

ACOL VILLAGE VOICE

March 2023

A299 New Thanet Way and Chestfield Tunnel essential maintenance

Kent County Council (KCC) has announced a programme of essential maintenance with the aim of minimising disruption for residents and motorists.

Crews will be carrying out works on the A299 New Thanet Way and Chestfield Tunnel between late April and June to upgrade lighting in the tunnel to LED and complete a deep reconstruction of sections of the road between Whitstable and Herne Bay, previously impacted by changes caused by drier and hotter summers and wetter winters.

To ensure everyone's safety the A299 will be closed eastbound (coastbound) from 8pm on Sunday 23rd April to 5am on Friday 26 May 2023. It will then be reopened before the westbound (London-bound) side is closed from 1am on Tuesday 30 May to 5am on Friday 30 June 2023.

The closure will be between the Clapham Hill (Whitstable) and Eddington (Herne Bay) junctions, and a signed diversion will be in place using the A2290 Old Thanet Way.

The cost of the road resurfacing has been covered following a successful bid from KCC for a £4 million grant from the Department for Transport's Challenge Fund. This helps to ease the council's cost burden.

Meanwhile KCC will be investing £2 million in the upgrade of the lighting and its support system in the Chestfield Tunnel.

KCC's Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, David Brazier, said: "This essential maintenance must be completed to ensure the ongoing integrity of the road and help us achieve our Net Zero objectives.

"While we acknowledge these works will cause a short period of disruption, completing them in the same period delivers on our aim to plan works in a way which is as smart as possible, minimising cost to taxpayers and inconvenience for residents and drivers as far as possible.

"I want to thank people in advance for their patience while our crews carry out these essential works."

The works will be most effective when not done during the cold and wet months of the year. In scheduling this work we have also sought to avoid the busiest months of the holiday season.

You can find out more about the planned works, including a map of the planned diversion route, by [visiting the dedicated A229 New Thanet Way project website](#).

ACOL VILLAGE HALL SUPPORT FUND - 200 Club

Winners for the Month of March 2023 were:

Member no. 81 who won 1st prize of £20.00.

Member no. 115, who won 2nd prize of £10.00 and

Member no. 59, who won 3rd prize of £5.00.

£30.00 has been donated to the Village Hall funds

The next draw will take place on the 5th April 2023. Should you have any questions or wish to join the scheme, please contact Iris Osborne (838829)

FORTHCOMING VILLAGE HALL EVENTS

7 th Mar 7.30pm.	AHS - DJ March will talk on "Story of English Country Cheeses and Tasting."
25 th Mar 7.00 pm	Social Evening with Tony Baker and Dave Lamner on the Organ
31 st Mar 7.30pm	Acol Book Club
1 st Apr 1.30 pm.	AHS SPRING SHOW
4 th Apr 7.30pm.	AHS - Colin Moat will talk on "In praise of Higher Things" - Taller Perennials

ACOL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Acol Horticultural Society's next meeting is on **Tuesday, 7th March** when the subject is **"Story of English Country Cheeses and Tasting."** The speaker is D.J. March, and an interesting evening is promised, unless you don't like cheese.

The Spring Show will be on Saturday 1st April. (No joking) It is a much-reduced schedule, but there are classes for everyone, including spring flowers, cooking, handicraft, art, photography and floral art. There are also classes for children **which give prize money.** There is something for parents and children so let's have some encouragement from you all. It's all very light-hearted, even on this momentous day.

Schedules available from Steve and Theresa on 01843 846963.

Following the Show, on **Tuesday, 4th April**, Colin Moat will be talking on **"In Praise of Higher Things - Taller Perennials"** Tips and hints on growing taller plants.

Future Events:

Tuesday 2nd May at 7.30. Darren Everest will talk of "How I Grow Dahlias".

Saturday 13th May 7 for 7.30. "Quiz Night" Tickets £7 (includes supper)

Tuesday 6th June at 7pm "Rose Show"

Saturday 29th July Macmillan Cancer Support Fundraiser. Details later.

All these events will take place in Acol Village Hall.

Remember we meet on the first Tuesday of the month.

You can join the Society:- £4 single and £7 for a couple.

Bill Yeoman.

VILLAGE INFORMATION

VILLAGE HALL

Social Evening. 7.00pm - 10.00pm on Saturday 25th March.

Following the first very successful social evening last November, the Village Hall Committee have organised another social evening and Organ Recital in the Village Hall. Please bring your own drinks and snacks.

Entry is free!

Weekly Calendar:

Mon pm - Sewing Group

Tues am - Ballroom Dance Fitness

Tues 7.30 pm (first Tuesday of the month) Acol Horticultural Society

Wed & Fri - Village Textiles

Weds 7.00-9.00pm Art Group Life Drawing

Thurs am & Sun - Dance class.

Thurs afternoons - Art Group.

Fri 7.30 pm (last Friday of the month)) Acol Book Club

Sat am - Ballroom Dance classes.

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

REFUSE COLLECTIONS

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

13th March

27th March

Recycling (blue), red bag & waste food

20th March

3rd April

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

PCSO

Still waiting for confirmation. Cllr Derek Crow-Brown should be contacted if you have problems.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Iris Osborne continues to advise everyone of local issues. Please ring her on **07980 978202** if you have questions or information.

VOLUNTEERS

Villagers will always value those who give their time and efforts for this village.

KENT POLICE

Contact **07980 978202** for the East Kent Division Rural Police Team

ACOL PARISH COUNCIL

Access APC website at acolparishcouncil.org.uk or ring 844706 for information or help.

Our next meeting will be at 11am on MONDAY 17th APRIL. Please ring the Parish Council in advance if there is an item you wish to raise for discussion. This will then be included on the agenda in order that all villagers are given the opportunity to contribute.

Sheila Bransfield

Neighbourhood Watch

- Campaign targeting use of mobile phones at the wheel.

Drivers using a mobile phone while at the wheel and those suspected of having defective vision will be targeted during the latest national road safety campaign. Between Monday 27 February and Sunday 12 March officers from the Roads Policing Unit will be supporting the National Police Chiefs' Council's campaign targeting the minority of drivers who make calls and send texts when they should be paying attention to the road.

Using a phone while driving is one of the offences dubbed the 'fatal four' as it is one of the biggest contributing factors to fatal and serious injury collisions. The other factors are speeding, failing to wear a seatbelt, and driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Officers in marked and unmarked vehicles will also be conducting roadside eyesight tests where they suspect a driver may have defective vision as part of the campaign.

All drivers must be able to meet the eyesight standard for driving by reading a number plate from 20 metres in daylight conditions. A motorist who drives when unable to meet this standard is committing an offence and will have their licence revoked by the DVLA and will not be returned until the driver can demonstrate that their eyesight meets the required standard and re-applies for their licence with the DVLA.

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Minster Surgery

NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Campaign

Have you been tested recently? - The NHS is currently running a campaign to encourage those eligible to get tested using a home test kit called a "FIT" test. It is available to everyone aged 60-74 years, and the program is being expanded to everyone aged over 50 during the next 4 years. However, if you're experiencing any unusual symptoms do not hesitate to contact your GP.

For further information visit www.nhs.uk/conditions/bowel-cancer-screening. **Or contact the helpline on 08007076060.**

Difficulty in getting an appointment?

This is one reason why - the numbers of patients who do not attend a pre-booked appointment has risen tremendously since Christmas. This not only wastes the Healthcare professional's time and resources but could prevent someone else who has greater need in getting an appointment in the first place! **This will not be tolerated**, and action will be taken whenever necessary. Thank you for your understanding.

Surgery Closure dates:

Wednesday 22nd March - From 1.00 pm onwards for staff training
please ensure you have sufficient medication during such times.

Useful contact numbers: call 111 for non-urgent and confidential advice for you and your family; call 119 for Covid help and advice, call 999 - for urgent and life-threatening cases.



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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 10cm 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 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 April 2023.