

ACOL VILLAGE VOICE

January 2019

Ever since I took over the editorship of Village Voice, The January Edition has been one which was determinedly optimistic, sometimes in spite of personal sadness. I regularly wished readers a Happy New Year, and took pleasure in celebrating the Christmas festivities, and the events which we had enjoyed together. This year however, has been overshadowed by the loss of Bob Lawrence, who so sadly passed away on Christmas morning.

Bob, who had lived with Phyllis in 1 Vine Cottages for more than fifty years, was an unsung local hero. Churchwarden of St Mildred's, and Acol Tree Warden, he had served this community in many official roles over the years: Parish Councillor, Village Hall Committee, Chairman of the Parish Council, and President of the Horticultural Society. Above all, Bob was a quiet, kind, generous and gentle man, always making himself available to help out when needed. He willingly shared his encyclopedic horticultural expertise whilst maintaining his beautiful garden, and, with his late son Neil, regularly won prizes at local and regional garden shows.

All of us who had the privilege of knowing him will sorely miss him, but the loss to his family is incalculable.

Our sympathy in particular must go out to Phyllis at this very sad time.

Jon

Bob Lawrence..... we have lost a treasure who was a major part of village life. Our sympathy goes out to wife Phyl and the relatives. Bob had been involved in pretty well all of the activities in the village from when he worked on the local farm, a member of the Village Hall committee, Chairman of the Parish Council for some time and long-time Church Warden, but possibly his favourite interest was in the Acol Horticultural Society. Bob at one time or another took up just about every job in the Society right up to Chairman and then President. He accumulated a massive collection of farming and gardening memorabilia, which was proudly displayed at many of the Horticultural shows around Kent. He was, as well, very involved in the organisation of these County events. He and his band of Horticultural Society members nurtured the annual Acol shows into the more important enthusiasts' venues in the area. Bob was always willing to give a helping hand to anyone whether it was to do with advice on trees or to answer questions about the local area of which he had a vast amount of knowledge. A good neighbour and a true gentleman. We will miss you Bob.

Dave and Sheila (Orchard Cottage)

Village Voice should also mark the death of Leslie Phillips, who passed away just before Christmas. He was known to all of Acol's 'older' families and was well liked by all who met and knew him.

Leslie and his wife were proprietors of Acol Caravan Park 1970 - 2005. Leslie had often been involved in village matters over the decades, particularly being part of the Acol Action Group opposing the Piper Homes development of Nursery Fields without the preservation of a village green. He subsequently took responsibility for cutting the grass on the green for a number of years thereafter, amongst other things.

Our sympathy goes to his son, Martin Phillips of The Spinney.

Senior Citizens' Christmas Party, 8th December

This evening continued the long tradition of inviting our Senior Citizens to a Christmas party, and this year was, as always, thoroughly enjoyed by all its participants. This also marked the first occasion when the extended and improved catering facilities of the extended Hall kitchen could be put to use. 40 people sat down to a delicious Christmas Dinner of Turkey and all the trimmings, followed by dessert and Cheese and biscuits. It was a magnificent spread, and we once again owe a vote of thanks to all involved in its preparation, cooking and serving. Thank you for all your hard work.

The meal was followed once again by a musical entertainment from the 'Greyhound Busker' Ukelele Band, which got everyone singing along and provided a thoroughly enjoyable evening for all. The Village Hall Management Committee made a suitable donation to the Band for their chosen charity on behalf of the attendees.

Finally, a quick word of thanks to those who donated to, and supported the Christmas Hamper Draw, which raised £101 towards the costs of the event. Thanks must also go to the Parish Council, Village Hall Management Committee and Acol Horticultural Society for their generous donations, which once again ensured that sufficient funds will be in the kitty for Christmas 2019.

Reindeer Drive, 22nd December

This year's Reindeer Drive took place on Saturday 22nd December at 7.30pm: This highly popular event was once again run for us by Bill Yeoman, and provided a chance for everybody in the village, of all ages, to join in with some festive fun and games. Thanks to Bill, Josie and all the team for once again providing an exciting and fun-filled evening.

ACOL VILLAGE HALL SUPPORT FUND - 200 Club

Winners for the Month of January 2019 were:

Member no. 53 who won 1st prize of £18.00

Member no. 157, who won 2nd prize of £10.80 and

Member no. 126, who won 3rd prize of £7.20

£36.00 was donated to the Village Hall funds

The next draw will be on Wednesday 6th February 2019. Should you have any questions, or wish to join the scheme, please contact Iris Osborne (840901).

FORTHCOMING VILLAGE HALL EVENTS

| | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|---|
| Tues 15 th Jan | 2.00pm | Parish Council Meeting |
| Sat, 26 th Jan | | St Mildred's Coffee Morning |
| Sat. 16 th Feb. | 2.30 for 3.00pm | AHS Valentine Afternoon Tea |
| Tues 5 th Feb | 7.30pm | AHS Meeting - Steve Edney 'Succession Planting' |

CONSIDERATION FOR NEIGHBOURS AND THEIR PETS

If you intend to let off fireworks at any time other than around 5th November, please let your neighbours know, either by speaking to them or putting a note through doors.

Back in November (about 10 days after the 5th) some fireworks were let off in Acol. Unfortunately, a neighbour who had kept their dog in for the two weeks either side of the 5th had let their dog into their garden. When the fireworks went off it frightened the elderly dog which then panicked and ran off out of the back garden and across fields. Despite sightings that night on the A299 and near Thanet Earth, and much publicity with posters and internet, there have been no further sightings or any information about the dog. Remember, this was a much-loved family pet.

This highlights the dangers of fireworks to pets and shows the importance of consideration towards your neighbours and their pets.

Bill Yeoman

VILLAGE INFORMATION

VILLAGE HALL

Please ring 841691 about hall availability.

REGULAR BOOKINGS

Monday afternoons (term time) - Pam's People

First Tuesday evening, Acol Horticultural Society meeting.

All other Tuesday evenings, Dance Fitness Class

Wednesdays, 9.30am-4.30pm (term time) - Village Textiles

Alternate Wednesday evenings, commencing 16 Jan - 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

TUE 15th JANUARY, 2PM, PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Sat 26th Jan, 9am - 12.30pm, Christian Unity Week Coffee Morning

Sat 16th Feb, afternoon, AHS Valentine's Tea

REFUSE COLLECTIONS

Refuse (black) Garden (Green) & waste food

21st January

4th February

Recycling (blue), red bag & waste food

14th January

28th January

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

CCTV CAMERAS

If you experience any traffic incident in The Street, please report to 844706.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Please ring Iris Osborne on 840901 to register for updates on local incidents.

KENT POLICE

Please note the dedicated phone number for the East Division Rural Team: **07980 978202**.

VILLAGE FACEBOOK WEBSITE

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

ACOL PARISH COUNCIL

Acol Parish Council website: www.hugofox.com/community/acol-parish-council-13724/contact/

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.

THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL WILL BE 2PM ON TUESDAY 15TH JANUARY 2019.

Sheila Bransfield

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MINSTER SURGERY

FUND RAISING PROJECT - TARGET ACHIEVED - EQUIPMENT ORDERED!

We are delighted to say we raised over £1500 and have now purchased the new equipment so desperately needed. Raising such an amount in just a few months since we launched the project in September is unbelievable. A "BIG THANK YOU" to everyone who has supported us so generously, in so many ways.

OFFICIAL PRESENTATION

The new equipment will be presented to the Senior Practice Partners early in January. Following on-site training (scheduled for early January), Dawn Langdon and members of the Nursing Team will be able to bring the equipment into service.

SURGERY TRAINING DAYS 2019

Please note that the surgery will close from 12.00 Mid-day on the following days:

Thursday 31st January; Wednesday 27th February; Thursday 28th March.

Should you need to see a Doctor when the surgery is closed, please call the NHS 111 Service via the normal surgery number 821333 where you will be transferred automatically, or you can call direct on 111, to receive non-urgent confidential health advice and information.

For Urgent/Life threatening issues, please dial 999 as normal.

MISSED APPOINTMENTS

32 PATIENTS DID NOT ATTEND THEIR DOCTOR'S APPOINTMENT

48 PATIENTS DID NOT ATTEND THEIR NURSES APPOINTMENT

That is 80 MISSED AND WASTED APPOINTMENTS

DON'T NEED IT? CANCEL IT! It's SO EASY: By Phone, By Text, On Line - Just do It!

FRIENDS AND FAMILY SURVEY

All practices have to submit a monthly report to NHS England of their "Friends and Family" responses and we report these figures regularly for your information:

Last month A total of 143 patients responded to "would you recommend our Practice" as follows:

Extremely likely/Likely - 91%; Extremely unlikely/Unlikely - 7%; Unsure/Don't know - 2%

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.

ACOL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY NOTICES:

On Tuesday 5th February the first meeting of the year will be Steve Edney talking on 'Succession Planting.' Steve is the Head Gardener at the Salutation Garden at Sandwich and an interesting talk is guaranteed. The meeting in Acol Village Hall starts at 7.30pm.

On Saturday 16th February Acol Horticultural Society is holding a "Valentines Day Tea" The cost is £5 per head, includes all refreshments and starts at 2.30pm for 3pm. Tickets are available from any AHS committee member. Everyone is welcome.



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Village Hall Update

The work on the Village Hall is now virtually complete. It only remains for Phil Hudson of Hudson Builders, the main contractor, to complete the exterior rendering, finish some exterior works and finish off some interior re-decoration. The finished extension exceeds all expectations. The project was delivered in time to allow the Christmas Party to proceed, and on budget.

The additional floor space makes the kitchen much more useable, and provides much needed storage space. The new appliances make catering for events a much more practical proposition, with a new range cooker, fridge/freezer and commercial dishwasher with a 3 minute wash cycle. In all, the Management Committee are satisfied that the new kitchen will meet all requirements for the foreseeable future, and are delighted with the outcome.

Our grateful thanks go to Phil Dadds, the Architect, Phil Hudson the builder and his sub-contractors, including Mel Johnson the plumber.

We should also acknowledge the generosity of the Parish Council and the Acol Horticultural Society for their donations.

We must also thank Iris Osborne, who so efficiently managed the project and its funding on our behalf, and Mary Hodgson, who managed our cash flow during the build, with all the stresses that created for her!

Acol Village Hall Management Committee

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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 villagevoice@btinternet.com.

This edition of Village Voice has been sponsored by Jon & Barbara Inchley in loving memory of Barbara's Mum, Cora Jones.

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 February 2019.