

# **ACOL VILLAGE VOICE**

## **December 2020**

Village Voice would like to wish all readers a safe and peaceful  
COVID free Christmas and a healthy New Year.

### **THANK YOU**

To start with, a few words of thanks to all those who work selflessly in the background for the good of the Village and in the upkeep of its Hall.

I would particularly like to thank and pay tribute to the Village Hall Management Committee and their spouses, who have continued to serve the community to the best of their considerable abilities. Iris Osborne, for running the Support Fund, and for her hard work as Secretary and now as Treasurer, taking over from Mary Hodgson after many years of her managing our funds so efficiently, Sheila for managing the Hall bookings and Karen Ault, Chenice Butterworth and Bill Yeoman. We must also thank Dave, who willingly undertakes whatever urgent maintenance is required - and who erects and decorates our tree so beautifully every year, and the many others who contribute their time for the benefit of others.

We must also remember Norman Chidwick, who for years and years was an active and vital member of the Committee, who so sadly passed away this year.

Regrettably, we have not been able to make the Hall available since March 2020, and will not be able to reopen for business until Easter 2021 at the earliest, but thereafter, vaccine and lockdowns permitting, we will be back in business!

Jon

What with the recent lockdowns and the uncertainty about availability of our Printer, it has not been possible to maintain the monthly publication of Village Voice. Accordingly there was no November edition to continue the series of updates about local infrastructure developments.

However, to make sure everyone is kept aware of the latest position I include the following update:

### **SO, WHAT IS HAPPENING ABOUT FIBRE BROADBAND?**

The contractual date for network completion is, apparently, in May. Openreach were comfortably within schedule but there have since been a couple of setbacks. Firstly, it was found that existing ducting down the side of Acol Hill, which it was hoped to reuse for the new fibre, had been broken-into by tree roots and cannot be used. An alternative approach routing new ducting along Manston Road and

down Margate Hill has now been agreed upon and we were advised that the "contractual" completion date should still be achieved. However, a second problem is that Openreach are unable to use an existing telegraph pole in the centre of the village, as they had planned, because it is becoming unsafe and due for replacement at some time next year. So far, no alternative has been agreed upon, and network provision to the south of the village - that most in need - could therefore be delayed.

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

### **ACOL VILLAGE HALL SUPPORT FUND - 200 Club**

#### **Winners for the Month of October 2020 were:**

Member no. 115 who won 1<sup>st</sup> prize of £20.00  
Member no. 95, who won 2<sup>nd</sup> prize of £10.00 and  
Member no. 5, who won 3<sup>rd</sup> prize of £5.00

#### **Winners for the Month of December 2020 were:**

Member no. 13 who won 1<sup>st</sup> prize of £20.00  
Member no. 19, who won 2<sup>nd</sup> prize of £10.00 and  
Member no. 102, who won 3<sup>rd</sup> prize of £5.00

A total of £75.00 was donated to the Village Hall funds

**NB** It was not possible to hold the November draw during lockdown.

Should you have any questions or wish to join the scheme, please contact Iris Osborne (840901).

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## **VILLAGE INFORMATION**

### **VILLAGE HALL**

Following the latest lockdown, the Village Hall will now remain closed at least until Easter 2021, and no bookings for any purpose will be accepted before that time. Watch this space for further information should the national regulations change.

### **REFUSE COLLECTIONS**

**Refuse (black), & waste food**

7<sup>th</sup> December (incl. Green Bin)

21<sup>st</sup> December (NO Green Bin)

4<sup>th</sup> January (NO Green Bin)

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

14<sup>th</sup> December

28<sup>th</sup> December

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](mailto:60457@kent.police.uk).

### **CCTV CAMERAS**

Please report ANY incident in The Street to 844706. We are expecting another monitoring system to be installed for October to calculate the amount of traffic and their speeds.

**CLAIRE NASH**

**PODIATRIST**

**CONTACT NO: 07745 932377**

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### **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

You can contact Iris Osborne (840901) if you wish to be updated on local crime or 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](http://acolparishcouncil.org.uk), or please ring 844706 if you have any queries.

Sheila Bransfield

## **MINSTER SURGERY**

### **A BIG Thank You!**

As we approach the end of a very difficult year for everyone, we would like to thank all our patients for their support and understanding, and especially for all the gifts and donations that many of you have given throughout this Pandemic. It really does mean a great deal to everyone at the surgery.

### **COVID-19**

**Please Remember: "wash Hands"- "Cover Face" - "Make Space" and stay safe!**

**If you have any of the following symptoms:**

**New persistent cough; Loss of taste/smell; High temperature - Call 119 - book a test!**  
**If you have symptoms, tested positive or are self-isolating, PLEASE DO NOT VISIT THE SURGERY but call 111 if you require further assistance.**

### **CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS**

Please note the surgery's open/closed arrangements over the Christmas period:

Christmas Eve Thursday 24th December	- AM - Normal opening hours - PM - Emergencies Only
Christmas Day Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	- Closed all day
Boxing Day Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> December	- Closed all day
Bank Holiday Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> December	- Closed all day
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> December	- Normal opening hours
New Years Eve Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup> December	- AM - Normal opening hours - PM - Emergencies only
New Years Day Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> January	- Closed all day
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> January onwards	- Normal opening hours

**Please note:** Some dates/times may be subject to change dependent on Covid-19 restrictions and NHS England requirements.

Should you need to see a Doctor during times when the surgery is closed, please call the NHS 111 Service direct on 111 where you will receive non-urgent confidential health advice and information for you and your family.

\* For Urgent/Life Threatening cases, please dial 999 as normal.

\* **For Covid-19 symptoms or book a test call 119**

### **REPEAT PRESCRIPTIONS**

Please ensure that you have sufficient medication to last you throughout the holiday period and that all Repeat Prescription requests are submitted in good time to allow for the increased demand, both at the surgery and at the various pharmacies, and remember to check your local pharmacy's opening times as well. Also ensure that if your prescription is due during the holiday period or if you are going away, check that it will be available for collection in advance before Christmas.

Obviously, we appreciate that "urgent" prescriptions may still be needed at any time. Also, if your MEDICATION REVIEW is due during this period please ensure you make an appointment in good time.

If you have any concerns please contact the surgery direct on 821333.

### **SURGERY TRAINING DAYS 2021**

Please note that the surgery will be closed on the following days from 1.00 pm onwards:

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January and Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February.

### **PATIENT GROUP MEETING**

If you have any issues you would like to raise at our virtual meeting in December, or require further information on any of the above, then please contact:

Ken Self on 821200 or Jeanne Lawrence on 82104  
or email : kenself@me.com



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#### **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](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> January 2021.**