

ACOL VILLAGE VOICE

February 2020

BROADBAND Update

We are delighted to announce that Acol has achieved its target for Broadband Voucher pledges, meaning that development of our Fibre-To-The-Premises (Household) infrastructure will soon get underway. Once completed it will deliver reliability and speeds measured in hundreds of megabits per second, rather than the patchy double-digit (if you're lucky) performance we currently experience.

Openreach will now submit our pledges to the Government Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), which will email households requesting their confirmation by clicking a hyperlink. (See Parish Council Minutes for more details)

We are aware of some people who indicated their intentions to pledge but haven't yet done so. The Openreach Community Fibre Partnership webpage will remain available for new pledges throughout the development so further households can commit, as required. The more households we add, the more resilient our project becomes - benefiting our whole community in terms not just of broadband connectivity but in associated benefits such as property value!

We will continue to report progress online and in Village Voice but, as ever, Richard and Karen will be happy to field any queries.

Richard Steel & Karen Ault

ACOL VILLAGE HALL SUPPORT FUND - 200 Club

Winners for the Month of February 2020 were:

Member no. 5 who won 1st prize of £19.00

Member no. 46, who won 2nd prize of £11.40 and

Member no. 93, who won 3rd prize of £7.60

£38.00 has been donated to the Village Hall funds

The next draw will be on Wednesday 4th March 2020. Should you have any questions, or wish to join the scheme, please contact Iris Osborne (840901).

FORTHCOMING VILLAGE HALL EVENTS

Sat. 15th Feb. 2.00 for 2.30pm AHS Valentine Afternoon Tea

VILLAGE INFORMATION

REFUSE COLLECTIONS

Refuse (black), Garden Waste (Green)
& waste food

10th February

17th February

2nd March

Recycling (blue), red bag & waste food

24th February

9th March

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

VILLAGE HALL

Please ring **841691** about hall availability.

REGULAR BOOKINGS

Mondays, 9.30-10.30am, Pilates (commencing 10th February)

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/

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

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

Saturday 4th April, all day, AHS Spring Show

Monday 6th April, 6pm, Parish Assembly and Parish Council AGM.

PLEASE NOTE THE HALL WILL BE OUT OF ACTION 14TH TO 18TH APRIL (inclusive), DUE TO IT BEING REDECORATED.

Thursday 7th May, all day, ELECTION OF THE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER. (This is Advance notice in case anyone will be away for the VE Day weekend and needs to register for a Postal Vote.)

PCSO

Debbie Forsyth has combined her villages surgeries that are now held at 12.15 on the first Wednesday of the month at Monkton Village Hall. For urgent matters, email her at 60457@kent.police.uk.

CCTV CAMERAS

Please ring 844706 if you wish to report any incident in The Street.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Please be sure that Iris Osborne (840901) has your contact details to report regular updates.

KENT POLICE

Dedicated number for the East Kent Division Rural Team is **07980 978202**.

VILLAGE FACEBOOK WEBSITE

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

ACOL PARISH COUNCIL

You can keep informed of meetings and events through our website - acolparishcouncil.org.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 15th 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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ACOL PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held at the Village Hall, Acol, at 11.00am on 13th January 2020.

Present: Cllrs Miss S. Bransfield (Chairman), D. Hayfield, J. Inchley and Mrs. I. Osborne.
Also present: Cllr. T. Roper (TDC), Roy Wade (Clerk) & 8 residents.

62. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

63. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting 2nd December 2019 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

64. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest.

65. REPORT OF POLICE/COMMUNITY WARDEN/PCSO's.

No officers were in attendance to report.

66. REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman reported upon the following:

- Planning application for a Perfume Factory in the Walled Garden. It appeared on the Weekly Planning List in March as "Garden Cottage, Minster Road, Monkton, Ramsgate" which did not stand out as being at the top of our Minster Road so it was missed. It was approved in November. The Parish Council will write to TDC to request that they notify neighbouring villages of a planning application that will impact upon them.
- There was a mixed response to the approval of additional retail units by Minster Services and McDonalds, but relief it will not become a site for travellers.
- Stagecoach have now responded to our request for a courtesy stop and have sent a letter to Mrs Ann Murray with this statement:
"In certain areas there are no designated bus stops. In those areas buses will stop on request where it is safe to do so. Customers should pick a point away from parked cars, road junctions etc and give a clear signal in good time to the driver of the vehicle. When you come to alight you should ring the bell once in good time to alert the driver. We have reiterated the importance of this instruction to our drivers."

67. RECREATION GROUND – PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

Cllr. Hayfield reported further upon the proposed improvement to the play area to modernise it and on discussions with some residents who favoured the installation of a see saw instead of a carousel. The equipment would cost £1,200.00 and there would be the cost of removing the wooden climbing frame and the placement of the see saw. The total cost of purchase and installation would be met from the £2,000 now approved within the budget for 2020-2021

RESOLVED: the report and proposals of Cllr. Hayfield be approved and the see saw purchased and erected in the Spring.

68. DRAFT BUDGET 2020/21

RESOLVED: that the draft budget in the sum of £7,490.00 be approved and a precept of £5,500.00 be requested from TDC.

68. INTERNAL AUDIT OF PARISH COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL RECORDS

The report of the Internal Audit was still awaited. The Clerk to report once the report has been received.

69. PARISH WEBSITE/BROADBAND

Richard Steel introduced Tim Clarkson from Openreach who attended our meeting to discuss the planned Community Broadband Partnership. Tim is an Openreach Customer Field Manager and currently has around 80 such projects on the go. Although 95% of the UK now has broadband provision that's considered to be adequate (with speeds of 30 mbps or more) the Community Partnership programme is enabling coverage for harder to reach communities such as ours. So far, 800 such communities have been provided for.

The timescale for our provision should be within 12 months, and there should not be too much disruption from the works. Existing infrastructure will be used so far as possible – and Tim confirmed that existing services will be unaffected so those who do not need fast broadband service will be able to continue with their existing suppliers.

The new FTTP (Fibre to the Premise) infrastructure will provide each home with its own connection from the Exchange, with speeds measured in 100s of mbps rather than the current single digit speeds experienced in the south of Acol, with much greater reliability. Although, at present it appears that BT is the only current Acol broadband supplier that can provide service across the new network, as previously reported, the expectation is that as fibre infrastructure develops more providers will come onboard.

The latest monitoring indicates that UK fibre coverage has just reached 11%, so our community can now look forward to changing from a fast broadband laggard to being among the frontrunners!

70. CLERK'S REPORT

Parish Elections – Members were advised that TDC had responded to the Parish Council's concerns in respect of the invoice received in the sum of £232.38 from TDC in respect of elections held on 2 May 2019.

TDC had stated that although the Parish Council had not been charged for elections since 2003 they should have been and further insisted that the invoice now presented should be paid.

RESOLVED: That the invoice in the sum of £232.38 be now paid.

71. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(i) **Payments Schedule.**

647 TDC Election costs	0.00	232.38
660 B'ton PCC – Village Hall ground rent	0.00	*200.00
661 Serco - Grass Cut Dec.	11.26	*67.56
662 D.Hayfield - CCTV hard drive	0.00	*80.00
663 HMRC PAYE – 4 th Quarter	0.00	110.00
664 R.Wade - Salary – 3 th Quarter	0.00	440.00
665 Sunstone I.P - CCTV Maint/Call outs	156.00	936.00
666 Quex Estates - Rec Ground rent	0.00	60.00

It was also noted the following financial details:-

• Balance at 01.01.20	£10,536.45
• Less payments now agreed	£1,718.38
• Balance at 13.01.20	£ 8,758.07

Cllr. Mrs. Osborne verified the financial details.

72. REPORT OF COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Thanet Cllr Roper reported on:

(74) **Travellers' Site** – Consideration of this matter had been deferred to allow for public and parish council consultative meetings to be held.

(ii) **Polling stations**– TDC would be consulting on the suitability of local parish council election venues: and

(iii) **Parkway Station** – The consultation period for the Parkway Station would expire on 20th January 2020.

73. MATTERS OF REPORT BY MEMBERS

Cllr Mrs Osborne – urged that residents gave more commitment to the Neighbourhood Watch initiative

Cllr. Inchley - reported on the dumping of bedroom furniture in the area of Walnut Tree Cottage.

74. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed to hold the next meeting at 11.00 am on 23rd March 2020. **(NB This has subsequently been rearranged for 11.00am on 6th April 2020.)**

Time concluded: 12.20pm.

THERE'S A NEW PEST IN TOWN

There is a new pest arriving on our shores called the **ASIAN HORNET**. It arrived in southern France only a few years ago when a hibernating Queen is believed to have been in terracotta pots imported from China. It very quickly spread across France before it was realised it was decimating colonies of honeybees. Its main prey throughout the summer is the honeybee. When it finds a colony, it patrols in front of the entrance and picks the bees off as they return laden with nectar. It decapitates the bee and takes it back to its nest to feed to the larva. When it has weakened the colony sufficiently it enters the nest and finishes it off. This is not only a threat to honeybees but to all pollinating insects.

The Asian Hornet was found in the West Country about two and a half years ago. Since then several nests have been found and destroyed. Two years ago one was found in a distribution centre in Scotland. In April 2018 one was discovered in Lancashire in a cauliflower transported from Lincolnshire!

Last year on Jersey a man almost died from Asian Hornet stings when he disturbed the nest whilst cutting a hedge.

This insect is about the same size or a little smaller than our native European Hornet (which is no threat to us or the insect world). It is dark almost black in colour with an orange face, the lower part of the legs is yellow and there is a thin yellow line on the first segment of the abdomen and the fourth segment is yellow/orange. It builds a primary nest about the size of a tennis ball low down before moving to a larger nest, up to 90cm, higher up normally in trees (although in Jersey it was discovered in old buildings).

In Autumn 2018 two Asian Hornets were found at Dungeness believed to have been blown by strong winds. Last year, they were found in Hampshire and Staffordshire. Worryingly the latest confirmed sighting was at Ashford late last year.

Further details can be found on www.nonnativespecies.org or you can contact me, Bill Yeoman, on 845217. Any suspected sightings should be reported with a photograph if possible, to alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk

The Queens will soon be coming out of hibernation.

Bill Yeoman

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STEEL Wellbeing



A Pilates class, led by Kim - a Physiotherapist, is due to start on the 10th February in Acol Village Hall. Classes will run every Monday from 9.30-10.30. There will be a maximum of 10 people per class to ensure correct technique.

Pilates is a great way to improve posture and manage persistent spinal conditions and tone muscle - it is often recommended by a health professional as a management technique if pain is chronic and/or cannot be cured. All are welcome; from novices to advanced, all ages, shapes, sizes and genders. You get to know your regular class attendees.

Pilates originates from Joseph Pilates, who developed "Contrology" - a way to rehabilitate himself through working "core" or what I call posture, muscles; the muscles deep in the torso, close to your skeleton, which hold you in an upright position, meaning your body can work at it's optimal efficiency (Hargrove, T., 2010). This is something I feel is very relevant in today's society considering our generally sedentary lifestyles; working in offices, or similar. Core, or posture, muscles are also very important in any activity, - particularly sport - where power is needed from the muscles further from the torso. This is because the core muscles provide stability so that power and strength can come from the muscles on the surface. Finally, it is a great way in which to keep your body aligned symmetrically; misalignment will mean your body is not working efficiently and one side of your body will be more prone to injury.

The first class will cost £5 as a trial offer. Subsequent classes will be £10 on a "pay as you go" basis. There is also an option to book a block of 4 classes for £30 (which need to be used within a 2-month period). Mats will be provided but they are welcome to bring their own for extra comfort. Just wear something you can move easily in.

MINSTER SURGERY

DID YOU KNOW.....

Monday and Friday are always our busiest days, and on average we receive nearly 1000 calls each day? However, during the week before Christmas we received nearly 3500 calls and the week after Christmas received 4106 calls per day.

Regrettably, this caused severe congestion on the local Broadband network, also effecting some mobile phones, which led to some calls being disconnected.

We therefore wish to apologize to any patients who were affected by this problem, which was unfortunately due to circumstances beyond our control.

DO YOU USE THE "TELEPHONE CALL BACK" OPTION?

Free and easy to use, it saves you time and the frustration of waiting for someone to answer. For example, on the Monday after Christmas, nearly 100 patients used the service and were successfully called back very shortly after.

SURGERY CLOSURE DAYS 2020

Staff Training - from midday onwards: Thursday 27th February; Wednesday 29th April

Bank Holidays - all day - Good Friday 10h April, Easter Monday 13th April

Should you need to see a Doctor when the surgery is closed, please call the NHS 111 Service direct on 111 to receive "non urgent" confidential health advice and information for you and your family. For Urgent/Life threatening issues, please dial 999.

MISSED APPOINTMENTS

29 PATIENTS DID NOT ATTEND THEIR GP's APPOINTMENT

43 PATIENTS DID NOT ATTEND THEIR NURSES APPOINTMENT

So - DON'T NEED IT? CANCEL IT! by MyGP app, by Phone or Text, On Line

FRIENDS AND FAMILY SURVEY

Last month A total of 295 patients responded to the question "would you recommend our Practice" as follows:

Extremely likely/Likely - 94%; Extremely unlikely/Unlikely - 3%; Unsure/Don't know - 3%

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

ANNUAL SPRING FAYRE - 16th MAY 2019 @ Old Schools Hall Minster

Book your table now. Some have already been booked, so get in quick.

PATIENT GROUP MEETING

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

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT In response to our complaints concerning bus drivers refusing to make Courtesy Stops on Minster Road, we have received the following from the Managing Director of Stagecoach South East:

"In certain areas there are no designated bus stops. In those areas buses will stop on request where it is safe to do so. Customers should pick a point away from parked cars, road junctions etc and give a clear signal in good time to the driver of the vehicle. When you come to alight you should ring the bell once in good time to alert the driver."

The importance of this instruction has been reiterated to their drivers.

This courtesy will safeguard villagers from having to walk through the village from the official bus stop near Nursery Fields or, even worse, having to make their way back on a 2-mile journey from Spitfire Way!

CLAIRE NASH

PODIATRIST

CONTACT NO: 07745 932377

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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 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 5th March 2020.