

ACOL VILLAGE VOICE

August 2023

MACMILLAN AFTERNOON TEA PARTY

We held a wonderful "Afternoon Tea Party" in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support, on Saturday 29th July. The weather was very kind to us, and was sunny and warm, so we could be in our garden all afternoon.

We were brilliantly supported by the Acol Horticultural Society, who donated a "sandwich and tasties" spread made by Chenice Butterworth.

Lots of people attended, and enjoyed a great Raffle, a Tombola and a rack of pre-loved coats and scarves for the ladies.

Sir Roger Gale also popped in and stayed for at least half an hour - even winning a prize from the Tombola Stall!

Brian and I would like to say a great big thankyou to all those lovely people who put so much time and effort into making it such a successful afternoon.

Finally, to say that the event raised the incredible sum of £1050.02p (not quite sure where the 2p came from!) Some of the total sum was received after the event, and any further donations will still be gratefully received.

So, thank you all again from Brian & Carol Hall of the Grove.

NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

While I was away on holiday, at the beginning of July, there was excitement in the village when a TDC Street Sweeper was spotted in the village for the first time in some years. We had asked our Thanet Councillors to provide information such as the street cleaning schedule for Acol and when streets had been swept in the past year. We also had contact from a TDC Officer with a view to arranging regular meetings to discuss the arrangements. At the time of writing this report, those arrangements have not been finalised but, meantime, Thanet Council has announced additional investment in street cleaning - see the News Section of Acol PC's website - so we have high hopes of improved cleanliness in our residential streets and lightening the load of our volunteer Litter Pickers.

We continue to work on developing the www.acolparishcouncil.org.uk/ website and hope for it to be a rich source of information for Acol residents. There is a "Feedback" button for you to notify any likes, dislikes, comments, and suggestions - or let us know by any other means including buttonholing any of our Councillors.

The next Parish Council meeting will be at 7.30 pm on Thursday 24th August. As a new team we are still "norming" and realise we have much to learn, although relish the challenges that we've taken-on. We hope to have appointed a new Parish Clerk, following interviews at the beginning of August, and as well as "business as usual" among our agenda

items will be taking The Civility and Respect Pledge designed by councils across England and Wales to supplement and strengthen the Code of Conduct, agreeing Councillor Portfolio Lead roles, and introducing a meeting Attendance Register to record not only our own commitment to Acol but also that of the various external representatives, including district and county councillors. We will also report the results of the promised "Phone Box Survey", which follows, and is additionally available on the Acol Parish Council website and in Acol PC social media. **Please have your say by Sunday 20th August.**

Richard Steel (Chair)

Phone Box Survey.

The Parish Council is considering purchasing the Public Telephone Box next to the Village Hall for a nominal £1, which will mean the removal of the pay 'phone that has not been used for over 4 years. As a Community Asset, options available to the Council would include its redecoration supporting plans to improve village décor, a mini art gallery (for village children and artists) a Wi-Fi hub, and/ or a mini- Library.

We were informed that a previous Parish Council had at one time decommissioned the public 'phone service but BT had agreed to recommission it after the empty box had been misused as a public urinal. (Presumably, there was no CCTV at that time?)

It has also been opined that the service provides an emergency lifeline for the village in case of power cuts - although an alternative view is that mobile 'phone ownership is now so ubiquitous that none is needed. The 'phone box does not meet OFCOM criteria for retention. i.e.

- In a place without coverage from all four mobile network providers; or
- Located in an area with a high frequency of accidents or suicides; or
- 52 or more calls have been made over the past 12 months; or
- There is other evidence it is reasonably needed at a site.

The Council therefore wishes to canvas the views of village residents and agrees to be bound by the majority decision (although please note that BT is, in any case, under no obligation to maintain the service and could itself decide to discontinue it at any time).

Do you as an Acol villager wish to keep the public pay phone by the village hall? YES / NO

Any other comments?

You can respond via The Parish Council website, The Acol Village Facebook page, or by typing the following URL into a web browser...

<https://freeonlinesurveys.com/s/LOIpgRb5> We will also be happy to receive hand-written responses posted in the Village Hall letterbox - but please remember the deadline for responses - **Sunday 20th August.**

ACOL VILLAGE HALL SUPPORT FUND - 200 Club

Winners for the Month of August 2023 were:

Member no. 26, who won 1st prize of £20.00.

Member no. 77, who won 2nd prize of £10.00 and

Member no. 94, who won 3rd prize of £5.00.

£30.00 has been donated to the Village Hall funds.

The next draw will take place on the 6th September 2023. Should you have any questions or wish to join the scheme, please contact Iris Osborne (838829)

FORTHCOMING VILLAGE HALL EVENTS

2nd Sept 2.30pm AHS - Summer/Autumn Show

5th Sept 7.30pm AHS - Tom Hart-Dyke (The Lullingstone Gardener)

ACOL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Acol Horticultural Society's next meeting is at 7.30pm on Tuesday 5th September, at Acol Village Hall when Tom Hart Dyke will be giving what is expected to be a very entertaining talk. Tom is The Lullingstone Gardener from Lullingstone Castle where he has created the World Garden. He will no doubt talk about his travels in developing this garden and may well touch on his being taken hostage in South America.

Remember we meet on the first Tuesday of the month.

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

On Saturday 2nd September the Acol's Summer/Autumn Show will be held in the Marquee behind the Village Hall. All are welcome so start thinking about and preparing your exhibits. Schedules are available from Steve and Theresa, Tel 846963. Classes cover most gardening features including an unusual container. There are also classes for art, cooking, handicraft and floral art. Classes for children can reward the winners with cash prizes. Schedules are available as above and entries must be in by 31st August. Entry is £1 and teas will be available, so come on people of Acol, show your support for this event.

Thanet Beekeepers will also be holding their Honey Show.

The marquee will be erected the weekend before the show and any assistance would be very welcome and appreciated by the Committee.

THE ASIAN HORNET INVASION.

An update on the Asian Hornet is that a primary nest has been identified and destroyed near Deal and a secondary identified and destroyed at Shepherdswell. This is a bit too close for comfort. So please stay alert. Confirmed sightings have also been made in Hythe and Hawkinge and are being investigated.

If seen the official advice is DO NOT kill but try and take a photo and inform authorities, using the *Asian Hornet Watch app* or email to alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk. They have ways of monitoring them and finding nests which can then be destroyed. Teams wear special protective clothing as the stings and attacks can be fatal. **Therefore, do not under any circumstances approach or interfere with any nests.** They have a similar life cycle to wasps and European hornets which are generally no threat.

There are posters displayed at the Village Hall (visible outside). These posters give a good illustration of the Asian Hornet and shows comparisons to other similar insects.

Bill Yeoman.

VILLAGE INFORMATION

VILLAGE HALL

If you wish to book a meeting or event, please ring 841691 to check availability.

BOOK/FILM CABINET

Please don't forget there is a cabinet outside the Village Hall where you can borrow or donate books and DVDs.

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

14th August

28th August

Recycling (blue), red bag
& waste food

7th August

21st August

4th Sept

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

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Iris Osborne continues to advise everyone of local issues. Please ring her on 07951 072914 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 .

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Minster Surgery

Please note the Surgery will be closed on Wednesday 23rd August from 1pm onwards for staff training.

REPEAT PRESCRIPTIONS: During /School holiday periods

With the School summer holiday period approaching fast, please remember to order your prescriptions in good time and also consider that your pharmacists and Doctors take holidays during this time as well.

Please Allow at least 72 hours to allow your 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.



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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

This edition of Village Voice has been sponsored by Carol and Brian Hall in loving memory of their son, Jonathan who passed away 3 years ago from Cancer, and was wonderfully looked after by Macmillan Nurses.

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 5th September 2023.