Every Action Counts

Happy new year to you all and welcome to the second issue of Colehill Parish Council’s newsletter!

In November, myself and a group of Dorset Councillors met with children and young people aged between ten and seventeen to hear their thoughts on climate change. They had many things to discuss with us, and I’d like to share a couple of their messages here with you. First and foremost they want action over promises from politicians, and they strongly believe that we can all make a difference by making simple changes in our lives.

We talked about many issues in the hour we had together, and all of the young people were concerned about the amount of litter that is discarded on to our streets every day. It causes harm to wildlife and marine life because it can so easily find its way into our rivers and then eventually into the sea.

Did you know that cigarette butts are plastic, and one cigarette butt per litre of water can poison half the fish which swim in its path? Cigarette ends are the forgotten plastic pollution, often dropped down drains, and eventually ending up washing into the sea. The children wanted everyone to consider taking part in a litter pick, so if you fancy getting involved, why not join in the Colehill Parish Council litter pick? Everyone is more than welcome to join us.

Councillor Maria Roe

Switch to LED light bulbs to save money and help save the planet...

If you haven’t done so already, then now is a good time to consider switching to LED light bulbs. They’re the most common type of light bulb now found in the shops, since most types of halogen bulb were banned in 2018. LED light bulbs can be found in most fittings, including spotlights (GU10 & MR16), bayonet, Edison screw and strip lights. In recent years they’ve reduced significantly in price, and can now be found at similar prices to other bulbs.

Compared to halogen bulbs, LED bulbs last about 10 times longer and use a tenth of the electricity. This means that each halogen bulb you replace with a new LED bulb will typically save you £20 a year. Changing all the light bulbs in your house to LED will reduce the cost of your lighting by 70%, which in a typical house equates to about £200 a year.

If you currently use conventional low energy bulbs (CFLs) then you should look to switch over to LEDs when the bulbs need replacing, as CFLs can’t be recycled due to their mercury content. Over the next few years most lighting in the UK will switch to LED, saving a combined total of about 8 gigawatts, about 15% of all UK power consumption. So your individual action in switching will help make a significant difference to the UK’s carbon footprint.

Councillor Leslie Gibson
What you can do with non-recyclable rubbish...
Crisp packets and ballpoint pens are not currently recyclable in home recycling collections. They either end up in landfill where they will take hundreds of years to break down or they can be recycled via a Win on Waste scheme.

St Michael’s School has kindly agreed to recycle crisp packets and ballpoint pens for the community, and a recycling box is left outside the school gates every Monday during term time.

The Colehill Community Library is also doing a great job collecting stamps and ballpoint pens. Opening times are as follows: Monday 2pm-5pm, Tuesday 9.30am-1pm, Wednesday CLOSED, Thursday 2pm-5pm, Friday 2pm-6.30pm, Saturday 9.30am-12.30pm.

Colehill Parish Council is hoping to offer people choice about where to take their non-recyclable waste and widen out the items by bringing a Win on Waste to Colehill. There are currently 16 monthly Win on Waste sessions running in our local area and the Wimborne Win on Waste has been running successfully for the last two years. Ink cartridges, aluminium foil, cleaning and beauty products, corks, bottle tops, old keys, and biscuit wrappers are just a few of the things that you can take along.

We are hoping to start up a Win on Waste in Colehill in the spring, but in order to make this happen, we need volunteers who are willing to give up a couple of hours a month to help us. Please contact us at: www.colehill.gov.uk if you would like to volunteer.

We are also looking for a few volunteers to join our Climate Emergency Working Group which meets every couple of months. If you are interested please drop us a line on the feedback form at www.colehill.gov.uk and in a few words tell us why you would like to join the group.

Repair Café
The Repair Café is a new initiative in Wimborne supported by Wimborne War on Waste. It is all about fixing things: clothing, sewing, small electrical items, toys, ceramics, and small furniture. Their team of volunteer fixers are on hand to give your items a new lease of life. If you would like more information follow them on Facebook or contact them at this email address: wimbornerrepaircafe@gmail.com
The next session is on 18th January 2020 from 12.30-2.30 at the Community Learning and Resource Centre on King Street near the Minster.

And finally,
Please send any feedback on the newsletter and/or ideas that we can include in future newsletters via the Feedback form on www.colehill.gov.uk