



Issue 2 spring 2009

Colehillclarion

Local news from Colehill Parish Council

Welcome to the second edition of the Colehill newsletter.

I apologise to the few people who received the first edition late: we've appointed a new distribution company to ensure that all households receive a copy. In December we worked with St Michael's Church on two activities, the Christmas Fayre and the Christmas Carols around the tree. These two events were very well supported and we have already booked the dates for this year. This summer we will be holding our first Community Country Fair (see back page for details). I hope you will support this and come and have a great day out.

The most talked about subject in the last 4 months has been the traffic calming works in Middlehill Road (detailed report inside). We know that a collision between a car and a child will have an 80% likelihood of death at 40mph but an 80% chance of survival at 30mph. We must change our attitude to driving in residential areas and consider that 30mph is the absolute limit. I prefer a speed between 25 and 30 along Middlehill Road and find that the obstructions are easily navigable at that speed: the additional time taken for the journey is minimal. Please give these works a chance and drive considerately to all road users.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support during my two years as Chairman of the Council. According to our rules I will step down in May and a new Chairman will be elected by the Parish Council.
Keith Baker, Chairman

Protests mounting against proposed mineral extraction

Late last October residents were shocked to learn that the Cannon Hill and Uddens Plantations were part of proposals for sand and gravel extraction in Dorset – and they were given only a few weeks in which to make their comments. Nevertheless, local protestors were soon making their feelings felt at these two sites and a third local site identified at the Canford Magna flood plains adjacent to the A31. Local people were urged to write to the County Council before the December deadline.

A supposedly innocuous directive by Government to the unitary authorities to update their lists of sand, gravel and other mineral deposits lead to open house as owners put forward their lands as potential extraction sites. Clearly, this was without regard to the damage that could be done to the environment and increased traffic congestion.

Despite a large number of objections to the sites the authorities expect to publish a draft Minerals Site Allocation Document (MSAD) for Dorset in the summer of 2009, followed by a formal proposal. These will be open to consultation and comment up to January 2010, before being submitted to the Secretary of State in May 2010.

We will keep you informed by newsletter and website how you can respond to the proposals during the consultation period.

Parish Councillor Retires



Long serving councillor Ted Phillips has resigned from the Council after 28 years. Ted has lived in the area since 1954 and has been a Colehill resident

since 1970. He was first elected to the Parish Council in 1979 to 1991 and from 1993 to 2009. During his service he represented Parmiter ward and was a vociferous campaigner to keep this area within Colehill. A retired engineer, Ted is interested in planning matters and served on the Highways and Plans Committee. Ted enjoys travelling and one of his hobbies, which turned into a new profession, is writing humorous articles for regional and national magazines.

His knowledge will be greatly missed and his fellow councillors wish him well. (continued on back page)

**Keep up-to-date with events in Colehill at
www.colehill.gov.uk**

Working for a Safer Community

Wherever you live, you are part of a community. Large or small, town or the country, your community may be a likely target for the criminal.

Each of us has a vital role to play in crime prevention: residents possess very specialist knowledge of their neighbourhood, which even the local Safer Neighbourhood Team may find hard to achieve. A Police Officer may not recognise someone in your garden as a stranger but a neighbour would. By letting Police know of anything suspicious you see or hear, you are helping to reduce the opportunities for crime to occur. The more difficult it can be made for the criminal, the more likely it is that crime can be reduced.

During the up and coming months you may see Steve Brett and Matt Johnson in your road raising the profile of the Home Watch and adding to the impressive list of members that are committed to making Colehill a safer place to live and enjoy.

The Forgotten Land Bosnia-Herzegovina

Local man David Topping, together with his brother John, set off in February to deliver aid to Bosnia-Herzegovina in the former Yugoslavia, which was devastated by war between 1992 and 1995. The Balkan Aid Relief Foundation (BARF) is a charitable organisation that is made up of Land Rover enthusiasts who deliver aid to Bosnia twice a year. Five vehicles, all

towing trailers full of aid, made the trip this February. The round trip was 3,300 miles, took 11 days and was fully funded

by BARF members. The Aid included nappies, clothes, sewing machines, school desks, chairs, pencils, pens, electric wheelchairs and two tonnes of computer equipment.



St Michael's Link with Sudan

St Michael's Middle School has begun a link with a diocesan secondary school in the Sudan in the town of Yambio. The school's 'World Affairs Chat Shop' has made initial links and have exchanged letters with students in Yambio. The school is obviously very deprived and St Michael's hopes to support them in their work of re-building their society following the disastrous civil war.

Their aim is to share experiences and gain mutual understanding of each others culture: 50% of the proceeds from Comic Relief will be put towards a project to support their link school. Exciting times!

Traffic Calming Scheme Completed

Long-term residents will have perceived a traffic problem in Middlehill Road, the main thoroughfare, and will have noticed that over recent years it has become considerably worse with increased volumes and speed. Tragically there have been fatal accidents. The Parish Council has lobbied DCC consistently and the Parish Plan gave voice to many people's concerns. Measurements were taken at seven locations and showed that 85% of vehicles exceeded the 30 mph limit, and that some were travelling much faster.

In 2006 the go-ahead was given for traffic calming measures in Middlehill Road and Smugglers Lane and plans were drawn up by DCC for the Parish Council. The public were consulted in February 2008: suggestions were noted and, where possible, incorporated in the layout. No-one recognised the novel "reverse chicane" which was a major part of the scheme and has since caused much heated comment.

Construction started on 5th January 2009 and will be completed by April 2009. The overall scheme contains a number of different features - including the chicanes - such as coloured surfacing, narrowings and priority build-outs. Psychology plays a large part in reducing speed and the fact that drivers have to pay greater attention reduces the likelihood of accidents. At the same time street lighting improvements were introduced in the village. There will be a Safety Audit by independent traffic engineers a few weeks after the scheme has been completed, with measurements being taken at the same seven locations as in the initial study. The police will be present and some observations will be made in the hours of darkness. Issues raised in the audit will be evaluated and addressed where necessary.

A major problem in Colehill has been tackled. The reactions have been mixed, and time will tell whether the steps taken have been entirely satisfactory. We will keep you informed how the scheme is working out..

Keep Wimborne Green - the fight goes on

KWG was formed 3 years ago to fight housing development plans put forward by the Government through the South West Regional Spatial Strategy. It has secured a unanimous vote from East Dorset District Council NOT to allow development on Greenbelt land. KWG is waiting for the Secretary of State's final decision on the S.W. RSS but this has been delayed due to over 35,000 objections received from the public in our region! KWG will continue to oppose and fight these proposals: if you would like further information or to help please ring 01202 639300. www.keepwimborgreen.co.uk

Any comments? Contact the Editor at info@colehill.gov.uk or write to CPC, 1 Hornbeam Way, Colehill, Wimborne BH21 2QE Tel: 01202 887786
Editor: Susan Davies
Editorial Committee: Keith Baker, KD Johnson, David Packer
Parish Clerk: Tracey Paine
Competition Winner: Mrs Cowsill and family

Recycling – we're doing well but let's do better!

The recycling and composting rate in East Dorset for 2008 was 36.8%, 2nd behind Weymouth & Portland, but if we take into account the material taken to Brook Road then our R&C rate was 45%. Did you know that a total of 32,900 tonnes of waste was collected in East Dorset and 20,790 tonnes of this went to landfill? Staggering figures but each of us produced an average of 480kgs of waste!

Our kerbside recycling is an essential part in the reduction of waste. A sorting guide booklet is available on-line or from EDDC but here are a few tips on recycling your waste.

The Green Bag – newspapers, magazines, junk mail, office/notepaper. All other paper/card waste should be taken to appropriate containers at Brook Road or Allenview car park.

The Green Box – glass bottles and jars, plastic bottles which contained milk, water, soft drinks, detergents, shampoo etc., food tins, drinks cans, aerosol cans used only for polish, air freshener, hair sprays.

NO YOGHURT, ICE CREAM OR SIMILAR CONTAINERS.

- If you have more than one green box, please put cans/plastics in one and glass in the other
- Please rinse cans/bottles before recycling. Smelly containers attract vermin!
- Please squash cans and plastic bottles so they take up less space.
- **DO NOT TRY TO SQUASH AEROSOLS**
- Extra green bag provided free of charge
- Extra green box delivered for a charge of £3.00

Go to www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/environment&planning and follow link to waste and recycling.

Woods, Wildlife and The Village Green

Triangle Wood, our village green, has seen a transformation over recent years, largely as a result of the work done by volunteer The dense undergrowth of common rhododendron and cherry laurel has been cleared; these vigorous non-native shrubs are regarded as undesirable for both social and conservation reasons. This dense undergrowth provided an ideal habitat for underage drinkers and also deterred many people from entering the wood. We share our village green only with local wildlife of the non-human kind!

Rhododendron has been described as a “vegetable cancer” for, once established, its deep shade eliminates most species of plants of lesser size and prevents the establishment of seedling trees so that in due time, when the mature trees reach their life’s end, there are no replacements. Where rhododendron and laurel have been cleared we now have brambles and many young broad-leaved trees, all good for wild life and the long-term future of the wood. Trees, like all living things, have their allotted span of life. You may have noticed that some of the pines near the War Memorial, together with a few oak and birch trees, have been felled during 2008. These trees were dead and becoming unsafe. Dead wood is an important biological

resource and where practicable is left on site to decay and enrich the habitat.

The most obvious wildlife feature of The Triangle is the rookery near to the War Memorial. Rooks are early birds and by the end of March they will have eggs: after about 18 days they will have young and soon after that their raucous calls will bring the countryside into the heart of our village.

Joe Kingsmill

Grow Your Own

The Parish Council is seriously looking at providing Allotment Gardens on the top area of the Bytheway field off Cutlers Place. Following an ecological survey we hope to apply for planning permission in the summer. If that is successful, works will take place to provide a small car park and fencing for the allotment area. Local residents will be fully consulted. Contact the Parish Clerk for details of the scheme.

Reef Open Day 16 May

The Reef Youth Club in Colehill has always been inadequate to meet the needs of local young people. It was agreed that a new facility would have to be built and The Colehill Youth and Community Centre charity has been set up to raise funds for this exciting development.

It is proposed to demolish the Reef and build a new two-storey Youth Club and Community Centre on the same site. Planning consent has been granted and fund-raising has now begun in earnest with a target of £250,000 having to be reached before the charity can apply for grants to build the £500,000 club.

An Open Day is being held at The Reef on Saturday 16th May 2009 10am-4pm when you can see for yourself why it is crucial that The Reef is re-built. You will see a model of the proposed new building and ways in which the whole community will benefit from this fabulous new facility in Colehill. Committee members will be on hand to answer questions: refreshments will be served throughout the day.



Photo by KD Johnson

Dates for your diary

May

9th Plant Sale, Memorial Hall

Hardy Plant Soc. Tel: 882590

16th Reef Open Day, Reef Club

11am-3pm. Just drop in, refreshments

Fashion Show in aid of The Reef

Date TBC. Details on Noticeboards

June

12th-14th Wimborne Folk Festival

26th St Michael's School Fete

27th WINDOW ON COLEHILL,

St Michael's Church Centre 11am-3pm

A showcase for clubs, groups and societies that regularly meet in Colehill

27th Hardy Plant Society Meeting

Tel: 882590 for details

July

11th St Michael's Church Fete

22nd Hardy Plant Society Meeting

Tel: 882590 for details

August

16th COLEHILL COMMUNITY COUNTRY FAIR

St Michael's School 11am-4pm

Tel: 887786 for details (see advert)

September

13th Plant Sale, Edmondsham Hall

Tel: 882590 for details

October

2nd/3rd Co.MaD Cabaret

Memorial Hall, 7.30pm

Parish Council Meetings

May 12th Highways & Plans, Finance

19th Annual Council Meeting

June 2nd Highways & Plans

23rd Highways & Plans, Finance

July 7th Council

14th Highways & Plans

Aug. 11th Highways & Plans

Sept. 1st Highways & Plans, Finance

15th Council

22nd Highways & Plans

Oct. 6th Finance (Grants 2009/2010)

13th Highways & Plans

27th Council

Public welcome at all meetings



Hayeswood School Gardening Club with equipment bought with grant from CPC

Colehill Community

Country Fair

Sunday 16th August,

St Michael's School 11am - 4pm

Local arts and crafts, local food producers, bouncy castle, children's entertainment, Morris Dancing Beer Tent, Barford Ice-Cream stall, Dorset Cream Teas, Jazz Band and lots, lots more. Picnic Area (bring rugs/chairs). A great day out for all the family with proceeds going to The Reef re-building project.

Tickets £4.00 in advance, £5.00 on the day, children under 11yrs. **FREE.**

Automatic entry into **FREE PRIZE DRAW** for a family day out at Longleat Safari Park and House.

Tickets from Parish Clerk, 1 Hornbeam Way, Colehill, Wimborne, BH21 2QE Tel: 01202 887786
Cheques to Colehill Parish Council



Save our Pool!

The swimming pool at St Michael's School is threatened with closure after a recent Health and Safety Audit from DCC. The pool has relied almost exclusively on voluntary contributions to keep it open but now needs a £40,000 refurbishment if it is to remain a much needed facility for local children and adults alike. An Action Group has been set up and is working hard to access all possible funding streams. A business plan has been put together and the group will be making a matched funding bid in order to keep the pool open. This wonderful facility has served the people of Colehill for over 20 years: it has provided swimming opportunities for a wide range of local and community groups as well as for the children attending our local first, middle and special schools. Regrettably, it is likely that the pool will have to close at the end of July 2009 and we will all be the poorer for it.

Comment:

It is so rare for a small community like ours to have the benefit of a swimming pool. St Michael's School is at the heart of Colehill: many of you will have learnt to swim at the pool and have children taking part in classes held there; some of you may have taken part in the recent Triathlon. Let's try and save it for future generations. If you would like to get involved please contact the school on 01202 883433 **Ed.**

Triangle Wood Conservation Days, Saturdays 10.30am

meet at St Michael's School layby. Dates: 30th May, 18th July, 5th Sept., 17th Oct. A great way to get the kids involved in their environment!

Do you want to serve your local community?

Ted's resignation has created a vacancy on the Council. If you are interested in local matters and hope to make a difference by influencing decisions that affect your community, then why not apply to be a councillor?

Telephone the Parish Clerk on 01202 887786 for further information.

Applications need to be received by 15th May 2009.