



# THE ROOSTER

## Roos Village Newsletter

No. 3

October 1985

### PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

At the Parish Council Meeting in the Memorial Institute on 9th September only five members were present: Councillors J.R. Beal, M. Cheeseman, J.R. Clark, J.C. Priest and G.E. Winter, who took the Chair. Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C. Benson, K.G. Grant and J.D. Quarmby.

The Minutes of the meeting of 12th August were read and approved. Arising from the Minutes, it was noted that the Borough Planning Committee had approved the application by Mr. W. Biglin to build on his land at The Chestnuts, though for three houses not for four. It was also reported that the Borough had deferred decision on the application concerning Corner House, Main Street.

#### THE ROOSTER

A letter had been received from Mr. L. Helliwell concerning "The Rooster", the Village Newsletter. Councillors were impressed and delighted by the offer of Mr. Martin Lunn to print the Newsletter free of charge. They agreed wholeheartedly that a letter of appreciation should be sent to Mr. Lunn. They also thanked Mr. Helliwell for his own part in producing the Newsletter.

Because of Mr. Lunn's gesture, the Parish Council were relieved of their commitment to help with the cost of materials over the first six months of production. It was agreed in principle that - if need should arise - the Parish Council might help with the cost of any photographs taken specially for the Newsletter.

Councillors thought that news items from the villages of Tunstall, Hilston and Owstwick could well be included but that delivery of copies to these communities would not at present be necessary. Residents in these villages could no doubt pick up copies from Roos if they wished.

#### NUCLEAR WASTE

An invitation had been received for the Council to be represented at a public meeting in Immingham on 18th September. The meeting had been called by "HAND" (Humberside Against Nuclear Dumping) to protest against the proposal to dispose of nuclear waste on the south bank of the Humber. Speakers at the meeting were to include members of Friends of the Earth and of groups who had opposed nuclear dumping in Bedfordshire and Billingham. Since no Councillors present were able to attend the meeting, it was accepted that Roos would not be represented.

#### ROOS MEMORIAL INSTITUTE

The Council has been asked to comment on an application by Mr. David Dry, Treasurer of the Memorial Institute, to license the premises for music, singing and dancing. Councillors supported the application.

#### ROOS SCHOOL GOVERNORS

There was a fear that changes in the constitution of the Governing Body might reduce Parish Council representation from two members to one. Councillor Winter said that he had written independently about the matter to the

Chairman of Humberside Education Committee, Professor Pollard. The Parish Council agreed that the Parish Clerk, Mr. Cyril Woodhouse, should write to the church authorities to put the Council's point of view.

#### PLANNING APPLICATIONS

**Dent's Garth, South End.** It was noted that the Borough Planning Committee had approved an application for the erection of a bungalow.

**Roos House, Main Street.** At the meeting of 12th August the Council had supported the application to build an extension to the rear of the premises - provided that there were no objections from neighbours. The Planning Officer had written to point out that a neighbour had now objected. The Council were asked if they wished to withdraw their support for the application. Councillors had not been informed of the grounds of the objection and decided to seek further information before making a decision.

**Corner House, Main Street.** The application was for the building of a rear extension. The Borough Council had deferred a decision until agreement was reached between the owner and his neighbour. The Parish Council reaffirmed their previous opinion: that the extension should be permitted only if there was no disadvantage to the neighbouring property.

**The Old School.** The Council discussed a planning application by Mr. R.A. Crook. This was for a change of use of the building to provide a dwelling house and a granny flat. Supporting the application, the Council noted that approval had been given to a previous application for the erection of four houses on the site. Councillor Winter observed that implementation of the present proposal would preserve the original fabric and character of the building. The Council were in favour of early action to avoid further dereliction of the property.

#### OTHER MATTERS

The Treasurer, Councillor M. Cheeseman, said that there was nothing significant to report as far as the accounts were concerned.

Councillor J.R. Clark reported on a recent meeting of the Playing Field Association. In spite of preceding bad weather, the Fun Day on 26th August had been very successful financially. Though a final figure was not yet known, it was likely that there would be a clear profit of well over £900.

Four members of the public were present. At the end of the meeting they were asked if they had any questions or observations. Mr. J. Waldron of Pilmar Lane referred to the licence application for the Memorial Institute. He asked why a licence was necessary now when it had not been necessary before. Councillors agreed that music, singing and dancing had, over the years, regularly taken place in the Institute. It was understood that legislation now required a licence and that the Institute Committee were rightly fulfilling their legal obligation.

# ROOS PARISH COUNCIL

Next Meeting : Monday, 14th October  
7.30 p.m.

The Memorial Institute

Members of the Public Welcome

## MEMORIES AND A BIT OF HISTORY

Last month's old photographs have certainly stirred some memories. One of the first people to comment was Mrs. Lucy Foster of North End Cottages on the Hilston Road. She rang to say that the name over the shop south of the post office was that of Albert Brown.

Mrs. Foster's memory goes back well before the photographs. She and her husband, Jack, are both in their eighties. She is herself 84. Her father, whose name was Percy, was born in Roos and his family lived in one of the cottages at the north-west corner of Hodgson Lane and later in Pilmar Lane.

In spite of this ancestral connection with the village, Mrs. Foster was actually born in Hull. Her first memories, however, are of Sunk Island, where she first went to school while living first at Creek Farm and then at West Farm. Her family were very mobile at this time - as were many farm people in those days. They moved to Keyingham Grange, then back to Sunk Island at Wood Farm. There were later moves to Gardham-on-the-Wolds, to Ryhill, to Saltaugh Grange at Keyingham, to South Frodingham, and at last to Roos again when they came to live at Cote Farm.

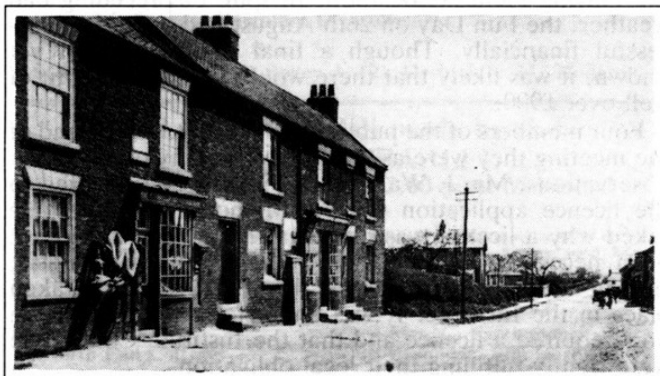
That wasn't the end. The family then moved to Fitling. It was from there, after five years, that Mrs. Foster was married, at Humbleton. She and her husband started their married life at Kirkwood's Cottages, Roos; they spent two years there and then another nine years farther down Main Street at 6 Coltman Row. In 1939 they moved to their present home at North End. Mrs. Foster seems to have spent nearly half of her life almost always on the move and the rest staying firmly put.

## Memories of Old Roos

Mrs. Foster has connections with both of the Nonconformist Chapels pictured in the last issue. Her father used to be caretaker of the Primitive Methodist Chapel on Pilmar Lane and Mrs. Foster used to play the organ both there and later at the Wesleyan Chapel in Main Street. Incidentally, others have pointed out the error in the last issue. The date on the Wesleyan Chapel was 1805 not 1905 as stated.

According to Mrs. Foster, the old school used to have a hedge as its boundary, not a wall. The playground was not hard-surfaced but gravelled and used to sport a maypole. She remembers the building of the Memorial Institute. It was built, she says, to commemorate the wedding, late in life, of the Rector, Mr. Milsom, who donated it to the village. Mrs. Milsom was "a real lady", often to be seen visiting the parishioners with a basket of gifts on her arm.

And this was the photograph that led Mrs. Foster to ring up:



Another response to this particular photograph was a long and scholarly letter from Mr. Gordon Green of Elm Garth. Mr. Green was, of course, for many years manager of the Withernsea branch of the National Westminster Bank. In spite of a keen interest in caravanning, which frequently carries him off to far-flung places, he finds time to help with many local causes. He is Treasurer of the Withernsea Lifeboat Association and of the Roos Playing Field Association. He is a member of the small Working Party initiating the Village Appraisal.

In 1971 Mr. Green set about writing a History of Roos. He was able to benefit from some of the spadework done by Mr. Wilbraham, formerly the village schoolmaster, but has done a lot of digging himself in various areas of research. Parts that are quoted below inside inverted commas are taken more or less verbatim from Mr. Green's letter.

## And Now the History

"The photograph shown is of the 'Hill Top Shops' looking south. This land was awarded to Edward Wallis at the village enclosure award of 1784. It remained in his family for 135 years before finally being sold by his grandson, Edwin Wallis, when he emigrated to British Columbia in 1919."

The row of properties of which the present Post Office is one consists of two parts: the three houses to the south and the two properties now combined as Spar/Post Office to the north. Mr. Green writes: "The southern block was built by Edward Wallis in 1829 as combined house, shop and warehouse with a stable block behind. He ran the shop as a grocers. A few years later he added a shop and a house to the north; he ran this second shop as a saddlers."

"The grocery business prospered and later (1840 Directory) Edward Wallis is shown in addition as druggist, ironmonger - and, in 1891, also as postmaster. The postmaster, however, would actually have been his son, also called Edward, who was also a schoolmaster - but that's another story! They became an important Roos family."

Mr. Green goes on to show that there was a postmaster in Roos before Edward Wallis, junior. "The first postmaster appointed in Roos was John Hastings. He was a boot and shoe maker who owned and lived in the house at the north-east corner of Hodgson Lane, a house that still retains the old shop window. He was appointed postmaster on 6th February 1845 and remained in that office until 1872."

"In 1872 the postmastership was taken over by Edward Wallis across the road - not in his grocery shop but in his saddlery shop." This was the location of the Post Office until 1919.

In 1919 Mr. P.W. Cheeseman bought the Hastings shop at the corner of Hodgson Lane and turned it into a grocers and sometime later obtained the Post Office - back it went to Hodgson Lane where it had first started! Mr. Green comments that at first it seem strange that Mr. Cheeseman should set up as a grocer in opposition to the flourishing Wallis grocery across the street. He points out, however, that it was in that year, 1919, that Edwin Wallis sold off the Hill Top properties before emigrating.

"Brown, of Withernsea, bought the Wallis grocery business and put his son, Albert, in as tenant. Thus, Cheeseman's business may have been started to oppose an 'outsider' and may have been instrumental in Albert Brown's downfall not long afterwards."





This photograph of Cheeseman's shop - with 'Roos Post Office' above the window - is a copy from an early print. Mr. Green argues that it must have been taken in the early days of Mr. Cheeseman's office as postmaster. The reason is that there is no postbox in the Hodgson Lane wall where it was later to be found. "Presumably, at that time one bought stamps at Cheeseman's and then walked across the road to the old post box at the saddler's."

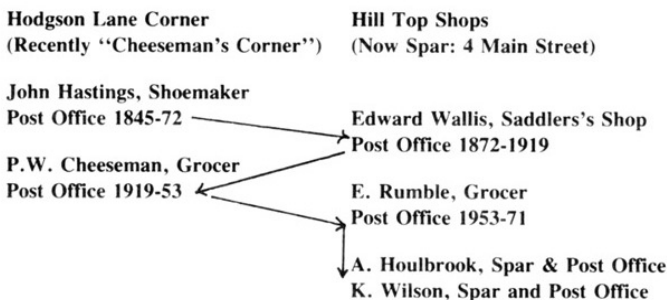
When Edwin Wallis sold the Hill Top properties in 1919, the saddler's shop and house to the north were sold as a lot separate from the grocery business. There were three saddlers, of whom Ireland was one, "in fairly quick succession until the dying industry compelled the last one to close down and sell out. The old saddler's shop was eventually bought by Mr. and Mrs. Rumble. In 1953 they purchased the goodwill of Cheeseman's grocery business and took it on in their 'shop'!" In fact, when they bought the old saddler's shop it had already been turned into a house; they ran no business there until they bought the goodwill of Cheeseman's grocery.

"Mr. Cheeseman had indicated that he wished to retire as postmaster, though he did keep the Post Office for a while afterwards but the Rumbles were tentatively appointed. Mr. Rumble had been a postman at Withernwick but he and his wife had, of course, to learn the Post Office business. Mr. Rumble would walk over the road to Cheeseman's to gain experience. Eventually, the Post Office was re-established in its old premises, the old saddler's shop. No doubt the former problem of purchasing stamps in one place and posting letters in another arose again but in the reverse direction.

"Mr. Rumble retired in 1971. The new owner, Arnold Houlbrook, took in an adjoining room from his house and converted to self-service with the Post Office - this is the present Spar Shop.

"Albert Brown who took over the old Wallis grocery business in 1919 does not seem to have been very successful. He was soon followed by his brother-in-law, George Dowling, who failed, and the property and business were sold. The new owner converted the original buildings into dwellings and I was especially pleased to see that - although very recently replaced - the old shop window has been maintained."

So - fascinating but confusing! The fact is that Roos Post Office has ping-pong-ed across Main Street three times since 1845.



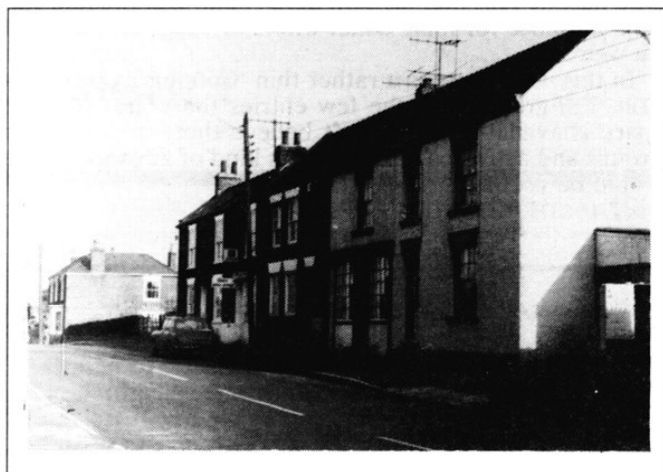
Another diagram could show the migrations of the grocery trade across Main Street: from Wallis's original shop (now 2 Main Street), taken over by Albert Brown in 1919, then by George Dowling; across the road to Cheeseman's shop, thriving both as grocer's and Post Office; then back to the other shop, formerly the saddler's run by Mr. Rumble, finally transformed into self-service Spar.

It is common these days to talk of the decline of the village shop - as if there could only be one. In the nineteenth century this short stretch of Main Street had three shops: a grocer's, a saddler's and a shoemaker's. Two of these were run by craftsmen, actually making things for the community. At one time, like many other villages, Roos was much more self-supporting. It was full of shops, local businesses. How many surviving buildings were once shops in their time?

No doubt Mr. Green, among others, could offer some answers. He has a question of his own. He would like to

know if anyone can suggest the identity of the man with the dog in the photograph of the Cheeseman shop.

Meanwhile, here's another view of the Hill Top Shops, taken in the early seventies. The original southern block of the row is clear, with Edward Wallis's grocery of 1829 easy to identify.



## ROOSTER VIEWS AND NEWS

"The Rooster" is supposed to be a newsletter. It needs more news. Old photographs, the history of village buildings, personal memories of times past - such things are fascinating to me and, I hope, to many others. But they aren't exactly burning topics of the hour. Let's have some information about what's happening in the many clubs and groups in the village. And about what's turning you on or browning you off. A few opinions, in fact.

For example, at one of our pubs the other week, which local farmer was waxing eloquent about straw-burning? What did he think of the people who criticise farmers without knowing the first thing about the difficulties they face or the regulations they are supposed to observe? What did he say about maverick farmers who get the rest a bad name by breaking every rule in the book?

For example, what's going on in the Holderness Deanery Magazine? Why is it that, month after month, some heavy-handed pseudo-humourist is allowed to poke unfunny fun at our Rector? The Editor of the magazine, the Reverend Peter Addison of Withernsea, is a generous and courteous man. Why does he allow this nonsense to persist? Is the author himself a clergyman? If Father Aquinas objects to people who mock church events (August Deanery Magazine), what must he feel when his own interest and activities are so regularly laughed at? Or is it all just good clean fun?

Write some letters? Choose your own topics.

Meanwhile, many thanks to the flood of volunteers who responded so promptly to the S.O.S. for help in delivering "The Rooster". Our two original deliverers at North End are still doing more than a fair share but the list of helpers is now gratifyingly long. Omitting their Mr./Mrs/Miss/Ms., I commend for your appreciation the following:

Pat Cheeseman, Ann Cundy, Stan Dalby, Jenny Devonshire, Connie Farrington, Jean Jackson, Madge Jeffs, Judy Jumps, Sandra Lockwood, Bill McFadyean, Margaret Payne, Joyce Pepper, James Priest and Christine Thorogood.

Not all these are likely to be needed at any one time. I expect that - with their agreement - a scheme can be arranged: either a rota or a sort of first team with known reserves.

Photographs, preferably black-and-white, are still going to be a problem. Who wants to keep a black-and-white film in his/her camera just on the off-chance that the occasion for a "Rooster" photograph will turn up? Who will be prepared to have a whole film developed and printed, perhaps at short notice, for the sake of just one or two suitable shots on it? Well, there may be someone - someone who has, he tells me, his own dark room. But it could still be a nuisance for him. Other offers or suggestions would be welcome.

In this issue there is a rather thin 'Coming Events' section. I'm grateful for the few entries there are. But the space is available and I can't believe there are no other groups and activities for which this kind of advance notice would be useful.

L.H.

## DEADLINE

All material for the November issue to be handed in by the following date, please:

**Monday, 21st October**

To: Leslie Helliwell  
Canwick, Lamb Lane Tel: 70291

## COMING EVENTS

### Sept.

29 Roos F.C. 'A' v Cottingham Rangers (Date for 2nd round of Cup)

(For this and subsequent entries: kick-off 11.00 a.m. All home games)

30 Village Appraisal Group. 21 Elm Garth. 7.30 p.m.

### Oct.

2 Roos W.I. Guest Speaker: Mr. Eade - Bee-keeping.

6 Roos F.C. 'B' v Elland F.C. 'B'.

13 Roos F.C. 'B' v Waterfront 'B'.

14 Parish Council. Memorial Institute. 7.30 p.m.

16 Memorial Institute. Committee Meeting. 8.00 p.m.

18 Parent-Teacher Association. 'Butterflies' Fashion Show

20 Roos F.C. 'A' v Black Prince (Date earmarked for 3rd Round of Cup)

21 Local SDP Committee. Roos Arms. 7.30 p.m.

27 Roos F.C. 'B' v Blackburn Welfare.

### Nov.

1 'Blind Sale'. Memorial Institute. From 2.00 p.m.

2 British Legion: old standard of Roos Branch to be lodged in All Saints'.

3 Roos F.C. 'A' v National F.C. (Date for 4th Round of Cup).

6 Roos W.I. General Meeting.

10 Roos F.C. 'B' v Pecan Restaurant

### Dec.

4 Roos W.I. Guest Speaker: Mrs. K. Handley - "Oriental Heritage".

## ROOS FOOTBALL CLUB

The 1985-6 season is now two weeks old with the 'A' team having a hundred-per-cent record but the 'B' team having lost both of their fixtures, mainly due to the unavailability of players because of work commitments and holidays.

However, when everyone who is signed on becomes regularly available, I am looking forward to both teams having a successful season.

### Results so far

'A' Team (1st Round, Hostick Cup) v Rose Hotel (Away)

Won: 2-1. Scorers: Hampton, D.; Cowell, D.

v F.C. Crown (Away). Won: 7-1.

Scorers: Cowell, D. (3); Bailey A. (2); Derbyshire, N.; Hodgson.

## SALE OF GOODS made by the BLIND AND DISABLED Friday November 1st from 2.00 p.m. Memorial Institute

Do come and see the wide range of goods. Have a cup of tea. Maybe win a Raffle Prize. Above all, have the satisfaction of knowing that your purchases, however small, help those less fortunate than yourself to go on using their skills. Saving for the Annual Sale can be done by buying stamps in units of 25p, 50p and £1.00. A full £10 card gives a 50p bonus. Stamps and cards available from:

Mrs. J. Foster,  
North End Cottages

Mrs. C. Farrington,  
Broomlea, Elm Garth

## ROOS VILLAGE APPRAISAL

In view of the interest shown when a Village Appraisal was first discussed earlier in the year, a preliminary meeting of those who wished to help was held in July and a Working Party was set up. Members of the Working Party are: Mrs. Jean Jackson, Mr. Gordon Green, Mr. John Knighton, and Mr. John Leeman. Their brief was to construct a draft, questionnaire designed to assist residents of Roos to formulate their concerns and hopes for the future of the village.

The Working Party met on 16th September and completed their draft for submission to the whole Appraisal Group on 30th September. It is intended that there will subsequently be a meeting in the school so that residents in general may hear what has been suggested so far and express their own opinions.

## VILLAGE FOOTPATHS

At the Parish Meeting of 8th July concern was expressed at the bad state of many footpaths in the village. The Chairman of the Parish Council, Councillor K.G. Grant, told the meeting that he had been authoritatively assured that work on footpaths would soon be started. In August Councillor Grant expressed his regret that his statement - given in good faith - had not been justified in the event. Repairs have not yet been started.

Following the Parish Meeting, Mr. John Leeman wrote to County Councillor J.W. Bryant, Leader of the Liberal Alliance group on Humberside County Council. In turn, Councillor Bryant sought a comment from the Director of Humberside Technical Services, Mr. J. Moore.

Mr. Moore's reply, dated 2nd August, was in line with what Councillor Grant had told the Parish Meeting. Having stated that there was to be a major maintenance scheme as far as the main road was concerned from the new school as far as Eastfield Estate (to be commenced, he hoped, in the next financial year), Mr. Moore went on to refer to footpaths. "In the meanwhile," he wrote, "minor repairs will be carried out whenever necessary, and, indeed, footway and carriageway patching works are scheduled to be undertaken in the village shortly."

While it is true that "patching" has been done to some of the carriageways in the area (though some roads require more than "patching"), the badly broken footpaths in many parts of Roos have not yet been touched. Some of them are now quite beyond any "patching". Urban ratepayers would not tolerate for long the hazardous surfaces that Roos pedestrians have been putting up with for years.