



# THE ROOSTER

Roos Village Newsletter

No. 71

January 2001

## Roos Parish Council

Councillors Cheeseman, Cook, Kirk, Jackson, D. Winter and E. Winter (Chairman) were present on 8th January.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Grant, Priest and Quarmby and from the Parish Clerk (delayed by a traffic hold-up in the West Riding. The Chairman undertook to provide a record of the meeting.

### Minutes

The December Minutes were approved. Under "Matters Arising" the following points were noted :

Millennium monument. As previously reported, suitable pieces of granite had been identified but no decision had yet been reached as to which of them should be used.

Yorkshire Water. The Clerk's letter had had no reply..

Crossroads sign at North End. The sign was still missing.

Parish Path at Tunstall. It appeared that the right of way across a field was not to be reinstated.

### Correspondence

Planning : Owstwick Grange (R.D. Webster). The application to erect a manager's house had been refused.

Litter bins. The East Riding sought details of the location of bins that needed emptying.

Regional Planning Guidance & the Joint Structure Plan. A letter had been received explaining what work had been done. It was anticipated that Regional Planning Guidance would be published in the Summer of 2001 and the Joint Structure Plan shortly afterwards.

Roos Village Design Statement. Each councillor had been sent a copy of the draft. Comments were invited. See below.

### Roos VDS

The Chairman congratulated the VDS Committee on their work; the VDS draft was both thorough and interesting. Other members unanimously agreed and gave the document their full support.

Two topics were referred to by Councillor Cook.

Street lighting. The VDS had noted that village opinion was divided on street lighting : some residents wanted the whole village to be lit; others thought that lighting spoilt the rural character of the village. The VDS had recommended that no extension of street lighting should be approved without a

prior survey of current village opinion.

Councillor Cook thought street lighting was needed in the interest of safety, especially as far as older residents were concerned, and Councillor Mrs Kirk agreed. The Chairman did not. He referred to occasions when local opinions had been sought and there had been a majority against street lighting. It was agreed that the matter could be an Agenda item at the Annual Parish Meeting in the Summer.

Parked cars in Main Street. The VDS had noted that parked cars were a hazard at busy times and that a solution should be sought. Councillor Cook agreed about the hazard but considered that it was inevitable in rural villages and that in Roos there was no obvious solution.

### Accounts

It was agreed to pay £19.50 due for hire of the Memorial Institute for three Parish Council meetings.

### Any other business

Road signs. Councillor Mrs Kirk said that the sign on the grass at the junction of Main Street and Pilmar Lane was lopsided and broken : it was superfluous and should be removed. Councillor Cook said that the sign to Owstwick was lying on the ground.

Pothole at North End. Councillor Cheeseman said that the hole he had reported had now been filled with chalk and the risk of damage or accident had been reduced.

### PUBLIC SESSION

Mrs P. Cheeseman commented on vehicle damage to the footpath and grass verge at Halfway House owing to work being done there. The verge needed re-seeding.

It was agreed to refer the matter to the Highways Authority. The Chairman said it would be reported under "Any other business" in the main meeting.

## Roos Parish Council

Monday 12th February

7.30 p.m. in The Memorial Institute

All residents are welcome to attend.

# Computer Training

in The Roos Arms on Thursdays

Morning : 10.00 - 12.00 Evening : 7.00 - 9.00

Maximum number per session : 12

Tutor : Martin Hilton (671130)

The first of the above six-week courses started on 11th January and will continue on the following five Thursdays. Places are still available. Ring Martin - or just turn up.

The two courses cover the same ground and are independent of each other. The evening course is intended for those at work during the day.

The training is open to beginners and to those who want simply to improve their computer skills but completed courses earn credits leading to a UFA (a University Foundation Award) - which guarantees an interview to a university applicant.

The fee is £21.60 for a six-week course. Over 60s pay £12.00. The courses are free for those receiving benefit of any kind. Course members are eligible for an ILA (Individual Learning Account) of £150 to cover their fees. Further details are available.

When the current courses end, further six-week courses will

be run if there is a demand.

Martin Hilton is currently working for the University of Hull delivering an information and computer technology course for teachers. His special interest is in website design. He will be pleased to answer queries from anyone interested in the Roos Arms courses.

## Sad news : death of Adrian Gee

In the November issue details were given of the family of Mary Gee, Mr Wilbraham's daughter. Sadly, her husband Adrian died on 6th January after suffering an incapacitating illness for many years.

All who remember Mary and Adrian and their connections with Roos will wish to offer Mary their deepest sympathy.

## The Rooster

Donations are gratefully acknowledged from Mrs N.G. Wilson and Trevor & Robert Bailey.

**DEADLINE.** Please supply material for the next issue to Leslie Helliwell, Canwick, Lamb Lane (670291) by :

**Saturday 10th February**

# A History of Roos - 22

## The ancient enclosures (continued)

**Addendum.** In last month's map the enclosure south of No. 64 should have been labelled 65 - not 6. Apologies.

### Site of the house at Elm Farm

63 1.2.0 "Always the Rectory Enclosure."

c. 1777

The first record of a Rectory in Roos is given in a church terrier of 1777 when Sir Mark Sykes was Rector. (A "terrier" was a survey / audit of buildings and contents.) It was built of brick with a tiled roof. Its southern frontage extended for 19 yards; its roof was 14 feet high. A northern annexe provided a kitchen and a greenhouse. It had three large tithe barns with dirt walls and thatched roofs with a total ground area of 2160 square feet.

1784 - 85

John Simpson, Rector in 1783, and rebuilt the property - "chaise house, two stables and other buildings - every part thereof except the west end, which remained to be finished" - completed 1798. Brick and tile were used.

Another terrier gives details (*in wording that suggests that the Rectory was not so much rebuilt as extended*) : "extended by stables and saddle-house with granaries above and brew-house beyond. The Old Barn, mud-walled and thatched, along the highway. Area of site 1½ acres." It was bounded on the south by the lord's

demesne (not by the lower churchyard, as it is now) and on the west by the highway. This Rectory was burned down in 1801 when Sir Christopher Sykes was Rector.

### Post-1801

The next Rectory - also of brick and slates - had two stables, a saddle-house, a coach-house with granaries above, a laundry and a brew-house. The old tithe barns had gone. The acreage had grown to 2 acres, 3 roods, 2 perches - due to crofts acquired to the north and east.

Ninety years later the building was sold at the request of the new Rector, Rev Edward Milsom, and another - now called The Old Rectory - was built on the glebe in 1891.



The Old Rectory, built 1891, seen from the south-west

The former Rectory was bought by Mr and Mrs William Dickinson. Mrs Dickinson was a daughter of the former Rector. The Dickinsons took up residence on January 1st 1892 and renamed their new home "The Hall".

#### 20th century

William Dickinson died in 1914 and his widow and children left the village. The Hall remained empty except for some large furniture. During the 1st World War it was

used as a military billet. Later, the kitchen part was occupied by George Gant, tenant of The Elms Farm.

The whole building was mysteriously burnt down in September 1937 : the mains water pressure was insufficient to prevent its destruction.

"A modern farmhouse now occupies part of the site and it has been bought by the Grants."

## **The Manor House - now The Elms**

**82, 83** 1.1.2

### **The Lord of the Manor**

Since feudal times practically the whole of the southern part of the village had been the demesne of the lords of the manor stretching to the parish boundary. In the Roos Award the land was identified as ancient enclosures 68 - 89.

The lord's demesne extended roughly :

on the west from Lamb Lane to the south and west as far as the boundary.

on the east from Dove Lane to the south and east as far as the boundary.

(Much of the land - but not all - is now part of Elm Farm.)

### **The Manor House**

After the demolition of the castle in the early part of the Middle Ages the lord of the manor of Roos did not live in Roos until the latter part of the 18th century when the Sykeses held the manor. Consequently, the house was small and unpretentious, unlike most manor houses. Either a steward or tenant farmer lived in what is now called The Elms.

The original Manor House was burned down in Stuart times and three cottages close by were joined together, added to and converted into a hotch-potch sort of house with a character all of its own. Cumberland slates, slates and tiles are noted roof materials and Georgian windows may be seen facing west and south. Rooks build their nests in the tall elms which shade the drive to the south gate.

### **Occupants**

Various tenants are listed : e.g. John Ganton in the early 18th century, John Matcham from 1738 to 1753.

Poulson mentions a floor-stone in the chancel of the church inscribed, "Mary Matcham, 15th Feb. 1748, age 48." Mr Wilbraham says, "The stone is not there now, probably left

when the chancel floor was raised in the early part of the 20th century."

Thomas Carter succeeded John Matcham in 1754. Mention of the Carters leads Mr Wilbraham to include another piece of history to do with the church. He bought an oil painting when some of the Dickinsons' furniture was sold. On the back was written : "Roos Church as it was before it was altered in the early part of 1800."

Mr Wilbraham explains why alterations were needed. "The tower was out of line and other parts as well owing to the foundations giving way." There were burial vaults below the belfry. The old coffins were removed and reburied in the churchyard - "those under the tower being remains of the Carter family who lived in the house for many years." The painting was given to "Mr B.N.Reckitt of The Elms, Churchwarden. "Another copy of the painting hangs on the west wall of the nave."

R.Dunn was tenant in 1778, followed in 1785 by Robert Bell who had married his daughter.

William Dickinson was the next tenant. He came from "Breken" (Brecon?). In 1817 he was succeeded by his son, George, who bought the 1100 acre farm when the lordship of the manor changed hands. At his death his two sisters continued as tenants during a long lawsuit. After their death the house was bought by Mr and Mrs B.N.Reckitt who made many interior improvements.

### **Associated cottages**

In the early days there were cottages for farmhands, especially for stockmen : "Three have already been mentioned, two are known to have been in the stackyard and there was one down at Sunderlands, a mile away down the fields. There was another one, still there but not now used, in the gardens. During the latter part of the last (19th) century a pair of semi-detached houses were built west of the stackyard - the present Elms Cottages.

## **"Hull Daily Mail" article on The Elms, June 26 1964**

*Mr Wilbraham quotes the article below apparently verbatim and supplies two newspaper photographs : one an interior view, the other a view from the south. The material has been reprinted here by courtesy of "The Hull Daily Mail".*

This charming residence in its spacious grounds is doubtless the finest residence in the village.

It stands opposite the 14th century parish church of All Saints. To pass through the white-painted gate into the 14-acre grounds is to walk hand in hand with history, and even to venture beyond the boundaries of recorded time into pre-

history. For from the meadows at the rear of the house can be seen the original bed of the Humber, which, thousands of years ago, flowed down to the spot where the village now stands.

Then, so archaeologists tell us, an Ice Age glacier came down to Paull and diverted the Humber to its present course. Now the old river bed can be seen as a broad swathe of fertile farmland, green with ripening corn.

Once, the land in this area belonged to the de Ros family, who, like so many others, "came over with William the

Conqueror". Theirs, in fact, is the premier barony of England, and the present baroness lives in Strangford, County Down. In the Middle Ages, however, the de Ros family lived in the East Riding, and traces of their castle can still be seen just below the church.

Later by marriage the Manners family came into possession and later, in similar circumstances, the Cecils became lords of the manor. In 1714 the manor was sold to a Hull merchant, Mark Kirby of Sledmere, and by marriage to the Sykeses.

The Dickinsons - then tenants of the lord - bought the estate they farmed and they occupied it till 1936 when it was bought by the present owner-occupier, B.N.Reckitt, Esq.

It is thought that the original Manor House stood on land now covered by one of the magnificent lawns, and this theory is substantiated by the track of the main drive, which runs up to the lawn and not to the present house.

Legend has it that the house was burned down in the 18th century and that the nearby farm cottages were taken over and converted into a dwelling which is the nucleus of the present house. The records are vague on this subject but one states that the splendid avenue of elm trees which give the estate its name were never thinned, "because of the great tragedy". This is presumed to refer to the fire.

The oldest of the elms are believed to be about 250 years old. Some have inevitably toppled from old age during the years and several of the gaps have been replanted with young trees. These, and the many other varieties of trees in the well-wooded grounds, provide a home for countless birds, especially rooks, whose harsh cries add to the rural atmosphere of the place.

The wide, sweeping lawns, seen at their best at this time of the year, are one of the main features of the gardens immediately surrounding the house. Traditionally it takes 200 years to make a lawn but Colonel Reckitt insists that with modern weed-killers and fertilisers it is possible to do it in two. At all events, the condition of the tree-lined sward is a tribute to the hard work of the present owner and his two gardeners. 'I don't mind the women visitors wearing stiletto heels; it is good for the ground to have little holes made in it anyway,' said Mr Reckitt.

A wide green catwalk leads between colourful borders of delphiniums, foxgloves, peonies, sweet-scented nicotiana and many other summer flowers, backed by neat hedges of nitida and beech. The grassy path continues through a gate into the meadows, running between avenues of young lime trees.

Indicating the view, where the land dipped towards the old Humber course, Col. Reckitt said: "All this area used to be flooded in the winter and records speak of taking a boat to Halsham and of the Stickneys of Ridgmont skating to Roos school. Now it has been properly drained and it is no longer under water in winter months."

At the far end of the meadows lies the walled garden with its lavender edges, its vegetables and herbs, its rosebeds, and apple, pear and peach trees, some of them very ancient. Here too are the greenhouses, one containing a flourishing vine and another a eucalyptus tree, and there is also a gardener's cottage, now disused, which holds memories for a number of Hull folk who used it as a shelter during the bombing of World War II.

The walled garden dates from about 1770 when The Elms was known as The Old Hall to distinguish it from The New Hall, which stood just across the road and was burned down in the 1930s.

A romantic feature to be seen near the front entrance to the grounds is the set of 'wedding steps' leading from the house in the direction of the church. These were made for the marriage of one of the daughters of the Dickinson family and have been used twice during the past 27 years when Col. Reckitt's two daughters were married - one, Mme Jocelyn Chauchet, now lives in Paris and the other, Mrs Susan Rush, in North Carolina, USA.

The most modern part of the house was added in the reign of Queen Anne and blends perfectly with the farm cottages. This addition, the front, is covered with jasmine, wisteria and other creeping plants.

Inside, the furnishings and décor provide an excellent example of the way in which an old house can be brought up to date, so far as comfort is concerned, without destroying its character. Nothing strikes a false note. Everywhere can be seen fine furniture and rugs, antique china and interesting prints and paintings. Lovely, mellow floorboards lie beneath the thick rugs and, although the kitchens have modern equipment, the original red tiles can still be seen there.

Of particular interest is the Italian overmantel in the Hall, which was a gift from a member of the Sykes family to the Dickinsons and which shows, in the centre, the head of Medusa.

The upper floor, with its light, pastel furnishings, contains many examples of the clever use of décor and design to gain maximum advantage from small rooms, long corridors and awkward corners.

A visit to this charming English home and estate can be coupled with a call at the nearby church, which, with its 17th century pulpit and mausoleum of the Sykes ancestors, also offers much that is beautiful and historic."

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*There are discrepancies between this account and Mr Wilbraham's own.*

*For example, there was no reason to call the manor house The Old Hall in 1770 to avoid confusion if it was not until 1892 - when the Dickinsons moved into the former Rectory - that they called their new home The Hall.*