

ACOL VILLAGE VOICE

December 2023

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

It is with great sadness that I have to advise villagers that this year's Christmas party, for so long a regular institution in Acol, has had to be cancelled. Unfortunately, for various reasons, only 23 people signed up for this year's event which has traditionally attracted 35 - 40. At this level of reduced take-up, the event would have been both disappointing and overly expensive.

I apologise to those who will miss the party, and in particular those who had worked hard to organise what has, in the past, been a highlight in our annual schedule of events.

However, we still have some events for the whole family to enjoy:

Community Carols in the Village Hall

This traditional community carol concert will begin at 6.00pm on Friday 15th December. Everyone is welcome to join in this popular Village event.

Reindeer Drive

This year's Reindeer Drive will take place on Saturday 16th December at 7.30pm.

There will be an American Supper (bring your own drink) and entry will be £5-00 for adults and £2-00 for children.

New Years Eve Party

This will take place on 31st December, and entrance will be free to all villagers. Bring your own food and drink. There will be music, games and all sorts of frivolity.

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.

This year saw wholesale change in the personnel of the Parish Council. It is good to see a new, younger generation bringing fresh thinking and enthusiasm to the role, and I wish them well.

I would also 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 Treasurer, Sheila Bransfield for managing the Hall bookings and Karen Ault, Jude Manser, Chenice Butterworth and Bill Yeoman.

I must also thank David Hayfield, who willingly undertakes whatever urgent maintenance is required - and who erects and decorates our tree so beautifully every year, and the many others who give of their time for the benefit of others.

I should also thank the regular hirers of the Hall, who so obviously value and enjoy the facilities, and without whom we would not be able to ensure the upkeep and provide the necessary enhancements for the benefit of all villagers. On a personal note, I must also thank Bill Yeoman, and Karen Ault for helping me distribute the Village Voice each month come rain or shine.

Jon

FORTHCOMING VILLAGE HALL EVENTS

Fri 15 th Dec	7.00pm	COMMUNITY CAROLS
Sat 16 th Dec	2.00pm	CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY
	7.00pm	AHS REINDEER DRIVE
Thurs 21 st Dec	7.00pm	PRESENTATION OF FREEDOM OF THE PARISH
	8.00pm	PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Sun 31 st Dec	t.b.a.	NEW YEARS EVE PARTY

NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Four Speedwatch volunteers and three Police Officers were involved in joint enforcement activity on Margate Hill, Nursery Fields, and Minster Road on 7th November. Richard had the opportunity to speak to some of the offenders pulled over by the Police and explain why we don't think it's a good idea to speed on our narrow, bendy roads without pedestrian provision (or they could choose to be issued with a speeding ticket 🤪). Thanks to all. Further joint sessions will be arranged in the New Year.

Richard met with the Thanet and Dover Highways Community Liaison Officer to discuss highways matters including improved planning and notification of works in our village, modifications to make the Minster Road "build-out" (chicane) more

effective which, if successful, will be replicated at the build-out at the bottom of Acol Hill, and regular contravention of the 7.5 tonne weight limit. Concerning the latter, it was suggested that we should join a "Lorry Watch" scheme operated by KCC, which is under consideration. A further meeting is planned in the new year to review our Highways Improvement Plan (HIP) and consider what other road safety measures are possible.

A meeting with Matthew Elmer, TDC's Head of Cleansing Services to discuss Acol Street cleaning was postponed due to technical difficulties but has been rescheduled and will be reported in our January news.

A "Village Appraisal" booklet - the first stage in developing an Acol Neighbourhood Plan - is being worked-on and likely to be delivered to all village homes over the Christmas period. **Please lookout for this and do not discard.** We really need your active involvement in this important work for our community by completing and returning the enclosed questionnaire.

Sarah's post, in the Facebook Acol Kent Discussion Group, of our booking of the Village Hall for a "bring your own food and drink" New Year's Eve celebration with music and games for all, has met with a lot of interest. Further details will be posted on the Acol PC website and Facebook pages.

Unfortunately, uncooperative weather - over 5 months' worth of rain in 30 days - made it impossible to prepare the promised footpath to Quex Park. The necessary grass will now be sown in the spring.

The fallen tree and others with ash die-back in our Recreation Ground have now been removed and it's planned to replace them with varieties that will provide more seasonal colour, such as Cherry blossom.

There will be a special occasion ahead of the next Parish Council meeting to present "Freedom of the Parish of Acol" to former Acol Parish Councillors who worked hard for our community over many years. All villagers are invited to join the celebration, with mince pies and refreshments provided, at 7 pm on Thursday 21st December. The Parish Council meeting will follow at 8 pm.

Richard Steel (Chair)

ACOL VILLAGE HALL SUPPORT FUND - 200 CLUB

The next draw will be held on Wednesday 6th December 2023, and the results printed in the next edition of Village Voice.

Should you have any questions, or wish to join the scheme, please contact Iris Osborne (838829).

VILLAGE INFORMATION

VILLAGE HALL

HALL BOOKINGS

We are still experiencing high levels of demand for Hall hirings. That means that you need to book the Hall for an event (private or public) well in advance, and start thinking about 2024. If anyone wishes to check availability for hiring, please ring Sheila Bransfield on **841691**.

BOOK/FILM CABINET

The cabinet is overflowing with books and DVDs for borrowing at no charge. Please feel free to avail yourself of this facility. To access the cabinet there is merely a shackle on the doors to unscrew.

DEFIBRILLATOR

Just follow the instructions printed on the cabinet to obtain the access code and follow the instructions inside.

REFUSE COLLECTIONS

Refuse (black) & waste food
food

Recycling (blue), red bag & waste

18th December
Saturday 6th January 2024

11th December
Saturday 23rd December
8th January

Garden Waste collections resume on 15th January.

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

THANET VILLAGES BEAT OFFICER

In case of need contact Police Constable Beth Nimmin. Her contact details are:
Mobile 07969584306 : Email - 14331@kent.police.uk

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Iris Osborne continues to advise everyone of local issues. Please ring her on **07951 072914** if you have questions or require information.

KENT POLICE

East Kent Division Rural Police Team can be contacted on **07980 978202**, with enquiries.

ACOL PARISH COUNCIL

As well as Acol Village Voice you can find out more about what's occurring in Acol via Facebook on the Acol, Kent community page ([www facebook.com/Acol.Village](http://www.facebook.com/Acol.Village)).

For village chit-chat, news and views join the private Acol, Kent group which has been going since 2019 and now has over 350 members. Please remember that if you do invite anyone to join the group you should let them know that they will

need to answer some membership questions and agree to follow the group rules. Please be kind and always remain courteous so that we can all enjoy the group and the social service it provides. Of course, other news and information is available on the Acol Parish Council website at www.acolparishcouncil.org.uk or ring **845363**.

ACOL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

That's it for Acol Horticultural Society in 2023. We reconvene in February 2024 when **Keeley Wilson** will be talking on Foliage Plants and holding a Plant Clinic on Tuesday 6th. Then on 10th there will be a Valentine's Afternoon Tea.

Acol Horticultural Society wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year. We hope to see you all in 2024.

Remember we meet on the first Tuesday of the month.
You can join the Society:- £4 single and £7 for a couple.

Bill Yeoman.

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Editor's 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.

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 send contributions to Village Voice 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 January 2024.