

# **ACOL VILLAGE VOICE**

**May 2023**

## **ACOL PARISH COUNCIL**

By the election nominations deadline of Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> March, for the elections due on Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> May, there were only three nominations for Acol Parish Council, so Councillor Wendy Winpenny is deemed to have been re-elected, and Gavin Winpenny and Richard Steel to have been elected, unopposed.

Councillors Sheila Bransfield, Dave Hayfield, Jon Inchley and Iris Osborne decided not to stand for re-election, so, the terms of office of Councillors Inchley, Hayfield and Osborne will end four days after the election (Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May) when the newly elected Councillors take office, while Councillor Bransfield's duties as Chair continue until an AGM (Annual General Meeting) to elect a new Chairman and appoint a Deputy takes place. This has been scheduled for Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May at 5 pm.

Councillor Winpenny paid tribute to the long years of service of the retiring Councillors on behalf of the Acol community and said that the new Council would aim to build upon the previous Council's work to deliver outstanding governance for our village.

Acol residents are warmly invited to attend the AGM in the Village Hall at 5 pm on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May. As well as electing new leaders, the first duties of the new Parish Council will include co-option of individuals to fill the two remaining vacancies. If you are interested in helping to represent our community, please contact Wendy, Gavin, or Richard.

## **THE NORTH THANET LINK ROAD**

The AGM will be followed, at 6 pm, by a presentation by James Wraight, of Kent County Council, of its proposals for a North Thanet Link Road, which incorporates the Acol bypass that the Parish Council led by Councillor Bransfield has long campaigned-for.

There will be a leaflet delivery to all Acol residences concerning the scheme, with consultation due to commence on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May. The leaflet will also include details of presentations to be held in Birchington and Westgate.

## ACOL VILLAGE HALL SUPPORT FUND - 200 Club

### Winners for the Month of April 2023 were:

Member no. 46, who won 1<sup>st</sup> prize of £20.00.

Member no. 149, who won 2<sup>nd</sup> prize of £10.00 and

Member no. 186, who won 3<sup>rd</sup> prize of £5.00.

### Winners for the Month of May 2023 were:

Member no. 182 who won 1<sup>st</sup> prize of £20.00.

Member no. 170, who won 2<sup>nd</sup> prize of £10.00 and

Member no. 68, who won 3<sup>rd</sup> prize of £5.00.

£60.00 has been donated to the Village Hall funds

The next draw will take place on the 7<sup>th</sup> June 2023. Should you have any questions or wish to join the scheme, please contact Iris Osborne (838829)

## **FORTHCOMING VILLAGE HALL EVENTS**

12<sup>th</sup> May 5.00 pm. **ACOL PARISH COUNCIL AGM**

13<sup>th</sup> May 7.00pm **AHS Quiz Night**

26<sup>th</sup> May 7.30pm **Acol Book Club**

6<sup>th</sup> Jun 7.30pm. **AHS - Members Rose Show**

## **ACOL VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2023**

We are pleased to report that the Village Hall has now returned to its pre-Covid operations and once again the diary is very well booked. Our funds do, of course, mostly depend on earnings from hiring.

After having to cancel the 2021 Christmas events, we were able to hold the delayed Senior Citizens' party in May. But 2022 has proved to be more successful in terms of events held.

A new event was introduced this year, the Children's Party was held in November. It was a great success, and it is hoped that this will become an annual occurrence. Our thanks to Jessica Adams for organising the inaugural event.

It was also decided to extend the Senior Citizen's Christmas Party to include younger villagers and to this end the event is now known as the Adult Christmas party. This proved a success, and it is hoped that more younger adults will be encouraged to attend and get involved in Village life.

The annual Reindeer Drive was held but it was disappointing to report a reduction in attendance, particularly by children. This is always a very jolly event, and it is hoped it will continue.

The Committee contributed to the cost of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations that were held at Wendy and Gavin Winpenny's house in Crispe Road. Our thanks to them for hosting the event.

The Committee has undertaken several maintenance items during the year:-

- New external doors were fitted.
- The exterior of the Hall was painted.
- The Hall floor was sanded and treated.
- A new wall-mounted water heater has replaced the free-standing one.

In addition, the Committee has met the cost of leasing the defibrillator on behalf of the Village and continued to fund the provision of WIFI in the Hall.

Obviously, the cost of the provision of these items has been met from Committee funds, without any outside funding being sought. This is an indication that the Committee funds are "healthy" but it is important to stress the need to not only hire the Hall but also to attempt to fund raise. We can only do this by holding events which we hope will be well attended. We would welcome suggestions from anyone.

We wish to formally place on record our sorrow at the loss of our dear friend Sam Hodgson during the year. He was an invaluable member of our committee over many years and is still very much missed. Our sympathies go to Mary Hodgson, our Honorary Treasurer.

The Management Committee would not be able to discharge its responsibilities half as well without the invaluable efforts of our Treasurer and Secretary, Iris Osborne. We are very much beholden to her, as she facilitates everything we do. We should also acknowledge the efforts of Sheila Bransfield our booking secretary and David Hayfield and Bill Yeoman, who willingly tackle the many tasks, large and small that ensure the Hall is maintained in good order and is prepared for key events during the year. We are also grateful for the additional help that we have received on many occasions from other residents of the village.

We are looking forward to another successful year in 2023 - 2024 and we hope to continue with the support of all those who have joined in our events, but we also look forward to seeing new faces. We operate the Hall for the benefit of the village and hope that with the support from everyone our Hall will continue to be the hub of the village.

Jon Inchley  
Chairman

## **ACOL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

Acol Horticultural Society's next meeting is on **Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> June** when it will be the **"Members Rose Show"**. This is an opportunity for members to show off their favourite and best roses. There are also classes for Sweet Peas. Staging is from 7pm with judging at 7.30pm.

**A QUIZ NIGHT** is on **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May** in Acol Village Hall starting at 7 for 7.30pm. The cost is **£7** and includes supper which will be cod bites or sausage with chips. Make a team up or just come along and a team desperate for your wealth of knowledge will be found. It is important that you contact Steve or Theresa on 01843 846963 to book your place and make a choice of food.

On **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> July** we plan to hold a **Macmillan Cancer Support Fundraiser**. Details later.

*Remember we meet on the first Tuesday of the month.*

You can join the Society:- **£4** single and **£7** for a couple.

Bill Yeoman.

## **VILLAGE INFORMATION**

### **VILLAGE HALL**

If you wish to book a meeting or event - 841691.

### **BOOK/FILM CABINET**

Please don't forget there is a cabinet outside the Village Hall with books and DVDs for your use. If you wish to exchange those you have, that is welcome, but the cabinet is quite full! For clarity, the cabinet is not locked, it is closed with a shackle, and easily opened by unscrewing the shackle.

### **DEFIBRILLATOR**

It is worth reminding villagers that there is a defibrillator beside the door to the Village Hall. Instructions on how to access it are clearly displayed on the outside of the cabinet, and full instructions on how to use it are inside the cabinet.

### **REFUSE COLLECTIONS**

**Refuse (black) ), Garden Waste (green)  
& waste food**

**8<sup>th</sup> May**

**22<sup>nd</sup> May**

**5<sup>th</sup> June**

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

**15<sup>th</sup> May**

**29<sup>th</sup> May**

Ring TDC on **577115**, if you have problems, or **577727** with queries.

### **PCSO**

No news yet received about our new PCSO

### **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

Iris Osborne continues to advise everyone of local issues. Please ring her on 07980 978202 if you have questions or information.

### **KENT POLICE**

Contact 07980 978202 for the East Kent Division Rural Police Team

### **ACOL PARISH COUNCIL**

Access APC website at [acolparishcouncil.org.uk](http://acolparishcouncil.org.uk) or ring 844706 for information or help. Our next meeting, the AGM, will be at 5.00 pm on FRIDAY 12<sup>th</sup> MAY. This will then be followed by a presentation on the North Thanet Link Road.

## **Minster Surgery**

### **SPRING COVID BOOSTER CAMPAIGN**

NHS England are launching a campaign starting shortly to offer all Patients aged 75 and over and to those Patients who have a low immunity system - immune suppressed - or long-term health conditions.

Eligible Patients will be contacted directly by either the Surgery or NHS direct and offered the booster Vaccination.

Please note that all vaccinations will be carried out at the Surgery on days and dates to be advised.

For further information: search [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

### **Surgery Easter Closure dates:**

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May - Coronation Celebrations

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May - Spring Bank Holiday

Please ensure you have sufficient medication to last you through the Bank Holidays and most importantly remember that your pharmacy may also be closed throughout the Bank Holidays so make sure you submit your prescription request in good time!

### **REPEAT PRESCRIPTIONS**

Many of our Patients will be aware that there is a shortage of certain medications and becoming frustrated by this, but unfortunately it is completely out of our control.

To overcome this, we must stress that Patients submit their prescription requests at **least 72 hours in advance** to allow our pharmacies sufficient time to prepare the prescriptions and to reorder certain medications where necessary.

Please also do not forget that the Pharmacist can give you help and advice on minor ailments as well as your medication.

Thank you for your help and understanding at this difficult time.

### **USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS:**

Call 111 for non-urgent and confidential advice for you and your family.

Call 119 for covid help and advice.

Call 999 - for urgent and life-threatening cases.

# FRAUD ADVICE FROM KENT POLICE

## Cost of Living Payments

Payments began on Tuesday for households entitled to receive the £301 cost of living cash boost. If you are entitled to these payments, you will receive them automatically, so if you get an email, text or other message instructing you to apply, pay a fee or reveal confidential info, it's a SCAM.

You can forward suspicious emails to [Report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:Report@phishing.gov.uk) and suspicious text messages to 7726 (SPAM).

If you think that you may have been a victim of this or any other type of scam, then contact your Bank immediately, which you can do by calling 159 and report it to Action Fraud at [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or call 0300 123 2040.

## White Goods Insurance Scams - How does the scam work?

Insurance scams for white goods involve a criminal cold calling a person claiming that their insurance for their white goods, such as washing machine or fridge, has expired and they need to renew it. The criminal then asks the victim for their bank details so they can make the payment. In reality, they will use these details to commit fraud.

Even if the victim is suspicious and questions the caller, the criminal will try to convince them that they need the cover. If you get a call like this, just disconnect the call immediately.

## Protect yourself

- Be suspicious of any unexpected phone calls, text messages or emails that are trying to sell you something. Especially if they contact you persistently and use time-limited offers to try and force you into deciding quickly. No legitimate company will rush or pressure you to make a financial transaction on the spot.
- Speak to someone you trust before purchasing anything. Getting a second opinion from a family member or friend could help prevent you having your money stolen.
- Never assume a phone call is authentic just because the caller knows your basic details such as your name or address. Criminals will go to great lengths to make themselves seem legitimate and trustworthy. They can even copy and impersonate the phone numbers of real companies. If you have any suspicions, it's OK to take your time, challenge the caller or even just hang up.

If you think that you may have been a victim of this or any other type of scam, then contact your Bank immediately, which you can do by calling 159 and report it to Action Fraud at [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or call 0300 123 2040.

## TV Licence Phishing Scams.

Today Action Fraud have reported that in the last 2 weeks they have received **3,455 reports of this scam nationally**. Please be on the lookout for these fake emails stating your licence is due to expire or there has been a problem with your payment. The email will ask you to click on a link and will direct you to a fake website, where the criminals will look to steal your data and your money.

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COMPLETED APPLICATIONS NEED TO BE RECEIVED BY 15<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER.

FOR AN APPLICATION FORM PLEASE WRITE OR TELEPHONE:

ANN STORY, 8 NURSERY FIELDS, ACOL, BIRCHINGTON, CT7 0JF

01843 846651

Or email [annstory56@btopenworld.com](mailto:annstory56@btopenworld.com)



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

**Write: HOUSE OF COMMONS**

**London, SW1A 0AA**

Editor's Note:

PLEASE PASS ON THIS EDITION OF VILLAGE VOICE

Non-residents of Acol can become subscribers to the Village Voice at the cost of £10.00 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 10cm the cost is £10 for inclusion in 3 editions, £15 for 6 editions and £25 for 12 editions.

Please e-mail contributions to Village Voice to [inchley@btinternet.com](mailto:inchley@btinternet.com)

This edition of Village Voice has not been sponsored.

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> June 2023.