



Chairman's Report

By now you all know that on 21 July, by the smallest of margins, one vote, Dorset County Council voted to discontinue financing Colehill library, along with 8 others. This will take effect from April 2012.

After all the representations, presentations, discussions and appeals over the preceding six months it was quite clear that the vote went against saving all of the libraries because a number of councillors were/are quite insensitive to the importance of the smaller public libraries to young children.

The only way now to avoid closure is to run it as a community library. This will require an active commitment from a significant number of volunteers, the number depending upon possible opening hours, and support from the Parish Council and Colehill residents.

In their report to the County Council, the Library Service made clear that it would continue to support those communities taking responsibility for their local library. This would include the provision of new books, in our case 500 per year, and access to refreshed stock, IT availability to include public access computers, limited access to the LMS (Library Management Service), and continued provision and support of the self-service units.

In Colehill, with a population of over 7,000, we have a library with 40,000 issues annually, of which a third are to young children. This year 104 completed the Circus Stars Reading Challenge. It is used every week by two of the schools within walking distance and many parents have told me how impossible it will be for them to use either Wimborne or Ferndown.

The same must be said on behalf of the large number of older residents who use the library. There is no convenient alternative and they will no doubt be seriously deprived if our library closes. From talking to people who do not use the library, it is clear there is wide recognition of the importance of the library as a vital amenity and focal point for the area.

The Future: Shortly we will all be given the opportunity to express our views via a questionnaire in the parish newsletter; due out by the end of October. A strong positive response is vital.

Discussions are on-going, directly and via AdLib, (Association of Dorset Libraries) in order to achieve the best possible terms for the 9 Libraries. Do give careful consideration to the related notices when circulated by the Parish Council, and attend the meeting on December 3rd.

Thank you for your support

Best wishes

Derek Henderson

Future Events – At the library unless noted

Friday October 7 7:30PM Dr. Karin Mew
'Wimborne and the Early Christianisation of Wessex' at St. Michaels Church hall

November Speaker and date yet to be confirmed

Saturday December 3 TBA Parish Council Mtg
The future for Colehill Library - at the Memorial Hall

Thursday December 8 10:30 Shirley Turner
'A Miscellany of Christmas Music'

New Local Author

"The Vet" is Luke Gamble from Cranborne's book about his early time as a Vet. It is available at our Library. We had a talk last year about the WVS that he started.



Brickbats

We are so very disappointed that the mayor of Wimborne, Cllr Robin Cook, voted for the closure of the libraries. His vote could have made a difference. The children of Colehill will later be attending QE School in Wimborne.

And also that Toni Coombs – County councillor with special responsibility for Children's services - did not support the needs of the children of Colehill and the rural libraries.

Bouquets to all those who wrote to Dorset County Council, Annette Brooke, and to Janet Dover, our County Councillor.

We Welcome New Members

Paul and Anne Harris.
Linda Hill

The Reading Group is Reading

September: Nicolas Evans "*The Divide*"

October: Kazuo Ishiguro "*Never Let Me Go*"

Valerie