



Friends of Colehill Library

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NEWS

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Chairman's Report

Welcome to the New Year for which we have a full programme starting with the AGM (see below for details). Please try to attend; we have a very good speaker, Malcolm Torrent, who will entertain us with musical demonstrations and amusing behind the scenes anecdotes, many with 'Royal' connections. Wine and 'nibbles' will be available for a sociable 'après-talk'.

I am particularly pleased to say that the Library Service has organised a Dorset Library Friends get-together for 26 January; two from each group. This is a good opportunity for the Committee to see what the others are 'up to', share ideas and foster the prospect of mutual support.

Our many thanks to Angie and Kathy for their support throughout the year. We are very pleased at the way the children's activities they organise are so well supported, particularly the reading challenge, which once again was taken up by a record number of young readers.

Finally, don't forget the library is always pleased to receive your donated books; naturally in good condition and normally published within the last five years. Let others share your enjoyment and at the same time make space for your new 'annual'; mine this year was David Attenborough's biography, *Life on Air*.

With very best wishes.

Derek Henderson

Future Events - at the library unless noted

Friday January 29 at 7:30 **AGM** with Lt. Col. Torrent
– Royal Music St. Michaels Church Hall

Thursday February 25 at 10:30 Tessa Pollard
'*The Work of the Worldwide Veterinary Service*'

Monday March 22 at 10:30 Linda Lake
'*The Fascination of Iceland*'

Worldwide Veterinary Service - February 25

Tessa Pollard works for the WVS at their headquarters in Cranborne. WVS supplies veterinary resources, in the form of volunteer teams, drugs, equipment and advice to help animal charities and non-profit organisations around the world. The teams comprise both veterinary and non-veterinary personnel and travel all over the world, often to remote places with limited resources, where they try to help as many animals as possible as well as the people. Their work has a strong educational core.

At the Library

There has been a trend to readers ordering their DVDs on-line to be collected on a Saturday morning. Also you can now pre-order the very latest DVDs yet to be released when you are at the Library.

Angela & Kathy

Young Reader Wins National Prize

One of our younger readers, Helena Peters, has won a national competition via the library. It was created by Babette Cole the children's book author for a Christmas Story. It will be published soon as an e-book along with the winners of the other age groups.

Colehill Author – New Book

Local author Alan R. Bennett has just published his latest book 'Dorset Journey'. He will be giving a coffee talk to the Friends on April 22.

Reading Group

The book discussed at December's meeting was *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*. The letter format worked well in introducing characters and moving the plot forward and backward. I loved the literary references i.e. Charles Lamb, Chaucer and Shakespeare. The humour also was lovely and juxtaposed effectively with the grimness of the local people's experiences of occupation, the loss of their children and of the horrors of Ravensbrück. I liked the way a balanced view was taken of the German army and the risks taken by some of the soldiers to help the local people and the fact that they suffered the same deprivation as the local people. Things I would imagine to be true wherever there is an occupying army. It was a bit of a shock to realise how close the Germans were to mainland Britain.

The minor weaknesses did not prevent me from thoroughly enjoying the book, which I would award 8/10. It was sad that the author, Mary Ann Shaffer, died a year after it was written.

Val Seddon

January: *White Man Falling* by Mike Stocks

February: *Revelation* by C.J.Sansome

Reminder about Subscriptions.

It's January, and they are due. Thank you for your continuing support.

Valerie

It is thanks to all of you that we have an active Friends group. We have some good talks this year, so do come and enjoy them. Our thanks to St. Michael's for reproducing this newsletter in THE CROSSROADS magazine