

ACOL VILLAGE VOICE

January 2023

Village Voice wishes all our readers a Very Happy New Year.

Sam Hodgson

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our dear friend Sam last month.

I had the pleasure and privilege of knowing Sam for over 40 years. He and Mary moved into the Village to run the shop in 1978 and very soon become a central part of the village community.

If Sam could help you in any way, he would always put himself out to do so. He, as Chairman of the Parish Council, played a big part in building the Village Hall. Also, by creating the Village Hall Support Fund, the money he has raised has put thousands into the Village.

If the village had a function both Mary and Sam were always there to lend a hand. He nearly always played a part in the Village panto and helped with the local W.I. markets.

Sadly, Sam suffered from a long-term illness which meant he had to spend his last few years out of the Village but surely, he has warranted his place over the years as a true character of the Village.

We will say goodbye to Sam on 10th January with his funeral at St Mildred's at 12.45pm followed by a private cremation. His wake will follow at the Village Hall.

I spent some time with Mary today and although well in herself still finds it hard to see a future without her Sam.

If you ever met Sam and asked him how he was he would always reply "still under the thumb".

A true gentleman who will be truly missed.

Jim Barber.

Help Rich celebrate his 70th!

I'll be notching up "three score years and ten" on Saturday 4th March and have booked the Village Hall for the occasion. All Acolonians are invited to help me celebrate. I'll provide more details closer to the date, but we'll kick-off around 2 pm and continue into the evening during which time anyone can drop by. Chris and I will provide food and some refreshments, including beer and wine, but please bring your own drink if there's anything particular you'd like.

(Music for all age groups by Alexa/Amazon Prime.)

Whether you know me, we are passing acquaintances, or we are friends who have yet to meet, I'd love you to come - but please let me know if you are able to for our catering purposes. No presents, please; after 70 years the only thing I need is more space to keep everything!

I'm hoping this will provide another chance to develop relationships among our community, building on other recent social occasions at the Village Hall. See you there!

Richard Steel

richardjohnsteel@outlook.com

07770 281 113 [facebook.com/richard.j.steel](https://www.facebook.com/richard.j.steel)

The Lodge, Dilnot Lane

ACOL VILLAGE HALL SUPPORT FUND - 200 Club

Winners for the Month of December 2022 were:

Member no. 11 who won 1st prize of £20.00

Member no. 37, who won 2nd prize of £10.00 and

Member no. 157, who won 3rd prize of £5.00

Winners for the Month of January 2023 were:

Member no. 117 who won 1st prize of £20.00

Member no. 81, who won 2nd prize of £10.00 and

Member no. 49, who won 3rd prize of £5.00

A total of £60.00 was donated to the Village Hall funds

The next draw will take place on the 1st February 2023. Should you have any questions or wish to join the scheme, please contact Iris Osborne (838829)

FORTHCOMING VILLAGE HALL EVENTS

23 rd Jan 11.00am	PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
27 th Jan 7.30pm	Acol Book Club
7 th Feb 7.30pm.	AHS - Chris Stewart will talk on "Hop Pickers of Kent"
11 th Feb 2.00 for 2.30 pm.	AHS - A "Valentine's Tea"

ACOL BOOK CLUB

You are invited to join the Acol Book Club at our first meeting of the New Year on Friday 27th January 2023.

We will meet on the last Friday of each month from 7.30pm-9pm at the Village Hall.

A donation of £2 is required to cover the hall hire fee & light refreshments. Please feel free to email Chenice Butterworth at acolbookclub@gmail.com to confirm your interest.

VILLAGE INFORMATION

Here comes another Happy New Year greeting! Hope everyone had a great time and succeeded in meeting up with family and friends.

On a more sombre note, we extend our deepest sympathy to Mary Hodgson on the loss of her Sam.

We also send our best wishes for a speedy recovery to those who are currently in bad health with the various viruses and bugs going around.

VILLAGE HALL

All usual bookings have been flooding in for 2023 and hall diary and calendar are beginning to look quite full. If you haven't already done so, please let me know your attendance dates, especially if you intend to start new events. So far, we have new Book Club meetings on the last Friday of every month except December. A complete list of bookings will be included in the February Village Voice. My phone number is given below, but it's 841691.

REFUSE COLLECTIONS

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

16th January
30th January

Recycling (blue), red bag & waste food

9th January
23rd January
6th February

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 978 202** 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 978 202** for the East Kent Division Rural Police Team

ACOL PARISH COUNCIL

Access APC website at acolparishcouncil.org.uk or ring 844 706 for information or help.

Our next meeting will be at 11am on MONDAY 23RD JANUARY. 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 to advise other villagers.

Sheila Bransfield

ACOL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Acol Horticultural Society has decided that because of lack of entries in the normal three flower shows they will be reduced to just two shows.

The Spring Show will be on Saturday 1st April.

The Late Summer/Autumn Show will be on Saturday 2nd September.

As well as reducing the number of shows, the entry classes have also been reduced together with entry requirements. The Childrens' classes have been retained together with attractive prize money. This will hopefully encourage the young generation to get involved and be part of the village community, with the support of their parents of course.

Schedules are available.

In the meantime, as well as the monthly meetings, the Society has a number of social events planned. Our plans are as follows:-

Tuesday 7th February at 7.30. Chris Stewart will talk on "Hop Pickers of Kent"

Saturday 11th February at 2.00 for 2.30. A "Valentine's Tea" Cost £6. (includes food)

Tuesday 7th March at 7.30. D J March talks on "Story of English Country Cheeses & Tastings.

Tuesday 4th April at 7.30. Colin Moat talks on "In Praise of Higher Things- Taller Perennials".

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

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

Tuesday 6th June at 7 "Rose Show"

All these events will take place in Acol Village Hall. Please make a note of all these events on your calendar and in your diary which I presume you received as gifts from Santa, then you won't forget and can plan ahead. Please make every effort to attend and support these events and so support the local Acol Horticultural Society.

Remember we meet on the first Tuesday of the month.

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

Bill Yeoman.

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6 CUYD'S	35
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Quote 'Acol', as we like to look after our locals

ACOL VILLAGE HALL

The Village Hall is at the centre of village life and is an important resource for us all. Whether it is the Horticultural Society, the Art Group Textile classes or Dance lessons, the hall is in regular weekly use, and is also available to hire for private functions.

The prices are kept competitive, and Village residents get to hire it at a special discounted rate. The Hall is kept heated and lit, as well as cleaned weekly. We also ensure the building is kept well decorated and maintained. Many of our users are very complimentary about the facilities we provide, and the way the Hall is kept.

It is therefore very disappointing when a resident books the Hall for a party and they fail to observe the rules in the hiring agreement. In a recent case a hirer overstayed their hire, vacating the Hall well after Midnight when our licence requires that we must not stay open beyond 10.30pm without obtaining a licence extension. They also left the Hall with sticky residue of spilled drinks on the floors, bags of rubbish in the kitchen (when the hiring agreement clearly states that hirers should take their rubbish away with them), dirty, greasy ovens, etc.... I could go on.

Sadly, the normal hiring deposit was not taken in this case, so the Hall Committee had to bear the additional cleaning costs. Our only sanction is that we will not in future accept any bookings from the individual or family concerned.

It is a great sadness that people no longer respect other people's property, and honour agreements honestly entered into.



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London, SW1A 0AA**

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 been sponsored by Glen Hodgson in memory of his father, Sam Hodgson

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 February 2023.