

ACOL VILLAGE VOICE

October 2019

CHRISTMAS IS COMING.....

Seniors Christmas Party

Once again, this year the Village Hall Committee will be inviting all over 60s living in the Village, together with some friends of Acol, to an evening of companionship, fun, music and food, to be held on Saturday 14th December. We are pleased to advise that we have managed to book caterers for the event, who will provide a full 2-course Christmas meal. We have also booked the "Greyhound Buskers", the Ukulele Band which has so royally entertained us for the last four 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 raise funds for 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.

and

An Evening with Reindeer...

On Saturday 21st December Acol Village Hall Committee will be holding a Reindeer Drive in the Village Hall. It's a Christmas version of a Beetle Drive.

Anyone, any age, is welcome. You can come on your own, with a partner or as a group with friends. Bring your children - if they can add up, they can play (probably better than many of the adults!). If you are on your own or are shy and don't think you know anyone, I guarantee by the end of the evening you will have met, spoken to, and had a giggle with, almost everyone in the Hall. You will also probably shout in frustration at some time during the proceedings.

It goes like this:

It is played at tables of 4. People sitting opposite play as a pair. A Reindeer has been dissected into 8 component parts, the numbers on a dice representing those parts. You then each take it in turns to throw the dice until one table collects enough components to make a whole reindeer - at which point you shout 'REINDEER'. The game then stops and the pair with most points move onto the next table. One of the remaining pair then moves one place round the table before the winning pair from the previous table arrive. Then it

all starts again. That is where it becomes very sociable because you will never pair with the same person in consecutive games. In fact, you may never see your original partner for the rest of the evening! There will be a number of prizes for those with the most points over the evening.

There are a few technical details and rules which I will explain on the night.

Of course, there will be a "bring and share" supper as well, and you will need to bring your own drinks.

What better way to get into the Christmas spirit?

Bill Yeoman

ACOL VILLAGE HALL SUPPORT FUND - 200 Club

Winners for the Month of October 2019 were:

Member no. 93 who won 1st prize of £19.00
Member no. 49, who won 2nd prize of £11.40 and
Member no.8, who won 3rd prize of £7.60

£38.00 was donated to the Village Hall funds

The next draw will be held on Wednesday 6th November 2019. Should you have any questions, or wish to join the scheme, please contact Iris Osborne (840901).

FORTHCOMING VILLAGE HALL EVENTS

Sat 19 th Oct	7.30pm	AHS Gardeners Supper
Tues 5 th Nov	7.30pm	AHS Annual General Meeting

Fibre Broadband Update

Karen Ault and Richard Steel met with George Chandler, KCC's Broadband Project Manager, to discuss the best approach to securing decent broadband service for residents of our village. We are recommending use of the Government's "Broadband Voucher Scheme" as the best means of making true (fibre) broadband provision available to everyone in our community. This Voucher Scheme is available to individuals and businesses who do not have Superfast Broadband Services - defined as of 25 mbps or higher (30 mbps in the rest of the EU). None of us, in Acol, has "Superfast" service availability.

Through the scheme individuals can apply for grants towards the costs of installation of Superfast Broadband services. The grant of, currently, £1,500 per premise, will be supplemented by KCC's own Voucher Scheme of £1,000 per residential premise. If enough of us commit to applying for the vouchers, the grants can be aggregated to fund provision through the Community Partnership Scheme that we previously explored and whose provision for our community was last estimated at £65,000+.

In order to receive the grant, applicants must commit to entering at least a twelve-month contract for a Superfast Broadband service once it's deliverable. If you already subscribe to a broadband service this is unlikely to be onerous; in fact, you may already be subscribing to a fibre service that could deliver superfast speeds in fibre-connected communities but will be receiving far more limited services based-upon our village's outdated copper and aluminium infrastructure. The monthly cost will typically be less than £30. Initially, the number of service providers able to deliver fibre broadband services is quite limited, so it's possible that you would need to switch broadband providers.

We therefore need to survey Acol households to determine whether we can aggregate sufficient demand to commit to a Community Broadband Partnership Scheme (which, based upon what we know of the number of Acol households and current broadband usage, should be readily achievable) that should be deliverable within twelve months of placing an order.

In the coming weeks Karen and Richard will be out in the Village to identify whether there is enough interest for Acol to commit to a Community Broadband Partnership Scheme (which could be deliverable within 12 months of placing an order) and to answer any questions. They will need to gather the following information...

- * Current broadband service provision (if any). Please specify plan name... E.g. "Vodafone Superfast 1".
- * Cost of plan, excluding extras such as telephone service.
- * Present contract expiry date or whether out of contract.
- * Whether a business is registered to your address. (This will increase the voucher value.)
- * Willingness to apply to the Government's Broadband Voucher Scheme and commit to a minimum twelve-month contract for Superfast Broadband service (switching providers, if necessary).

If you are happy to, you can email this information

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

Once Karen and Richard have completed this survey, in conjunction with the Parish Council we'll arrange a public meeting, including the KCC's Broadband Project Manager and the (Openreach) Community Partnership provider to discuss and plan the scheme's delivery.

Editors Note: If you too are fed up with service interruptions, outages and slow internet access, then for no up-front capital outlay this scheme is surely a no brainer. Our thanks to Richard and Keren for their hard work in pulling this together on behalf of the Village.

VILLAGE INFORMATION

VILLAGE HALL - Please ring 841691 about Hall availability

REGULAR BOOKINGS

Monday afternoons (term time) - Pam's People

First Tuesday evening, Acol Horticultural Society meeting.

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 19th October, evening, AHS GARDENERS' SUPPER

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Saturday 7th December, evening, AHS Christmas Party

Saturday 14th December, evening, VHMC Seniors' Dinner

Friday 20th December, evening, St Mildreds Carol Service

Saturday 21st December, evening, VHMC Reindeer Drive

PCSO

Our PCSO, Debbie Forsyth, has combined her police surgeries for the villages and they are now held at 12.15 on the 1st Wednesday of the month at Monkton Village Hall.

REFUSE COLLECTIONS

Refuse (black) Garden (Green) &
waste food

14th October

28th October

Recycling (blue), red bag & waste food

21st October

4th November

If you have problems putting your bins out ring TDC, **577115**, or queries to **577727**.

CCTV CAMERAS

If you experience any traffic incident in The Street, please report to 844706.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Please ring Iris Osborne on 840901 to register for updates on local incidents.

KENT POLICE

The dedicated phone number for the East Division Rural Team: **07980 978202**.

ACOL PARISH COUNCIL

You can keep informed 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

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ACOL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

AUTUMN FAYRE

**Saturday 16th November
In Acol Village Hall**

Doors Open 10.30am to 2.00pm

RAFFLE TOMBOLA CRAFT

Soup & Rolls at Midday

**For more information/booking of
stalls ring Steve on 846963**

PREPARING FOR WINTER

There is currently only one Salt Bin in Acol, which is adjacent to the Chapel of Rest in Plumstone Road. The Parish Council have agreed to acquire an additional Bin for Nursery Fields to serve the residents in that area. These bins are filled once each year by TDC. Fortunately, the last two years were so very mild that the existing bin has been hardly needed, and consequently is itself full and a full Jumbo bag of sand/salt mix is sitting forlornly alongside it. Residents are therefore invited to help themselves to the sand/salt mix for de-icing their own drives, paths etc. (they must, of course, provide their own containers/sacks). This needs to be done fairly quickly, as TDC will make a further delivery to both the existing and the new (Nursery Fields) bins in the next few weeks.

MINSTER SURGERY

SEASONAL WINTER 'FLU VACCINATIONS

A Vaccination Clinic will be held on Saturday 26th October from 9.00 am and 1.00 pm.

Appointments are available and can be made in the usual way via the surgery.

If you are over 65 or in a risk group and have not yet had a vaccination, please contact the surgery.

OUR 10TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

WIN £100 CASH in our GRAND CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

To celebrate this event, we are offering this as our First Prize, plus many other prizes.

The draw will be made at the Christmas Bazaar on Saturday 23rd November.

OUR NEW PROJECT

To purchase state of the art "24-hour E C G equipment" for the Practice.
At present patients have to travel to the Heart Centre at QEQM or even Ashford for this test, whereas with the new equipment located in the surgery, travelling can be avoided and analysis and results obtained much quicker.

DID YOU KNOW?

Appointments can now be booked on-line, on the day (from 8am), and for 2 weeks and 4 weeks in advance. Get "MY GP" Ap where you can also order prescriptions, make/cancel appointments and many other facilities.

MISSED APPOINTMENTS

Last Month: 37 PATIENTS DID NOT attend their DOCTOR'S APPOINTMENT!
39 PATIENTS DID NOT attend their NURSES APPOINTMENT!
DON'T NEED IT - CANCEL IT! KEEP FORGETTING - GET TEXT REMINDER SERVICE

FRIENDS AND FAMILY SURVEY

Last month we received 234 patient responses to "would you recommend our Practice"
Extremely likely/Likely - 86% ; Extremely unlikely/Unlikely - 4% ; Unsure/Don't know - 10%

SURGERY CLOSURE DAYS

Please note that the surgery will close from 1.00 pm onwards on the following days:
Staff Training - Wednesday 24th October and Thursday 27th November.
Please ensure that you have sufficient medication to last you during these times.
Should you need to see a Doctor when the surgery is closed, please call the NHS 111 Service direct on 11, to receive "non urgent" confidential health advice and information for you and your family. For Urgent/Life threatening cases please dial 999 as normal.

PATIENT GROUP MEETING

If you have any issues you would like to raise at our meeting in October or require further information on any of the above, then please contact Mary Hodgson on 842764

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WARNINGS TO RESIDENTS

Thanet residents warned to ensure cold callers are genuine

Don't be afraid to check cold callers are genuine, police are advising residents following a number of recent incidents in Thanet.

It was reported that a man knocked on the door of a property in the Beacon Road area of Broadstairs, selling items including cleaning products from a holdall.

The resident reported that when they declined to buy anything, the man became confrontational and he was verbally abusive before leaving.

A similar report was made by a resident in the Millmead Road area of Margate on the same day.

Kent Police Inspector Jason Brown of Thanet Community Safety Unit said:

'While people who canvass door to door can be genuine, some might not be, and so we advise residents to be cautious about who they open the door to.

'Callers should - at the very least - produce proof of identification which can be traced.

'Do not be afraid to ask them to wait outside or come back later while you call the company supplying the ID card to check.

'Close the door and use the door chain if you have one. If they are genuine callers, they will not mind you doing this.

'If you see anything suspicious taking place in your street, report it to Kent Police on 101 or via the website, or 999 if a crime is taking place.

Advice

Consider fitting extra security measures such as spy holes, door locks and intruder alarms and always check the identity of cold callers. Don't be afraid to turn people away.

Always ensure rear doors and windows are shut and locked when answering your front door.

If you have any doubts about whether a caller is genuine, ask them to leave and come back at a time convenient to you and when you've had a chance to ask someone to be with you. Call police if you suspect cold callers may be bogus

For further advice, visit the Kent Police website.

<https://www.kent.police.uk/advice/bogus-callers-and-rogue-traders/>

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Web: www.rogergale.co.uk

Email: galerj@parliament.uk

Write: HOUSE OF COMMONS –
London, SW1A 0AA

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. 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 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 2019.