

ACOL VILLAGE VOICE

December 2019

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

The Editor would also like to thank all contributors, advertisers, sponsors and distributors, without whom the Village Voice could not happen.

A Special Christmas Message.

Start your Christmas at St Mildred's

Friday 13th December

Community Carols in the Village Hall at 7.00pm

This will be followed by home made soup and rolls.

Everyone is welcome to join in this popular village event

Tuesday 24th December

Christmas Eve Carol Service at 3.00pm

Start your festive celebrations by coming to our traditional service at St Mildred's

All are welcome

THANK YOU

Just a few words of thanks at this festive season to all those who work selflessly in the background for the good of the Village and in the upkeep of its Hall.

I would particularly 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.

I must also thank Mary, our Treasurer, for managing our funds so efficiently, Sheila for managing the Hall bookings and Karen, who brings much needed enthusiasm and commitment.

We must also thank Norman and Dave, who rally around whenever urgent maintenance is required - and who decorate our Hall and tree so beautifully every year, and the many others who contribute their time and energy for the benefit of others.

Jon

REINDEER DRIVE

This year's Reindeer Drive will take place on Saturday 21st December at 7.30pm. There will be an American Supper (bring your own drink) and entry will be £3-00 for adults and £2-00 for children

ACOL SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Senior Citizens Christmas Party will take place on Saturday 14th December (7.00pm for 7.30pm) in the Village Hall. Any Acol resident or 'friend of Acol' aged over 60 is cordially invited to attend as guests of the Village. There will be a traditional Christmas dinner, with wine or soft drinks.

This will be followed by entertainment provided by the **Greyhound buskers**, and the draw for the Christmas Hamper

We gratefully acknowledge the generosity of The Parish Council and Acol Horticultural Society, for their generous donations towards the costs of the Christmas party.

ACOL VILLAGE HALL SUPPORT FUND - 200 Club

Winners for the Month of December 2019 were:

Member no. 186 who won 1st prize of £19.00

Member no. 11, who won 2nd prize of £11.40 and

Member no. 147, who won 3rd prize of £7.60

A total of £38.00 was donated to the Village Hall funds

Should you have any questions, or wish to join the scheme, please contact Iris Osborne (840901).

FORTHCOMING VILLAGE HALL EVENTS

7 th Dec 7.00pm	AHS Christmas Party
13 th Dec 7.00pm	Community Carol Service
14 th Dec 7.00pm	Senior Citizens Christmas Party
21 st Dec 7.30pm	REINDEER DRIVE
24 th Dec 3.00pm	Carol Service at St Mildred's
13 th Jan 11.00am	Acol Parish Council Meeting

ACOL COMMUNITY BROADBAND PROJECT UPDATE

Under the auspices of the KCC's Broadband Project Manager we are now dealing directly with Openreach Business Development and Customer Management, who will attend our next Parish Council meeting, on Monday 13th January at 11 am, to brief the Council and answer any questions. Villagers who can attend that meeting will be most welcome.

Acol will be a pilot for a new iteration of the Community Broadband Partnership Scheme; the main difference for us is that we will no longer have to establish a separate legal entity for our development.

To date we have 37 households committed to applying for the Government Broadband Vouchers. With Openreach, Karen and I will attempt to complete the online applications, although we need more information than we've collected to date. (Please see below.) If you can input that information directly by accessing the link on the website, that would be a great help - otherwise Karen or I will contact you for any missing data that we do not already have. Once the target for community pledges has been achieved, Openreach will bulk claim to the DCMS (Government of Culture, Media & Sport) and those who committed to the scheme will receive emails containing a hyperlink which should simply be clicked to confirm the application. At the same time, Openreach will initiate the infrastructure build. Following completion of the development there will be a further email from the DCMS whereby applicants are asked to confirm that they have complied with the terms of the scheme - i.e. contracted for a service to be delivered via the new FTTP (Fibre to the Premises) infrastructure.

The original costing for our village was based-upon 80 households, but this has now been revised to cover all 115 homes. The commitments we have to date just about cover our share of the revised cost of £95,000. However, we need a few more signed-up to provide adequate contingency enabling the scheme to proceed without delay. I'm confident that there are many more Acol households that will benefit from reliable superfast broadband. Please get in-touch if we have missed you for any reason or you'd now like to join the scheme!

The full set of required information is:

Name

Address

Postcode

Contact Telephone Number

Email Address

Company Name

Company Number (or Sole Trader)

Confirmation of which voucher being pledged (if not Business, Residential)

Many thanks to residents who've made these pledges that will mean that the whole Acol community can benefit from fast Internet services - putting us on a par with towns, cities and other more populous areas - most of the country!

Richard Steel

richardjohnsteel@outlook.com<mailto:richardjohnsteel@outlook.com>

Tel: 845363

Minster Surgery

A BIG THANK YOU

We would like to thank all our Patients and Friends for their generosity and kindness in donating so many prizes for our raffle and tombola that was held at our Christmas Bazaar. You can keep an eye on how our fund raising is going by checking out our notice board in the waiting room. In the meantime, we are also looking to purchase a new "Examination Couch" with automatic controls.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR - PRIZE WINNERS

A full list of Prize Winners is displayed on our notice board in the surgery.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS

Please note the surgery's open/closed arrangements over the Christmas period:

Christmas Eve 24th December	- AM	Normal opening hours
	- PM	Emergencies Only
Christmas Day 25th December		Closed all day
Boxing Day 26th December		Closed all day
Friday 27th December		Normal opening hours
Monday 30th December		Normal opening hours
Tuesday 31st December		Normal opening hours
Wednesday 1st January		Closed all day
Thursday 2nd January onwards		Normal opening hours

Should you need to see a Doctor during times when the surgery is closed, please call the "NHS 111 Service" direct on "111" where you will receive "non urgent" confidential health advice and information for you and your family.

For Urgent/Life Threatening cases, please dial 999 as normal.

REPEAT PRESCRIPTIONS

Please ensure that you have sufficient medication to last you throughout the holiday period and that all "Repeat Prescription Requests" are submitted in good time.

MISSED APPOINTMENTS

This month 25 PATIENTS DID NOT attend their DOCTOR'S APPOINTMENT
and 51 PATIENTS DID NOT attend their NURSE'S APPOINTMENT!

Remember! Don't need it - cancel it!

FRIENDS AND FAMILY SURVEY

Last month we received 320 responses to the question "would you recommend our Practice to your family and friends" whose responses were:

Extremely likely/Likely 93%, Extremely unlikely /Unlikely 4%, Unsure/don't know 3%

PATIENT GROUP MEETING

If you have any issues you would like to raise at our next meeting, or require further information on any of the above, then please contact Mary Hodgson

AND FINALLY - We would like to wish all our Patients and Friends a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year

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VILLAGE INFORMATION

REFUSE COLLECTIONS

We have again been assured that collections will continue as scheduled over Christmas.

Refuse (black) & waste food

9th December

23rd December

6th January 2020

Recycling (blue), red bag & waste food

16th December

30th December

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

VILLAGE HALL

Please ring 841691 about hall availability.

REGULAR BOOKINGS

Monday afternoons (term time) - Pam's People

First Tuesday evening, Acot Horticultural Society meeting (except January, July and December)

All other Tuesday evenings, Dance Fitness Class

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

Alternate Wednesday evenings, 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

Saturday 7th December, evening, AHS Christmas Party

THURSDAY 12TH DECEMBER, ALL DAY, GENERAL ELECTION

Friday 13th December, evening, St Mildreds Carol Service

Saturday 14th December, evening, VHMCS Seniors' Dinner

Saturday 21st December, evening, VPMC Reindeer Drive

PCSO

Debbie Forsyth's PCSO combined villages surgeries now held at 12.15 on the 1st Wednesday of the month at Monkton Village Hall. For urgent matters, email her at 60457@kent.police.uk.

CCTV CAMERAS

Please ring 844706 to report any incident in The Street.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Please register your contact details with Iris Osborne on 840901 to receive regular updates.

KENT POLICE

East Kent Division Rural Team have a dedicated phone number: **07980 978202**.

VILLAGE FACEBOOK WEBSITE

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

ACOL PARISH COUNCIL

THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE AT 11.00am, MON. 13th JANUARY
You can keep informed of meetings and events through our website acolparishcouncil.co.uk.
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.

Sheila Bransfield

INFORMATION FROM STAGECOACH, REGARDING THE No. 48 BUS.

Following problems in recent months concerning bus drivers refusing to make Courtesy Stops on Minster Road, we have now received this statement from the Managing Director of Stagecoach South East:

"In certain areas there are no designated bus stops. In those areas buses will stop on request where it is safe to do so. Customers should pick a point away from parked cars, road junctions etc and give a clear signal in good time to the driver of the vehicle. When you come to alight you should ring the bell once in good time to alert the driver."

The importance of this instruction has been reiterated to their drivers.
Let's hope that this courtesy will now continue, to safeguard villagers from having to walk through the village from the official bus stop near Nursery Fields or, even worse, having to make their way along a 2-mile journey from Spitfire Way!

COUNTRY EYE - HELPING KEEP THE RURAL COMMUNITY IN KENT SAFE

Country Eye Ltd have built a free App for people living and working in the rural community. The app allows users to record and share information on crime, suspicious behaviour and damage in their home community or whilst out and about.

The Crime, Rural Advisory Group (CRAG) has commissioned the design and build of the Country Eye app. Mike Bax, Chairman, explained, "data suggests that the cost of rural crime in Kent stands at £1.8 million, if you include the additional hidden costs to repair property,

replace locks and the time taken out of a working day to address these issues, the cost is considerably higher. CRAG was formed to help combat rural crime and to work with farmers, businesses and residents to find solutions."

The app has been built to help residents and farmers in Kent report information quickly and efficiently. This information is securely stored in a central database and accessed by the voluntary Country Eye team who are fully trained by Kent Police. The team analyse and disseminate the information and then broadcast it out to other local app users.

Peter Rolington, Chairman of Kent Crimestoppers and member of CRAG will head the team of volunteers, Peter said "Country Eye will be an invaluable tool to inform people living and working in the countryside about incidents that are occurring in their area. Technology has advanced greatly in recent years and has enabled us to develop a digital version of the highly successful Neighbourhood Watch scheme for the rural area. We will be able to broadcast information directly to users about potential incidents as they happen. The Country Eye app will allow a greater audience to receive information, particularly those living in the most remote parts of the county."

Country Eye has the full backing of Kent Police with information being sent securely to the relevant authorities. Kent Police is committed to responding to concerns in rural communities and to carrying out high visibility patrols. The information collated through the app will give officers a greater understanding of potential problem areas. The app has been supported by Kent Police and Crime Commissioner, Safer Kent, National Farmers Union and BTF Partnership.

The Country Eye app identifies four different Rural Categories which make up the majority of incidents that occur in the countryside.

Theft: Vehicle, Metal & Cable, Machinery & Plant, Livestock, Outbuilding, Fuel & Oil and Equine.

Farm Crime: Arson, Fly-Tipping, Trespass with and without Firearms, Criminal Damage and Suspicious behaviour with and without vehicles.

Animal, Wildlife Crime: Poaching, Animal Welfare, Endangered Species & Conservation, Hare Coursing and Horse Crime.

Heritage Crime: Off-roading and Metal Detecting (without owner's permission) /Night Hawking

The app has a knowledge section which highlights the key factors for each type of incident above to assist users.

Sign-up is simple; the system requires a contact number, email address and postcode. The app records and disseminates information using the phones camera and GPS location settings. Recording information is intuitive; users will click the camera icon, take an image, choose from a drop-down the type of crime, whether a crime reference number has been issued, and any other useful information. The location, time and date will be automatically recorded. The app can also use an existing image from the camera's photo library.

The application is not intended for emergency purposes; users should report to; 999 - (crime in progress) 101 - (crime committed) or report to Crimestoppers if they wish to remain anonymous - 0800 555 111

The app can be downloaded from the Apple App Store and Google Play by searching "Country Eye".

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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 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 2020.