

# **ACOL VILLAGE VOICE**

**August 2019**

## **(TRAFFIC) LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL?**

A bid for a whopping £49.8 million has been made by Kent County Council for the creation of a relief road at the A28 between Birchington, Acol and Westgate-on-Sea. The bid is part of a list of high-priority road improvement schemes submitted to government as part of a £3.5 billion investment programme. The schemes were agreed by Transport for the South East, a new regional body which brings together local authorities, business groups and the transport industry.

As part of the list, Kent County Council put forward the bid for funding for the relief road between Birchington, Acol and Westgate-on-Sea. The A28 relief road would provide an alternative route, using the existing Shottendane Road which runs south of and parallel to the A28, which would be widened and improved. The new road would link to the A28 south of Birchington and to Manston Road and Hartsdown Road, east of Westgate-on-Sea, through future development sites.

**It would also provide a southern link through an extension to the existing Columbus Avenue, providing traffic relief to the village of Acol.**

KCC cabinet member for highways Mike Whiting said: "The schemes we have put forward through our work with Transport for the South East will make a big difference to the lives of our residents.

"If funded we can look forward to more reliable, quicker journeys, and help cut congestion whilst supporting new housing, businesses and jobs."

## **ADVANCE WARNING**

We have been advised by UK Power Network that many of the electricity poles and much of the wiring in Acol are rotten and need replacing. This will mean parts of the village will be blacked out whilst the work is carried out.

It will probably happen in September, but they have promised to give plenty of notice before the work is due to commence.

## **ACOL VILLAGE HALL SUPPORT FUND – 200 Club**

The next draw will be held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2019. Should you have any questions, or wish to join the scheme, please contact Iris Osborne (840901).

## FORTHCOMING VILLAGE HALL EVENTS

Sat 10 <sup>th</sup> Aug.	1.00pm,	<b>AHS Nosh &amp; Natter</b>
Wed 14 <sup>th</sup> Aug.	7.00pm,	<b>AHS Mini Show.</b>
Mon 7 <sup>th</sup> Oct	11.00am	<b>Acol Parish Council Meeting</b>

## VILLAGE INFORMATION

### VILLAGE HALL

Please ring 841691 about hall availability.

#### REGULAR BOOKINGS

(Fewer bookings due to summer holidays)

First Tuesday evening, Acol Horticultural Society meeting.

All other Tuesday evenings, Dance Fitness Class

Every Thursday evening - Art Group. **Art Group Website:** [www.acolartgroup.org/](http://www.acolartgroup.org/)

Saturdays (monthly), 10am-4pm - Phoenix Quilters

(Check hall calendar or email [Sheila.Bransfield@btinternet.com](mailto:Sheila.Bransfield@btinternet.com) for information)

#### EVENTS COMING UP

Sat 10<sup>th</sup> Aug, from 1pm, AHS Nosh & Natter

Wed 14<sup>th</sup> Aug, afternoon & evening, AHS Mini Show.

**The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Mon 7<sup>th</sup> Oct at 11am.**

### PCSO

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

### REFUSE COLLECTIONS

Refuse (black) Garden (Green) &  
waste food

Recycling (blue), red bag & waste food

19<sup>th</sup> August  
2<sup>nd</sup> September

12<sup>th</sup> August  
26<sup>th</sup> August

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

**THE WEBSITE IS ACTIVE AGAIN IN A NEW PLACE - [acolparishcouncil.co.uk](http://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

**ACOL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

# **NOSH & NATTER**

**SATURDAY 10<sup>th</sup> AUGUST**

**Doors open at 12.30pm for 1.00pm Admission £6.00**

**Bring your own Drink**

**To book, please ring Nancy & Norman any evening on 01843 846364**

**ACOL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

We would like to say a big thank you to the volunteers who turned up in response to our appeal for help with putting up the Marquee for our Summer Show.

Despite the rain we had a good attendance from both old friends and some newcomers.

As many attendees will attest, it was a lovely show.

Thank you everyone

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## **WARNINGS TO RESIDENTS**

Action Fraud has received 63 reports about a scam in which fraudsters target people with offers of “low cost” loans or “free” government grants. What the victims aren’t told is that the money they’ll receive is actually an advance payment for Universal Credit. The criminals use the personal information they’ve obtain under false pretences to make an application in the victim’s name. After the fraudsters have taken their “fee” from the advance payment, the victim is then left to pay back the total amount once their repayments begin.

### **How you can protect yourself:**

- Never share your personal or financial information with someone you don’t know and trust, especially if it’s in response to an offer of “free money” or a “free grant”.
- Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) staff will never approach you in the street or ask for your personal/financial details over social media.
- If you have concerns about your benefits, you should visit [www.gov.uk/contact-jobcentre-plus](http://www.gov.uk/contact-jobcentre-plus)
- If you suspect your identity may have been stolen, you can check your credit rating quickly and easily online. You should do this every few months anyway, using a reputable service provider and following up on any unexpected or suspicious results.

## **FIBRE BROADBAND - an Update on Progress from Richard Steel**

Although modelling work by BT Openreach has taken longer than expected, progress is slowly being made and there is now a contract in place for full fibre roll-out in Acol. Precise details of what will be provided, and the timescales for delivery, have yet to be finalised, but it's looking like our roll-out should take place around the end of next year.

Meantime, we continue to hear all sorts of stories of poor and intermittent broadband services from villagers and can only advise that you complain on every occasion to your service providers. The state of our existing network, based as it is on Aluminium wiring to many residences, is such that no regular maintenance is attempted for fear of unsettling our flaky infrastructure so, unless you complain, faults will not be fixed!

## **ACOL BOOK CLUB**

The Acol Book Club was launched in March, meeting over tea and cake at 7 pm on the last Friday evening of each month, and currently has 11 members.

Books that we have enjoyed reading and discussing, so far, have been *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* (Mitch Albom) *The Handmaid's Tale* (Margaret Atwood) *The Remains of The Day* (Kazuo Ishiguro) and *The Shadow of The Wind* (Carlo Ruiz). Currently, we are reading Evelyn Waugh's *Brideshead Revisited*, and Captain Corelli's *Mandolin* (Louis de Bernieres) *The Bell Jar* (Sylvia Plath) and *Of Mice and Men* (John Steinbeck) are in our programme for the remainder of this year.

If you are interested in joining us, please email Chenice Butterworth at [acolbookclub@gmail.com](mailto:acolbookclub@gmail.com)<<mailto:acolbookclub@gmail.com>>

## **OVERGROWN VEGETATION OBSTRUCTING THE HIGHWAY/PAVEMENTS**

Kent County Council is the Highways Authority, and is responsible for ensuring that highways and pavements are not obstructed and can be used safely. The County Council has released the following guidance notes, and you will note that they have powers to take legal action to ensure that the Highways and Pavements are kept clear and to recover any costs from the owners of offending properties as appropriate.

"We have an obligation to ensure private property owners cut back any hedges, vegetation or shrubs that encroach onto the highway. We require private property owners to:

- Cut back any vegetation from streetlights to allow the full beam of light to shine on the ground
- Ensure the full width of the footpath is available for use by pedestrians
- Provide a minimum of 2.4 metres of clearance above the footpath
- Provide a minimum of 5.2 metres of clearance above the carriageway which continues 50cm past the edge of the carriageway to allow for growth

Kent County Council may take legal steps to ensure these obligations are complied with, costs being recovered from the property owner."

## **MINSTER SURGERY**

### SEASONAL WINTER 'FLU VACCINATIONS 2019

Due to manufacturing difficulties and delays affecting all of NHS England, separate vaccination clinics will be held as follows:

FOR OVER 65's ONLY: Saturday 28th September - between 9am and 1pm

FOR ALL PATIENTS: Saturday 19th October - To Be Confirmed

Eligible and "at risk" patients will receive a reminder via text, mail or post, but please note it is only possible to pre-book appointments for Saturday 28th September (i.e. for over 65's) at present. Further information will be placed on our notice board in the surgery when available.

If you have any concerns about your eligibility for, or availability of, the vaccination, please contact Reception.

### DON'T FORGET TO USE "myGP"

You can now manage all your healthcare needs and requirements on your smartphone via the "myGP" app, e.g.: book, cancel appointments, order prescriptions plus many other features. It's quicker, more convenient and available 24/7 as well as being easy to use, so download the app now!

### MISSED APPOINTMENTS

Last Month: 27 PATIENTS DID NOT attend their DOCTOR'S APPOINTMENT!

38 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 patient responses to "would you recommend our Practice" are as follows:

Extremely likely/Likely - 91%; Extremely unlikely/Unlikely - 5%; Unsure/Don't know - 4%

### SURGERY CLOSURE DAYS

Please note that the surgery will be closed on the following days:

Staff Training - Thursday 26th September; Thursday 24th October from 1pm onwards

Bank Holiday - Monday 26th August - Closed all day

Please ensure that you have sufficient medication to last you during these times, and of course, please don't forget to include all the family  
Should you need to see a Doctor when the surgery is closed, please call the NHS 111 Service direct 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 August, or require further information on any of the above, then please contact Mary Hodgson on 842764.

	<p><b>YOUR M.P. At Your Service .....</b></p> <p><b>SIR ROGER GALE</b> holds regular advice surgeries for Margate, Herne Bay &amp; The Villages -</p> <p>for appointments and for advice on urgent problems:</p> <p>Ring: <b>01843 848588 (a.m. from 10.00)</b></p> <p>Web: <a href="http://www.rogergale.co.uk">www.rogergale.co.uk</a></p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:galerj@parliament.uk">galerj@parliament.uk</a></p> <p>Write: HOUSE OF COMMONS – London, SW1A 0AA</p>
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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 e-mail contributions to Village Voice to [inchley@btinternet.com](mailto:inchley@btinternet.com)

**This edition of Village Voice has been sponsored by ACOL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.**

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 5<sup>th</sup> September 2019.