

ACOL VILLAGE VOICE

July 2024

News from The Parish Council

At the Parish Council meeting held on 20th July, we were pleased to co-opt Kate Ruranski as a Councillor. Recently retired Kate, and her husband Peter, are long-term residents of Nursery Fields. Her professional skills and insights into our village life make her a welcome addition to our team.

As a Councillor, Kate will join our Speedwatch Team. Many thanks, also, to Ken Finch, from Acol Hill, and Katy Haynes, from Plumstone Road, who also joined last month.

The feedback from KCC on our recently updated Highways Improvement Plan (HIP) was interesting, and **we would welcome residents' views of how the Parish Council should now proceed concerning this information.**

We have long been advised that the Police would not support a reduction of the 30-mph speed limit on The Street unless the average speed was already at 24 mph, or below. We had learned that the HADMS (Highways Agency Data Management System) data now indicated compliance with this criterion and asked for the limit to be reduced to 20-mph. In summary, what the most recent data shows is that the average speed on The Street is 17-mph and 85% of vehicles are travelling at 23.3-mph or less. KCC Highways therefore queried "why spend money reducing the speed limit when you have already achieved the reduction you seek" (through traffic calming)?

Some of our own thoughts are: -

- We all believe that we have witnessed vehicles travelling at much higher speeds (and I have asked for the data on the maximum speeds that were logged along The Street).
- The vehicles monitored must include large trucks that now routinely ignore the 7.5 tonne weight limit through our village. At really quite low speeds they still represent a great danger to pedestrians and cyclists.
- The Street is narrow and lacks any pedestrian provision. The fact is that most of us are afraid to venture along it by foot.
- The feedback seems to contradict much of KCC's own published advice about the benefits of 20-mph limits and which they have advocated.

(KCC) Councillor Derek Crow-Brown reported that there have been long delays in issuing Blue Badges. If any qualifying Acol resident is having any such difficulties, he will be pleased to assist.

(TDC) Councillor Abi Smith promoted the work of the Home Energy Advice Service, which has already made presentations at some of our neighbouring parishes. If any Acol residents would like to attend a presentation for our community, many government grants are still available - particularly targeting lower income households - and we will be pleased to make the arrangements.

Sarah has now set-up a Nominations Committee to consider any nomination(s) of Acol residents to be awarded Freedom of the Parish of Acol. Anyone can submit a written nomination to Sarah, for consideration by the Committee, stating why the nominated individual is deserving of the award, to cllrsarahcorby@acolparishcouncil.org.uk The closing date for submissions is Saturday 31st August. The Committee will decide upon any award(s) with a view to presentations being made at a suitable event in the run-up to Christmas.

Data Entry from the Acol Neighbourhood Survey, in accordance with the [Data Handling Policy](#) is now underway and Gavin is aiming to provide an initial Analysis Report at the next Parish Council meeting, on Thursday 15th August, at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall. All are welcome!

Please do let us have your views about village speed limits. As Wendy observed, "the worst thing about being nearly run over in The Street is the abuse you get from drivers; how dare we walk in the street!"

Richard Steel (Chair)

ACOL VILLAGE HALL SUPPORT FUND - 200 Club

The ACOL VILLAGE HALL SUPPORT FUND lottery was introduced many years ago to boost the funds of the Village Hall. The cost of a ticket in the lottery was £1, and prizes of £20, £10 and £5 were paid each month and it was usually possible to match the prize money with a deposit to the funds.

Regrettably, contributions have since dwindled and we have therefore decided to revise how it is operated.

Contribution will continue to be £1 per month per ticket but the draw will take every three months with prizes of £60 1st prize and £30 2nd prize.

Therefore, the next draw will take place on Monday 2nd September 2024.

Please contact Iris Osborne on 01843 838829 should you wish to purchase a ticket.

Acol Village Hall Management Committee

FORTHCOMING VILLAGE HALL EVENTS

6th Aug 7.30pm AHS meeting Jo Arnell to talk about Pruning

10th Aug 2.30pm AHS SUMMER SHOW in the Marquee behind the Hall

VILLAGE HALL During the holiday season our hall bookings will be quite erratic, so you will need to check the hall calendar for available slots or ring me on 841691.

REFUSE COLLECTIONS

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

8th July

15th July

22nd July

29th July

5th Aug

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).

Of course, other news and information is available on the Acol Parish Council website at www.acolparishcouncil.org.uk or ring 845363.

Sheila Bransfield

ACOL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Acol Horticultural Society's next meeting is on **Tuesday 6th August** when the speaker will be Jo Arnell talking about Pruning. This talk should dispel any myths, fears, thoughts and ideas on cutting shrubs and perennials and be well worth listening to.

The **Summer Show** will be held on **Saturday 10th August** in the marquee at the rear of Acol Village Hall. If you would like to enter any of the many classes covering flowers, vegetables, fruit, cooking, handicraft art and floral art. Remember the children, they have their own classes for which money can be won. To obtain a schedule contact Steve or Theresa Ling, 01843 846963, or ask any committee member.

This is the second of the two shows A.H.S. are holding this year. It is open to anyone, any age, so please make an effort to enter something in the many various classes or at least attend in the afternoon to see what talent exists in the village and beyond. This is a good and enjoyable social occasion taking place in Sheila and David's Garden and is a chance to meet people from the Village and other parts of Thanet and Kent.

It only cost £1 to enter the show or £1 to come in the afternoon. Children are free. To clarify the above entry is free for children. I stress Children are not given away free.

CAN YOU HELP on the Saturday before the show, 3rd August, when we will be erecting the marquee and would appreciate any help, especially fit men of any age, to assist in its preparation. We will meet at the hall at 9.00am and should be finished by noon.

Asian Hornet Update

The season of new queens emerging is now over. Primary nests will be well established. Worker Asian hornets (yellow leg hornets) will now be seen either catching other insects or visiting any source of sugary substance. So please still keep an eye open for them and report any sightings backed up with a photo, if possible.

When the primary nest gets a reasonable size, they will re-locate, usually higher up, which is when the nest can get very large. **There is no reason to let up keeping an eye open for them. Remember individual Asian hornets are not usually a threat to humans and are quite placid. On the other hand, getting too close to a nest is another matter so if you see a nest keep well clear.**

Bill Yeoman

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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

This edition of Village Voice has been sponsored by Karen Ault

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 August 2024.