

ACOL VILLAGE VOICE

September 2023

NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

We were pleased to appoint Sara Archer as our new Parish Clerk, and she started working with us on 7th August. Together with other Thanet Village Clerks, Sara attended what was to be the first of regular meetings with officers from Thanet District Council to discuss, and hopefully respond to, environmental issues including litter and street cleaning. Sara will continue to press our concerns about the need for regular street sweeping but do please let us know of any other such matters you feel should be addressed.

From September, Gavin and Wendy will conduct Speedwatch sessions in the village on the second Saturday of each month, and Chenice and Sarah will carry-out sessions on the first Wednesday monthly. Other ad-hoc sessions will continue involving as many volunteers as possible.

I met with PC Beth Ninnim, the Thanet Villages Beat Officer, to discuss, among other things, traffic problems in our village. We agreed to plan periodic enforcement activity, coordinated with the Speedwatch Team. On these days, there will be a police presence to enforce the law and highway regulations such as vehicle weight limits, wearing of seat belts, and use of devices while driving, as well as supporting our Speedwatch sessions. We hope to arrange the first of these activities within the first few weeks and will, of course, report back with the results.

Beth advised that the main reported area of concern from Acol villagers was car racing, "drifting", and other such anti-social conduct on Columbus Avenue, which was proving resource intensive to police. She asked that residents be vigilant and report any such activity to Kent Police online, dialling 101 or, if causing danger, 999.

Ninety-two percent of the respondents to the village 'phone box survey favoured discontinuation of the public 'phone service and repurposing the box for other village amenities. However, with only twelve responses, the main takeaway is that most villagers don't really care! The Parish Council will consider how best to utilise the asset and continues to welcome any views from the community.

Chenice arranged a meeting with Anthony Curwen, the Managing Director of Quex Estates, which she and I attended to discuss provision of a safe footpath from the village. In a productive meeting, Anthony clearly appreciated and shared our desire to provide a safe walking route but, due to the vesting process and legal complications of ongoing court cases concerning estates management, it's unlikely that the Estate would be able to prioritise negotiation and provision of a paved pathway in the foreseeable

future. What he could undertake to do was to sow a three-metre-wide grass strip between the Recreation Ground and Quex. It will be sown this autumn and will be ready by the spring. Any increase in their insurance premium will be covered by themselves as a gift to our village. He also proffered good advice on how we, the Parish Council, could engage in ongoing housing and relief road consultations, to lobby for cycling and walking provision from Minster Road through the village which, although longer term, we are, of course acting upon. Anthony would also like to provide a defibrillator at The Recreation Ground.

There was a full agenda for the Parish Council meeting held on 24th August. The minutes will be available soon but among the decisions were agreement on the introduction of an Attendance Register, and Councillor Portfolio Leadership roles, as follows:

Chenice Butterworth	Finance, Children & Families
Sarah Corby	Leisure & Community
Richard Steel	Training, Communications
Gavin Winpenny	Highways
Wendy Winpenny	Planning & Development

Rev. Mark Ham and Loraine Bant (Church Warden) attended the meeting to discuss the future of St. Mildred's Church. A meeting, attended by 28 people, had been held on 8th August in Acol Village Hall. Notes from the meeting are on the Parish Council website. Although the consultation is continuing - and there will be a further meeting at Birchington CEP School on 20th September - the need to close the Church seems unavoidable, although the restrictive covenant covering the building is being reviewed to determine whether a change of use may be possible. We agreed to continue canvassing residents' views and provide any further feedback.

Richard Steel (Chair)

ACOL VILLAGE HALL SUPPORT FUND - 200 Club

The next draw will take place on the 6th September, and the results will be published in next month's edition. The subsequent draw will take place on 4th October 2023. Should you have any questions or wish to join the scheme, please contact Iris Osborne (838829)

FORTHCOMING VILLAGE HALL EVENTS

3rd Oct 7.30pm **AHS - Floral Art Demonstration**

7th Oct 7.00pm **AHS - GARDENERS SUPPER and A NIGHT AT THE HORSES**

FESTIVE WREATH-MAKING WORKSHOP

The "Darling Buds of Wade" are proud to announce a special Festive Wreath-Making Workshop in Acol Village Hall for just £40 per person. Payment in advance. Everything will be included in price. We will provide a couple of colours in ribbon, a willow base and compostable string and foliage. People are also welcome to bring foliage from their own garden for a more personalised wreath.

The event will take place on Friday 8th December 2023 from 7pm-9pm, and will include homemade festive nibbles & drinks provided by Chenice Butterworth. Very limited availability so please call 07399014653 or email thedarlingbudsofwade@gmail.com to book your place now.

ACOL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Acol Horticultural Society's October meeting is at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 3rd October. Robin White be giving one of his superb FLORAL DEMONSTRATIONS. There will be lots of advice and tips on the art of arranging flowers with much added fun and humour.

Remember we meet on the first Tuesday of the month.

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

Then on Saturday 7th October there will be the Gardeners Supper which is "A NIGHT AT THE HORSES" First Race is at 7pm. This will be a night of fun where you are able to have an innocent flutter on the horses and enjoy a Saturday evening. There is no chance of mounting gambling debts as all transactions are strictly controlled under the umbrella of Acol Horticultural Unnatural Bank using the Acol Pound.

To attend this fun filled event will however incur a debt of £7. This will include a Fish/Sausage and chip supper. It is important that you pre-book your seat in the Grandstand as the supper must be pre-ordered several days before the event.

Contact Steve/Theresa Ling, Tel. 01843 846963

PS. On your payment of £7 you will be issued with several hundred Acol Pounds.

NB All Acol Pounds remain the property of Acol Horticultural Unnatural Bank.

On a less serious note, the Annual General Meeting of Acol Horticultural Society takes place on 7th November. Please think about joining the Committee and help in the running of this Club and then put yourself forward.

Bill Yeoman.

VILLAGE INFORMATION

VILLAGE HALL

The hall is still in constant use and, as the summer holidays will soon be over, usage will no doubt increase. If anyone wishes to make use of the facilities for a one-off gathering or a new regular event, please ring me on 841691 so I can fit you into our busy diary!

Most of the events have been previously published, but please ring my number above if you need clarification.

Concerning the dance classes that are held on Tuesdays and Saturdays, the Instructor is taking a well-deserved holiday! Some dates on the hall calendar have now changed. Tues 12th and Sat 16th September have been reinstated and her holiday will now be on Tues 19th, Sat 23rd, Tues 26th and Sat 30th September.

We had a wonderful flower show on Saturday 2nd September, obviously a catch up on several empty years! Hopefully life will continue to be normal from now on!

REFUSE COLLECTIONS

**Refuse (black)), Garden Waste (green)
& waste food**
11th Sept
25th Sept
9th Oct

**Recycling (blue), red bag
& waste food**
18th Sept
2nd Oct

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

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

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

KENT POLICE

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

ACOL PARISH COUNCIL

Access APC website at acolparishcouncil.org.uk .

Sheila Bransfield

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Minster Surgery

FLU Vaccination CLINIC Saturday 30th September

For those patients over the age of 65 and those in clinical at-risk groups and including immune suppressant and vulnerable patients.

FLU and COVID Vaccination CLINIC SATURDAY 7th October

For Those patients over 65 and wish to have both vaccinations at the same time and are included in the categories described above.

Shingles Vaccination Programme for those aged 65 and over

This programme will start shortly, and eligible patients will be advised in due course and invited to have the vaccine.

Please note the Surgery will be closed on Thursday 21st September from 1pm onwards for staff training.

Please Allow at least 72 hours to allow your pharmacies sufficient time to prepare the prescriptions and to reorder certain medications where necessary. Please also do not forget that the Pharmacist can give you help and advice on minor ailments as well as your medication.

Thank you for your help and understanding at this difficult time.

Useful contact numbers: in case of emergency

Call 111 for non-urgent and confidential advice for you and your family;

call 119 for covid help and advice.

999 - for urgent and life-threatening cases.

THE ASIAN HORNET INVASION.

You may have seen several items about the Asian Hornet on both BBC South East and Meridian in recent weeks. It would seem that there are an increasing number of these insects who have been blown across the channel or have smuggled themselves into the country on freight traffic.

If you do see one, the official advice is DO NOT kill it, but try and take a photo and inform authorities, using the *Asian Hornet Watch app* or email to alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk. They have ways of monitoring them and finding nests which can then be destroyed. Teams wear special protective clothing as the stings and attacks can be fatal. **Therefore, do not under any circumstances approach or interfere with any nests.** They have a similar life cycle to wasps and European hornets which are generally no threat.

There are posters displayed at the Village Hall (visible outside). These posters give a good illustration of the Asian Hornet and shows comparisons to other similar insects.



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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 £10.00 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 October 2023.