



THE ROOSTER

Roos Village Newsletter

No. 75

May 2001

Roos Parish Council

The meeting on 14th May was attended by Councillors Cheeseman, Jackson, Kirk, Priest, Quarmby, D.E. Winter and G.E. Winter (Chair). Apologies were received from Councillor Cook and Councillor Grant. East Riding councillor Stewart Willie also attended.

The Minutes of the April meeting were approved.

Arising from the Minutes

Millennium monument

It was agreed that the Chairman should proceed to order from Messrs Everingham of Hedon a plaque for the structure using the approved wording.

Yorkshire Electricity

The Chairman reported that Cllr Grant had identified the location of the parish land used by two pylons in Tunstall. Members agreed to defer the item until Cllr Grant was present. A map would then be sent to Yorkshire Electricity as requested.

Public convenience at Tunstall

It was reported that Mr Tony Ellis at Sand-le-Mere was unwilling to bear the expense of maintaining and cleaning the convenience. The Parish Council also decided not to take on the responsibility and the Clerk was asked to write to the East Riding to say so.

Roos Beck

At the previous meeting members had discussed recent correspondence about whose responsibility it was to keep the beck clear of debris. It had been agreed to let the matter rest since the Highways Department were committed to preventing Lamb Lane from flooding again and work had also been done elsewhere.

Councillors Kirk and Quarmby (who had not been present at the previous meeting) reopened the matter. They felt it unsatisfactory that neither the East Riding nor Yorkshire Water would accept responsibility for the beck as a whole but fell back on the argument that keeping their own stretch clear was the responsibility of individual riparian owners - i.e. those whose land bordered the beck.

Other members agreed that the former Holderness Borough Council had kept the beck clear as agents for Yorkshire Water, by whom the costs had been reimbursed.

Cllr Willie pointed out that Yorkshire Water had been

privatised and was a commercial undertaking. The company now denied responsibility for the work and was unwilling to bear the cost. He asked for copies of recent correspondence so that he could look into the matter. His offer was accepted.

Correspondence

Restructuring of Planning and Development Control

A letter from the East Riding invited the Parish Council to participate in a review of the planning system and respond by 23rd May. It was intended to assess the effectiveness of the present structure to see if improvements could be made. Any new arrangements would come into effect in 2002.

Cllr Quarmby criticised the present system in that a very high proportion of planning decisions were taken by the officers. He thought that East Riding councillors who had sought people's votes in elections were shirking their duties: they should take decisions themselves, not pass them to paid officials who were not accountable to the public.

Cllr Willie defended the system of delegation. He said that the officers dealt only with planning applications that were uncontroversial: ones that fulfilled planning requirements and about which objections were raised neither by parish councils nor neighbours nor other interested parties. Even then, if any councillor was unhappy about an application it was tabled at the appropriate Area Planning meeting. If every single application - however acceptable - came before such meetings the system would become unworkable.

Cllr Willie referred to the letter's long list of topics that a parish council might wish to consider. One that he referred to himself was the matter of enforcement - i.e. ensuring that a developer actually fulfilled conditions laid down in planning consent. (Although Parish Council members have often grumbled that developers do not always fulfil their obligations and that the authority has done nothing about it, Cllr Willie's cue was not taken up.)

It was not clear how the Parish Council would respond to the invitation to take part in the review.

Foot and mouth disease

An East Riding letter asked if there were public rights of way in Roos that could now be opened up.

At a previous meeting Cllr Quarmby had criticised the local authority for failing to display closure notices, though fellow

members corrected him. He now said that the public were not observing the notices. He added that in any case paths that were not official footpaths were regularly being used - e.g. by people exercising dogs.

Members noted that the disease had not yet been eradicated and that some outbreaks were coming closer to Roos. It seemed that they were against opening up footpaths.

Women's Royal Voluntary Service

The WRVS appealed for a donation to help meet rising costs, listing the support given to communities in a variety of ways.

Members noted that - owing to the lack of demand - no meals-on-wheels were currently being delivered in Roos and that the WRVS did not benefit the village in any other way. It was argued that such a donation would create a precedent - "Give to one, give to all" - and it was decided not to respond.

East Riding & North Lincs Local Councils Association

A letter from ERNLLCA gave notice that the Parish Council's subscription for 2001 - 2002 would be £167. 00 and requested completion of a questionnaire designed to help improve the Association's service to member councils.

The value of membership was stressed by Cllr Priest and the Parish Clerk, Alan Santos, who had been grateful for the Association's help and offered to complete the questionnaire. Payment of the subscription was approved.

Reference to some of the questionnaire topics provoked a number of members to revile our speed-limit signs: their sheer number and the inappropriateness of their locations. (Their number had been explained at a previous meeting : where there is no street lighting small "reminder" signs at frequent intervals are a legal requirement.)

East Riding Emergency Plan

Details and contact numbers were provided of the authority's plan to deal with serious emergencies. Acknowledgement of receipt was required.

Joint Waste Local Plan

Following wide consultation the East Riding's "First Deposit Draft - March 2001" has been published and a copy was supplied to the Parish Council. This is a 100-page document and comes with a large detailed map. It explores very thoroughly the options and policy criteria for dealing with all kinds of waste up to the year 2008.

The safe disposal of waste has become a critical issue. More and more waste is being produced while available landfill sites have little remaining capacity. The overall strategy has a "hierarchy" of methods of dealing with the problem.



Comments were invited. Revised drafts and a possible public enquiry will follow. The final plan will be adopted in 2003.

(With only one copy, it was not clear how the Parish Council could respond as a group to the complex issues raised.)

Roos churchyard

Mr I.B.Broom had written on behalf of the Parochial Church Council of All Saints', Roos, requesting a grant to help defray the cost of maintaining the churchyard : the estimated cost in 2001 - 2002 was £1,400. This was a great burden to the small number of churchgoers who had to shoulder it.

The Chairman mentioned "The Friends of God's Acre". This was a voluntary donation scheme to which many residents - including non-churchgoers - at one time happily contributed. Unfortunately the scheme was abandoned some years ago.

Most members were very sympathetic to the appeal. All acknowledged the expense of keeping such a large grassed area well cut. Many stressed how much residents valued the church and churchyard, an asset to the village (though one member asked, "How many people care?"). On the other hand, a grant to All Saints' might encourage similar requests from other churches at Tunstall and Hilston, also in the parish : Could the Parish Council respond to all?

It was finally agreed to make a grant of £200.

Planning

Southfield, Dove Lane. At the previous meeting members had heard about an objection to a wall two metres high. They had requested more details. Another diagram was supplied but gave little help. In the end most could see no objection to the wall. The Clerk was asked to write to say so.

Rose Cottage, South End. An amended plan had been submitted for a rear extension. No objection was raised.

Accounts

The Treasurer, Cllr D.Winter, reported that there had been some bank interest. He noted the grant to All Saints'.

Outstanding items

Work still needed. Individual councillors referred to work requested that had still not been carried out :

- Aldbrough crossroads : Patrington sign not replaced.
- Near The Black Horse : damaged manhole not repaired.
- Opposite phone box : damaged manhole not repaired.

Any other business

Tipping near gas installation, Pilmar Lane. A member asked why a Parish Council sign against tipping had been erected without authority. Cllr Priest explained : grass cuttings from the plot were usually left there; when someone dumped other rubbish he himself had put up the sign; it did not purport to be official but simply said : "No tipping".

Parish Council Meeting

Monday 11th June

7.30 in The Memorial Institute

All welcome.

What's in a name - or a handle?

I was last thrown out of a Roos pub when I deliberately addressed the landlord by his surname. The result was unfortunate but it proved my point.

I had been discussing with friends how we address people. "Mr Smith" is too formal. "Bill", especially if you've only just met, may be over-familiar. "Smith" on its own is often felt to be insulting, implying a patronising attitude.

I argued that, if in doubt, "Mr Smith" is safest, though sometimes a bit starchy. I said that to use a person's surname alone can be really risky. To show that I was right I tried it on the landlord. *Too* right, as they say. Out I went.

I had to agree that one of my friends was right too. He had been to a boys' boarding school and was later commissioned in the army. In such circles it is customary to use a surname alone (or sometimes a nickname). I myself once had colleagues - friends for over thirty years - who still called each other by their surnames. I thought it odd but appreciated the convention and didn't mind if they did it to me.

These musings are prompted by offence given by last month's newsletter. Mr Wilbraham and I are both to blame. In the account of Furze Farm and North End Farm Mr Wilbraham spoke of "a Blyth from Hull" and "a Dee from Halsham". To preserve as much as possible of the original I used the expressions unchanged in my own version.

The first reference was to Mr Thomas Blyth who has now been at Furze Farm for over 38 years. In Mr Wilbraham's defence I must note that, writing in the sixties when Mr Blyth was a newcomer, he may well not have known his first name. In any case he was writing a private history, often mere notes, without any thought of offending anybody.

The same explanation applies to the reference to Mr Gerald Dee, for many years now the owner of North End Farm.

It doesn't help, of course, that Mr Wilbraham - and I - give full names, or at least a name with an initial, for residents often long gone, whose details are all in written records.

To both gentlemen I offer my own apologies. I have already given them privately and am glad to say that they have been accepted.

Bonus

I am pleased to have been given some corrections of fact.

In 1963 - not 1965 - Mr Blyth bought the farm buildings and some land at Furze Farm - not just the house. More land was acquired later. He came from Sutton, not Hull.

The Mr W.Suddaby who formerly lived at North End Farm was a tenant, not the owner. Mr Dee bought the farm from Ralph Newton, who had inherited it from his aunt.

As the summary of the Roos History comes closer to living memory some readers will be able to correct other details. Please contact me if anything is wrong or misleading.

I'll try not to upset anyone else - even by oversight.

Roos Playing Field Committee

Summer Dance

featuring Phil May, vocalist

Friday 15th June

from 8.0 p.m. in the pavilion

Admission : £7.50, including supper

Tickets available from The Roos Arms,
The Black Horse, & Committee members.

Further details from David Winter : 670234

Have you the bottle?

Recycle locally and save even more petrol

Since the paperbank at The Roos Arms was publicised in "The Rooster" it has had far more use. Evidently most of us would rather dispose of newspapers and magazines in our own village than cart them to the Withernsea amenity site.

Now there are also three bottle banks in the Roos Arms car park - one each for clear, green and brown glass. The new containers, as well as the paperbank, are at the western end of the car park, i.e. farthest from the pub.

Recycle. Reduce the cost of waste disposal. Save the planet.

Roos School

Old Scholars' Reunion & Buffet Evening

The Roos Arms

Friday 15th June from 7.30

All who attended before 1945 cordially invited
Further details from M.E.Booth : 01964 - 536443

The Rooster

Donations from the following are gratefully acknowledged :

Mrs D.Burn, Mr M.R.Green, Mr & Mrs A.Hunter,
Mrs J.M.Keatings, Mrs L.M.Rannard, Col. B.N.Reckitt,
Mr & Mrs M.Wright.

The donation year

The donations above and those acknowledged last month were all made in the year April 2001 - March 2002.

Donations received up to 31st March fall within last year's period. (Sorry about this if you donated on 31st March!)

Donations for this year : 2001 - 2002

Those who supported "The Rooster" last year are invited to do so again.

Those who didn't are also, of course, invited to join the supporters club now. (Many intend to; many forget.)

Asking rate : £2.00 / year (though more is never refused.)

Please pass your donation (+ your name and address) to :
Leslie Helliwell, Canwick, Lamb Lane, Roos.

If sending a cheque, please make L.Helliwell the payee.

Roos-in-Holderness : Historical Notes

B.N.Reckitt 2001

B.N.Reckitt - better remembered by many in Roos as Colonel (Basil) Reckitt - has produced a sixteen-page booklet about the village and his own memories of it.

Colonel Reckitt and his family lived at The Elms for many years and participated fully and generously in the life of the village before moving to his present home in Cumbria.

He has kindly given permission for the content of the booklet to be reproduced here.

Owing to lack of space there are slight omissions (including the Dedication and a brief Appendix). In places the newsletter format has required small changes in layout.

PREFACE

These notes are not intended to be a history of Roos, merely some reminiscences of our residence in the village at The Elms for thirty-eight years : 1938 - 76.

During that time, which included prolonged wartime absences on my part, I was a Churchwarden, President of the Roos Horticultural Society and Chairman of "God's Acre" - the body which looked after the churchyard.

Many of my family's early years were spent in Roos, of which we have many happy memories, though clouded by the events of the war years.

B.N.R.
March 2001
Haverbrack



The Baroness de Ros (Georgiana Angela Maxwell), of Hamlake, co. York in England, b. 2 May, 1933, s. her grandmother 1958 as 27th holder of the title; m. 24 July, 1954, Lt.-Cmdr. John David Maxwell, R.N., yst. son of Capt. Thomas Kennedy Maxwell, R.N. (ret.) of Strangford, co. Down.

The present de Ros Coat of Arms incorporating the original coat - Gules, 3 Water Bougels, Argent.

'Crom a Boo' means 'Crown for ever'.

ROOS - IN - HOLDERNESS

The Name

According to Ekwall's "English Place Names", "Roos" is a name of Celtic Welsh origin meaning "moor" or "promontory". Either would suit the site of the village since it is situated on a piece of higher ground overlooking a low marsh which was, in prehistoric times, before a glacier pushed the estuary farther south, the bed of the Humber.

How a name of Celtic Welsh origin came to the east coast of England has not been explained.

The Barony

The Barony of de Ros (pronounced Roos) derives its title from the village and is the premier Barony of England.

The ancestor of the de Ros family was said to have been Lord Chamberlain and standard-bearer to William the Conqueror at the Battle of Hastings. As a reward he was given lands in Holderness centring on Roos.

There he built himself a small castle, probably of wooden palisading, the site of which can still be seen just south of the church, surrounded by a moat.

His descendants prospered. The Barony was conferred on the family in 1264 and thereafter various barons distinguished themselves in various ways.

The 2nd Baron was, through marriage, an unsuccessful claimant to the Crown of Scotland.

The 3rd Baron was Lord High Admiral of England.

The 4th Baron died on a crusade.

Another, "Fursan", was a close friend of Richard Coeur de Lion.

Robert de Ros was one of the Barons who signed Magna Carta.

The 10th Baron was beheaded for supporting King Henry VI, though reinstated posthumously.

The original male line died out in 1508 and thereafter the Barony passed through females and into the hands of various noble families - the Earls of Rutland, the Duke of Buckingham, the Cecils - and, after a period of abeyance, was resuscitated by Royal order in the Dartrey family.

Georgiana, Lady de Ros, had vivid memories of the Duchess of Richmond's famous ball, at which she was present, on the eve of the Battle of Waterloo.

Lady Una Mary de Ros, the 26th holder of the title, died in 1956 and was succeeded by Mary Georgiana Maxwell, the 27th holder.

A son was born to her in 1958 and I wrote to congratulate her on behalf of the people of Roos. Her reply on January 5th

1959 was as follows :

"How very kind of you to think of sending me the congratulations of Roos. I really was delighted to receive them.

"I am afraid a lot of water has passed under the bridge since my family had close connections with you but I know my Grandmother went and looked through the church some years ago. I hope to do likewise myself in the near future.

"Thank you again and a happy new year to you, yours sincerely, de Ros."

The Church

The history of the church has been published in a booklet (1955) so is not repeated here. Pevsner refers to the church as follows :

"The most attractive feature of the church is the round stair-turret of the vestry rising above the roof."

The Rectors

A list of the Rectors from about the year 1200 is given in the church booklet.

More recently incumbents with long years of service have been :

Sir Mark Sykes (1735-83) 48 years;

Edward Milsom, who ruled the village with a rod of iron (1891-1921) 30 years;

Graham Christie (1946-61) 15 years : he became a canon of York and transferred to Pocklington.

Of recent years the Rectory has moved three times - from Roos Hall to a new building, which proved too large for modern stipends, to the present one, on the west side of the village and more suitable in size.

It was during Milsom's incumbency that the second Rectory was built.

The Sykes Family

The manor and patronage of Roos, having come into the hands of the Cecils, was sold by William Cecil, after he had obtained an Act of Parliament to do so, in order to discharge his father's debts.

They, the manor and patronage, were bought by Mark Kirby of Hull and Sledmere. It was through his daughter Mary, who married Richard Sykes, that the Sledmere and Roos estates came into the Sykes family. That family provided two Rectors of Roos and their mausoleum is beneath the church.

Dent's Garth

This is, or was, a piece of rough ground with a stream running through it, immediately north of the church. It was bought by Basil Reckitt, who sold the top end nearest the village for housing and gave the south end, adjoining the churchyard, to the church in memory of Virginia Reckitt.

Dent's Garth was used in the Second World War as the huttet site of a prisoner-of-war camp. Security was at a minimum since the chance of prisoners escaping successfully from Roos to the continent was remote.

Roos Hall

Roos Hall stood next to Dent's Garth and was used as a Rectory. It was a large square Georgian building, plain and solid with a central staircase - well lit by a glass skylight. It was built according to Poulson in 1820.

Soon after Basil and Virginia Reckitt came into residence at The Elms on the opposite side of the road, their gardener, Harry Smith, appeared one day with the announcement, "The Hall's afire."

The Hall, which was empty at the time except for a few rooms occupied by the Grants, local farmers, certainly was afire. It was a very hot day and probably the sun's rays had ignited rooks' nest twigs under the glass roof above the staircase.

The Withernsea Fire Brigade was called and, after some haggling as to who was to pay the costs since it was out of their area, though the nearest Brigade, the fire engines arrived and deployed their hoses. There was insufficient water pressure and only a trickle came out of their nozzles. The Hull Water Authority was called to put on pressure, which was done, with the result that the hoses burst. So Roos Hall was gutted and valuable furniture stored in the cellar lost. A new house for the Grants was later built on the site.

The Elms

This is, or was, an enlarged Farm House (ten bedrooms according to the Estate Agent's advertisement), approached up a drive once lined with magnificent elms.

These had to be axed recently on account of their age - and the ravages of Dutch Elm Disease. They used to carry a large rookery, over 310 nests according to my count in 1941, but where the rooks went when the foundations of their houses were taken from them there is no knowing - perhaps to the trees around the site of the castle.



The Elms, Roos

According to tradition the house was once called The Old Hall, presumably to distinguish it from Roos Hall opposite.

It used to be the farmhouse. On the roadside was a lean-to shed which used to house Irish labourers who were hired to help with the harvest. It was known as "Paddy's Hut". In it we found, deeply buried in rubble, an attractive early Victorian fire grate, which now graces the Library at Haverbrack.

A horse-powered mill, which drove grindstones in the neighbouring barn, was housed in a shed adjoining the house on the north side and only disintegrated in our time. An old man from the village remembered driving the horses round and round from dawn to dusk.

The Elms had been an active centre for a very large farm.

When Basil and Virginia Reckitt bought the house and grounds in 1937 the last of the previous owners, Laura Dickinson, had recently died. The Dickinsons had lived there since 1817, being close friends of the Sykeses.

On making their visit of inspection they were greeted by Harry Smith, the gardener, who was acting as caretaker. He asked for our name and, being told "Reckitt", he staggered back in astonishment. Later he explained that almost the last words uttered by Laura Dickinson on her death-bed had been, "Have the Reckitts come yet?" The explanation probably was that she had been expecting Sir Harold and Lady Reckitt, who had lived at Red Hall, Winestead, to call.

During our residence at The Elms we added two wings to the front (designed by the well-known architect Francis Johnson) to house a Library and Sitting-room, and brought a pillared porch from an old Georgian house in Albion Street, Hull, to grace the front door.

The fine range of stables was much in use in our time. Once the Holderness Foxhounds spent the night there.

After we left the house was split into three and Nicholas Hildyard and his family occupy the southern end.

During the period of the Second World War a zealous young officer proposed to turn the walled garden into a strong-point, making embrasures in the walls for guns. It was only after an appeal to "higher authority" that this was frustrated, it being held that the walled garden, being clearly seen from the air, would certainly be bombed. This was based on recent experience in the retreat to Dunkirk.

Down to the road, opposite to the church gate, a flight of steps leads into The Elms garden. These are called the "Wedding Steps" but for whose wedding, before our time, we do not know. We added no fewer than five weddings up and down those steps in the years we lived in the house.

The drive and garden slope down to the marshy land which was once the bed of the Humber. Tradition has it that a ferry used to ply across there to Halsham, which stands on higher ground beyond, before the land was drained.

Thereabouts too stood the old village pump which supplied the water to the inhabitants before Hull put in mains to the district. The pump still stood there when we arrived, though out of action. It was a long haul for the water carriers from the pump up to the village.

The Village

Roos has a main street running north to south and a road parallel to it on the west side. The main street is bordered by most of the cottages, the school, and the schoolmaster's house - once inhabited by schoolmaster Wilbraham and his wife, he being a churchwarden and noted antiquarian.

A windmill once stood at the north end of the parallel road and the smithy was a little further south - a very busy place in our time.

Grimston Garth

This 18th century "mock" castle, built by the Grimston family, stands just north of Roos. It was passed by Lady Armatrude de Grimston to a relative who lived in South Africa. He sold it to Reckitt and Colman Ltd to use as a research centre away from the distractions of Hull. One outbuilding was used to research into the habits of seagulls, which study appeared to have no relevance to any products made by that company.

Reckitt and Colman carried out much restoration to the house and ultimately re-sold it to Oliver Marriott, a Grimston relative and the present owner, who also made many improvements to the building.

The Roos - Kendal Connection

By a curious coincidence when we moved to the neighbourhood of Kendal we found a strong presence of the de Ros family in that area dating back to medieval times.

Margaret, of the Barony of Kendal, married Robert de Ros who died in the year 1274. As a result she inherited the "Marquess Fee" of the Barony of Kendal which included lands at Haverbrack. In 1301 she conveyed to her son, William de Ros, these lands, or some of them. He died before she did and she gave her Haverbrack property to Conishead Priory in 1310.

When the monasteries were dissolved in 1546, "Haverbrack Hall, manor and capital mesuage, lately belonging to Conishead Priory, were granted by the Crown to William Thornburgh, gentleman... of Hampsfield and Selside."

At one time a Peter de Ros owned land at Witherslack.

Conclusion

So Roos, a small village, with no claim to grandeur, has played its part not only in local affairs but also, through the Barony, in national history for a thousand years. May the next thousand years be equally full of interest!

"Rooster" deadline

Please supply material for the next issue - news, items of local interest, club and society reports, details of coming events, letters, etc. - by

Friday 1st June

to Leslie Helliwell, Canwick, Lamb Lane, Roos.