

# **ACOL VILLAGE VOICE**

**May 2024**

## **News from The Parish Council**

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on 18<sup>th</sup> April, when a summary of all work undertaken by the Parish Council in the past year was presented. Details are in the minutes, as is the annual report from the Acol Village Hall Management Committee. The annual accounts had not yet been audited, but would be reported, following the audit, at an Extraordinary Meeting to be held during May.

At the Annual Parish Council Meeting, which followed, Richard was unanimously re-elected as Chair for the next year.

An Honours Board to record the awards of Freedom of the Parish of Acol has now been delivered and is to be displayed in the Village Hall, as is a new portrait of the King that has been provided by the Government.

Sara had arranged the repair of the "finger post" sign adjacent to the former chapel at the start of Plumstone Road, which was broken in a collision that also damaged the brick wall. The aluminium sign will be re-welded by Derek Smith, from Monkton.

The new bench for the Recreation Ground has been delivered and will be assembled and anchored in place in the coming weeks. New flower planters have also been ordered and initial thoughts are that displays will be sited around the village sign on Nursery Fields (subject to approval by the Management Committee) and in front of the Village Hall.

Thanet DC are to provide a new Waste Bin, whose location will be decided at an onsite meeting to ensure it can be readily accessed and emptied by TDC operatives. At the same time, we will decide upon collection points for litter collected by our volunteers, including along Crispe Road. Councillor Abi Smith (from TDC) reported that the maximum fine for fly tipping had been increased to £1,000.

We undertook an annual review, with KCC's Community Engagement Officer, of Acol's Highways Improvement Plan (HIP) and agreed to include new goals targeting reduced speed limits of 20 mph along The Street and 50 mph on Acol Hill. At the Council meeting we learned that PC Andy Howe would support a reduction of the speed limit along Minster Road to 30 mph, so that is being added as a consideration. Other items include improvements to the chicane on Minster Road and relocation of the Acol Village sign on Margate Hill to make it clear that Ladds Cottages are in our village.

KCC Councillor Derek Crow-Brown reported that he had been involved in responding to the public's queries regarding the numerous road closures in the local area, including arranging for highways inspectors to visit areas with

inappropriate diversion signage and ensuring utilities companies install better barriers to prevent drivers moving bollards.

PC Andrew Howe (Thanet Villages Beat Officer) reported that he was undertaking extra night security patrols as we have seen high levels of crime in the villages, including an increase in vehicle thefts that appears to be linked to organised crime - as well as opportunistic theft from vehicles. He urged that we all consider additional vehicle security such as steering wheel locks and Faraday Pouches for keyless entry fobs.

Sarah reported that a vulnerable Acol resident had been targeted by a cold caller, pressurising them to have unnecessary tree work done, which was suspicious, and advised caution. Andy said that in such circumstances residents should always dial 999 and that we should also report any suspicious activity at night, by dialling 999 to ensure that incidents are properly recorded and investigated where possible.

With the utmost regret, I have accepted Chenice's resignation as an Acol Village Councillor. In her resignation letter she wrote:

"It is with sadness that I report that I have submitted my resignation from Acol Parish Council. This difficult decision was made to focus on the health of myself and extended family members, and while I may no longer serve our wonderful community in an official capacity I will continue to support and improve our fantastic hamlet as a villager.

Since joining the Parish Council in 2023 I have been in awe of the hard work, dedication, and time that our previous and current Parish Councillors, Clerk and Chair dedicate to improving village life for all. I am confident they will continue the journey of achieving shared goals and would encourage anyone who is interested to join in their mission to elevate and enhance our local area.

Thank you for all your support and I am sure I will see many of you at future community events."

I replied on behalf of the Committee and the Village:

Thank you, Chenice, on behalf of our community and your fellow Councillors for all you've done for our village. As a young working mum, you've played a key role in helping to make our Council more representative of the community we serve but that clearly should not be at the expense of family or health. However, we know that you will continue to play an important part in village life.

Richard Steel (Chair)

## ACOL VILLAGE HALL SUPPORT FUND - 200 Club

### Winners for the Month of May 2024 were:

Member no. 69 who won 1<sup>st</sup> prize of £20.00.

Member no. 63, who won 2<sup>nd</sup> prize of £10.00 and

Member no. 182 who won 3<sup>rd</sup> prize of £5.00.

A total of £30.00 was donated to the Village Hall funds.

The next draw will take place on the 5<sup>th</sup> June 2024. Should you have any questions or wish to join the scheme, please contact Iris Osborne (838829)

### **FORTHCOMING VILLAGE HALL EVENTS**

4<sup>th</sup> Jun. 7.00pm.                      **MEMBER'S ROSE SHOW**

18<sup>th</sup> May. 7.30pm                      **AHS QUIZ NIGHT**

### **ACOL VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

We are pleased to report that the Village Hall diary is, once again, very well booked. Our funds do, of course, mostly depend on earnings from hiring.

The new event, introduced last year, the Children's Party, was held again in December. It was a great success, and it is hoped that this will continue to be an annual event. Our thanks to Jessica Adams for undertaking the arranging.

The decision to extend the Adult Christmas Party to include younger villagers was intended to encourage additional support but regrettably, with only limited support, it was decided that the event be cancelled this year. It was not financially viable to continue.

The annual Reindeer Drive was held but it was disappointing to report the lack of attendance, particularly by children. This is always a very jolly event, and it is hoped it will continue. But like the Adult Party it is only with adequate support can these activities be held. However, an added event has been arranged by David Hayfield - a Social Evening - merely a meeting of friends to enjoy music and conversation.

There have been no major maintenance projects undertaken this year, but the old outside bench was renovated and a plaque remembering the late Sam Hodgson was inserted. The exterior doors were re-stained and varnished.

The Committee funds are "healthy" but it is important to stress the need to not only hire the Hall but also to attempt to fund raise. We can only do this by holding events which we hope will be well attended. We would welcome suggestions from anyone.

The Management Committee would not be able to discharge its responsibilities half as well without the invaluable efforts of our Treasurer and Secretary, Iris Osborne. We are very much beholden to her, as she facilitates everything we do. We should also acknowledge the efforts of Sheila Bransfield our booking secretary and David Hayfield and Bill Yeoman, who willingly tackle the many tasks, large and small that ensure the Hall is maintained in good order and is prepared for key events during the year. We are also grateful for the additional help that we have received on many occasions from other residents of the village.

We are looking forward to another successful year in 2024 and we hope to continue with the support of all those who have joined in our events, but we also look forward to seeing new faces. We operate the Hall for the benefit of the village and hope that with the support of everyone our Hall will continue to be the hub of the village.

Jon Inchley  
Chairman

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## Acol Horticultural Society

Acol Horticultural Society's next meeting is on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June when it will be the **Members Rose Show**. Staging will be from 7pm with Judging at 7.30pm. Although called a members show, anyone with a rose which you would like to show the world, will be welcome. Sweet peas are also included in a couple of classes. Schedules are available from Steve and Theresa. Register your entry on the night. Just come along and see how they can be grown OR show us how it should be done.

*Remember we meet on the first Tuesday of the month.*

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

Before that, on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May, we are holding a **Quiz Night**. This is a chance for you to show off your knowledge and brain power. It will start at 7pm for a 7.30pm head off. Tickets are £7 and will include a supper. Places must be booked in advance in order that the correct catering can be delivered. The choice of fish or sausage and chips must be made in advance.

This is always a good light-hearted fun evening when you will undoubtedly learn something you did not know. You will wonder why you didn't know then realise that knowing it is of no use to you whatsoever and just clutters up an already overloaded brain. We look forward to seeing you.

**Tickets ordered from Steve and Theresa Ling.**

Bill Yeoman.

## VILLAGE INFORMATION

### VILLAGE HALL

Please note that the regular Dance Classes on Thursday and Sunday are cancelled during most of May, as the Instructor is taking a well-deserved holiday! The dates he is away are Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>, Thursday 16<sup>th</sup>, Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>, Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May. Please also ring me if you need to contact any TDC Councillor or PCSO.

### BOOK/FILM CABINET

The cabinet has a good selection of books and DVDs for borrowing at no charge. Please feel free to avail yourself of this facility. To access the cabinet there is merely a shackle on the doors to unscrew.

### DEFIBRILLATOR

Just follow the instructions printed on the cabinet to obtain the access code and follow the instructions inside.

### REFUSE COLLECTIONS

**Refuse (black), Garden Refuse (Green)    Recycling (blue), red bag & waste food.**

**& waste food**

6<sup>th</sup> May

13<sup>th</sup> May

20<sup>th</sup> May

27<sup>th</sup> May

3<sup>rd</sup> June

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

### NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH


Please contact Iris Osborne on 07951 072914 for any information you require.

### ACOL PARISH COUNCIL

As well as Acol Village Voice you can find out more about what's occurring in Acol via Facebook on the Acol, Kent community page ([www.facebook.com/Acol.Village](http://www.facebook.com/Acol.Village)).

Of course, other news and information is available on the Acol Parish Council website at [www.acolparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.acolparishcouncil.org.uk) or ring 845363.

Sheila Bransfield

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### **Editor's Note:**

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 Karen Ault et al. in celebration of Phyllis's 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

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 June 2024.