

# ACOL VILLAGE VOICE

July 2020

## THE VOICE IS BACK AS LOCKDOWN EASED

These last three months have been very difficult for everyone, and we have had to adapt our lives to cope with a situation over which we have no control. For some it was learning to isolate ourselves, and to get used to not hugging our families. For others, it was coping with home schooling, or working from home. The solution to many of our problems was the discovery of the power of technology, and what it could do to help us maintain contact. The revelation that a smartphone is not just for making phone calls, but could also allow us to shop, do our banking, organise delivery of our groceries and see our friends and families as well as talking to them has transformed our lives.

A second revelation is that we live in a community, not just a house in a village. The demonstrations of generosity by neighbours and friends, new and old, who are still helping us through this very difficult period proves that beyond question. Whether it is the establishment of WhatsApp groups, the Village Facebook page, the offer of assistance with shopping, or just the occasional friendly enquiry as to our wellbeing, the support throughout the village has been extraordinary, and much appreciated. I can only imagine how those who are isolated and alone must find the current situation, but how much worse it would be without the love and support of those around them.

However, there have been some recent events which are beyond sad, and for which we must extend our deepest sympathies to families and friends. Firstly, we should remember, Roy Stagg who passed away just before the lockdown started, who served this community for many years. Our sympathies go in particular to Nikki, his wife. We should also remember Jim Barber, who lost his son quite unexpectedly. Finally, we should remember Norman Chidwick, who passed away recently. Norman leaves Nancy his wife of 62 years, and many friends in the village, who are devastated by the loss of one of the pillars of the community. Norman and Nancy were among the first people Barbara and I met when we moved to this village 19 years ago, and they were unfailingly kind and supportive of we "newcomers". Norman helped paint my house, chop down my trees, was an active member of the Village Hall Management Committee and supported every social event we organised. Norman continued to distribute Village Voice every month right up 'til the end. I even have a couple of his watercolours adorning the walls of my house. To me he was everything good about this Village, and I shall miss him dreadfully.

## **NORMAN REMEMBERED**

I was asked by Jon if I would put together a few words to remember our dear friend, Norman Chidwick, who passed away back in June.

Norman had been a member of our community for most of his life. He was a completely giving man who was never happier than when he was helping out within the village and in turn making people happy. It was while he was spreading such love amongst his friends in Acol that Norm was at his best.

I had the joy of being his best friend for the last 43 years. Throughout that time 'laughter and fun' was the main aim of our friendship. Norman was an active member of many groups in the village from Horticultural Society, Art Group, Acolonians, walking group, Hall Management Committee and St Mildred's church. All will be lost without him as we move forward into this strange new world. Of course, you cannot mention Norman without saying Nancy in the same breath. They had been married for the last 62 years and always looked at one another with such love.

I was so pleased to see how many people came out to say farewell to Norman on the day of his funeral. The village was full of love that day, that Norman completely deserved. It would have been his wish that the fun and laughter he always brought to any event carried on, echoing his joy.

Norman, my old mate, till we meet again. Rest in peace.

Jim Barber.

## **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

There will be a meeting of the Parish Council at 11.00am on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020 in the Village Hall to transact one important piece of Council financial business which has to be signed-off and concluded by the end of the month.

## **VILLAGE HALL UPDATE**

The Village Hall will remain closed until mid-August to allow the Management Committee to absorb the Covid regulations and implement the changes necessary to conform and make use of the Hall Covid compliant. Watch this space for more details of how use of the Hall will be modified for hirers, and our arrangements to protect our users.

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

The monthly draw has been suspended for the time being. Should you have any questions, or wish to join the scheme, please contact Iris Osborne (840901).

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### VILLAGE INFORMATION

#### RECREATION GROUND

The Recreation Ground is open for use as normal, but it is essential that all users observe social distancing, so please, wherever possible, keep 2m separation from other users. Also, it is important that use the dog mess bin as appropriate and that you take any rubbish home with you.

#### VILLAGE HALL

The Village Hall is closed until further notice. All bookings have been cancelled for the time being.

#### REFUSE COLLECTIONS

Refuse (black), & waste food  
food

6<sup>h</sup> July  
20<sup>th</sup> July  
3<sup>rd</sup> August

Recycling (blue), red bag & waste

13<sup>th</sup> July  
27<sup>th</sup> July

If you have any problems with your bins, ring TDC, 577115, or queries to 577727.

### PCSO

PCSO Debbie Forsyth will obviously not be holding village surgeries just now, but you can email her at [60457@kent.police.uk](mailto:60457@kent.police.uk) for urgent matters.

### CCTV CAMERAS

Please ring 844706 if you wish to report any incident in The Street.

### NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Please be sure that Iris Osborne (840901) has your contact details to report regular updates.

### KENT POLICE

Dedicated number for the East Kent Division Rural Team is **07980 978202**.

### VILLAGE FACEBOOK WEBSITE

Village events and notices are on [facebook.com.acol.village](https://www.facebook.com/acol.village).

### ACOL PARISH COUNCIL

You can keep informed of meetings and events through our website -

[acolparishcouncil.org.uk](http://acolparishcouncil.org.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

## **VOLUNTEER REQUIRED PLEASE**

Could you spare half an hour a month  
to deliver the **Village Voice**  
to residents in Crispe Road and  
Acol Hill?

## **FEEL YOU COULD DO MORE?**

There is always the opportunity for  
community minded people to join the  
Acol Village Hall Management  
Committee

Please contact Jon Inchley on 847705

**YOUR M.P. At Your Service .....**

## **SIR ROGER GALE**

holds regular advice surgeries for  
Margate,  
Herne Bay & The Villages -

for appointments and for advice on  
urgent problems:

Ring: 01843 848588 (a.m. from 10.00)

Web: [www.rogergale.co.uk](http://www.rogergale.co.uk)

Email: [galerj@parliament.uk](mailto:galerj@parliament.uk)

Write: **HOUSE OF COMMONS –**  
London, SW1A 0AA

# MINSTER SURGERY

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND PATIENCE

We would like to thank all our patients and the wider community for bearing with us throughout these difficult times, whilst we endeavour to maintain our usual high standard of service and ensuring we maintain a safe working environment for both our staff and patients alike.

But please remember: **WE ARE STILL OPEN!**

So, if you have a health-related problem please don't be afraid to contact the surgery, we are still taking calls. All calls will be triaged and referred to a GP then you will be offered a telephone consultation, or if considered necessary, an appointment with the relevant Healthcare professional. We are sorry but we cannot offer pre-bookable appointments at this moment in time.

However, if you are experiencing a cough, high temperature or breathing difficulties, please do **not** contact the surgery, stay at home, and, if necessary, contact NHS directly by dialling 111.

Further up to date advice and information can be found at [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk) and [gov.uk](http://gov.uk)

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS

We have been overwhelmed by your generosity in donating various items of PPE such as masks, shields, scrubs, and specialist skills.

We would like to thank everyone including Julie Beaney; "Carrienne's Sewing Studio;" "CTRALTESC" Escape Room, Margate and their 3D printer; Dougie Chapman; just to name a few, but with apologies to those we have not been able to include.

## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR - A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY!

Will be held on **Saturday 21st November**, same time, same place! Don't forget to book early for Christmas.

## PATIENT LIAISON GROUP - CAN WE HELP YOU?

Our meetings have had to be postponed until further notice.

## AND FINALLY

Please remember to follow the Governments New Guidelines:

**"STAY ALERT - CONTROL THE VIRUS - SAVE LIVES"**

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**PODIATRIST**

**CONTACT NO: 07745 932377**

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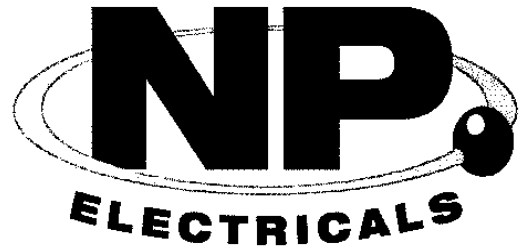
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**Editors Note:**

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 Audrey Groves & Family in memory of her Dad, Roy Finch, lifelong resident of Acol who died 10<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

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.