

ACOL VILLAGE VOICE

February 2024

News from The Parish Council

By the time you read this you'll probably all be heartily fed-up with all the local road closures and diversions. We update the PC website and Facebook page with all KCC Highways notices as and when received - which is sometimes only at the last moment, if at all, and can change. We are therefore very grateful to Karen Ault for constantly scanning local sources and providing timely additional updates in the Facebook Discussion Group.

Highways issues can occupy a great deal of time and we have agreed that, as the only retired Councillor with "time on his hands", Richard should take-on the Highways Portfolio role. In January this has included dealing with parking issues and trying to get the streetlight opposite St. Mildred's Church - that was broken by UK Power Networks when telegraph poles were being replaced, then removed together with its power supply - replaced. It's no easy task, but I'm hopeful it will have been done by early March!

In other leadership role changes from our "mini reshuffle" Wendy will take-on Training, and Health & Wellbeing, and Gavin will take-on Planning & Development. All our lead responsibilities are listed under the Parish Council tab on our website, but you can, of course, address any matter to any Councillor. If you make contact via website messaging or 'phone the Parish Council office, Sara, will ensure the matter is dealt-with as appropriate.

In other news, convex mirrors will be installed at some village junctions to assist turning onto roads where visibility is partially obstructed.

The Acol Village Survey will be delivered to all homes during February. Its completion and return have a very important role in the first stage of the development of our Local Area Plan, which is vital in providing our community with a say in any development affecting our village.

The next Council meeting is on Thursday 15th February at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall. The agenda is on the website and posted on Village Hall noticeboards. Additionally, at our meetings Councillors report on all work in progress. Henceforth, an Action List with lead responsibilities and due dates will be appended to all Council minutes.

The Acol Parish Council website is updated as and when there is anything new to report, which is most days! You can subscribe to news content and be notified by email whenever there are news updates. Some information, including details of KCC Highways closures and Neighbourhood Watch updates are automatically posted to the Acol Village site at <https://www.facebook.com/Acol.Village/> Like or subscribe to the page to be automatically alerted of updates. Note this is separate to the discussion group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/acolkent/> We are always keen to receive any feedback on how our Communications, including the online presence, can be improved.

Richard Steel (Chair)

Village Hall Management Committee

At its post-Christmas review of this year's events, the committee expressed disappointment at the support from Villagers. Last year the Christmas Party attracted 35 attendees. This year numbers had fallen to 21, of which only 13 were villagers. Equally disappointing was the drop in attendance at the Reindeer Drive down to 17.

Another issue is the number of volunteers we can call on to help plan/run events, or help with the upkeep of the Hall and its surrounds. Sadly many of the existing committee feel that they can no longer take on these tasks without support from the next generation with the necessary energy.

The **Acol Village Survey** will provide an opportunity to express your views about the events on offer, their timing etc., as we do not feel it appropriate to invest Hall funds, collected for the upkeep of the hall, in events which are not popular and well attended by Villagers. It has become, I fear, a case of use it or lose it.

Alternatively, please share your opinions with a member of the committee.

ACOL VILLAGE HALL SUPPORT FUND - 200 Club

The results of the 7th February draw will be published in the March edition of Village Voice

The next draw will take place on the 6th March 2024. Should you have any questions or wish to join the scheme, please contact Iris Osborne (838829)

FORTHCOMING VILLAGE HALL EVENTS

6 th Feb 7.30pm.	AHS - The GARDEN GATE PROJECT
10 th Feb 2.00 for 2.30 pm.	AHS - A "Valentine's Tea"
15 th Feb 7.30pm	PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Acol Horticultural Society

Acol Horticultural Society's next meeting is on **Tuesday 5th March** when there will be a talk on **"The Garden Gate Project"**. This is a community garden in Northdown Park which focuses on the well-being and cohesion of the local community through gardening. It should be a very interesting and enlightening evening.

This is a timely reminder that on **Saturday 6th April** the Society will be holding its **'Spring Show'**. This is an opportunity for you to show off your prize spring bulbs and flowers. There are also classes for cooking, handicraft, and photos (rough seas!). There are also classes for **CHILDREN** which gives a **good financial reward**. In this show we need 3 butterfly cakes and a Dinosaur made from Recycled Materials. (I can pose for the dinosaur part for ideas).

Hope to see you all at one of our events.

Schedules available from Steve or Theresa, tel 01843 846963

Remember we meet on the first Tuesday of the month.
You can join the Society:- £4 single and £7 for a couple.

THE CRISPE CHARITY (Founded in 1708)

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CALLING CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH GROUP LEADERS, AND SCHOOL STUDENTS CURRENTLY IN YEAR 13 IN BIRCHINGTON OR ACOL.

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COMPLETED APPLICATIONS NEED TO BE RECEIVED BY 15TH OCTOBER.

FOR AN APPLICATION FORM PLEASE WRITE OR TELEPHONE:

ANN STORY, 8 NURSERY FIELDS, ACOL, BIRCHINGTON, CT7 0JF

01843 846651

Or email annstory56@btopenworld.com

VILLAGE INFORMATION

David and I felt privileged to be awarded the "Freedom of the Parish Award", for which we are extremely grateful. Our thanks go to all villagers.

VILLAGE HALL

All the normal bookings continue with some additions. There are some private dance sessions and one of our regular Ballroom Dance classes have increased to include every Saturday, early afternoon. Regular village events will be accommodated and anyone wishing to book the hall for private use will need to give notice so that necessary changes can be arranged.

REFUSE COLLECTIONS

Refuse (black), Garden Refuse (Green) & waste food	Recycling (blue), red bag & waste food
12 th February	19 th February
26 th February	4 th March
11 th March	

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

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Iris Osborne continues to keep everyone up to date on local events and activities. Please ring her on 07951 072914 if you have any problems or queries.

ACOL PARISH COUNCIL

For news and information visit the Acol Parish Council website at

www.acolparishcouncil.org.uk

Sheila Bransfield

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Pilates

- Gentle, floor based exercise (can be adapted to chair, standing, or wall as needed)
- **Improves posture**
- Often recommended by **health professionals** for spinal conditions
- Challenges and enhances **balance** to prevent falls
- **Strengthens** & isolates key muscles or muscle groups to aid normal movement.
- Stretching to increase **flexibility**
- Suitable for all levels: beginners to advanced
- Highlights structural imbalance or asymmetries & guidance to achieve equilibrium
- Separate **Pre and post natal** classes

- Acol, Birchington, Westgate, Herne, Minnis
- Small, friendly group sessions (12 people maximum per class).
- **Led by a physio.**
- Bring a mat, if you have one, and water if you wish
- **£10 per session or cheaper with a price plan**
- Online, outside, 1:1 or 2:1 options also available

Pilates in the park ♥




For more information and to book steelwellbeing@gmail.com
www.steelwellbeing.com 07913349225

PLEASE keep a look out for the Asian Hornet.

The Queens will be coming out of hibernation in the next few weeks looking for nest sites and food. There were many nests found and destroyed in the Dover area last year and a nest was destroyed in Canterbury in October. This would have been after the new queens had left the nest and looking to hibernate. Now they will be emerging they can travel 28 miles + looking for nest sites. I have put a poster up in the window of the village hall which is a good guide for identification and information on reporting any sightings. Any questions or problems please feel free to contact me.

Bill Yeoman.

 <p>NP ELECTRICALS</p> <p>BS7671 Qualified Electrical Engineer</p> <p>ELECSA <small>Part of the ICA Group</small></p> <p>Part 'P' Registration No EPP2390</p> <p>All Electrical Work Undertaken</p> <p>Free Quotations ~ Competitive Prices Quality Workmanship ~ Fully Guaranteed</p> <p>Call Nic Morling on 07714580978</p> <p>www.npelectricals.co.uk</p>	<p>YOUR M.P. At Your Service</p> <p>SIR ROGER GALE Margate, Herne Bay & The Villages</p> <p>For appointments and for advice on urgent problems:</p> <p>Ring: 01843 848588 (a.m. from 10.00) Web: www.rogergale.co.uk Email: galerj@parliament.uk Write: HOUSE OF COMMONS London, SW1A 0AA</p>
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Editor's 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.

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 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 March 2024.