

ACOL VILLAGE VOICE

October 2018

LETTER FROM HIS FAMILY REGARDING ROY FINCH (1923 - 2018)

It is with great sadness that we have to announce that our dear Dad passed away on 10th July, after a short illness. Aged 94, he had been a lifetime Acol resident, and he wished for his story to be recorded in Village Voice. His story in his own words is as follows:

Acol – My Life

I was born in 1923 at Alan Grange in Manston, and moved to 2, Ladds Cottages with Mum & Dad in 1925. I went to Park Lane School, and left at age 14, after which I worked as a motor mechanic for A Pantony in Birchington.

I joined the Home Guard in 1940, aged 17, and in 1941 joined the RAF, where I was sent to the Middle East, serving in Egypt and Turkey. I was demobbed in September 1946, by which time Mum & Dad had moved to Manston. I lived with them until I met and then married Elsie Fagg in 1948. We subsequently had three children, Carol, Audrey and Barry.

In 1955 I was offered a job working for Linningtons Farm at Quex Park, a job which came with a tied cottage, which turned out to be 2, Ladds Cottages – again! The family had a great life living in Acol, and made many friends, as well as joining in with village events and helping with Church, Village Hall and Summer Fetes.

I enjoyed gardening and working on my allotment, and retired in 1988 after 34 years on the farm, but still worked part time for a further 3 years. We enjoyed holidays to Canada to visit Carol and the grandchildren.

Sadly Elsie died in 2004 after a short illness, but I was determined to stay at 2, Ladds, so with help from Audrey and family and friends I managed to remain living in my beloved house in Acol until I died.

Roy

Dad called 2, Ladds his "Forever Home", and we are all so pleased it was able to be, as it was our beloved childhood home and village too. We will so much miss not going back to 2, Ladds Cottages, but will always have such great memories of it.

Carol, Audrey & Barry = the Finch children.

TRAFFIC CALMING - PHASE 2

If you thought it was all over, it isn't yet!! I attach extracts from emails from Damien Cook from Kent Highways who was responsible for the initial phase of calming. You will see that they have proposed a second phase of calming to address some of the concerns over Crispe Road/ Margate Hill, and that this will follow an audit and a further consultation meeting.

"I attach our design proposals for both Margate Hill and Crispe Road. Unfortunately, there is very little we can construct in Crispe Road due to its minimal width, however, we are proposing to set reflective bollards in the area just after the houses where the carriageway falls away into the field, as this will prevent commuters from pulling over too close to the edge. KCC are proposing to install two sets of speed ramps in Margate Hill, these are located where there is existing sufficient lighting. Full speed ramps across the entire width of the carriageway were preferred by some residents but these are too large for this section of the carriageway as there are driveways and entrances located close to the speed ramps that will conflict.

KCC are currently aware that both priority features installed as part of the traffic calming scheme through Acol Village located at the top of Minster Hill and Acol Hill are not correctly working as vehicles are running straight over the 0-6mm build outs. I am currently investigating the design and cost to have street lights placed in these

locations in order to have these build outs raised to 125mm to ensure vehicles stop and use the priority system correctly."

"KCC will be carrying out a stage 3 road safety audit on the recently installed traffic calming scheme through the main village, if you would be so kind and wait until that has been completed before we arrange a consultation meeting date as we may have some additional works to complete depending on the result of that audit. I will contact you very soon to arrange a meeting and, in the meantime, if any of your members have any other ideas for traffic calming on Crispe Road then please do not hesitate to send over the suggestions"

ACOL VILLAGE HALL SUPPORT FUND - 200 Club

Winners for the Month of October 2018 were:

Member no. 28 who won 1st prize of £18.75

Member no. 65, who won 2nd prize of £11.25 and

Member no. 78, who won 3rd prize of £7.50

A total of £37.50 was donated to the Village Hall funds

Should you have any questions, or wish to join the scheme, please contact Iris Osborne (840901).

FORTHCOMING VILLAGE HALL EVENTS

Sat. 20th Oct. 7.00 for 7.30pm

AHS Gardeners Supper

Mon 3rd Nov. 11.00 - 2.30pm

AHS AUTUMN FAYRE

Tues 6th Nov. 7.30

AHS AGM

Wed. 7th Nov. 4.45 - 5.30pm

Police Information Session

ACOL PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Meeting held on 24th September 2018 at 18.00 hours in the Village Hall, The Street, Acol

Present: Councillors Miss Bransfield (Chairman), D Hayfield, J Inchley, M Johnson & Mrs. Osborne.

Also Present: Cllrs. Crow-Brown (TDC) & Miss Dawson (KCC) & Roy Wade (Clerk to the Council).

36. CO-OPTION TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Chairman formally welcomed Councillor Mel Johnson, who had been co-opted to the Parish Council, to his first meeting.

37. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from PCSO Ms Forsyth and KCC Warden Tony Gander.

38. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made

39. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Meetings held on 9th & 30th July 2018 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

40. REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

The Chairman brought forward this item as Cllr. Crow-Brown had to leave early to attend another meeting.

Cllr. Crow-Brown reported on:

(i) **Meeting with Iain Livingston (TDC Planning).** To discuss the service of a section 215 notice on the developers of the Crown & Sceptre in respect of the unauthorised development of the site. In considering this matter Members also had regards to the Chairman's correspondence with TDC Planning expressing the Parish Council's extreme concern at the inordinate delays in resolving these concerns. Members also noted the frustration of 2 residents of Grosvenor Cottages at these delays.

(ii) **Columbus Avenue – Proposed extension.** James Wraight (Kent Highways) had advised him that a bid for funding had been submitted in respect of proposals to extend Columbus Avenue. During the discussion of this item reference was made to the recent works to install traffic

calming measures in The Street and whether funds would allow for works to be undertaken in Margate Hill and Crispe Road.

- (iii) **Unauthorised Camping by Travellers.** TDC had put down hard core at the entrance to the old road running alongside Manston airport to restrict the use of the former road for the parking of caravans.
- (iv) **Spitfire Way Junction.** A section 215 notice had been served on the owners of the site requiring them to move back the fencing to its original position.

Cllr. Miss Dawson reported on:

- (i) **Unauthorised Camping by Travellers.** She had discussions with Mike Hill (KCC Cabinet Officer) who confirmed that KCC would work with TDC to draw up a policy of dealing with travellers.
- (ii) **Pot Holes.** The company engaged by the County Council had satisfactorily filled 2026 potholes since March 2018.
- (iii) **KCC Adult Social Care.** The cost of this service was becoming unmanageable and it highlighted the need for an increase in building more affordable housing within the County.
- (iv) **Shared Lives.** KCC were introducing a scheme which would give greater recognition to those people who care for those requiring social care assistance.

41. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman reported upon the following:

- (i) The Parish Council has sent a formal complaint to the TDC Planning Department about the lack of enforcement of the Section 215 Notice, to rebuild the top floor of the Crown & Sceptre building and replace the roof. A response is awaited.
- (ii) The Traffic Calming system appears to be affective. Less traffic has been seen and almost all have to slow down. Some commercial vehicles and cars do not, but the largest ramp can be heard damaging the undersides of these vehicles.
- (iii) Highways have asked if we need the salt bin topped up in case of ice and/or snow. Nursery Fields have expressed a desire to site another bin for residents at that end of the village, which they will discuss and confirm to the Parish Council.

42. **TRANSPARENCY CODE**

It was agreed to hold a special meeting to consider the reports circulated by Cllr. Mrs. Osborne on a possible Transparency Code and Publication Scheme for the Council.

43. **SOUTHERN WATER AUTHORITY**

Cllr. Inchley submitted the following detailed report upon a meeting on 6th September:

Present: David Manyweather (Manston Business Park Developer), Matt, (E.K.O.), Rob Edwards (Peter Brett Associates), Aaron Hughes (Peter Brett Associates), Sir Roger Gale (North Thanet MP), Linda Wright (TDC Councillor), John Gallagher and Stewart (Southern Water), Jon Inchley (Acol Parish Council).

Background

When Wiggins went bust, KCC took the opportunity to buy the patch of land between the edge of the site and Columbus Avenue at an advantageous rate.

They then, in conjunction with TDC established EKO to manage land holdings with a view to ensuring the development and subsequent disposal of the land.

EKO have appointed Peter Brett Associates as planning consultants to deliver basic infrastructure and to facilitate the developers planning applications.

David Manyweather is currently the principal developer of the Manston Business Park, and buys parcels of land, erects business units and sells these on to end users. He has currently sold as many units as he has land for – some before the units are actually erected. He is anxious to buy more parcels of land as the demand exceeds his ability to supply.

EKO are anxious to sell all the parcels of land they hold.

Manston Business Park, when fully developed and occupied will provide approx. 450 jobs to the Thanet economy, which has the highest unemployment rate in the Country.

Currently all planning applications for additional units are being refused by TDC, as the Acol Pumping Station is working at full capacity.

Southern Water will only invest in infrastructure when there is a contract committing the end user to purchasing the individual unit.

EKO have already invested in a refurbishment of a pumping station (beside Cummins) which Southern Water have taken over and maintain. This pumping station takes all the foul water from the existing buildings on the Business Park and pumps it into a manhole on the Minster Road from where it flows to Acol pumping station.

EKO have also commissioned Southern Water to undertake a study to provide a solution to the current impasse. This involves providing a new sewer from the pumping station which will take the foul water East across the 'China Gateway' land (behind Summit Aviation) and to an existing manhole in Manston Road. Southern Water estimate that this could take two to three years to deliver.

Other Considerations

Currently Acol pumping station has to deal not only with foul water, but also rainwater run-off. This should be returned to the Water Table by using soakaways, but it is quite common to find that builders find it easier to divert rainwater into sewer pipes.

Minster Road had only eight drains to cope with rainfall between the Business park and the pumping station, and these get minimal maintenance – and only when they get blocked.

The Thanet Aquifer is centred under the Airfield and is the 1st tier.

The Cummins pumping station is in the 3rd tier. Thus the risk of polluting the aquifer is less at the Cummins pumping station.

Discussion

Each party put forward its position. EKO are desperate to sell all the parcels of land, and are willing to invest to achieve a speedy solution.

Manyweathers are keen to buy all the available parcels of land, if they are able to get planning permission to build on them.

Sir Roger is anxious that the much needed jobs are facilitated. He also is concerned that the "China Gateway" land is developed for industrial use as quickly as possible to increase employment opportunities.

Peter Brett Associates are in place to assist the developer with his planning applications and are working closely with Southern Water in support of the long-term strategic solution to the disposal of foul water.

Southern Water has recently changed its processes to ensure that they do not invest in abortive schemes from which they cannot recover their investment. Thus they will only undertake work when an end user has contracted for the purchase of the site.

Thus we are in a chicken and egg situation – Southern Water cannot start work on a solution because there is no end user commitment. Manyweathers cannot get planning permission because the sewage solution is not in place, end users will not purchase units without planning permission. EKO cannot sell more parcels of land. Jobs are not being created and so on.

Sir Roger expressed outrage at the short-sighted approach of Southern Water and suggested that he would speak to the Secretary of State for the Environment and the Minister for Work and Pensions pointing out the desperate need for jobs in Thanet and the intransigence of Southern Water. He did however calm down and promise a delay in seeking the Nuclear option if a short-term expedient solution could be found.

Possible Solution – under investigation

EKO and Peter Brett Associates suggested that a possible quick fix solution may be possible. They proposed the construction of a holding tank adjacent to the Cummins pumping station, which would store foul water during the day and pump it into the system at night or during quiet periods of demand. This would, it was suggested, ease the pressure on the Acol pumping station, allowing it to handle the demand by spreading it over the 24-hour period.

Southern Water were sceptical as to whether their engineers would agree to work on the holding tank but agreed to look at the feasibility within two weeks. Clearly there are design considerations which will need to be taken into account – not least the installation of a sewage holding tank on the edge of the Thanet aquifer, and the danger of spillage.

44. RECREATION GROUND/PLAY AREA

Cllr. Hayfield thanked Karen Ault and her team of volunteers for the excellent works they had carried out to maintain the children's area.

The Clerk was asked to enquire whether the area recently reinstated needed a weed killing treatment.

45. CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk reported that (i) Members had been invited to attend the Remembrance Day service in Ramsgate on 11 November 2018, but no Members were able to attend; and (ii) correspondence had been received from the KALC about scams being carried out.

46. FINANCIAL MATTERS

Bank Balance The bank balance at 1 September 2018 was £9256.32p.

47. REPORT OF THE POLICE/COMMUNITY WARDENS/PCSOs

PCSO Ms. Forsyth was not in attendance and the Chairman read her report:

She hopes that the traffic calming work didn't cause too much disruption and that the end result is worth any inconvenience. She's interested to learn if it has made a difference.

There is a scam that has reared its ugly head again. A group of doorstep callers will offer household cleaning products for sale. They may say that they are injured or ex-servicemen or that they are ex convicts attempting to mend their ways. They may say that they are on a rehabilitation course arranged by Probation Services. This is not the case. Probation services do not run such schemes. They may also show a card which claims to be a "Pedlars Licence" or work permit, this is not valid. They may also claim to be deaf and dumb.

Please encourage your neighbours to TURN THEM AWAY. If cold callers don't get any sales in your area, they are less likely to return.

She is looking forward to the Police Surgeries on the first Wednesday of every month, in the Village Hall at 16.45. She has combined Acol with Manston to provide all villagers with an opportunity to ask any questions they may have.

Members asked that the Clerk ascertains from the Police Service whether officers would attend future Parish Council meetings as they used to.

48. REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr. Miss Bransfield will resume attendance at the Thanet Parish Forum and Cllr. Johnson volunteered to attend meetings of the Kent Association of Local Councils.

49. REPORTS BY MEMBERS

Cllr. Mrs. Osborne. (i) **Thanet Area Local Councils:** It was agreed to display a poster in the Village Hall on "Share it don't ignore it"; and (ii) CPRE were seeking to increase its membership to build up its funds to maintain the integrity of the countryside.

Cllr. Inchley. Village Hall Kitchen: The works to the extension of the kitchen had had to be delayed as it was necessary to seek advice from a structural engineer.

Cllr. Hayfield. Drones: KALC had issued advice on the controlling of drones, but there are already appropriate Laws, covering qualification and insurance, laid down by the Civil Aviation Authority.

50. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed to hold the next meeting on 3rd December 2018 commencing at 14.00 hours.

Time concluded: 19.15

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USEFUL INFORMATION

NEW - TRIAL SESSIONS

Trial sessions of "Gentle Yoga" are being set up and will take place Tuesdays, 11.30am-12.45pm, from 30th October to 4th December, inclusive. *"Yoga is ideal if you would like to improve your flexibility, strength and balance. It also helps reduce aches and pains, lowers blood pressure and stress, the list goes on."* More information can be found on www.jillsyoga.jimdo.com or Facebook page [Jill's Yoga](#). Email at jill.pantony@btinternet.com

REFUSE COLLECTIONS

**Refuse (black), Garden (Green)
& waste food**

Recycling (blue), red bag & waste food

15th October

29th October

8th October

22nd October

5th November

If you have problems putting your bins out, ring TDC, **577115**, or **577727** with queries.

VILLAGE HALL

Please ring **841691** to enquiry about hall availability. Bookings already coming in for 2019, so please apply early if you will need to use the facilities.

REGULAR BOOKINGS

Monday afternoons (term time) - Pam's People

First Tuesday evening - AHS meeting

All other Tuesday evenings, Dance Fitness Class

Wednesday 9.00 to 16.30 (term time), Village Textiles

Alternate Wednesday evenings - Life Drawing Art Group

Every Thursday evening - Art Group. **Art Group Website:** www.acolartgroup.org/

Friday 9.00 to 16.30 (term time), Village Textiles

Monthly, Saturdays, 10am-4pm - Phoenix Quilters.

(Check hall calendar or email Sheila.Bransfield@btinternet.com for information)

ACOL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

GARDENER'S SUPPER

Come and join us for an entertaining evening of 'Horse Racing' on
Saturday 20th October
7.00 for 7.30pm in Acol Village Hall

Toy money but real fun!

Admission £6.00, (includes supper of Jumbo Sausage or Cod Bites with Chips.)

To book please ring Nancy on 845546,
(stating choice of supper - bring your own drink)

ACOL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

AUTUMN FAYRE

Saturday 3rd November
In Acol Village Hall

Doors Open 11.00am to 2.30pm

RAFFLE TOMBOLA CAKES

**Soup & French Bread served at
Midday**

£5 to book a sales table

To book a sales table please ring Nancy
on 845546

USEFUL INFORMATION Continued

FUTURE EVENTS BOOKED

Saturday 20th October, afternoon, AHS Gardeners' Supper.

Tuesday 30th October, 11.30am to 12.45pm, Gentle Yoga.

Saturday 3rd November, am to 3pm, AHS Autumn Fayre.

Tuesday 6th November, 11.30am to 12.45pm, Gentle Yoga

Tuesday 6th November, evening - AHS AGM.

Wednesday 7th November, 4.45 to 5.30pm, Police Information Session.

Tuesday 13th November, 11.30am to 12.45pm, Gentle Yoga

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH.

Acol's Co-ordinator, Iris Osborne (840901), will keep you advised of anything suspicious and what appropriate precautions to take, so please send her your contact details, if you haven't already.

PCSO (Support Officer)

Debbie Forsyth is keen to meet with and speak to villagers. Please attend her Information Session if you have any queries or concerns regarding policing.

CCTV CAMERAS

Hopefully incidents will be reduced by the recent traffic calming, but please report anything untoward to 844706.

ACOL PARISH COUNCIL

Acol Parish Council website: www.hugofox.com/community/acol-parish-council-13724/contact/

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.

THE NEXT MEETING OF ACOL PARISH COUNCIL - 2PM, MONDAY 3RD DECEMBER.

Sheila Bransfield

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London, SW1A 0AA

MINSTER SURGERY

SEASONAL WINTER 'FLU VACCINATIONS 2018

Vaccination Clinics will next be held on Saturday 10th November from 9.00 - 1.00 pm.

Appointments are now available and can be made in the usual way via the surgery.

THANK YOU!

We are pleased to announce that our target to purchase an additional "24hour Blood Pressure Monitor" has been achieved, enabling us to purchase the equipment which is now available for patient's use. your donations in helping us achieve our target so quickly.

MISSED APPOINTMENTS

Last Month: 38 PATIENTS DID NOT attend their DOCTOR'S APPOINTMENT!

56 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 we received 204 patient responses to "would you recommend our Practice" as follows:

Extremely likely/Likely - 93%; Extremely unlikely/Unlikely - 4%; Unsure/Don't know - 3%

SURGERY CLOSURE DAYS

Please note that the surgery will close from 1.00 pm onwards on the following days:

Staff Training - Wednesday 17th October and Thursday 29th November.

Please ensure that you have sufficient medication to last you and your family during these times.

Should you need to see a Doctor when the surgery is closed, please call the NHS 111 Service via the normal surgery number 821333, or you can call direct on 111, to receive "non urgent" confidential health advice and information for you and your family. For Urgent/Life threatening cases please dial 999 as normal.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Will be held on SATURDAY 24th NOVEMBER.

PATIENT GROUP MEETING

If you have any issues you would like to raise at our meeting in October or require further information on any of the above, then please contact Mary Hodgson (842764).

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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 place contributions to Village Voice in the post box on the wall of the Village Hall (by the main door) or e-mail to villagevoice@btinternet.com.

This edition of Village Voice has been sponsored by his family in loving memory of Roy Finch (see leading article).

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 November 2018.