

ACOL VILLAGE VOICE

September 2021

Seniors Christmas Party

At last, following the disruption of the pandemic, this year the Village Hall Committee can invite all over 60s living in the Village, together with some friends of Acol, as our guests to an evening of companionship, fun, music and food, to be held on Saturday 11th December. We are pleased to advise that we have booked the same caterers for the event, who provided such an excellent repast in 2019. They will provide a full 3-course Christmas meal. We have also booked the "Greyhound Buskers", the Ukulele Band which has so royally entertained us in previous years.

We will be sending out a reservation slip for the evening in the next edition of the Village Voice so that we can ensure we cater for the appropriate number of attendees, so WATCH THIS SPACE.

In order to help fund the event we will be putting together a CHRISTMAS HAMPER to raffle. Therefore, any DONATIONS OF CHRISTMAS PRODUCE would be gratefully received. Please contact Jon on 847705, or any other member of the Management Committee.

It is with great pleasure that we can also advise that Bill Yeoman will once again be running a Reindeer Drive on 18th December, to which all are welcome. Again, more details in next month's edition.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Brian and Carol Hall of The Grove hosted a Macmillan Coffee Morning in their garden on Saturday 18th September.

They would like to thank all who attended and gave their time and companionship to support such a good cause.

They would also like to thank, in particular, the wonderful ladies - Phyllis and Sue, Maureen Kay and Joy who helped so much on the day, and without whom they could not have managed.

As well as all the lovely people who visited them on the day, it was especially pleasing for them to number Sir Roger Gale among their guests.

After a sunny morning with much coffee and cake consumed, many chats enjoyed and a raffle, they managed to raise the fantastic sum of £800.

A great big thank you to everyone involved and congratulations to Carol and Brian for their magnificent effort for such a good cause

ACOL VILLAGE HALL SUPPORT FUND - 200 Club

The next draw will take place on the 3rd November. Should you have any questions or wish to join the scheme, please contact Iris Osborne (84090)

FORTHCOMING VILLAGE HALL EVENTS

5 th Oct 7.30pm	Acol Horticultural Society Meeting
16 th Oct 7.00pm	AHS "Night at the Horses" Race Night
2nd Nov 7.30pm	AHS Annual General Meeting
11 th Dec. 7.00pm	Senior Citizens (all 60+ welcome) Christmas Party
17 th Dec. 7.00pm	Community Carol Service (provisional)
18 th Dec. 7.30pm	Reindeer Drive

ACOL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The Acol Horticultural Society Autumn Show was very successful and very well attended. After 2 years since the last show, it exceeded all expectations with some excellent exhibits in all classes. The children's entries were down and disappointing, but under the circumstances, understandable. We hope that the youngsters in the village will get involved next year.

Thanks to all those who entered exhibits into the show and to those who turned out in the afternoon to patronise the event. Acol Horticultural Society prides itself on being recognised as putting on some of the best horticultural shows in the area.

We also have a good social calendar, with monthly meetings on the first Tuesday of the month with guest speakers. The last of these is 5th October, with the 2nd November meeting being our AGM. This is when members can voice their opinions AND put names forward to join the committee.

Talking of social events our next is on 16th October at 7pm when Horse Racing comes to Acol with our Night at the Horses Race Night. This is a night when you can have a little flutter with thousands of AcolPounds. Tickets are £7 each with Fish/Sausage and chips. Bring your own drink and a good laugh is guaranteed.

Tickets available from Steve Ling, Tel.01843846963, who will need your choice of fish or sausage.

VILLAGE INFORMATION

VILLAGE HALL

Acol Village Hall is back to normal!

Mondays - 9.30-10.30am, Pilates; 1.00-3.30pm - Pam's People Sewing Group

Tues various times - Ballroom Dance Fitness

Tues 7.30 pm (monthly) Acol Horticultural Society

Wed & Fri 9.30 -4.00pm - Village Textiles

Weds 7.00-9.00pm Art Group Life Drawing class

Thurs am & Sun - Dance class

Thurs afternoons - Art Group

If you would like more details or confirmation of events, please ring 841691 for details.

PLEASE NOTE An election to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of TDC Councillor Trevor Roper is to be held on 11th November, and the Village Hall will serve as Polling Station from 7.00am to 10.00pm.

REFUSE COLLECTIONS

Refuse (black) Garden Waste (green)
& waste food

11th October

25th October

Recycling (blue), red bag & waste food

18th October

1st November

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

PCSO

Our new PCSO is Eileen Shrubsole, eileen.shrubsole@kent.police.uk. Please use her email address if you have any queries or problems. If you do not have internet access, please ring Parish Council on 844706.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Iris Osborne is our adviser who issues regular reports and warnings of local crime or unusual behaviour within or near our village. Please ring her on 840901 to register your interest if you have no contact but wish to be advised.

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.co.uk, or please ring 844706 if you have any queries or information. The next Parish Council meeting has been arranged for 11am on Monday 8th November.

Sheila Bransfield

Speedwatch Update - October 2021

The present Thanet Speedwatch Co-ordinator must take a break due to ill health, and asked me whether I would consider stepping-in. I said I would consider it but would first like to meet with Kent's Community Speedwatch Manager to discuss some outstanding concerns. As a result, I recently met with the Manager, Alan Watson, from Kent Police. My concerns were that:

- Previous requests for survey and approval of new Speedwatch sites appeared to have fallen on deaf ears.
- It was previously intimated that, through Speedwatch, help could be provided in reviewing Acol approach road speed limits. (They seem to make little sense when compared with the speed limits on other local roads. For example, Acol Hill is at the national speed limit - 60 mph - whilst the road past the airport is at 40 mph.)
- We have experienced difficulties with equipment reliability and range.
- We understood that we would be able to utilise (following appropriate training) handheld speed guns in Acol.

I was unprepared to assume any additional responsibility for Speedwatch in Acol unless persuaded that such matters would be progressed without delay, that there would be adequate support, and effective liaison with other key stakeholders such as our PCSO(s). I was somewhat reassured in my meeting with Alan and have now agreed to fill the local coordination role, although I would prefer the scope be limited to Thanet Villages, and on that basis, will endeavour to further develop Speedwatch in Acol.

Alan explained that any review of our village speed limits had to be driven through our Parish Council's "HIP" (Highway Improvement Plan), but Speedwatch and the Police could help to gather supporting evidence.

We agreed to meet again and walk the village to review existing Speedwatch sites and identify locations for new sites, such as on Margate Hill (in connection with which I forwarded material that I have previously provided). We will also consider where handheld equipment can be used and agreed to monitor traffic coming out of the village on Minster Road (southbound) as well as northbound traffic.

The use of body cameras by Speedwatch operatives has recently been approved, subject to updated signage to show that these may be in use.

I am extremely thankful for having been able to rely upon Karen Ault's support in maintaining Acol Speedwatch operations, but I am pleased to say that we have now had additional offers of help and will be contacting our new volunteers to arrange enrolment and training. Thank you, Karen, for all that you do for our community.

Speedwatch in Thanet receives funding from the Thanet Rural Regeneration Group whose secretary, and Acol representative, is Councillor Iris Osborne. Alan and I have accordingly agreed to attend the group's upcoming meeting at Acol Village Hall to discuss our plans.

Richard Steel

PRE-SCHOOL FIRE SAFETY TALK

The following correspondence has been received from Chenice Butterworth of Nursery Fields:

"This morning at 6.30am (!) my 3-year-old asked what we should do if there's a fire at home.

A very good question which inspired me to contact Kent Fire Service to see if they would be interested in providing a pre-school age-appropriate fire safety talk (and possible fire engine visit) to the children of Acol.

They have responded that they would love to do so, and I am emailing to ask if we could use the village hall for a maximum of 2 hours for this purpose?"

Naturally, the Village Hall Committee is happy to make the Hall available at no charge, but we would like the talk to be available to as many pre-school kids as possible, so would like to get a feel for the most convenient date - probably a Saturday morning in late November or early December.

If you have a pre-school child who would benefit from such a talk and would enjoy the arrival of a Fire engine (and yes, ladies, one or two buff firemen as well!) then please contact Chenice on 845317.



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MINSTER SURGERY

VACCINATION PROGRAMME - UPDATE

The Vaccination programme for both the Booster and Annual Flu vaccines will continue to be rolled out at the SAGA Vaccination Centre in Westwood Cross throughout September and October.

BOOSTER VACCINE: All eligible Patients aged 50 and over will by now have received an invitation to have the vaccine, which, will be the Pfizer vaccine and, as before, you will be asked to sit and wait for 10-15 minutes following the vaccine.

But please Note: You must have had your second vaccine at least 6 months ago to be eligible.

WINTER FLU vaccine All patients over 65 and those considered to be vulnerable and at risk will have already received an invitation from the surgery to receive the Vaccination. Messages have previously been sent out to patients so if you have requested, and are eligible for both vaccinations, these can be administered at the same.

If you have not received your invitation please contact the surgery as soon as possible.

We still have a few patients who are not fully vaccinated or may have initially declined the vaccine, **SO PLEASE BOOK NOW!** Vaccines are still available so contact the surgery or visit the walk-in clinic which is open every Saturday.

PLEASE NOTE

It remains **COMPULSORY** to wear Face Masks when attending the Surgery.

PLEASE BEAR WITH US

With many of our Staff now working at the Vaccination Centre, our resources may be rather stretched on some occasions, and may take us a little longer to answer the phone. However, we would like to reassure all our patients that your health and safety are always our priority.

ROUTINE BLOOD TESTS

Owing to an International shortage of Glass Tubes we are unable to carry out such tests at this moment in time. However, if a blood test is required by the hospital, please contact the surgery for further advice.

SURGERY CLOSURE DAYS

STAFF TRAINING - Thursday 21st October - from 1 pm onwards

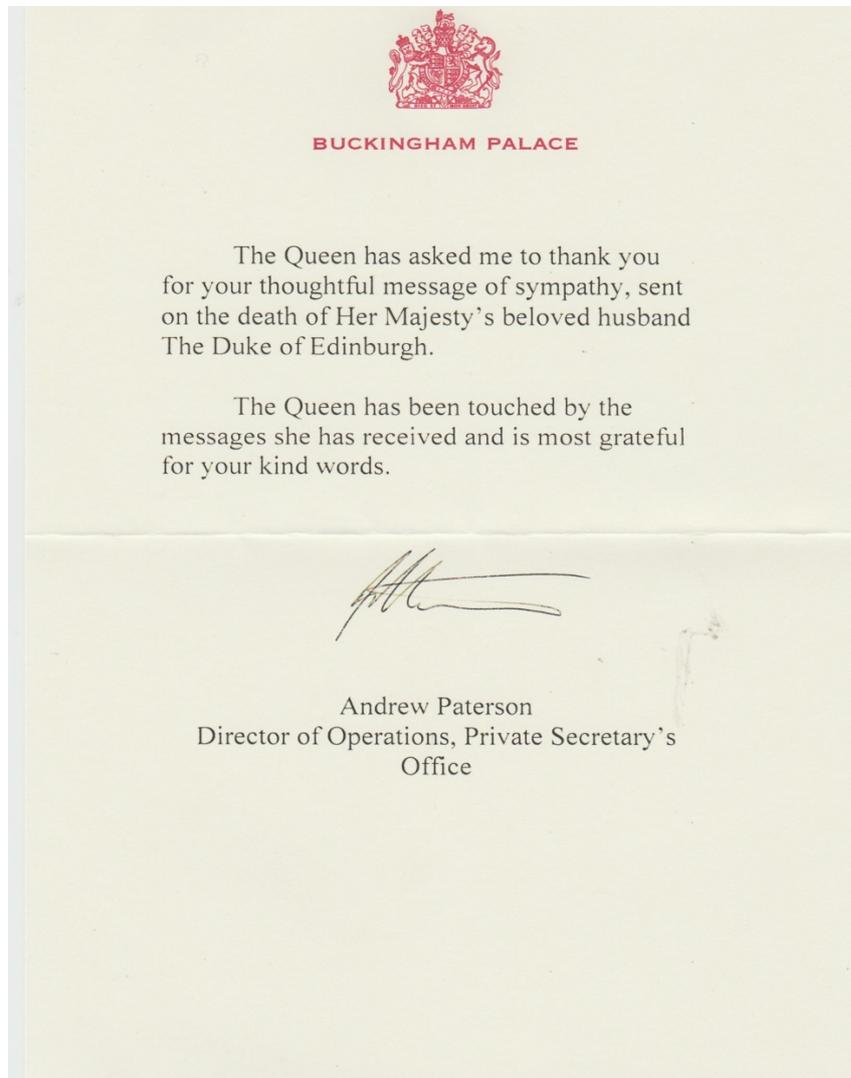
If you need to see a doctor during these times:

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

Received by the Chairman of Acol PC in response to her letter of condolence to the Queen.



QUEENS JUBILEE MUGS

The Parish Council would like to present every child in the village up to the age of 16 with a Jubilee Mug to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee next year.

If you would like your child/children to receive one of these mugs, then please could you put a note in the Village Hall post box, giving the full name(s) of the child/children, and their age on 4th June 2022, together with your address.

We need this information in the next few weeks please, as we need to place an order for the official Jubilee mugs.

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Editor's 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 generously 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 November 2021.