

# Colehill Clarion

Summer 2014  
Issue 12

## 'I STILL CAN'T QUITE BELIEVE IT!'

After 10 long and frustrating years The Colehill & Wimborne Youth & Community Centre is to go ahead - Page 10



**CORE STRATEGY  
SPECIAL**  
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## Chairman's Message

*May has arrived and given us hope for a good summer to come. For me it is also the time when my tenure as Chairman of Colehill Parish Council comes to an end after what have been three eventful years.*

On a very positive note we have seen the security assured of our **Community Library** and in the first year of being run by the Community and for the Community it has blossomed into something more than just a place for borrowing books. It is a focal point for all the residents of the Parish with several interest groups meeting there regularly and a burgeoning section for young people with an appetite to read.

Further good news is the announcement that the rebuilding of the **Youth and Community Centre** (The Reef) will start this summer. It has been ten long and difficult years work to get to this stage. There have been serious disappointments along the way and it is to the eternal credit of hard working fund raisers and organisers that this point has been reached. Hopefully the rebuild will be completed promptly and that this time next year we will have a facility for our young people and other community groups to use and for us to be proud of.

One of the most difficult issues that we have dealt with over the last two years has been the **Core Strategy**, East Dorset District Council's blueprint for the future development of the area over the next fifteen years. An important article on this process is contained in this newsletter so that I will not dwell on the issues but suffice it to say that a number of Parish Councillors have devoted hours of work to this matter and presented a strong argument to the Government Inspector over some three weeks during last autumn. To us it does not seem that local residents representations have been given proper consideration. To me personally it seems wrong that Colehill and Wimborne should carry the brunt of urbanisation rather than a balanced District wide development. Much remains to be done but this will continue to be a thorny issue over the years.

Another important matter that is now under way is the **East Dorset Community Governance Review**. Again there is a significant article and a questionnaire included in this newsletter. The subject sounds boring but in reality it is anything but because it will, once concluded, influence local government and local income and expenditure for the foreseeable future. Please do read the article and respond to the questionnaire, it is of considerable importance and will ultimately set the pattern for our own Parish community. In our response we want to reflect your views.

I am grateful to so many people within the Parish who have helped and supported me over the past three years. I have had the privilege of visiting schools and organisations, interest groups and residents all of whom reinforce my belief that Colehill really is one of the best places in which to live.

**David Mitchell** - Chairman



## Lots of extra tweets for Colehill

*Local Colehill resident and wildlife enthusiast Victoria Peacock had an idea to engage and raise awareness amongst young people about the importance of local wildlife including nesting birds in Colehill local habitats and woodland*



On Saturday 22nd February, at the end of school half-term week in Colehill, Victoria, supported by Colehill Councillor Janet Dover and staff from the East Dorset District Council Countryside Wardens ran a special event for young people in Olivers Park, Colehill. This event was to encourage more birds to nest in the trees in the woodland part of Olivers Park (Churchmoor Copse) and the children were able to build their own bird nesting box with pre-cut wood, nails and hammers supplied by the Countryside Wardens.

Many young people and their friends and families attended the event, which was the first one of its kind in Colehill. A total of ten nest boxes were built from scratch by the youngsters using the wood, nails and hammers supplied.

Councillor Janet Dover said *"I am so pleased to be able to support Victoria with her fantastic idea for local children. The weather was kind and all the young people and their friends and families had a great day."* Several bird boxes were hung on trees in Churchmoor Copse at the end of the day. Janet and Victoria were grateful

for the enthusiastic help and advice of the Rangers from Moors Valley Country Park, Emma and John, who supported the event. They gave excellent guidance and supervision to the young builders to ensure that there were no tears or banged fingers during the bird box construction. Victoria hopes to encourage another similar day of activity in the summer holidays and Janet Dover has pledged her support.



*Emma Reeks Countryside Warden and Councillor Janet Dover with some of the bird box builders at work*

# The Core Strategy

## Have we reached the end of the road?

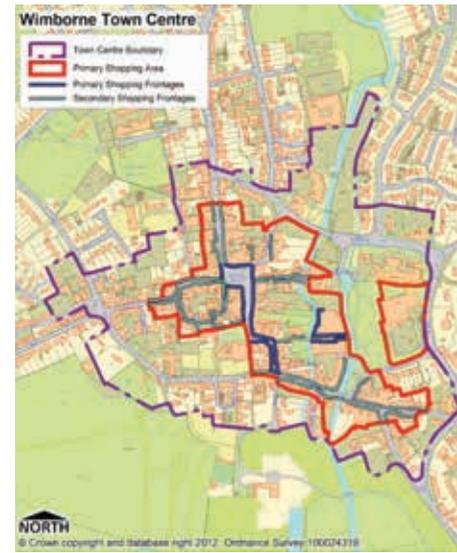
On Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April East Dorset District Council voted to adopt the Core Strategy (CS) for East Dorset and Christchurch. The result of this decision will be the building of 2500 houses in Colehill and Wimborne, 1300 of them on the Green Belt. Despite a very robust and credible campaign to reduce the size of these developments, our words fell on deaf ears and EDDC voted 24/7 in favour of the Core Strategy. We now expect the planning applications to be made within the next few months and whatever the views of Colehill Parish Council, these applications will almost certainly be granted by East Dorset District Council.



## The background to the Core Strategy

In 2007, under the Labour Government, the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) was set up to determine the housing need for the country and the regions in particular. EDDC had responsibility to assess the local housing need. One of the sites under consideration was the land to the East of the Cranborne Road, adjacent to Burts Hill and up to Dogdean where 400 houses were proposed. In June 2009 the then leader of the District Council, Cllr. Spencer Flower, wrote to John Denham, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, rejecting outright any plans to develop this site on the grounds that this was protected green belt; the rural landscape; severe traffic congestion and flood risk stating that many of these problems could well be insurmountable.

In May 2010, under the new coalition administration, the RSS was scrapped, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) came into force and plans to develop a Core Strategy for housing were put in place. EDDC, together with Christchurch Council, was tasked to assess the housing need for the area for a 15 year period from 2015 to 2030. EDDC commissioned Broadway Malyan, a global architecture, urbanism and design practice, to consider sites around Wimborne Minster appropriate for development and to prepare masterplans for urban extensions or new neighbourhoods. EDDC determined the 'search areas', almost all of which were in the Green Belt, having set the criteria that the sites had to be close to local services and facilities. The Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) identified numerous sites but most of these were dismissed as being too remote or too small for developers to consider. Many of these are in parts of Colehill already developed with thriving neighbourhoods.



Wimborne Minster Town Centre  
(Map 8.1 - CS page 85)



The Allendale Area of Potential Change, Wimborne  
(Map 8.4 - CS page 89)

Despite rejecting 400 homes on the Cranborne Road in 2009, the same leader of the council, Spencer Flower, now leader of Dorset County Council, accepted the recommendation that not only should this site be included in the CS, it should be more than 50% larger with 650 houses, a replacement school, community and retail facilities and on both sides of the Cranborne Road. Colehill Parish Council has repeatedly asked for an explanation as to this dramatic change of policy but none has been forthcoming.

In March 2013, after almost 2 years of 'public consultation', EDDC submitted its CS document to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. We were advised that an Examination in Public (EiP) would take place and Colehill Parish Council set up a working party to formulate a response to the EDDC's CS together with its own recommendations. We also asked on numerous occasions for the significant sites identified under the SHLAA but rejected by EDDC, to be reconsidered in lieu of the Cranborne Road site, the single largest development in East Dorset. Our requests were dismissed. During the public consultation period, this site received the greatest response from the public who overwhelmingly objected to the proposed development.

In September 2013 the EiP took place and Colehill Parish Council made representations at all relevant hearings. The Council took every opportunity to stress that we welcome housing development but 2500 homes was simply not sustainable for our communities. Sadly, despite our very robust challenge to EDDC's plans, the Inspector found the CS to be 'sound and justified' in her report that the Parish Council received at the beginning of April.



Cranborne Road New Neighbourhood, Wimborne (Map 8.7 - CS page 95)

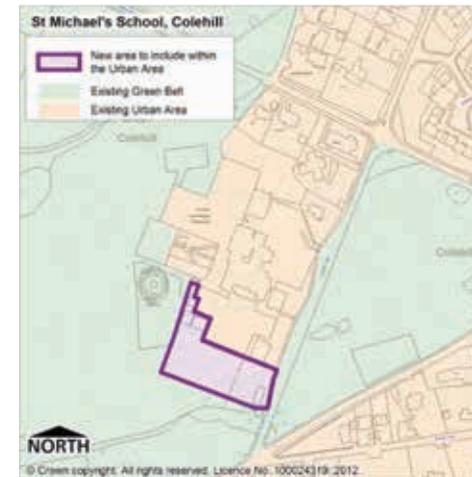
## Where do we go from here?

The working party will continue to meet on a regular basis and is currently considering whether there is a case to appeal the decision made by the Government Inspector. Should the decision be taken to go down this route, the working party will have to indicate its intention to challenge the outcome of the EIP by the middle of June 2014 (6 weeks from the date of adoption of the CS by EDDC). This is not a decision to be taken lightly as this would almost certainly result in a Judicial Review which will cost thousands of pounds. The first step will be to seek legal opinion which is a cost-effective way of establishing the validity of any challenge. We will keep residents informed about progress on these matters.

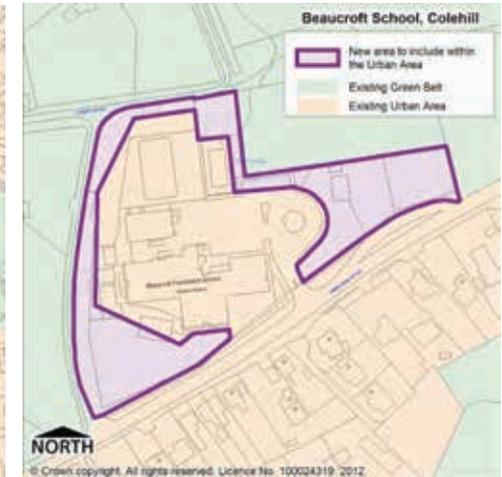
## How will the proposed developments affect residents of Colehill?

**Traffic** - It could be argued for many residents living on top of the hill "not a lot". However, what about the residents who live in the Parmiter area and Furzehill who will be directly affected? All will be troubled by noise, dust, dirt, heavy lorries, traffic diversions, rat-runs, pollution, traffic chaos and gridlock and all of this going on for anything up to 15 years. At the same time, developments will be taking place at Cuthbury, Cowgrove and Stone Lane. Routes in and out of Wimborne and Colehill will all be severely affected at Canford Bottom, Canford Bridge, Walford Bridge and Julians Bridge, areas already known for regular congestion and traffic backlog. Lynda King, Planning Officer at EDDC, recently stated that gridlock in and around Wimborne was to be expected! So, it has a lot to do with us and we simply cannot bury our heads in the sand.

**Education** - The development planned for the Cranborne Road will have a new school. This is not an additional school, it is a replacement school for Wimborne First School which is at capacity. The new school should deliver an additional 100 places but these will soon be filled as residents move in to the New Neighbourhood. Traffic movements will almost certainly increase at peak times because a significant number of children that currently walk to school will be delivered and collected by car as the distance for some of the younger pupils will simply be too far for them to walk. The Parish Council raised these issues on numerous occasions, including serious concerns about road safety. Colehill could also be faced with the closure of Hayeswood School with a replacement school being built on the south side of the Leigh Road on the New Neighbourhood site. Parents will be faced with crossing the extremely busy Leigh Road to drop children at school; many will resort to using their cars because of the safety concerns. The provision of a footbridge or underpass has been raised by Colehill Parish Council on many occasions but no guarantees have been given that this crucial safety feature will be provided.



Proposed Green Belt Boundary Amendment, St Michael's School, Colehill (Map 8.2 - CS page 86)



Proposed Green Belt Boundary Amendment, Beacroft School, Colehill (Map 8.3 - CS page 87)

Schooling in general is of major concern as there is no provision within the CS for increase in Middle School provision. Allenbourn cannot expand because of site restrictions and St Michael's is on Green Belt so development could be problematic: both schools are at capacity. QE School, despite only opening in 2012, is at capacity and the proposed new Upper School in Verwood is not likely to come on stream until the end of the CS period in 2030 or until 'critical mass' is reached, in other words, until no places are available within catchment.

**Health** - The working party also raised the issue of medical health provision within the CS. No additional doctors or dental surgeries are planned and it appears from enquiries made that local practices have not been consulted about their ability to provide quality healthcare for several thousand people moving into the New Neighbourhoods. A significant number of these will be young children and older adults, a number of whom will require additional and specialist healthcare provision.



Stone Lane New Neighbourhood, Wimborne (Map 8.6 - page 93)

**Employment** - Employment is another area of considerable anxiety to all on the working party. Stone Lane Industrial Estate which currently provides lucrative employment for many thriving small businesses will be demolished to make way for additional housing. There are no plans within the CS to provide well paid, skilled jobs within Colehill and Wimborne resulting in all those of working age moving into these New Neighbourhoods having to commute out of town to their place of work. The development on the Cranborne Road is of particular concern as it is the “wrong” side of town and roads through Colehill could become rat-runs for those needing access to the A31. This could mean an unacceptable increase in traffic at peak times and could result in significant safety issues for the hundreds of children that attend the 6 schools within the parish.

To sum up, we could be faced with extra time on journeys to and from school; to and from work; delays and congestion due to construction vehicles moving in and out of the building sites many times a day, 6 days a week; difficulty in parking; access to shops and services being disrupted; even longer waiting times to see a GP or dentist as the residents occupy the New Neighbourhoods; difficulty in obtaining places in local schools with many children having to attend schools out of catchment.

## What will we continue to fight for?

Colehill Parish Council has NEVER been opposed to new housing, in fact we have argued for development of affordable and social housing to meet the needs of local people. We believe all our young people should aspire to own or rent their own home and we believe priority should be given to people in need that have strong ties to the community. EDDC’s own assessment for local housing need (Colehill & Wimborne) is for 720 homes over a 15 year period, not 2500 proposed in the CS. This level of housing could easily be absorbed, providing integrated and cohesive communities. We will continue to fight for this and to ask why the communities of Colehill & Wimborne are being asked to take 50% of the whole of East Dorset’s housing requirement. We will robustly challenge the planning applications and use our best endeavours to influence the size and design of the New Neighbourhoods.

Colehill will be affected by these developments. A case can be put forward that we could benefit from infrastructure provision such as new sports clubs and sports grounds on the Leigh Road. There will be replacement schools and we might win the case for a medical centre in Colehill. Areas of recreational space (SANGS) will be part of the new developments. However, this will all be at a cost.

The Parish Council needs the support of residents when making the case for local housing for local people. Under the NPPF, up to 50% of housing being proposed on Green Belt should be affordable or social housing but there is absolutely no compulsion on the developers to provide this. EDDC state that they are aiming for 35% overall affordable housing which could result in some New Neighbourhoods providing little or no low-cost housing. The developer could just be asked to make a financial contribution to affordable housing which will do nothing to solve local housing needs. The overwhelming majority of the houses being proposed on all the sites in Colehill & Wimborne will be high cost, high quality open-market housing. After all, the developers are commercial enterprises and maximising profits has to be their priority. In July 2013 the average house price in East Dorset was £292000, almost 15 times multiple of the average salary putting owning a home out of the reach of the vast majority of our young people.

The communities of Colehill and Wimborne will be changed for ever. We must fight for change that we want: change that will enhance our communities and enable them to grow and thrive. We must be actively involved in shaping this change and not just accept change that is being imposed on us.

**Are you over 50, live in Dorset and need some information?**

 Dorset Partnership for Older People Programme (POPP) provides a free and confidential information service, funded by the Dorset County Council and Dorset NHS.

A Dorset POPP Wayfinder, who works in your community, can provide information or put you in contact with specialist help on many topics including: money/ benefits, transport, learning new skills, keeping your home warm, local clubs, support for you if you are caring for someone, and much more.

*They want to know what is important to you and will help you find the information you need.*

**Contact your local Wayfinder(s):**  
 Jill Beech 07971 338473  
 Nick Hollingworth 07971 338624  
 Central contact numbers: 01202 946111  
 Email: wayfindersinfo@helpandcare.org.uk  
 Info: www.dorsetforyou.com/popp

# 'I still can't quite believe it!'

**After 10 long and frustrating years The Colehill & Wimborne Youth & Community Centre Is to go ahead**

It is 10 years since committee members of **The Reef** and **Wimborne Youth Clubs** got together and floated the idea to rebuild the Reef. A limited company was formed, with charitable status, and fund raising started to knock down the old caretaker's bungalow adjacent to St Michael's School and replace it with a two storey purpose built building. This has not been easy but at last I am pleased to announce that we have secured all the funding needed to turn our vision into a reality.



The old bungalow provided as a stop gap provision by Dorset County Council has been the home of the Reef Youth Club for many years. Cramped conditions have meant that there has been limited membership for some age groups and it has been exceedingly difficult to provide a varied, quality youth service. New and larger premises will enable the expansion of pursuits offered to young people, especially during winter months. The building will have an open, flexible recreation area on the ground floor: the upper floor will have a kitchen, coffee bar, computer suite and a quiet room for study. It will have a lift for people with additional needs.

Earlier this year we took the decision to move from a Traditional building to a Timber Frame building on the grounds of cost but keeping to the original design. This decision reduced the Capital cost of the project by approximately £200,000 without jeopardizing the quality, or the longevity of the building. It also has the benefit of reducing the build time. A contract for the project has been negotiated with Complete Solutions Europe, a local builder in Bournemouth. The Timber Frame for the building will be manufactured in Latvia and a production slot has already been booked so that it will arrive as soon as the ground works are completed in late July.

It is planned to hand over the site to the main contractor on the 7th July in order to demolish the existing building and prepare the foundations for the new build with the really heavy work being undertaken in the school summer holidays. It is anticipated that the new unfurnished building will be completed by the end of October.

The community support has been amazing, there have been many volunteers and many individual supporters, including local churches and their congregations, who have donated not only their time but have also contributed financially to the project and for this our Charity is immensely grateful. We have also received significant support from Dorset County Council, East Dorset District Council and unwavering support from Colehill Parish



Council and Wimborne Minster Town Council. A significant number of Local Trusts have helped us too and in their honour a Sponsorship Board will be created and displayed in the reception area of our new building.

Of course the good work doesn't stop now. Fundraising will continue to equip the building with modern up to date catering, play, sport, education and entertainment equipment totalling approximately £20,000. The committee is also working on the administration, staffing and business plan to ensure that the facility remains sustainable and viable. If you are a Service Provider or a Club Administrator and are interested in hiring any of the facilities or wish to establish a regular activity, event, club or society meeting during the day, please contact the Colehill and Wimborne Youth & Community centre through our web site at [www.reef4youthdorset.co.uk/](http://www.reef4youthdorset.co.uk/) **contact**

I thank the whole community for helping us turn our vision into reality.

**David Tarring** - Chair of Trustees  
Colehill & Wimborne Youth and Community Centre.

## East Dorset Recycling and Rubbish Collection Dates

*Dorset Works Partnership will no longer be issuing paper copies of the collection dates to households.*

In future if you need to find out when your next collection date is you should look on the Dorset for you website [www.dorsetforyou.com/recycling-and-rubbish-collections/east-dorset](http://www.dorsetforyou.com/recycling-and-rubbish-collections/east-dorset) scroll down to 'check your collection calendar', enter your postcode and the dates specific to your address will be shown.

Alternatively you can call the DWP office on **01305 221040**.



Councils working together

# Beaucroft - Red Cross Hospital in Colehill

Beaucroft stands in Beaucroft Lane, Colehill, Wimborne, Dorset. The present dwelling is divided into three properties, Beaucroft, High Point and Court House. The house was originally built for Thomas Rawlings, Wimborne Solicitor and property speculator, on the South slope of Colehill c1876.

The property was occupied by Mrs. Bernarda Lees, widow of Thomas Evans Lees, a Cotton Mill owner from Oldham, Lancashire. Bernarda Lees was born in Mexico in 1841 and died at Beaucroft in 1912. The house was left to her daughters.

Beaucroft was offered to The Red Cross by the Executors of Mrs Lees estate and opened in December 1915 as a Auxillary Hospital. It came under Southern Command, Commandants Miss E.B. Kemble and Miss Carr Glyn, and was staffed by Volunteer Aid Detachments, (VAD's) of part-time doctors and nurses.

Staff were recruited both locally and from overseas, some were offered lodgings in Colehill. Local people were involved in supplying the hospital with food, milk and even entertainment.



Wounded soldiers were sent to Beaucroft from the Front for surgery and convalescence. Many soldiers who recovered sent postcards thanking the doctors & nurses for their stay at Colehill.

A couple of the Nurses kept diaries of their time at Beaucroft including photos of some of the patients and staff.

The Hospital was closed for a short time in 1915 but then remained open until 1919. It returned to a private house for a few years before it was occupied by US troops in World War 2, prior to the Normandy Landings.

Research by the late Olive Damon 1924-2013 (who lived at Court House for nearly 50 years.)



# Charity Concert in aid of the Youth Cancer Trust (YCT)



The Colehill & Ferndown Community Choir is organising a concert to raise funds for the Youth Cancer Trust. The concert will take place on Saturday 18th October in Colehill Memorial Hall, 7.00pm. Tickets are £12.50 each and will include a light supper: bring your own wine, glasses provided. Tickets can be purchased from either Peter Guest tel: **07909 558968** or Susan Davies tel: **01202 842311**.

The Youth Cancer Trust provides support and free activity holidays for teenagers and young adults (aged 14 to 30) with cancer from the UK and Ireland. Each year approximately 250 young people stay at Tracy Ann House in Bournemouth enjoying time with others of a similar age who understand what it's like to have cancer. Cancer can tear your world apart and at an age where everyone else seems to be moving on with their lives, university, relationships, careers - the diagnosis of cancer can bring all of that to a halt.

The Youth Cancer Trust helps reduce the sense of loneliness, which often accompanies long stays in hospital and time off school. Long term friendships are formed. Families are given a much deserved break knowing their child is having fun and being looked after. The activities provided on a holiday range from horse riding, water sports and dry slope skiing. The emphasis is on fun and relaxation.

**Peter Coole**, Choir Master, said he is delighted that the choir is supporting such a worthwhile cause. *"The Community Choir was set up to bring people together to enjoy making music and singing. Performing in public is a wonderful experience and at the same time we are helping raise funds for the YCT."* The choir welcomes new members of all abilities and meets every Thursday evening in St Michael's Church, Colehill. If you would like to come along for a FREE taster session, please contact **Susan Davies** on **01202 842311**.



# Life Education Wessex

**Life Education Wessex (LEW)** is a children's charity working with the community and schools to help children to make positive healthy choices in life. Every year 60,000 children across the Wessex region of Dorset, Hampshire, Devon and Somerset participate in a Life Education programme, 30,000 of which are in Dorset.

Specially trained Educators, ably assisted by Harold the Giraffe, and purpose-built mobile classrooms create a unique and memorable environment in which to deliver a series of fun and age appropriate health programmes for children aged 3 to 13 years. The sessions equip children with the knowledge, skills and self confidence to form positive attitudes, make healthy choices and avoid risky behaviours. Topics covered include the risks and effects of a poor diet, smoking, alcohol, drugs and substance abuse. Skills and strategies are also taught to help pupils to cope with bullying and peer pressure.

The children of Colehill have been benefiting from annual Life Education visits for many years and LEW is very grateful for the ongoing support of the Colehill Parish Council and the wider local community, which helps to ensure that local children remain safe, healthy and happy.

For more details visit:  
[www.lifeeducationwessex.org.uk](http://www.lifeeducationwessex.org.uk).



## Unsolicited mail and telephone calls

Recently, a member of the Parish Council has received several items of unsolicited mail and telephone calls. It is obvious that this has been instigated by a local resident and whilst just an inconvenience at the moment, this matter is taken very seriously and has been reported to the Police.

If you have similar experiences you can contact Royal Mail or BT and ask to be put on the **Preferential Mail/ Nuisance Calls Listings**. However, this will not prevent individuals from completing coupons in newspapers and magazines in your name. Publications will return completed forms to you, on request, and the perpetrator can often be identified. If you ever feel threatened by unsolicited mail or telephone calls, you must report the matter to the Police.





UK-WIDE

# LIGHTS OUT

**4 August 2014**  
**10pm - 11pm**

At 11pm on 4 August 1914 Britain declared war on Germany, ushering in one of the darkest periods in our history. As the moment approached, the British Foreign Secretary Sir Edward Grey made the famous remark:

*"The lamps are going out all over Europe; we shall not see them lit again in our life-time".*

On 4 August 2014, people all over the UK will be invited to mark the moment our world changed forever. LIGHTS OUT is an invitation to everyone to turn out their lights, and leave on a single light or candle, for a collective moment of reflection.

**14-18 NOW** will commission artists to design special digital light-works that people can download, as well as site-specific, large-scale works at locations across the UK.

**14-18 NOW** is a major cultural programme taking place across the United Kingdom to mark the centenary of the First World War. To find out about other events follow them on **@1418NOW** or visit the website [www.1418now.org.uk](http://www.1418now.org.uk)



## Sting in the Tale Festival of Storytelling

The annual **Sting in the Tale Festival of Storytelling (15 - 25 August 2014)** is back in East Dorset this summer for its 11th year! There are over forty exciting live events to choose from to appeal to all ages.

Leading professional storytellers and performers have been booked from Dorset and beyond, to bring to life the area's rich treasure trove of ancient sites and traditional tales. Children and adults can discover spellbinding tales in unusual outdoor and indoor locations in the area - from the Ancient Technology Centre at Cranborne to Highcliffe Castle; from the Priest's House Museum to the Rockbourne Roman Villa.

Colehill resident, Tony Horitz, who is the Chairman of Sting in the Tale and storyteller himself, said: *"Oral storytelling is an ancient cultural tradition which has experienced a huge renaissance in recent times. We have something for everyone, with fantastic daytime and evening activities to thrill and entertain".*

To enable this festival to happen, Sting in the Tale receives subsidies from a range of national and local organizations including Colehill Parish Council. One of the Sting storytelling events will take place at Colehill Library on Saturday 23 August at 11.00am when popular storyteller Graham Rogers has woven together a collection of North American myths, legends and tales that tell how the world began, how it will end and a few of the exciting, strange and funny things that happened in between.

Don't miss it! See more information about Sting in the Tale - a Festival of Stories on the web site: [www.stingintheale.org.uk](http://www.stingintheale.org.uk) or in the Sting brochure available soon.

# Colehill Community Library

**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!



The Special Interest Groups (Knit & Natter, Family History, Local History, Community Art Group and Just Write!) started meeting in the library from March and we are delighted that the community is making more use of the library facilities.

We have extended the paving, put the bigger notice board outside, and the bicycle stands are 'in progress'.

The fund-raisers have done us proud with their efforts over the year. The Fashion Show was a sell-out and there are more events later this year, which promise to be great fun as well as raising funds for the Library. Tickets for the next event are on sale in the library now.

Derek Henderson fought for many years against plans to close the Library and the contribution of the Friends was fundamental to the Library's survival. Although the Friends has now been incorporated within CCL, please join them (subscription £5) to help fund the library for the future.

Now that we have experience of running the library for a whole year, it is a good time to review whether any changes may be needed, so it would help if you would please read and complete the survey forms available in the Library.

John Gooch - Chairman

## Diary Dates

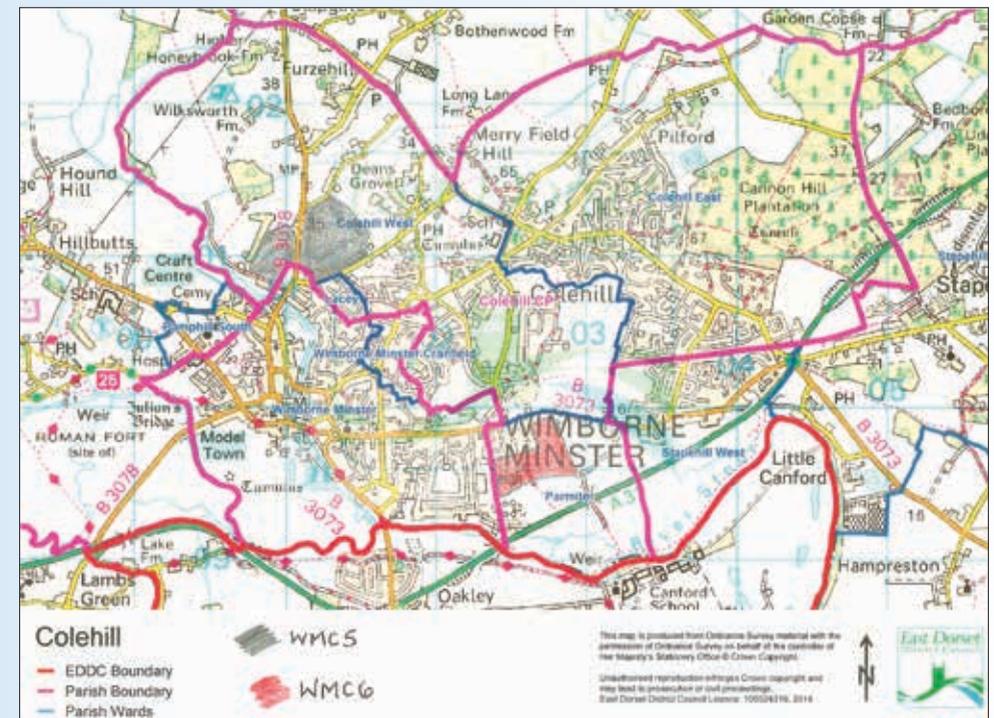
June	
13 – 15	<b>Folk Festival</b> - <a href="http://www.wimbornefolk.co.uk">www.wimbornefolk.co.uk</a>
14	<b>Minster Green Fair</b> 10am - 4pm
29	Wimborne in Bloom Open Gardens 11am - 5pm Tel: 01202 888703
July	
21 – 2 Aug	<b>Wimborne Art Club Summer Exhibition</b> , Church House 10am - 5pm Tel: 01202 892064
August	
4 – 11 Nov	<b>First World War Stories Exhibition</b> , Priest House Museum and Gardens 10am - 4.30pm Tel: 01202 882533
10	<b>Garden Party and Cream Tea</b> , 'Brackenwood', God's Blessing Green, Holt, Wimborne BH21 7DD 2pm - 6pm In aid of Wimborne Hospital & Dorset Cancer Trust Tel: Fay Clifford 01202 885685
23	<b>Sting in the Tale</b> , Storytelling at Colehill Library, 11am
September	
17	<b>Coach Trip to Brighton Pavilion</b> from Colehill. Morning tour of the Brighton Pavilion, afternoon at leisure. 8.30am start from Colehill. Tickets £25/£28 (includes entrance) on sale from the library from June
October	
18	<b>Concert by Colehill &amp; Ferndown Community Choir</b> in aid of the Youth Cancer Trust, Colehill Memorial Hall, 7pm - 10pm. Tickets £12.50 includes welcome drink and light supper, bring own wine. Tel: Peter Guest 07909 558968 or Susan Davies 01202 842311
24	<b>Friday Night is Music Night</b> . Back by popular demand, a light-hearted evening of local musicians singing and playing folk music. 7pm for 7.30pm. Tickets £5 from library. Bring own nibbles and drinks.

# Community Governance

## All change - and not necessarily for the better

The world we live in is constantly changing. But some changes threaten the way we live and are unwelcome. After the shock of the adoption of the Core Strategy by East Dorset District Council (EDDC), and the now certain prospect of 650 houses along the Cranborne Road and another 350 south of the Leigh Road – all in Colehill West – comes the review of Community Governance by EDDC.

What is this all about? The administrations of East Dorset and Christchurch councils have merged to save money (about £1M a year each). East Dorset has agreed to reduce the number of district councillors from 36 to 29, and this will increase the geographic size and population of each district ward. In future Colehill East ward will extend to the Canford Bottom roundabout taking in Hayes, and Colehill West will extend to the Stour, south of the Leigh Road. There will still be three Colehill district councillors, but the number in Wimborne will reduce from 3 to 2 under the new proportions.



These changes will take effect from May 2015, as will all other ward boundary changes across East Dorset. The District Council wants to review all parish\*\* boundaries (ostensibly to make them fit the new district wards) to bring about improved and stronger community engagement, more cohesive communities,

\*\* Parish includes Towns

better local democracy and more effective and efficient delivery of local services. A Working Party of four district councillors, who are not parish or town councillors, has been set up to make recommendations to EDDC before the end of 2014. So what's the problem?

EDDC has asked for suggestions for change and is empowered under local government legislation to consider the following:-

- Creating, merging, altering or abolishing parishes;
- The naming of parishes;
- The electoral arrangements for parishes;
- Grouping of parishes under a common parish council;
- Altering boundaries between parishes.

The terms of reference give us the opportunity to suggest alterations to Colehill parish boundaries: e.g. to take in Hayes because it will be part of the district ward of Colehill East, and Stapehill district ward will be abolished as such; to take in the new development south of the Leigh Road because it will be part of Colehill West district ward. But equally other parishes can, and probably will, threaten to absorb the development along the Cranborne Road. This is especially vulnerable because the Wimborne First School is due to be relocated there. Moreover, with the Wimborne Minster Town Council precept being over £100 for a Band D property the prospect of a gain to the town of over £65,000 a year is almost irresistible. Quite a number of town and district councillors have already shown a strong interest in making such a bid.

The Working Party says that it will not initiate proposals for change, but will take into account suggestions that help to meet the criteria of improved local government at parish level (see the third paragraph). These suggestions must be communicated to EDDC by 6th July 2014 and can be from any interested parties, including individuals.

We have both opportunities and threats. Many residents will feel strongly that we should stay as we are, but unfortunately this is a weak and untenable position. We need to think through what are reasonable propositions that can be supported by logical argument. We have much strength in our community and in the Parish Council and we do not want them emasculated.

It is essential that the residents of Colehill engage in meaningful debate about the future of the parish and how they want the community to be represented and governed at local level.

We will be holding a series of Parish Meetings to formulate our position and we urge you to attend. In the meantime please complete the attached Questionnaire and return it to Colehill Parish Council as indicated.

**There is a copy of the Consultation Paper with full information at [www.dorsetforyou.com/412554](http://www.dorsetforyou.com/412554)**



# Community Governance Review

## Have your say on the future boundaries of Colehill, your views are important to us.

**The Parish of Colehill is surprisingly large, a map is printed over the page for reference. Some roads like Venator Place and Lacy Drive are within walking distance of Wimborne. Other roads, like Hayes Lane, are partly in Colehill and partly in Ferndown.**

Therefore, the first question we would like to ask is:

**1. Which area do you consider that you live in?**

- Colehill East
- Colehill West
- Ferndown
- Stapehill
- Wimborne

**Do you pay:**

- Colehill Precept (£29.50 Band D equivalent)
- Wimborne Precept (£108.43 Band D equivalent)

**Please provide your:**

Name:

Address:

Email:

Tel No:

**Please tick what age group you are:**

- 18-30
- 31-45
- 46-60
- 60+



*It is possible that a neighbouring town council would like to group with Colehill Parish Council. The only difference between a town council and a parish council is the name, they are both equal and have the same powers of authority.*

2. **Do you consider that Colehill Parish Council should be grouped with a neighbouring council?**

Yes

No

Please provide an explanation for your answer:

3. **Looking at the map** (page 17), **what changes, if any, do you think should be made to Colehill's Parish boundary?**

*There are 15 councillors on Colehill Parish Council. Colehill Parish Council covers a large area and is a very pro-active council with many of the councillors volunteering in matters that they specialise in.*

4. **Do you believe this is the appropriate number of councillors to represent the needs of the community?**

Yes

No

Please provide an explanation for your answer:

If you are interested in Parish Council work we can keep you informed of vacancies. Please tick **Yes**  or **No**

Please hand this form to a Councillor or the Clerk, or return it by **13 June** to:  
**1 Hornbeam Way, Colehill BH21 2QE** or to **Colehill Community Library.**