



# NEWS

## Colehill Community Library

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### A word from the Chair of Trustees

We had beautiful weather and a fabulous turnout for the Colehill Open Gardens Day, and all thanks to everyone involved, but particularly, Andrew Foot, Michael Hart and Kate Coney. Andrew and Michael also opened their garden and, with extra volunteers, provided refreshments and live music which was much appreciated. There were 9 other fabulous gardens to enjoy and thankfully the sun shone right up until 4pm when it was going home time and then it rained! A big thank you to all the Open Garden 'hosts'.

Throughout the day, people arrived at the library ticket sales tent and many then bought a plant or a book. Many people were tempted by the lovely plants on the nearby stall being run by Debbie and her Hardy Plant Society colleagues. A generous proportion of the sales from the plants was donated to the library. Likewise, on the book stall, Graham and his volunteers accepted donations from people taking books home with them. At the end of the day, we were delighted to discover that over £1,600 was raised! Amazing!!

The money from the Open Gardens Day will be added to over £500 raised from the really successful Big Book Sale event on the Saturday of Jubilee weekend. Many local people attended and there was certainly a lovely buzz of conversation in the Hall throughout the morning. Thank you to Graham and all of the book stall volunteers, drinks makers, cake bakers and donors of raffle prizes who helped to make it happen.

People ask us why we are holding fundraising events like this and why do we need to raise money? Here is some brief background for those who were not here in Colehill in 2012. Until 2013, Dorset Libraries (including Colehill) received funding from Dorset County Council. The Dorset Library service budget was cut, and Colehill Library was selected for closure. The Parish Council asked local residents to vote on whether they wanted to keep a library service in Colehill and whether they would agree to pay a little bit extra on the Parish Precept to pay for our Library. Colehill people voted "YES," so the Precept was increased and this means that the Parish Council Precept includes our annual grant funding, currently £11,000 a year.

As everybody knows, prices are rising! Our running costs are rising but our Parish Grant funding is not, so last year, we had to use some of our savings. If we do not increase fundraising or apply for other grants, our savings will be exhausted and we will quite soon not be able to afford to operate as a library.

Our building is getting older and the cost of repairs and maintaining it are rising. One of our projects is the replacement of single glazed windows with double glazed units. Although it will mean spending quite a lot of money at first, we hope to reduce the numbers of window repairs, to reduce heat loss,

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reduce the amount of fuel that we use to heat the library. Funds collected from these events will go towards our building projects.

Thank you for supporting our lovely Community Library here in Colehill. We are very grateful to every person who does something to help us to keep it running, no matter what it is. Whether you volunteer for us in any capacity, or come to one of our fundraising events, it all matters!

Stay safe and well! *Susan Cowsill*, [librarytrusteesjc@gmail.com](mailto:librarytrusteesjc@gmail.com)  
 Chair of Trustees, Colehill Community Library.

### Summer Reading Challenge 2022

The Challenge has begun – and Colehill's young people are signing up at Colehill Community Library. Enjoy reading or sharing six books of your choice through the summer and earn your medal and certificate. It's fun, free, friendly – and local.

Small people who share a story with an adult or a sibling can start the Challenge so bring along the whole family.

Our volunteers are really looking forward to seeing you, and there is a Gadgets Picture Quiz to enjoy.

Search for 'gadgets' at [news.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](http://news.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)



**The Library is also open Tuesdays 2-5pm ~~~~ COPY DATE for next issue: 24th August**



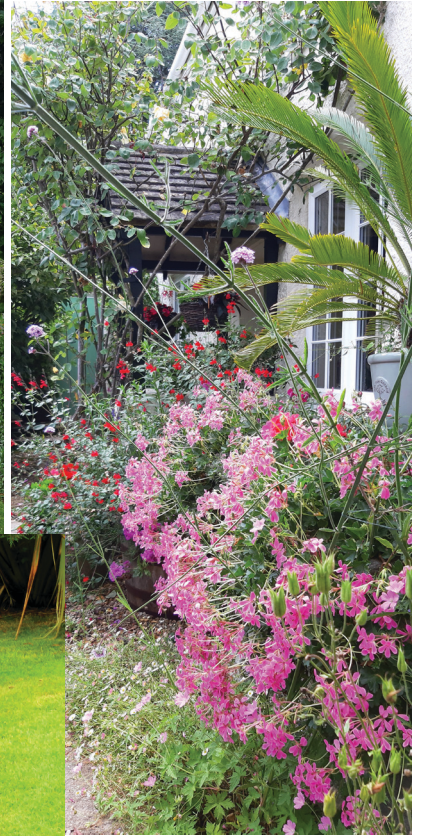
# Colehill Open Gardens

As keen gardeners, preparing for Colehill Open Gardens gave us an incentive to do those jobs that tend to be bottom of the list. Although it is hard physical work it is immensely therapeutic knowing that you will be sharing your garden and bringing the community together.

Welcoming so many nice visitors and seeing them enjoy their visit shows that gardens are therapy for all. It was a pleasure working with the Colehill Library team to make the day so special and raise much needed funds.

*A big thank you to all the garden hosts, and the String Quartet! Andrew and Michael at Pednvoudner.*

Photos: Cilla Sparks & KD Johnson



## Best ever paper boy retires!!

We are sad to report that Dave Mitchell, who delivered the Echo and the "i" to the library, barely missing a day since our opening in January 2013, is finally retiring from his library duties.



However Dave's responsibilities have been far more than this. Without his willingness, along with John Gooch and Tracey Paine, to undertake the role of **'Library Trustee'** when we became a Community Library, it is possible we would not have been able to continue.

As a Parish Councillor, Dave was a strong advocate of the need to maintain our Library in Colehill when it was threatened with closure. His continued support, wise counsel, advice and friendly reassurance through the last ten years have been of immense value to all of us who have worked with him. We will miss him greatly.

**We wish Dave and Sandy the happiest of times in the next stage of their life and say a huge "THANK YOU" !**