



# THE ROOSTER

Roos Village Newsletter

No. 57A

July 1997

**The Chairman & members  
of Roos Parish Council  
invite you to the  
Parish Meeting  
Wednesday 23rd July  
7.30 p.m.  
Roos Memorial Institute**

**Guest speaker :  
Christine Walker  
Holderness Arts Foundation**

**Reports  
from Roos groups  
and organisations**

**Parish Council Report  
with details of :  
The Parish Paths Partnership  
A Village Design project  
The Meridian Treeline -  
a scheme for the Millenium**

**Questions and discussion**

## Hello again!

The last Rooster appeared in August 1990 just before I served a long stretch in hospital. The main purpose of this one is to advertise the Parish Meeting next Wednesday.

I always hoped to start the newsletter again but so far there have always been other calls on my time (and there still are). This issue has been paid for from funds previously donated. There's still cash in hand - there may be other issues.

If I do produce further editions it may not be possible to do so every month. In any case, help with delivery would be welcome. If you could offer help or have any comments contact me at Canwick, Lamb Lane, or ring 670291.

Leslie Helliwell.

## Who cares?

If you do - come along on Wednesday 23rd July at 7.30.

The Parish Council are required to hold at least one Parish Meeting each year. The occasion is intended to give residents the opportunity to discuss village matters with their elected parish councillors. Usually very few people turn up.

This year the councillors are hoping to make the evening more attractive by offering a three-part programme.

First, we shall have a visiting speaker - Christine Walker, the Development Worker with the Holderness Arts Foundation in Hedon. The Foundation can provide village activities for both children and adults. Christine will explain what is on offer and answer questions from the public.

Second, we are inviting speakers from our own Roos groups and organisations. Depending on the number of groups who accept, a representative from each will speak for 5 - 10 minutes about their own group. We hope that this will give an insight into the life of our community in mid-1997. It may also reveal ways in which the Parish Council may help to support local activities.

Third, of course, there will be the report from the Parish Council itself. Each month councillors face a flood of information and advice from the East Riding of Yorkshire Council and others as well as letters from the public. They are also asked to consider a range of planning applications affecting the village. If you have your own opinions about the way in which Roos is developing, you should come and express them.

This year councillors have additionally been discussing three major initiatives : parish footpaths, Village Design, and a plan to mark the Millenium. These three schemes are described more fully in the rest of the newsletter.

You may have a topic to raise yourself -

- Is Neighbourhood Watch alive and well?
- Are you happy with the East Riding of Yorkshire Council?
- Does Roos have a drugs problem?
- Are we at risk from coastal erosion?

**Once a year we have this opportunity for public discussion.  
Please take part.**

# Country Walks

## A problem...

At one time Roos had footpaths going in all directions. People used them to get to work and to visit friends and relatives in other villages across the fields. With better roads and the coming of the motor car the footpaths fell into disuse. Unused paths become overgrown - or are ploughed up. Nowadays many of us who live in the country don't know where we are allowed to walk. Only on the roads?

## ...and a solution

The East Riding runs a government-funded scheme to restore old paths that are known to be rights of way. Their Parish Paths Officer, Patrick Wharam, spoke about it to the Parish Council in 1996. Members agreed to enter into a Parish Paths Partnership.

A Parish Paths Group was formed to plan and oversee the work. If the East Riding approves the plans, a grant is made to pay for labour and materials.

We benefit from another government scheme. BTCV - The British Trust

for Conservation Volunteers - offers work for the unemployed. Some are trained craftsmen whose skills are used as necessary. There is no charge to us for labour.

## Progress of the work

The Parish of Roos includes Tunstall, Hilston and Owstwick. It has a total of seventeen rights of way. Eight were included in the 1996 - 7 contract.

BTCV cleared the paths and firmed some with stones. They erected bridges and signposts and put up waymarkers. All the signposts say "PUBLIC FOOTPATH". Some also show the destination and distance - "ROOS - 2 MILES".

Further work is planned for 1997 - 8. It includes improvement to the path from Dent's Garth down to the gate of Roos churchyard.

## Key people

Alan Bowden has been the mainstay of the Parish Paths Group. He has walked all the paths and has been in

daily contact with BTCV staff and workers. Seek his advice if you have any problems over the routes.

Patrick Wharam has also given us tremendous help, both in surveying the paths and in helping set out our funding application. (He is to be guest speaker for Roos WI on 6th August. If you are a member, make sure to attend.)

## Publicity

We hope to have a display board in the village and a printed leaflet with proper maps.

We may have funding to pay a professional designer but anyone with the expertise who can offer (free) help will be welcomed with open arms.

## Paths completed in 1996 - 97

**Path 2. Ostwick.** From a point between Kenby Farm and The Elms the path goes south to the Roos-Burton Pidsea road.

**Path 4. Hilston - Roos.** From Norwood Plantation on the parish boundary in the north the path crosses the road near Mount Farm, then goes SE to Hilston Road, Roos, S of North End Farm.

**Path 5. Roos - Tunstall.** Roos Post Office to Southfield Lane, Tunstall. On the initial stretch the hedge has been cut back and the path dug out and packed with stones.

**Path 6. Tunstall.** Southfield Lane to Sand-le-Mere. Continues Path 5.

**Path 11. Tunstall.** From road west of Kiln Farm southwards to Path 6 near Tunstall Hall.

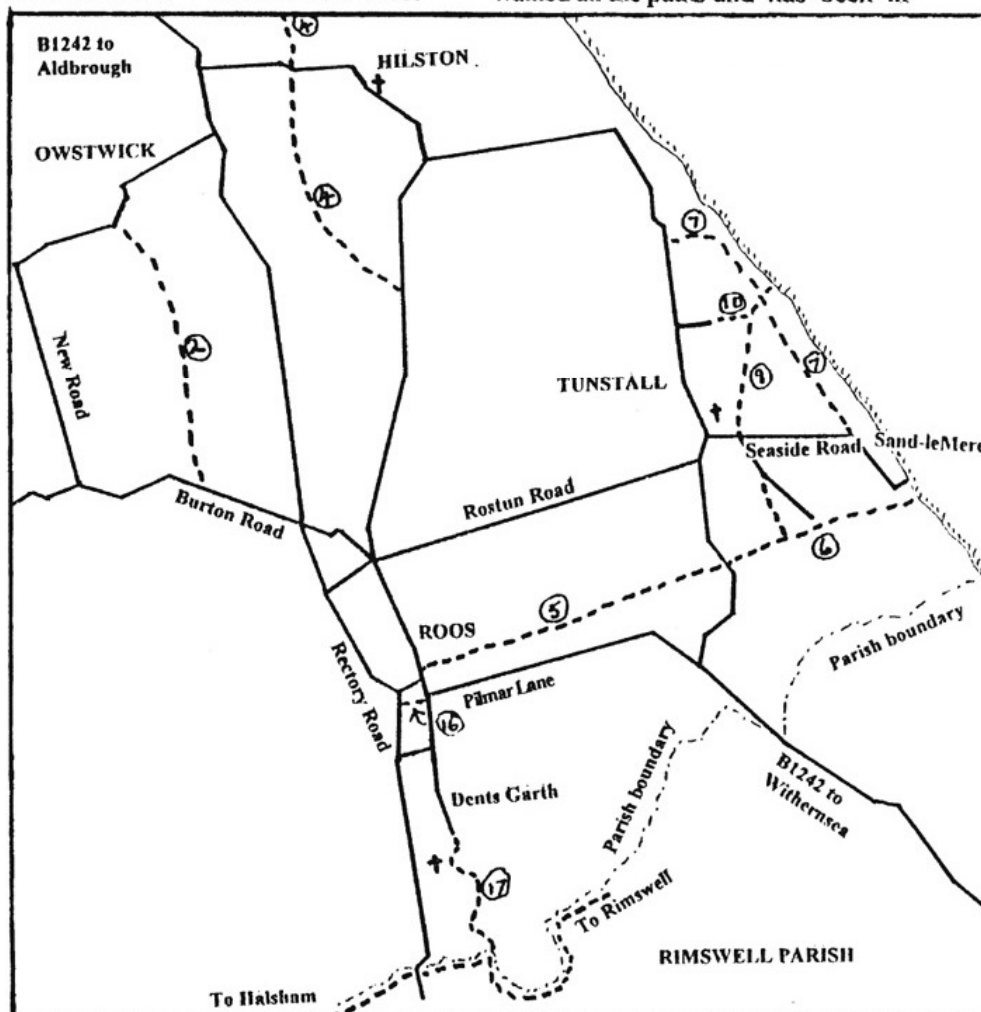
**Path 16. Roos.** Signposts placed at each end of the path past Ivy Row from Main Street to Rectory Road.

**Path 17. Roos.** From Dents Garth south past the church and sewage works to the parish boundary. Beyond, two connecting paths go respectively W to Halsham and E to Rimswell. \*

*\* Paths in other parishes may not be walkable. To restore through routes their councils need to collaborate.*

Following a churchwarden's request, the Parish Council also asked BTCV to put up a signpost to Roos Church at the Albrough crossroads.

**If you want to know more - or can offer help - ring either Alan Bowden (670078) or Leslie Helliwell (670291).**



# Village Design

## Roos is bound to grow

Roos is a "selected settlement". It has been identified as a village where development can take place. Whether we like it or not, Roos is going to grow.

The planning authority - formerly Holderness Borough, now the East Riding - identifies from time to time areas where building will be allowed. Until recently we haven't been able to do much to influence the kind of houses being built, their appearance and their density.

## Limited power of the Parish Council

When a developer submits an application to the East Riding, the Parish Council is allowed to comment on it but has no power to reject it. Councillors may support it but if they don't like it all they can do is to state objections to it. Their objections must be on planning grounds - i.e. they can claim that the application breaks some planning regulation or guideline. In spite of their objections, the planning authority will often allow an application.

This procedure is very negative. Local people, represented by the Parish Council, can only react to plans submitted. They have no influence on the kind of plans put forward. They can't, for example, say in advance that they would like a particular green space to be left or that houses of a certain type would be best for a particular site.

## A new opportunity

The last government published a White Paper, "Rural England". John Gummer, then Secretary of State for the Environment, said that it, "emphasised the need to safeguard local character, especially in rural areas." The government, supported, "the Countryside Commission's work on understanding and influencing the design of development in rural areas."

These words are quoted from the foreword of "Village Design", a two-part publication of the Countryside Commission published in 1996.

"Village Design" provides for the first time a chance for local people to have an input into the planning process. Formerly we could only object ("Not in my backyard"), often without success. Now we can set out in advance how we want our village to develop and what we want to prevent.

## Village Design

The two booklets that make up "Village Design" describe the scope of what local people can do and give advice on how to set about producing a Village Design Statement. Such a statement can be submitted to the planning authority. If accepted, it is consulted as "supplementary planning guidance" - in other words, it will be observed by planners and, more important, noted by developers before they submit their planning applications.

## An effective Village Design Statement :

- is developed, researched, written and edited by local people;
- is representative of the views of the village as a whole;
- has involved a wide section of the village community in its production;
- describes the visual character of the village;
- demonstrates how local character and distinctiveness can be protected and enhanced in local development;
- is compatible with the statutory planning system and the local planning context;
- is suitable for approval as supplementary planning guidance;
- is applicable to all forms and scale of development;
- is about managing change in the village, not preventing it.

## How to do it

Part 2 of "Village Design" has practical advice on how to set about producing a Village Design Statement. The first thing, of course, is to form a team of local people who want to take part. They may have differing views of the village and they may not always agree but they will share a concern to protect what is good in Roos and ensure that future development improves the village and does not spoil it.

The booklet advises as a next step carrying out a survey of the village - going out in small groups, discussing what is to be seen at each point, noting the opinions expressed and taking a series of photographs. From this initial research it will be possible to mount a display of the photographs and a summary of the observations made.

Such a display will lead to further observations and the development of a set of principles : an agreement about what is good and to be preserved and what is unsatisfactory and to be improved - or avoided in future.

Later work will consolidate the initial material and principles and begin the first draft of the Design Statement.

## Cost?

There will be some expense, especially for the printing of the final Design Statement. Sources of funding are suggested. It should be possible to get financial support.

## The team

What can't be provided from outside is the members of the team and the time they will need to give to the project. But that's the whole point : if this is to be a statement of what Roos people want, only Roos people can produce it.

**Please come to the Parish Meeting and offer your help : your interest, your local knowledge and your particular skills. We can do something positive to prevent our village from being spoilt by haphazard and unsatisfactory development.**



# Making a mark in time and space

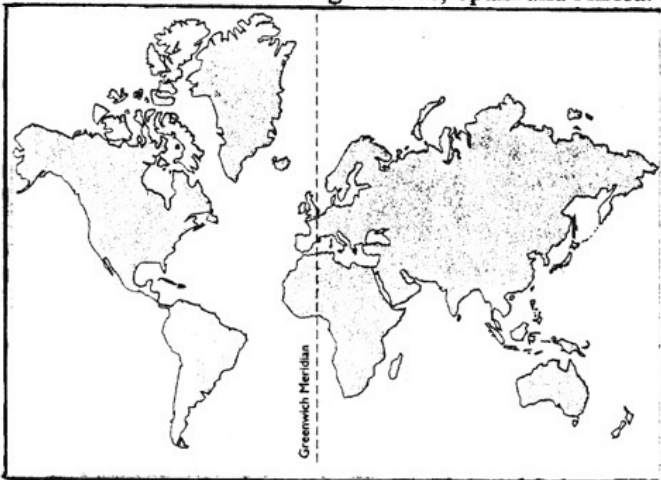
## The new millenium

At midnight on 31st December in the year 2000 the third millenium will begin. The date and time will be measured on the Greenwich Meridian. This line - zero degrees longitude as agreed internationally in 1884 - stretches from the North Pole to the South Pole. The first coastline it crosses is at Tunstall. It leaves Britain at Peacehaven on the south coast between Newhaven and Brighton.

The whole world sets its clocks by mid-day ("meridiem" in Latin) at Greenwich - so many hours before or after Greenwich Mean Time. For this reason the new millenium will start only on the meridian - for us, at Tunstall.

## A Meridian Tree Line

All parishes through which the meridian line passes in England have been invited to collaborate in a project to plant trees at intervals along its entire length. It is hoped to continue the Tree Line through France, Spain and Africa.



On 7th January local councillors and others met Dr Patrick Roper, Director of the Millenium Tree Line Project. He was accompanied by Catherine Freeman, Project Co-ordinator. Her father, Rodney Freeman, publicised the project by walking the 270 miles from Tunstall to the South Coast and his start was reported in the local press.

## Making a start

Dr Roper said that the scheme was already under way. At Peacehaven the meridian runs through the grounds of an infants school. With the enthusiastic help of the children three trees were planted. A Maple, planted where the playing field meets the play-ground, will grow into a substantial tree and one day may have a circular seat around its trunk. The other two, though native to the area, are now quite rare. Their planting fulfils the Project's policy of nature conservation and restoration. For a tiny space a Box tree was chosen and will be trimmed to keep it small. This fulfils another principle - to match the tree to the location.

## Organisation and benefits

All existing trees on the meridian as well as new ones are recorded on computer at the University of Greenwich where Millenium Tree Line is based. The non-profit-making company invites sponsors to fund the planting of new trees. If they wish, their names will be included in the database. The trees will form a living monument to the meridian and

the new millenium. They will also enhance the environment, providing a store of ancient trees, a habitat for endangered species, and a source for future research. Once established, the Tree Line will be visible from space.

## How to proceed

The first step, Dr Roper said, was to identify the line of the meridian. Even the best standard maps were too inaccurate. For more precise measurements a special instrument was used, a "Global Positioning System" (GPS). By co-ordinating transmissions from a number of satellites it could establish the meridian to within one centimetre. Then the permission of landowners was needed to plant trees on their property. Later, some of the group went to Tunstall and saw GPS in action. It showed that the meridian currently crosses our coastline just to the south of Sand-le-Mere.

## Monumental marker

No trees would survive the exposure on our coastline. In fact they would one by one fall into the sea because of coastal erosion. Therefore, instead of trees, a meridian marker has been suggested - a monument placed at the high-water line at the turn of the century. It would not only mark the meridian at the time but would provide a visible indicator of the erosion rate. Future generations would see how far it had moved out to sea as the centuries passed.

## Can it be afforded?

At first Roos councillors felt that the cost of setting up a meridian marker at Sand-le-Mere could not be considered but they were encouraged not to reject the idea out of hand by Mr Andrew Knight of the East Riding's Planning Environmental & Technical Services Department. At the March meeting he spoke enthusiastically about the many benefits of the project.

## A new local landmark - or seamark?

A meridian marker, he said, would be of great interest to residents and tourists alike. It would be a unique structure and, if properly designed, would be a significant artistic feature of the Holderness landscape, possibly for centuries.

## How to pay for it

As to funding, the marker would be eligible for a heritage grant from National Lottery money. To attract a grant, local contributions would be needed but there would be many local firms - including engineering companies who had worked on coastline protection - who would be keen to support such a prestigious scheme. Mr Knight had himself helped other communities to obtain lottery funding and he was confident that a scheme by Roos Parish Council would be successful. A 90% grant could be awarded for projects up to £100,000. He suggested how the other 10% might be found through sponsorship and outlined a possible budget.

## Public opinion

The Parish Council have agreed in principle to discuss the project further but need to assess local opinion.

**Whether you are thrilled by the prospect of a Meridian Marker at Sand-le-Mere or think it would be a wicked waste of lottery money, come along and have your say at the Parish Meeting.**