

ACOL VILLAGE VOICE

April 2021

PICKING UP THE PIECES AFTER LOCKDOWN

Sorry that the Voice has not been available during the recent lockdown. As things are now beginning to move in a positive direction, it seems appropriate to catch up with affairs in our Village and advise Villagers of what is just over the horizon.

Last October, the lead story was about positive progress over the redevelopment of Manston Airport. However, I should not have tempted fate! As you may know, the Development Consent Order has been withdrawn for further consideration, and we now await the next steps in this labyrinthine saga. Will they? Won't they? Are we going to need further airport capacity in the future or not? Is Manston's future to be a standby 4000 capacity lorry park?

One thing that became clear during the first 3 months of the year is that the existing road network at Manston is not suitable for high volumes of freight traffic. Which genius worked out that hundreds of lorries turning right across a narrow two way country road every day was an appropriate strategy?

Speaking of volumes of traffic, it has also become abundantly clear that the 'road calming' measures through the Village have had little or no impact on the volume or speed of traffic through the Village in spite of the lockdown - just ask those who live adjacent to the road humps at what time the Skip lorries start their morning journeys!! Those glorious early days of the first lockdown, when the roads were empty are, sadly, nothing but a distant memory now, and we will have to keep pressing for the extension of Columbus Avenue to provide a proper solution to our problem. Narrow road (less than the minimum width for two carriageways), no pavements, double blind bends and inadequate signage - and we can't even get the speed limit reduced to 20mph!

The last twelve months has seen a lot of development going on - new housing springing up, and internal works, extension and the like. Skips are everywhere, and the weather has been exceptionally windy. The result is that wherever you look in Thanet there seems to be an increasing litter problem. We in Acol have a dedicated few who go litter-picking regularly, and collect bag after bag of rubbish from our verges - not only McDonald's wrappings either - cardboard, shrinkwrap, cans and bottles together with other less savoury items. Some is thrown from the windows of passing vehicles, and some has been carried on the wind from who knows where. Just a plea to everyone to not pass litter by, but to carry a bag, pick rubbish up and dispose of it appropriately.

Jon

ACOL COMMUNITY BROADBAND PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

In our last update, we advised that Openreach found they were unable to use existing ducting on Acol Hill because tree roots had grown into it. Consequently, it was decided to route the new network via Manston Road and Margate Hill. A closure of Manston Road from 19th April for up to a week had been booked to enable required ducting works, but Kent County Council has instructed that the required road closure must be postponed until the 14th to 19th May.

The date for the completion of the fibre network build has therefore slipped to the week commencing 31st May and it is expected that we will be able to order from Superfast fibre broadband service suppliers from that time. We are assured that, because of the delays, the validity of the vouchers that we are using to fund our share of the network costs has been extended to the end of July.

The project is clearly running over budget and, although we had enough households signed-up to the Broadband Voucher scheme to cover our Community's share of the original network cost, any further voucher commitments would be welcome.

Please contact Richard or Karen if you haven't yet signed-up but would like to. I will continue to provide any updates as and when I get them.

Richard Steel

A SAFE PEDESTRIAN ROUTE FROM ACOL TO QUEX PARK

Richard Steel and Chenice Butterworth conducted a "Straw Poll" of Users of the Village Facebook Discussion Group concerning walking to Quex Park and what difference a safe, even pathway might make. This clearly indicated a predominant community view that people would be more likely to walk to Quex and use its businesses if they didn't have to negotiate traffic dangers and muddy, uneven fields.

Pedestrian access is on the Parish Council's "To Do List" pending the end of the ongoing Pandemic but, meantime, we would like to assist by gathering more evidence that may be used to better inform negotiations with the Quex Estate and its stakeholders. We have therefore prepared the survey that's included with this edition of Village Voice and will be most grateful if each Acol household completes a copy.

It can be completed online via the link pinned to the top of the Acol Village Facebook page (if you have any difficulty accessing the link, please email richardjohnsteel@outlook.com and a reply will be sent containing the link) or on paper and we will arrange collection.

Richard & Chenice

ACOL VILLAGE HALL SUPPORT FUND - 200 Club

Winners for the Month of January 2021 were:

Member no. 115 who won 1st prize of £20.00
Member no. 71, who won 2nd prize of £10.00 and
Member no. 136, who won 3rd prize of £5.00

Winners for the Month of February 2021 were:

Member no. 11 who won 1st prize of £20.00
Member no. 78, who won 2nd prize of £10.00 and
Member no. 117, who won 3rd prize of £5.00

Winners for the Month of March 2021 were:

Member no. 71, who won 1st prize of £20.00
Member no. 19, who won 2nd prize of £10.00 and
Member no. 87, who won 3rd prize of £5.00

A total of £105.00 was donated to the Village Hall funds

Should you have any questions or wish to join the scheme, please contact Iris Osborne (84090)

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VILLAGE INFORMATION

VILLAGE HALL

In accordance with the Government Roadmap, the Village Hall will remain closed at least until 21st June 2021. All being well, and subject to all the usual caveats about levels of infection, successful completion of the vaccination programme and reduced demand on the NHS, we will then be able to reopen in full, and without any restrictions. Bookings are now being taken for future events.

REFUSE COLLECTIONS

Refuse (black), Green Garden waste
& waste food

Recycling (blue), red bag & waste food

12th April

26th April

5th April

19th April

3rd May

If you have any problems with your bins, ring TDC, **577115**, or queries to **577727**.

PCSO

In the absence of village surgeries, if you have any problems, you can email PCSO Debbie Forsyth at 60457@kent.police.uk.

CCTV CAMERAS

Please report ANY incident in The Street to 844706.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

You can contact Iris Osborne (840901) if you wish to be updated on local crime or see anyone behaving suspiciously.

KENT POLICE

East Kent Division Rural Team can be contacted on **07980 978202** for queries or enquiries.

ACOL PARISH COUNCIL

You can check our website, acolparishcouncil.org.uk, or please ring 844706 if you have any queries.

MINSTER SURGERY

COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAMME - UPDATE

Minster Surgery are currently holding their vaccination Clinics at the Saga Vaccination Centre in Westwood Cross on a Tuesday and Thursday, and invitations are being sent to all vulnerable and at-risk patients and all those over the age of 50. Currently we are receiving the Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine and it is anticipated that second doses of the vaccine will be given after Easter, throughout Mid-April. We are

awaiting confirmation of the next delivery of the Pfizer vaccine and priority will be given to those patients awaiting their second dose of this vaccine.

Please note: Once you have had your vaccination you may be asked to sit and wait for a few minutes, depending upon individual circumstances.

Also: Please **DO NOT** contact the surgery to make an appointment for a vaccine - The surgery will contact you.

Community Transport Service:

If you have transport difficulties getting to the Vaccination Centre, you can book this free service direct on Thanet 60 20 30.

WE ARE "OPEN FOR BUSINESS" AS USUAL

Should you need to make an appointment to see a Healthcare Professional, you will receive a Telephone Triage call from a GP to help determine your correct need, resulting in a safer more professional approach and help limit the number of patients attending the surgery at the same time.

NATIONAL LOCKDOWN ROAD MAP

With the next stage "The Rule of Six", which came into effect on 29th March, **Please DO NOT** get complacent, exercise caution and follow the rules.

For everyone's safety:

Remember: "Wash Hands" "Cover Face" "Make space" "Fresh Air In"

And Above all "PROTECT THE NHS"

New Persistent cough? Loss Taste/Smell? High Temperature? Book a Test - Call 119

CLAIRE NASH

PODIATRIST

CONTACT NO: 07745 932377

TOE NAIL CUTTING, CORNS, CALLUS, VERRUCAS

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SURGERY CLOSURE DAYS

SPRING BANK HOLIDAY: Closed Monday 3rd May

If you need to see a Doctor during these times, please Call 111 for NON-URGENT confidential help and advice for you and your family.

For COVID-19 help and advice - Call 119

For URGENT/LIFE threatening Cases Call 999 as normal.

REPEAT PRESCRIPTIONS

Please ensure you have sufficient medication to last you through these difficult times and repeat prescription requests are submitted in good time to allow for the increased demand, both at the surgery and at the various Pharmacies.

PATIENT LIAISON GROUP AGM/ MEETING

Normally we would hold our AGM in April, during which we would also present our Annual Accounts. However, due to Covid-19 restrictions we will have to defer it until May, with a tentative date of Thursday 6th May, which we will confirm in our May Newsletter. In the meantime, if you have any issues or concerns you would like to raise, please contact:

Ken Self on 821200 or Jeanne Lawrence on 821049
or email kenself@me.com

Editors Note:

PLEASE PASS ON THIS EDITION OF VILLAGE VOICE

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 e-mail contributions to Village Voice to inchley@btinternet.com

This edition of Village Voice has been sponsored by Richard Steel in support of all dementia sufferers and their families, and in memory of his Mum who passed away three years ago after battling the disease.

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 May 2021.