

# **ACOL VILLAGE VOICE**

**January 2020**

*A Very Happy New Year to all our Readers.*

## **Senior Citizens' Christmas Party**

The evening continued the long tradition of inviting our Senior Citizens to a Christmas party, and this year was thoroughly enjoyed by all its participants. 36 people sat down to a delicious Christmas Dinner of Turkey and all the trimmings, followed by dessert and Cheese and biscuits. It was a magnificent spread, and we owe a vote of thanks to the caterers responsible for its preparation and cooking and in particular Karen Ault and Claire Hawken for assisting with the serving and clearing (thank goodness we have a dishwasher!). Thank you for all your hard work.

The meal was followed once again by a musical entertainment from the 'Greyhound Buskers' Ukelele Band, which got everyone singing along and provided a thoroughly enjoyable evening for all. The Village Hall Management Committee made a suitable donation to the Band for their chosen charity on behalf of the attendees.

Finally, a quick word of thanks to those who donated to, and supported the Christmas Hamper Draw, which raised £79 towards the costs of the event. Thanks must also go to the Parish Council, Village Hall Management Committee and Acol Horticultural Society for their generous donations.

## **Reindeer Drive, 21<sup>st</sup> December**

This year's Reindeer Drive took place on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 7.30pm: This highly popular event was once again run for us by Bill Yeoman, and provided a chance for everybody in the village, of all ages, to join in with some festive fun and games. Thanks to Bill, Josie and all the team for once again providing an exciting and fun-filled evening.

## ACOL VILLAGE HALL SUPPORT FUND - 200 Club

### Winners for the Month of January 2020 were:

Member no. 46 who won 1<sup>st</sup> prize of £19.00

Member no. 63, who won 2<sup>nd</sup> prize of £11.40 and

Member no. 101, who won 3<sup>rd</sup> prize of £7.60

£38.00 has been donated to the Village Hall funds

The next draw will be on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2020. Should you have any questions, or wish to join the scheme, please contact Iris Osborne (840901).

### **FORTHCOMING VILLAGE HALL EVENTS**

Mon 11 <sup>th</sup> Jan	11.00am	Parish Council Meeting
Sat, 25 <sup>th</sup> Jan		St Mildred's Coffee Morning
Sat. 15 <sup>th</sup> Feb.	2.00 for 2.30pm	AHS Valentine Afternoon Tea

### **VILLAGE INFORMATION**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE - I can't believe it's 2020, it was the 1990's the other day!**

#### ***REFUSE COLLECTION - MONDAYS***

**Refuse (black) & waste food**

6<sup>th</sup> January

20<sup>th</sup> January

3<sup>rd</sup> February

**Recycling (blue), red bag & waste food**

13<sup>th</sup> January

27<sup>th</sup> January

Ring TDC, **577115**, to arrange collection if you are unable to put your bins out.  
Or Ring the 'Recycle for Thanet' line on **577727** with any queries you may have.

#### **VILLAGE HALL**

**Please ring 841691 about hall availability.**

#### **REGULAR BOOKINGS**

Monday afternoons (term time) - Pam's People

First Tuesday evening, Acol Horticultural Society meeting (except January, July and December)

All other Tuesday evenings, Dance Fitness Class

Wednesdays, 9.30am-4.30pm (term time) - Village Textiles

Alternate Wednesday evenings, Life Drawing Art Group

Every Thursday evening - Art Group. **Art Group Website:** [www.acolartgroup.org/](http://www.acolartgroup.org/)

Fridays, 9.30am-4.30pm (term time) - Village Textiles

Saturdays (monthly), 10am-4pm - Phoenix Quilters

(Check hall calendar or email Sheila.Bransfield@btinternet.com for information)

### **EVENTS COMING UP**

Monday 13th January, 11a.m., Parish Council Meeting.

Saturday 25th January, St Mildred's Coffee Morning.

Saturday 15th February, afternoon, AHS Valentine's Tea.

### **PCSO**

Debbie Forsyth's PCSO combined villages surgeries now held at 12.15 on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month at Monkton Village Hall. For urgent matters, email her at 60457@kent.police.uk.

### **CCTV CAMERAS**

Please ring 844706 to report any incident in The Street.

### **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

Please register your contact details with Iris Osborne on 840901 to receive regular updates.

### **KENT POLICE**

East Kent Division Rural Team have a dedicated phone number: **07980 978202**.

### **VILLAGE FACEBOOK WEBSITE**

Village events and notices are on [facebook.com.acol.village](https://facebook.com/acol.village).

### **ACOL PARISH COUNCIL**

THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE AT 11.00am, MON. 13<sup>th</sup> JANUARY  
You can keep informed of meetings and events through our website [acolparishcouncil.co.uk](http://acolparishcouncil.co.uk).  
You can ring Parish Council, 844706, Mondays 9am-5pm, or the Clerk any day (9am-5pm) on 832243. Please ring these numbers if you have problems and do not know who to contact.

Sheila Bransfield

## **ACOL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

# **VALENTINE TEA**

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February  
2.00 for 2.30pm  
Acol Village Hall**

**Tickets £5.00  
Entry by Ticket only**

**Phone Phylis 845546  
Phone Nancy 846364**

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## **SIR ROGER GALE**

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Herne Bay & The Villages -**

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**Email: [galerj@parliament.uk](mailto:galerj@parliament.uk)**

**Write: HOUSE OF COMMONS –  
London, SW1A 0AA**

## ACOL BOOK CLUB

Meeting on the last Friday of the month from Friday 24th January 2020 at 7.00pm in Nursery Fields. An exciting mix of contemporary novels have been chosen for 2020 by existing members, and a donation of £1 is welcomed to cover the cost of refreshments. Please email [acolbookclub@gmail.com](mailto:acolbookclub@gmail.com) for more information.

## ACOL PARISH COUNCIL

**Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held at the Village Hall, Acol,  
at 11.00am on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2019.**

Present: Cllrs Miss S. Bransfield (Chairman), D. Hayfield, J. Inchley and Mrs. I. Osborne.  
Also present: Cllr. T. Roper (TDC), Roy Wade (Clerk) & 2 residents.

### 45. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Ms. Dawson, Ms. Debbie Forsyth, PCSO, KCC Warden Tony Gander and Ray Owen.

### 46. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

### 47. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No disclosures of interest were made.

### 48. CO-OPTION TO COUNCIL

The Clerk reported that he had prepared and displayed a notice inviting any resident of the Village to apply for co-option to the Parish Council. No responses had been received.

The position was noted and it was agreed to take no further action at this time.

### 49. REPORT OF POLICE/COMMUNITY WARDEN/PCSO's.

No officers were in attendance to report.

### 50. ACOL PARISH COUNCIL – FINANCIAL STANDING ORDERS

The Clerk tabled draft financial standing orders based on the national standard orders of the NALC.

**RESOLVED: That the financial standing orders, as tabled, be adopted by Acol Parish Council.**

### 51. REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman reported upon the following:

- a) Stagecoach – still no update, despite further emails requesting one.
- b) Crown & Sceptre – a new rear section has been built and work appears to be progressing inside the building.
- c) BT telephone kiosk is still working, despite no confirmation from BT.
- d) Highways – several matters attended to:
  - Damaged amenity cover, The Elms, attended to and repaired immediately.
  - Right-hand Acol gateway sign on Minster Road has now been replaced.
  - New salt bin purchased for Nursery Fields. Delivered 20<sup>th</sup> November and Highways Notified. It was filled a few days later.
  - Shrubbery has been cleared around the Acol gateway sign on Margate Hill, thanks to Karen Ault reporting to them.
  - Highways have advised that they will consider tarmacking the road up to the wall on bend near the duck pond, to prevent weeds growing, when the road is next attended to.
  - A 50mph repeater sign was requested, which was mentioned by a villager, and the matter is being considered.
  - APC was invited to submit a letter of support for KCC's application for government funding to build a Birchington/Acol/Westgate relief road, to include extending Columbus Avenue, which APC has done and despatched last week.

e) Parish Forum – We were unable to attend but have received the Minutes.

### 52. QUEX PARK ESTATES – RENEWAL OF LEASE ON THE RECREATION GROUND

The Chairman reported on correspondence with Quex Park Estates on the need to renew the lease on the Recreation Ground which had expired. The cost of renewal would be in the region of £250.00 for which provision had not been made in the budget.

**RESOLVED: That the lease be renewed, and the Council undertake to meet the cost of renewal.**

**53. RECREATION GROUND – PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS**

Cllr. Hayfield reported on improvement to the play area to modernise it and make it more attractive to youngsters. Members were advised that the climbing frame needed to be replaced and it was suggested that a carousel or see saw be installed. **Finally**, the Clerk advised that he had included a draft sum of £2,000.00 in the budget for such works.

**RESOLVED: That consideration of this matter be deferred to the next meeting to:**

- (i) **Allow for further research into the costings and the type of play equipment to be installed; and**
- (ii) **Enable investigations to establish whether any funding streams are available to fund these improvements.**

**54. DRAFT BUDGET 2020/21**

It was provisionally agreed that the draft budget in the sum of £7,030.00 be agreed in principle and further considered at the January 2020 meeting.

**55. INTERNAL REPORT OF PARISH COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL RECORDS**

The report of the Internal Audit was still awaited.

**56. PARISH WEBSITE/BROADBAND**

- (i) **Website** - Ray Owen was not in attendance to report; and
- (ii) **Broadband** - Richard Steel reported on further discussions:
  - Thirty-seven households have committed to applying for the Government Broadband Vouchers.
  - The original costing has been revised to cover all 115 homes in our community and we need just a few more commitments to cover our share of the £95,000 cost, with adequate contingency.
  - Acol will be a pilot for a new version of the Openreach Community Broadband Partnership.
  - Openreach management will attend the January Parish Council meeting to provide a briefing and answer any questions.
  - The new network build will commence once Openreach has submitted a funding claim to the DCMS, which it will do as soon as enough pledges have been received.

**57. CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk reported on:

- (1) **Parish Elections** – An invoice had been received in the sum of £232.38 from TDC in respect of elections held on 2 May 2019. The Chairman reported that she had written to Ms Homer (C.E. – TDC) and stated that that as election had not been held on that date and that elections for the Parish Council were not held and Members had been returned without a contest it was not acceptable to invoice Acol P.C. Members were advised that Ms Homer had responded and were advised of the contents. The Clerk reminded Members that he had spoken to staff in the election office and received the same advice as that conveyed to the Chairman.  
**RESOLVED: That the invoice be not paid at this stage and TDC be asked to further explain the reasons for the invoice as in previous elections this had not been the practice to charge for uncontested elections.**
- (2) **Salt Bin** – Members were advised that the bin had been delivered and sited with the approval once Kent Highways had given its final approval.  
**RESOLVED: That the position be noted and the payment for it be made. (See payment schedule details).**
- (3) **Back up of Parish Council Records- RESOLVED that 2 external drives be purchased for the use of the Chairman and the Clerk of the Council to enable the Council's records to be back up.**

**58. FINANCIAL MATTERS**

- (i) **Payments Schedule.**

**RESOLVED: That the following payments be made:**

650	SERCO	Grass cut April, May, October	33.78	195.98
651	D.Hayfield	CCTV Energy costs	0.00	45.00
652	CANCELLED			
653	D.Hayfield	Swing seats	0.00	125.98
654	SERCO	Grass cut – November	11.26	67.56

655	HMRC	PAYE – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	0.00	110.00
656	R.Wade	Salary – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter/ Plus postage 21.96	0.00	461.96
657	R.Owen	Parish Council URL	2.00	12.00
658	D.Hayfield	Salt bin	0.00	85.00
V.H.	Man Cttee	Donation to Seniors' Xmas dinner	0.00	100.00

(ii) **Bank balance.**

The following financial details were not available at the meeting.:

Balance at 01.11.19	£11,650.12
Less cheques agreed	1,032.50
Balance at 10.09.19	£10,617.62

**Cllr. Mrs. Osborne verified the financial details.**

**59. REPORT OF COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

Thanet Cllr Roper reported on:

- (i) **TDC Budget** – the budget deficit was currently £1.5m but it was expected that this would be reduced by April 2020 resulting in only a small increase to the council tax level.
- (ii) **Port of Ramsgate** – the purchase of 2 pontoons was not going ahead and would be replaced by 2 berths;
- (iii) **Travellers' Site** – Consideration of this matter had been deferred to allow for public consultative meetings to be held.
- (iv) **Ramsgate Race Way** – the proposal considered by the Planning Committee was refused.

**60. MATTERS OF REPORT BY MEMBERS**

No matters were raised.

**61. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed to hold the next meeting at 11.00 am on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

**Time concluded: 12.35.**

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## **MINSTER SURGERY**

### CHRISTMAS BAZAAR and PRIZE WINNERS

A full list of the all the winning numbers and lucky prize winners are on display in the surgery.

### FUND RAISING PROJECTS - TARGET ACHIEVED - EQUIPMENT ORDERED!

We are extremely grateful to the many patients and friends who have made such generous donations, and together with the monies made from our raffle and our very successful Christmas Bazaar, we will be able to fund the purchase of the new "Automatic Examination Couch" for Dr Crosfield's Consultation Room immediately, and await authorisation to purchase the new 24 hour ECG Equipment. So a "BIG THANK YOU" to everyone who has supported us so generously, in so many ways.

### SURGERY TRAINING DAYS 2020

Please note that the surgery will close from 12.00 Mid-day on the following days: Thursday 23rd January and Thursday 27th February.

Should you need to see a Doctor when the surgery is closed, please call the NHS 111 Service via the normal surgery number 821333 where you will be transferred automatically, or you can call direct on 111, to receive "non urgent" confidential health advice and information. For Urgent/Life threatening issues, please dial 999 as normal.

### MISSED APPOINTMENTS

23 PATIENTS DID NOT ATTEND THEIR DOCTOR'S APPOINTMENT and 57 PATIENTS DID NOT ATTEND THEIR NURSE'S APPOINTMENT - which is UNACCEPTABLE!

DON'T NEED IT? CANCEL IT! It's SO EASY: By Phone, By Text, On Line - Get MYgp App - Just do It! PLEASE!

### FRIENDS AND FAMILY SURVEY

Last month a total of 235 patients responded to "would you recommend our Practice" as follows: Extremely likely/Likely - 92%; Extremely unlikely/Unlikely - 5%; Unsure/Don't know - 3%.

### PATIENT GROUP MEETING

If you have any issues you would like to raise at our next meeting On 6th February, or require further information on any of the above, then please contact Mary Hodgson (842764)

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### **Editors Note:**

PLEASE PASS ON THIS EDITION OF VILLAGE VOICE to any friends from outside the village who might be interested in knowing what is going on in Acol. Non-residents of Acol can become subscribers to the Village Voice at the cost of £7.50 for 12 editions, the charge covers the cost of printing and posting to a nominated address.

### Advertising

For a box advertisement of about 8cm x 9cm the cost is £10 for inclusion in 3 editions, £15 for 6 editions and £25 for 12 editions.

Please place contributions to Village Voice in the post box on the wall of the Village Hall (by the main door) or e-mail to [villagevoice@btinternet.com](mailto:villagevoice@btinternet.com).

**This edition of Village Voice has been sponsored both by Jon & Barbara Inchley in loving memory of Barbara's Mum, Cora Jones, and Acol Horticultural Society.**

Should you (or your organisation) wish to sponsor an edition, either in memory of a loved one, to commemorate an event or even from a feeling of civic duty(!), please contact me.

**Contributions for the next edition must be received by 5<sup>th</sup> February 2020.**