



# THE ROOSTER

## Roos Village Newsletter

No. 25

December 1987

### ROOS PARISH COUNCIL

Councillor G.E. Winter took the chair at the meeting of 9th November. Also present were Councillors Bowden, Cheeseman, Grant, Helliwell, and Priest. Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Clark, Cook and Quarmby.

#### THE MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of 12th October were approved. Holderness Design Award. When asked, Mr Crook had said that he would be interested to have his house - formerly the old school - entered for the Award. Subject to eligibility, the Council agreed to support the entry.

Bulb-planting. Members noted that planting along the Withernsea road had already started.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

Memorial Institute. The Committee had written to apologise for inconvenience during the alterations. Countryside Campaign. A leaflet had been received concerning the Council of Europe / U.K. Campaign for the Countryside 1987 - 8.

Larger Post Box. The authorities had agreed that a larger box was needed outside Roos Post Office. A new box would be provided as soon as possible.

National Tree Week. Trees to be planted would be delivered to the Parish Clerk. He had contacted the Highways Department about their siting.

Tree Preservation Orders. The Borough's Tree Officer, Mr Hemingway, had agreed to come to Roos to discuss preservation orders on 16th November.

Forward Planning. Councillor Bowden had recommended in writing that the Council should prepare a forward budget, based on an estimate of measures considered desirable during in the following year. He argued that the Council should not simply meet routine costs but should have a strategic plan to improve the village year by year. To facilitate future discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk should seek information from the Borough Council about the following: the balance of rate income held for Roos at Skirlaugh, the cost of local elections, and the estimated product of a penny rate.

The Village Green. Humberside Technical Services had replied to an enquiry about the prospect of landscaping the 'village green'. The Clerk was asked to

write again to propose a meeting with councillors.

Roos Beck. In reply to the query by the Parish Clerk, the Yorkshire Water Authority had reiterated Borough Council advice that riparian owners were responsible for clearing the beck. Neither the Water Authority nor the Keyingham Drainage Board were responsible. Councillor Grant explained, however, that if there was a blockage, the Drainage Board had power to clear it and charge the cost to riparian owners. The Chairman thought that the cost of maintaining the beck or of potting it would be too great for the owners. It was agreed that all previous correspondence should be reviewed at the next meeting.

Humberside 'Jumbulance'. It was decided not to support Scunthorpe Rotary Club in their £200,000 appeal for a 'jumbulance' to provide continental holidays for terminally-ill patients.

#### PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Pumping Station at N End (Grid reference TA 287312). Members supported an application by the Yorkshire Water Authority to replace the existing steel pumping station with a pre-cast concrete structure.

Bungalow, Hilston Road. (Part of O.S. field 47).

Also accepted was a revised plan from Mr and Mrs Moore of Easington - outline consent had already been given - and a request to place a caravan on the site until the bungalow was built.

South of Dove Lane. Application by William Grant, Ltd, for residential development. Councillor Grant withdrew during discussion of this item. A revised application - for eleven houses instead of fourteen - had been deferred at the Borough planning meeting to allow further local consideration.

The Parish Council supported development of the site but approved the restriction recommended by the Borough's officers in the Village Plan - for a limit of six houses. It was argued that the officers' reasons were valid - to preserve the character of this part of the village - and that if guidelines were ignored there would be little point in having a Village Plan at all.

Applications Approved. The Borough Council had approved the following: Straw-bedded sow-house, South End (Mr John Kirkwood); Bungalow and single

garage, on site at 9 Chestnut Garth (Mr Dennis); Sports Pavilion (Playing Field Committee).

### ACCOUNTS

Use of Memorial Institute : £16.00 payment approved.

### ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Condition of Main Street. Councillor Grant drew attention to the fact that for several days there had been standing water on Main Street just north of Mr Hinch's shop. This was a traffic hazard and children were especially at risk. Other councillors agreed but added that the road through the village - from Pilmar Lane to the new school - needed attention. Work on this section had been promised and was long overdue. The Clerk was asked to write to the Area Surveyor to stress the danger and the need for urgent action.

Councillors' Seminar at Beverley. Councillors Bowden and Helliwell had attended a seminar for new councillors organised by the Humberside Association of Parish and Town Councils. They answered questions about the seminar, though there was no time to develop points fully. Councillor Bowden listed several topics he had noted, including advice that Parish Councils should actively promote improvements in their communities - if necessary by making a special rate precept. The Chairman commented that Roos Parish Council had always been noted for its economy with public money.

Procedural topics discussed included : the importance of having a detailed agenda and the need to restrict "Any Other Business" to prevent premature decisions on items raised without notice.

### Future Meetings

14th December & 11th January

Meetings are held at 7.30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month in the Memorial Institute.

Members of the public always welcome

### Women's Institute

#### Annual Meeting

The year's events were reviewed by the Secretary and Treasurer (Mrs M. Godfrey and Mrs P. Alexander) and in the Presidential Address by Mrs N. Hornby.

The record of interesting speakers, demonstrations and outings showed that the W.I. is not all "Jam and Jerusalem". Apart from the fellowship created by the monthly meetings, opportunity is provided for women's views to be heard in higher places.

The President, Secretary and Treasurer all agreed to serve another term in office and were duly thanked for their hard work in 1987. Programme planning, so ably done by Mrs M. Payne and Mrs P. Cheeseman, is now in the capable hands of Mrs S. Tyson, who has produced a very interesting diary for 1988.

Sadly, Mrs L. Foster, who has been a committee member for 66 years, has decided to resign from the committee. With her partner, Mrs D. Burn, she will still run the raffles and provide prizes for them. In appreciation of her work - and of her Diamond Wedding in December - Mrs Foster was presented with a lovely cake, made and decorated by Mrs Payne. Portions were distributed to members present, who raised their glasses in a celebratory toast.

### Blind Sale

Owing to renovation work at the Memorial Institute during the day, this year's Blind Sale was held at Tunstall. As well as being a very pleasant occasion, it was very successful : a record £441.76 was raised, bringing our Guild total to £4391.22. Many thanks are due to enthusiastic ticket-sellers Mrs L. Foster and Mrs T. Arksey (and Tom), who provided transport and refreshments, and to all who supported the sale. After paying for hire of the hall, tea money was used to provide a plant for Mrs Foster in recognition of 41 years as a ticket-seller. One wonders if that is a record too.

### December Party

The President welcomed members and guests to a brief business meeting, after which, to end the year on a cheery note, there was an evening of entertainment. The hall had been given a festive look by Mrs Payne and Mrs Cheeseman, with cards of welcome and Christmas candles on the tables, members' contributions for a buffet supper, and parcels for the Christmas competition.

A comedy playlet was read/performed by Mesdames E. Conley, M. Payne, N. Hornby, J. Bowden, I. Helliwell and C. Farrington. Supper was served amid cheery chatter and the evening was rounded off with a Christmas Quiz followed by carol-singing.

The first meeting of 1988 will be on 3rd February, when we are to be entertained by Mr R. Wray, whose topic is Yorkshire Dialect. The competition will be for a limerick - "There was a young lady of Roos". For those of you who say, "I'm no good at them," why not run a similar competition at your Christmas party and work on ideas you receive?

C.F.

Come and enjoy

"A Bedfull of Fun"

and

GRAND DRAW

with The Headway Players

Roos School : Tuesday 5th January : 7.30 p.m.

Refreshments : mince pies and tea.

Adults : £1.00. Senior Citizens and Children : 75p.

All proceeds to the Institute Funds.

# The Rooster

## The "November" Newsletter

The last newsletter was circulated in August. An issue was prepared for November, including items from September and October. The material was passed to the printer well before the end of October. However, there have been printing difficulties - what was to have been the last printed version has not yet materialised. If the November issue is available in time, it will be delivered at the same time as this issue.

An item included in the November material explained the prospects for "The Rooster" at that time. Since readers have not seen the article, much of it is reproduced below - with some updating.

### Donations - and Opinions

A sheet inserted in the August issue explained why future copies would have to be photocopied and discussed how the expense might be met. A tear-off slip invited readers to respond to an appeal for donations to help meet the cost - at £1.00 per household per year.

So far nearly seventy replies and donations have been received. Thank you for this response - and for the fact that some of the donors gave more than the suggested amount. The response in the early stages was encouraging - and several people who have not yet donated have said that they intend to do so. All the same, the total amount so far received would not meet the cost of a year's copies for the whole village.

The tear-off slip invited comments about other questions. Not every donor supplied a comment. Of those who did, a significant majority (40 against 16) said that copies should be supplied to everyone in Roos, regardless of whether they had made a donation. (However, two persons pointed out that £1.00 a year would be a burden to nobody and that copies should not be forced on people who did not want them). As to the possibility of seeking advertisers, the numbers of those who approved and of those who disapproved are so far roughly equal : 28 - 27. (I should prefer to leave an actual decision about advertising until a later date).

Some donations have come from outside Roos - from residents of Tunstall and Hilston, for example, where there has been no door-to-door delivery of the newsletter. These are people who have been used to picking up spare copies from Mr Hinch's shop. In future, there will be no such spares : it would be uneconomic to produce copies beyond the known need. The names of donors in the outlying villages have been noted. Individual copies will be left for them each month at Mr Hinch's shop. Any other people outside Roos who would like to make a donation and collect their copies in this way, should contact me.

Wherever you live, if you have not yet made a donation - but intend to - please do so as soon as possible. Use the slip supplied with the last newsletter or use another piece of paper to supply the details asked for below.

### THE ROOSTER : ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION SCHEME

*Return the slip in an envelope to Leslie Helliwell, Lamb Lane, OR to Mr Hinch's shop.*

*X Delete any parts that do not apply X*

I wish "The Rooster" to continue.  
I enclose a donation of £1.00 (or more?) 1987- 8.

Copies should be delivered to every household OR  
only to those who have donated.

Advertising to meet costs : I approve / disapprove.

Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Address : \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone : \_\_\_\_\_

### The New Format

The new format is not as attractive as that of the printed version we have become used to. The page size is the same but - if they are to be legible - there will be fewer words to the line. However, since we shall be unable to reproduce photographs, it may be that the actual text will be about the same and there may be no great loss of space for reports and articles. But until this is confirmed in practice, contributors should write as briefly as possible. Lengthy articles may need to be shortened so as to fit them all in.

There are only a few articles in this issue. Because publication of "The Rooster" has recently been so unpredictable, contributors have had no incentive to meet the deadlines. From now onwards, the aim will be to have the newsletter distributed during the first week of each month. Because of Christmas, however, it may not be possible to produce the next issue for the first week of January.

### Rooster Deadline

Normally : third Monday of the previous month.

For the January 1988 issue, the fourth Monday :  
**Monday 28th December.**

Contributions to : L.Helliwell, Lamb Lane. (670291)



# A History of Roos

G.W. Wilbraham : Schoolmaster, 1919 - 1949

Mr Wilbraham's daughter, Mrs Mary Gee, has kindly given permission to print extracts from his history in "The Rooster". He was, of course, a well-known local historian as well as the highly-respected schoolmaster in Roos for most of his teaching life.

Mrs Gee says that later researchers have offered minor corrections. What follows is the history as he wrote it : no factual details have been changed.

There has, however, been a little editing. The layout (e.g. the paragraphing) has been adapted to fit the newsletter format. In places, phrasing has been slightly abridged. Occasionally it has been expanded : this is because Mr Wilbraham's original is sometimes in note form and might not have been clear to all readers.

The extract below is from the opening pages. As space allows, further extracts will be printed in "The Rooster".

## Place Names

Place names in our country are almost impossible to 'date' for the origins of settlements here go back into the distant past. True it is that many of our village names bear in part the name of the original founder with a suffix, such as -ham, -ton, -thorpe, and -by. Ottringham, for example, derives from :

- Otteri (name of the head of the settlement)
- + ing (the family of)
- + ham (village);

"The village of the family of Otteri".

"Roos", however, has a different origin. It is an ancient Friesian word meaning "watery land". As our parish has many acres of low-lying land, south, south-west, and west, it was an appropriate name the first settlers gave to it. They were the Friesians who came in comparatively small numbers up the Humber and settled in our part of Yorkshire called Holderness, which is a name derived from a Friesian word meaning "a stream of water".

These folk - who could have been here for hundreds of years - left no written records. But the Romans, a more advanced people, found out their origin and

called the area "Parisi" - which is a kind of corruption of the word "Frisii". A number of words used by "natives" of Holderness are Friesian in origin.

Other invaders had jealous eyes on Holderness : so much so that our forebears made and manned entrenchments overlooking the miles of watery land and the Humber inlet now called Stony Creek.

These entrenchments could be seen in field No.71 on the Parish Award map : two parallel embankments with a sunken space between, overlooking a great expanse of water before drainage was taken seriously in hand. Alas, they have disappeared. In 1965 a bull-dozing operation wiped them out. They had been in no one's way for years, as it was pasture land, but now it is arable.

Little is known of the way of life of these early settlers but their clothing, their dwellings, their food, and their religion would be very primitive, for it must be remembered that the Parisi were living in Holderness before Christ was born. By the time Christianity reached Holderness, most had mingled in marriage with later conquerors. Only those in the West were still Celts - in Wales, in Cornwall, and in the Lake District.

But one thing left of them here is the name of our village : ROOS. It has certainly changed in spelling, having been written down as ROOSE, ROS? AND ROOSSE - but it is still pronounced by the natives as ROS.

## In Roman Times

The Roman occupation of Britain lasted from about A.D.43 to A.D.409. The Romans always called our country Britannia. That Roos remained in existence is sure but Holderness was not easily penetrated by land and that is how the Romans would have come. They were sociable rather than oppressors wherever they went.

Holderness - in fact, the whole length of Yorkshire - was menaced by invaders. To keep a look-out for them, the Romans established stations near the coast. There must have been a Roman road some distance from it for Roman pottery has been found at Withernsea and Aldbrough. Wherever they went, they were a good influence and some of the native menfolk

may well have served with Roman legions in Britain and beyond.

When the Roman legions were withdrawn, there followed a time of trouble for Britain. Early historians tell us that, in answer to piteous appeals for protection from invaders, two armies came again; but in a few years Britain was overwhelmed by our forefathers - the Angles, Saxons, and Jutes.

## The Anglo-Saxons

This period lasted between six and seven hundred years, during which the name of our country changed to England - the land of the Angles. Holderness must have been one of the earliest conquests of these German tribes.

As we have seen, these folk had been menacing our coast before the Romans left. As their boats were more seaworthy, it was easier for them than for the Gaels or Celts many hundreds of years before.

Have you seen the model of the North Ferriby boat found in the Humber Flats? Or did you see the actual boat suspended from the ceiling of a room in the Albion Street Museum before it was burned down in the enemy blitz on the city?

They swarmed up the Humber and its many creeks and established settlements, being wise enough to use those of the natives, simply changing their names, which told one to whom they belonged. The Britons were either driven off or enslaved - or, if they gave any trouble, put to death.

Look at the map of Holderness and the names of villages and hamlets. Note their endings : -ham, -ton, -thorpe, -wick, etc. These people had come as settlers. They were able to establish themselves because they found the country defenceless.

150 years went by until the country was truly Anglo-Saxon. At one time there were seven kingdoms, Roos being part of Northumbria. Finally - in 827 - Egbert, King of Wessex, overthrew the other petty sovereigns and the single kingdom of England was born.

(There follows an account of an Anglo-Saxon bronze pendant found in a local gravel pit and presented to the Hull Museum by Miss Dickinson before 1914.)