see you there!*



Keep Active, Stay Fit

Advancing years do not mean you cannot stay active and fit, in fact, it is so important for both our physical and mental health that we keep our minds and bodies stimulated. With winter approaching it's easy to adopt "hibernation" mode but this is a great time to get out and about, join a club, take up a new hobby or join a fitness group.

We are very fortunate to live in an area with many and varied facilities geared up for the more senior amongst us. The **U3A** run courses on all sorts of topics including local history, creative writing, languages, antiques, current affairs, arts and crafts to name but a few. Details can be found at www.wimborneu3a.org.uk

Moors Valley has several group activities running weekly including Nordic Walking Adventure Walks and Power Walking. These are a great way to keep fit and to make new friends. Telephone **01425 470721** for further details. **Colehill Bridge Club** meets every Friday in the Memorial Hall and is looking for new members: contact Hugh Leitch on **883580**.



COLEHILL LIBRARY

"And they do fight with all their might to keep their library"

Last year the Clarion asked the question *"Should we keep the Library open, staffed with volunteers, funded through council tax?"* And you answered *"Yes"*. We asked for volunteers to run the library and the response was tremendous. A Management Committee has been formed and has liaised at length with Dorset County Council about the handover planned to take place mid November.

We've sadly had to say "goodbye" to our hard-working librarians, Angela and Kathy, but their work will be continued by the volunteers, supported by Dorset Library Services. It will be a challenging time for the volunteers who have to be trained to operate the Library Management System and library users are asked to show a little tolerance during this period.

None of this would have happened without the support of the volunteers, the community at large, and not least the help and support of the Friends of the Library and Colehill Parish Council. It is salutary to think that if we hadn't had a Parish Plan, there would have been no Clarion, and probably the Library would be closed.

The future success of Colehill Community Library is dependent on local residents continuing to support it. The vast majority agreed that Colehill deserves to keep its library so please use it or you could lose it!

Internal and External Auditing

A poster is displayed every September on the parish noticeboards advising that the Council's annual return has been audited. The process of ensuring that the Council is accountable for its income and expenditure starts the September before when the half yearly accounts are audited by an independent qualified auditor.

The auditor checks that the accounting statements are prepared correctly, agree to the cash book and are supported by an audit trail. The auditor reports on risk management issues and on any internal control deficiencies and provides recommendations for improving the Council's operations. The auditor makes these checks again at the end of March when the findings are summarized on the annual return. The annual return is then made available for public inspection before being sent to the external auditor for completion by 30 September.

When completing the annual return the external auditor notes whether there are any issues arising and this information is displayed on the notice board. This year's annual return has been approved, with the external auditor making one recommendation with regards to the value of the Council's assets.



Jubilee Tree for Colehill

Trees for Dorset, a local charity dedicated to the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment, offered a free tree to the first 10 parish and town councils to contact them. Colehill Parish Council was one of the lucky ones to be selected and we are taking delivery of a beautiful Copper Beech in November.

The tree will be planted on the grass area on Middlehill Road, opposite the Lonnen Road junction where local residents will have the opportunity to enjoy the splendor of this lovely specimen as it matures. Local school children have been invited to help the Chairman plant the tree and a plaque commemorating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee will be placed alongside it.

The date of the planting will be on 29 November at 11.30pm. All are welcome to attend. If you are interested in the work of the charity, details can be found at www.treesfordorset.co.uk

St Michael's Dirt BMX Track

A recent ROSPA inspection gave the BMX track in Coombe Woods a “thumbs up”, with just a couple of minor safety issues pointed out. These were quickly remedied and the Parish Council is pleased to continue supporting this much-used facility for our young people.

A meeting was held at the track in early September which was attended by a number of riders who regularly use the track, parents, police and members of the Parish Council. Safety issues were discussed and it was impressed on the youngsters that they must have permits to ride and abide by the rules clearly displayed on the notice board. It was also made clear that whilst repair of jumps is a permitted activity excavation, particularly near or round tree roots, is not. Bringing in foreign material, which could have serious environmental impact and contravene safety, is also not permitted.

You can imagine the dismay felt by the Parish Council, when just a few days after the meeting was held, several wooden pallets were discovered on the track. These were being used as ramps and were in such precarious positions as to be a source of serious concern with regards to the safety and wellbeing of not only the riders but also of the general public who use the woodland for dog walking. One of the most disappointing aspects of this infringement is that a number of the young people involved had attended the earlier meeting.

The Parish Council wants to continue supporting this facility but it is up to the young people themselves to ensure that fellow riders do not break the rules and put users at an unacceptable risk. **DON'T ABUSE IT, YOU COULD LOSE IT!**

Did You Know?

- **That** historic references to Colehill go back to 1535
- **That** there are round barrow on Colehill that date back to about 2000 BC
- **That** Colehill became a Civil Parish in 1896 when its first council was formed
- **That** the population of Colehill is just over 1000 greater than that of Wimborne
- **That** in area Colehill is about twice the size of Wimborne
- **That** there have been a number of well-known personalities resident in Colehill, one of the most recent being Sir Tim Burners-Lee, the inventor of the World Wide Web
- **That** there are 15 councillors on the Parish Council, all unpaid elected volunteers.
- **That** although there is legal provision to do so, no councillor in Colehill claims the expense allowance, unlike some other Parish Councils in Dorset
- **That** Colehill Parish Councillors contribute between 50 - 250 hours a year to Council matters
- **That** Colehill Councillors also participate in dozens of additional local organisations, committees and consultative groups as well as three of the councillors also being either District or County Councillors
- **That** since 1896 there have been just 5 Parish Clerks
- **That** if you have issues upon which you feel that the council might be able to assist you can easily make contact by email info@colehill.gov.uk or phone **01202 887786**
You can also keep up to date with a visit to the website www.colehill.gov.uk

Bloomin' Marvellous Weekend in Colehill!



The "Sun Gods" were definitely shining on Colehill over the weekend of the Colehill Gardens Gadabout and what a weekend it turned out to be! Sandwiched between two days of heavy rain, it was a glorious weekend for this garden extravaganza organised to raise funds for the rebuilding of The Reef Youth Centre. Hundreds of visitors turned out to see the delights of Colehill and helped raise £4000 for the project.

Eighteen gardens were open for the CGG and organiser, Barbara Gooch, said she was indebted to all gardeners for working so hard for months. There was great variety in the gardens on offer and one couple said that they had been going to Open Gardens events for many years and Colehill's was the best they had been to! Another described one of the gardens as "*Heaven with the gate open!*".

The unique feature of the Colehill Garden Gadabout was that none of them was large and professional, all were moderate in size and obviously much loved. Refreshments were provided at St Michael's Church Hall and the Memorial Hall, generously supplied by volunteers at St Michael's Church, the Colehill WI and the Flower Club. So many people worked really hard to make the event a success and all deserve a big thank you.



The Big Jubilee Bike Ride

After the success of last year's bike ride, organisers decided to arrange another to coincide with the Jubilee celebrations and raise funds for the re-building of The Reef Youth Centre. The appalling weather nearly cancelled the event. Volunteer organisers, Norman and Susan Davies, spent hours in torrential rain the day before marking the course, only to wake up on Sunday morning to clear, blue skies. The ride was definitely on!

Numbers were down on last year, mainly because of the awful weather, but over 160 cyclists turned up, rode either the 10 mile or 25 mile route and returned to St Michael's Church hall and garden for a BBQ, homemade cakes and cookies. The entertainment was provided by Dorset Bad Penny folk band and by Will and Tom from DJ Timbers, who also supplied the PA system for the event. The whole day was bathed in glorious sunshine and raised £1600 for The Reef. The organisers would like to pass on their thanks to the many volunteers who made the event such a success.



Will 2013 be the year the new Colehill & Wimborne Youth & Community Centre is built?

The committee involved in raising funds to re-build The Reef Youth Centre is feeling a lot more optimistic as it sees the first target to get the building underway within reach. However, Chairman David Topping, is keeping his feet well and truly on the ground as there is still some way to go.

£420,000 has been raised over the last 5 years, but a further £120,000 is needed to ensure that the building works start in March 2013. Much of the money raised has come from Colehill Parish Council, East Dorset District Council, Wimborne Town Council and several charitable trusts. One of the most heartening aspects of the fund raising has been the amounts raised by the local community and the young people themselves, not least of which is the considerable sum raised during this Jubilee year by organisers of the Colehill Gardens Gadabout and The Big Jubilee Bike Ride, all done on a voluntary basis.

The committee is actively pursuing other fund raising streams and applications have been submitted to several new charities and organisations which support community projects. These are often complicated applications as each project has to meet certain criteria to even qualify for consideration. Despite there being little or no youth provision in this part of East Dorset and there being areas of considerable deprivation and need, The Colehill & Wimborne Youth & Community Centre project (The Reef) often suffers discrimination because of its BH21 postcode. Yes, the postcode lottery is a real factor when trying to secure funds.

This facility, will be used by the whole community not just the young people. It will enable clubs, societies and advice service providers to expand their provision within Colehill. If anyone has contacts or information about funding that could help realise the last tranche of money to ensure the future of this project, please contact David Topping at david@topping.co.uk

Dates for your Diary

October Events

27	Grand Autumn Bazaar, Colehill Memorial Hall, 9am – 12noon Books, antiques, crafts, jewellery, children's clothes, toys, white elephant. Home-made cakes, tea, coffee. 50p Adults, under 14's Free. Raising funds for the Community Library
27	"Scent in the Garden", Colehill Memorial Hall, 2.30pm Talk by Tony Powell for Hardy Plant Society, Non-Members £3.50
31	Wacky Wizards & Warty Witches, Priest's House Museum, 10am – 4pm Spooky fun for all the family, £1.50, last entry 3pm Ghostly Tales, Priest's House Museum, 7pm – 9pm Adults £5.00, children £4.00 (includes hot soup & roll)

November Events

2	"Lottie Limber's Shoebox of Fun!", Priest's House Museum Meet local author, David Herring who will be reading from his book "Lottie Limber" Contact museum for information
3	"Inspire" Christmas Exhibition Opening, Walford Mill, 2pm-4pm FREE
3	Fireworks, St Michael's School Tickets from the school, Tel: 883433
10	Wimborne in Bloom Charities Fair, Allendale Centre, 10am – 3pm
11	Remembrance Day Parade, St Michael's Church to War Memorial, 10.15am
24	Christmas Fair, St Catherine's School, Hayes Lane, 2pm – 4pm
24	"A Good Year" (2006 Comedy) Film Night, Colehill Memorial Hall, 7pm A French-themed evening, includes wine and cheese, £8. Tickets from Barbara Gooch, Tel.882590, or from Wimborne TIC
28	Hardy Plant Society, Colehill Memorial Hall 7.30pm Talk by Mike Burgess of The Gardens Group, Non-members £3.50
29	Late Night Shopping, Walford Mill 5pm -8pm, 10% discount on all purchases

December Events

1	Christmas Tree and Lights, St Michael's Church, 5pm
1	Christmas Market, St Michael's Church and Hall, 5.30pm – 7.30pm
1	Christmas Lights, Wimborne Town Centre, 3.30p
8	Christmas Parade, Wimborne 2.30pm
8	Pudding Stir, Priest's House Museum 10.30am – 4pm. £1.50 Adults, £1 children
14	Christmas Fair, Pamphill School, 3.15pm Father Christmas in his Grotto, Christmas Crafts, Mince Pies, Raffle
21	Cinderella, Tivoli Theatre to 5th January Matinee performances 2pm (check dates), Evenings 7pm Adults £13.00, Children £10.50 (early bird discounts extended to 31 October)
21	Carol Concert, Corn Market, Wimborne 6pm

February 2013 Events

1	Incy Wincy Spider An original pantomime written by Rachel Leggett, musical director Ian Dickens A Co.MaD production at the Memorial Hall until 3rd February
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*We would like to wish all residents of Colehill
a very happy Christmas and a bright and prosperous New Year*

