



THE ROOSTER

Roos Village Newsletter

No. 53

May 1990

Roos Parish Council

Councillor G.E. Winter chaired the meeting of 9th April. All members were present except Councillors Grant, Quaraby and Cook, who had sent apologies.

Minutes

The Minutes were approved after a point was clarified. The Clerk said that the EYMS had no spare bus shelter. As to having one made, Mr Burn had not yet replied.

Correspondence

Village Signs. The Development Department did not supply name signs for small villages (Hilston & Owstwick). The Clerk agreed to enquire what the cost would be if the Parish Council were to pay for them.

Pearson's Bus Service. There were to be minor changes. New timetables were pending.

Tidy Britain Year 1990. Mr J. Johnson, Director of Environmental Services, had written inviting parish councils and local voluntary groups to participate in a variety of activities to improve the environment. Leaflets and other materials were available. Touring exhibitions could attend local fetes. Posters were to be sent for.

East Yorkshire Action Group. Mr Pearson of Flamborough and two local residents had written urging the case for abolishing Humberside and restoring East Yorkshire. On a motion to support the case for a restored East Riding, only two voted in favour.

Low-Cost Housing. Mr C. Hogg of the Planning Department had written about Mr & Mrs M. Hunt's offer of land at North End. He was afraid that a supposed need for affordable homes might, "be used as an excuse for building on land which would not otherwise be used for housing." His advice was:

"If, as a village, you feel that there is a demand (and that demand needs to be quantified), then you may feel, in principle, that steps should be taken to satisfy it. The second stage of the process is to consider what options are

then available, first within the provisions of the Village Plan, and only subsequently outside the boundary."

Members opposed building outside the village limit. Councillor Helliwell thought that it might be possible to provide low-cost housing within the village limit. He proposed a survey to try to assess the actual need. The proposal was defeated by 3 votes to 2 with 1 abstention.

Planning

Applications now approved by the Borough.

Roos Post Office. (Mr & Mrs D. Young). New porch.
Roston Road, Tunstall. (Mr & Mrs F.A. Grassby). Two calf units, dwelling, septic tank. (A letter from Mr C. Hogg, Development Department, written before the decision, explained the issues. Livestock buildings were allowed if - as at Tunstall - they were beyond 400 metres from a protected building. The Ministry of Agriculture supported the case for a dwelling to ensure that a responsible person would be on hand for emergencies and delivery and collection of stock.)

Plot 2, South of Dove Lane. Dwelling and garage. Amended details.

Plot 5, Rosse Green. (Mr & Mrs P. Anfield). Bungalow and garage. Temporary caravan.

North of Pinfold Lane. (Mr P. Maltas). Dwelling next to Hill Top Farm.

North of Pinfold Lane, next to Rose Cottage. (Mr R.M. Dennis). Detached dwelling. Amended plan.

New applications

Roach Cottage, South End. (Mr D. Dry). Extension for bathroom and utility room. Supported.

Dwelling and garage, North End Farm, The Furze. (Mr Charles Dee). Supported subject to agricultural need.

Outstanding Items

In reply to Councillor Bowden, the Clerk said that there had been no response from Technical Services to the request for details of the roadworks scheme before work actually began.

Any Other Business

The Chairman said that, north of the supermarket and the development behind it, a new line of posts left very narrow access on the right of way to Tunstall. The Clerk was to write to the Footpaths Department at Beverley about the matter.

Councillor Clark once again reported water on the road at Hilston, even in the present dry weather. The Clerk was asked to write again to the Water Authority.

The next meeting (14th May) would be the Annual General Meeting.

PUBLIC SESSION

A resident reported that the "Give Way" sign was missing on the approach to North End from the Hilston Road.

Roos Parish Council Annual General Meeting

to be followed by a normal monthly meeting

Monday 14th May : 7.30 p.m.

in the Memorial Institute.

Members of the public cordially invited to attend.

Horticultural Society Spring Show

The early Spring made it doubtful whether there would be any Spring Flowers but the exhibitors excelled themselves as usual and entries were equal to last year's.

The children's paintings of flowers were greatly admired and we seem to have budding flower-arrangers among the youngsters too.

Mrs Robert Clark presented the Special Prizes, after being herself presented with a bouquet by Sonia and Nicola Monkman.

Special Prizes

Cut Flowers	G.Fussey, Hollyn
Plants & Bulbs	F.S.Sanderson, Halsham
Decorative Arrangements	Miss M.Richardson, Flinton
Fruit & Vegetables	H.Mellor, Grimston
Eggs	M.Barker, Lelley

Best Exhibit in the Show

The Royal Horticultural Society's Affiliated Society's Card was awarded to Miss Mary Richardson for her Flower Arrangement, "The Queen's Birthday".

Class Prizes (1st, 2nd, 3rd)

CUT FLOWERS

Daffodils, Trumpet : Mrs J.Green, G.Fussey, Mrs D.Hodgson.
Narcissus, Large : G.Fussey, Mrs M.Hodgson, M.D.Gray.
Narcissus, Small : G.Fussey, Mrs M.Hodgson, M.Barker.
Narcissus, Other : Mrs C.Cross, T.F.Kellock, M.Barker.
Tulips : Mrs E.Conner, Mrs H.J.Barker, Mrs S.Green.
Flowers, Distinct : Mrs H.J.Barker, M.Barker, Mrs S.Long.
Flowers, Mixed : G.Fussey, Mrs M.Moore, Mrs M.Hodgson.
Flowering Shrub : Mrs M.Moore, Mrs J.Green, Mrs J.Grant.
Polyanthus : Mrs F.Maynard.

PLANTS & BULBS

Pot Plant in Bloom : F.S.Sanderson, G.Fussey, Mrs E.Conner.
Pot Plant, Foliage : M.D.Gray, Mrs M.Moore, Mrs J.Green.
Succulent : Richard Fletcher, Mrs M.Hodgson, T.K.Kellock.
Cacti : Richard Fletcher, Mrs F.Maynard, Mrs M.Hodgson.
Cineraria : G.Fussey.
Cyclamen : Mrs J.Broom, Mrs M.Hodgson, G.Fussey.
Bowl of Bulbs : Mrs J.Green.

DECORATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

Miniature : Mrs P.Grant, Mrs S.Cook, Mrs J.Maitas.
In Posy Bowl, etc. : Mrs S.Cook, Mrs J.Maitas.
In Wine Glass : Mrs P.Grant, Mrs V.E.Clark, Mrs S.Wright.
In Shell : Mrs S.Wright, Mrs J.Maitas, Mrs J.E.Clark.
In Candlestick : Mrs V.E.Clark, Mrs S.Cook, Miss M.Richardson.
Basket Spring Flowers : Mrs S.Cook, Mrs J.Maitas.
In Favourite Container : Mrs S.Wright.
Foliage : Mrs P.Grant, Mrs C.Farrington, Mrs S.Cook.
In Modern Style : Mrs S.Wright, Mrs J.Maitas.
"The Queen's Birthday" : Miss M.Richardson.

CHILDREN'S CLASSES

Decorative Arrangement
In Saucer : Robert Moore, Mary Jane Barker, Jennifer Barker.
In Shell : Anne Broom, Caroline Thorogood, Helen Thorogood.
Spring Flowers
5 - 8 : Kirsten Barker, Kathryn Barker, Julie Moore.
9 - 13 : Jennifer Barker, Mary Jane Barker.
Lego, 5 - 8 : Robert Moore.
Decorated Buns (9 - 13) : Jennifer Barker, Mary Jane Barker.
Drawing or Painting of Flowers
5 - 6 : Debra Napier, Kirsten Barker, Ben Hallinson.
7 - 8 : Neil Hulme, Kathryn Barker, Diana Quinn.
9 - 11 : Marissa Quinn, Heather Cook, Victoria Metheringham.

FRUIT & VEGETABLES

Apples, Dessert : C.E.A.Towne, S.Moverley.
Rhubarb : H.Mellor, R.Haythorpe, S.Moverley.
Cauliflower / Broccoli : H.Mellor, R.Haythorpe, T.F.Kellock.
Broccoli Shoots : R.Haythorpe, T.F.Kellock, Mrs M.Hodgson.
Cabbage : R.Haythorpe, T.F.Kellock, Mrs M.Hodgson.
Leeks : T.F.Kellock, G.Fussey, C.E.A.Towne.
Lettuce : C.E.A.Towne, Mrs M.Hodgson, T.F.Kellock.
Dressed Onions : Mrs S.Long, R.Haythorpe, T.F.Kellock.
Dressed Shallots : R.Haythorpe, F.S.Sanderson, S.Moverley.

EGGS

Tinted Hen Eggs : P.T.Wade, Mrs H.E.Wade.
Brown Hen Eggs : Mrs H.E.Wade, C.D.Kirkwood, Richard Fletcher.
Bantam Eggs : M.Barker, Mrs H.J.Barker, Mrs E.Conner.

Reminder : The 48th Annual Summer Show of the Roos & District Horticultural Society will be held in the Burton Pidsea Memorial Hall on SATURDAY 14th JULY.

Roos W. I.

On a chilly April evening, with most members present, and three guests, there was an air of eager anticipation as we awaited the arrival of the speaker.

Meanwhile, the President proceeded with business matters. These included arrange-

ments for the Spring Council Meeting of the East Yorkshire Federation (at which Mrs M. Godfrey will be the Roos delegate), Mrs W. Hornby's report on a business meeting of our W.I. Group, and the recording of our appreciation of a pleasant evening in March shared with our link Institute, Hollym.

It was then time to greet Mr Ernie Teal, who broadcasts regularly on Radio Humber-side on country matters and who is much involved with the Walkington Hayride. For his hard work with the latter, he was recently received by Her Majesty the Queen and awarded the M.B.E.

He spoke on "The Birds in My Life" (the feathered variety, he hastened to add) and showed us many beautiful slides. His talk, informative, hilarious, at times poignant, ended all too soon - "Have you got t'kettle on lass?" - but we kept him longer, with many questions about birds and his visit to the Palace. Reluctantly, we at last bade farewell to a true gentleman, who spoke of birds as one of God's gifts and modestly regarded the M.B.E. as an award not for him alone but for all in Walkington.

As ever, members had brought Easter eggs for children at Linnaeus House.

On 2nd May, after a discussion (led by Mrs W.Ogram) of resolutions for the A.G.M. in London, there will be a play reading by the Drama Goup. Members from Hollym have been invited to come. Will YOU be there?

Films, Fun & Food

Thanks to the generosity of Mr and Mrs Tom Nelson, £56 was raised on 10th April as a starter for our fund-raising Tea Party on 11th September - National W.I. Day, the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the W.I. On that day all W.I.s hope to raise funds for four children's charities. Mr A. Marshall showed his beautiful slides of flora and fauna in our area and described the photographic equipment and techniques used to take them. Between the talk and supper, several items were auctioned by Tom Nelson. So keen was he that every blink was taken as a bid. Sotheby's beware!

C.F.

The Rooster

Donations from Mrs H.F.Grayson and Mrs M. Stephenson are gratefully acknowledged. I am also grateful to Mr and Mrs Carrington of North End who have offered to convey material to and from the printer in Hull.

L.H.

Football

Roos 'A' O, National Tigers 2

Down to only eleven fit players for this vital fixture against top opposition, Roos struggled from the kick-off.

The physically strong Tigers side overwhelmed Roos throughout the first period but, thanks to excellent defending and superlative goalkeeping, had to wait almost until half time before scoring what was a well-worked and clinically-finished goal.

After half time, Roos battled back but without the services of Sean Royce, Geoff Newton, and Tony Hunt, found that vital spark missing and only occasionally managed to trouble the Tigers' keeper. Inevitably, therefore, National Tigers scored again - another well-taken goal by an extremely lively striker.

Although Dave Hampton worked his way through the defence and should have scored and Ian Carrick went close, Roos were really second best and had to admit defeat by a side who will now be promoted to the Premier League and will do well there. Roos fought hard throughout and at times put together some excellent football but on the day were just not physically strong enough to beat a quality side such as this.

Roos 'A' 2, Gardeners' 2

This final fixture had no real significance for Roos but Gardeners' needed two points to stay in Division 2 and fought and worked hard to try to obtain them.

Roos took the lead when Darren Staff scored from thirty yards but were never on top of their game and let Gardeners equalise after some slack defensive work.

The sides were evenly matched and it was not until midway through the second half that Roos regained the initiative when Dave Hampton headed in a free kick from Darren Staff. Gardeners' did not give up and deservedly grabbed a second equaliser with a fine shot. They continued to press for the vital winner but were never quite good enough even against a somewhat lack-lustre Roos side.

Overview

Roos will probably finish fourth or fifth in the Division, a disappointing place given their position when there were four matches to go. Overall, however, this is really an excellent end to a season which started disastrously with four defeats from

the first five matches and considering the strength in depth in Division 1.

This augurs well for next year (when the eagerly-awaited new changing facilities should be available). If one or two new players can be acquired, I am sure Roos should have another successful season.

Since Roos F.C. re-formed in 1982 this is only the second season in which they have won neither a league championship nor a cup. An excellent achievement by anyone's standards, eh?

When all arrangements have been made, a date will be announced for the presentation night in the Roos Arms.

We all at Roos F.C. would like to take the opportunity to express enormous gratitude to our team sponsors, Mr and Mrs M. Hunt of M.H. Industrial, Ltd.

See you next season.

R. Derbyshire.

Rooster Deadline

Monday 21st May

Please provide items for the June issue by or before the above date to :

Leslie Helliwell, Canwick, Lamb Lane, Roos, (670291)

Further contributions invited to the cost of "The Rooster".

Coming Events

May

- 2 Roos VI, Memorial Institute, 7.15, Mr Winifred Ogram : AGM Resolutions. Followed by Play Reading.
- 6 All Saints', Roos, Sung Eucharist, 10.00.
Cricket, Roos v North Hull Community Centre at Humbleton, 2.00, (Seymour King Cup.)
- 7 Cricket, Roos v Patrington, Friendly, Away, 2.00.
- 13 All Saints', Roos, Sung Eucharist, 10.00.
- 14 Roos Parish Council AGM, Memorial Institute, 7.30.
- 19 Cricket, Roos v Walton Club, Away, 2.00.
- 20 All Saints', Roos, Sung Eucharist, 10.00.
Cricket, Roos v Walkington, Away, 2.00.
- 26 Cricket, Roos v Hull Supporters' Club, "Home" (i.e. Princess Elizabeth ground, Beverley High Rd).
- 27 All Saints', Roos, Sung Eucharist, 10.00.
Methodist Family Service, Memorial Institute, 10.30.
Cricket, Roos v Goole North Eastern, Shepherd Cup, 2.0.

June

- Cricket, Roos v BP Chemicals, Away, 2.00.
- 3 All Saints', Roos, Sung Eucharist, 10.00.
- 6 Roos VI, Memorial Institute, 7.15, Mrs Margaret Porter, "Flowers are Fun".

July

- 14 Roos Horticultural Society 48th Annual Show.

Marathon Woman

Congratulations to Mrs Ann Robinson of Elm Garth who successfully completed the London Marathon. Her sponsor money will benefit three charities : the British Diabetic Association, the Hessele Dog Rescue Centre, and the Red Wings Horse Sanctuary near Norwich.

When approached by "The Rooster" last week (at the suggestion of her proud mother, Mrs Mary White of Eastfield), Ann was embarrassed by the attention - after all, she was only one of thousands who had taken part and did not claim to be special. All the same, she admitted that she was still "on a high" from the experience, elated at having achieved her first Marathon at the age of 47 and amazed at how well she felt afterwards - no aches, no blisters, just immense satisfaction.

She made even the preparation sound enjoyable. A long run the previous Sunday and no carbohydrates until Wednesday. Then another long run and plenty of carbohydrates. On the Saturday, in spite of good intentions, no rest but a shop-window tour of London followed in the evening by a free Pasta Party at the New Connaught Room.

On the day itself the carnival atmosphere was exhilarating : balloons and bands, Pearly Kings and Queens out in force. Except in the Mall, where they were too far away, the vast crowds gave every runner a lift. Far from being a weary slog, the run seemed to be over in no time. Ann was amazed to find herself all too soon at the finish, untired and exalted.

She is grateful to have had the chance to take part. She would not have qualified on a time basis and was lucky to pick up from someone who could not go a place allocated to Withernsea Harriers

Yes, she would like to do it all again - but not next year. She is studying for a B.Sc. in Social Science and will not have the time. Perhaps in 1992. Meanwhile, there's always the Great North Run, a half-Marathon, 13 miles from Newcastle to South Shields.

What it is to be fit!

A friend came unexpectedly one Monday morning just as I had finished the washing. She looked at my sheets on the line and said, "How nice and white they are, dear. What powder do you use? One of those diabolical deterrents?"

Didi.

Social Insecurity

The summary of Mr Wilbraham's History continues with his account of the plight of the poor in Roos over a period of more than two hundred years - from the time of Elizabeth I almost to the accession of Victoria.

This feature and one about roads, to be included in the next newsletter, are curiously topical. The Poll Tax is much in the news as a new way of funding local services. It is interesting to see how the outgoing system itself developed - funded by rates based on the rent value of property.

The Elizabethan Poor Law

The Act of 1601 operated for 233 years until superseded by new legislation in 1834.

Each householder was taxed for the relief of the poor. Justices appointed substantial householders as Overseers empowered to relieve the poor, apprentice poor children and provide work for the able. The Act was implemented only slowly. Even by Charles I's time, many parishes had no Poor Rate and turned away their poor.

Continuing Role of the Church

Apart from the provisions of the Poor Law, the old Churchwardens' Book shows that poor folk in Roos got some help from the Church.

1717	paid to a man with a pass	00. 01. 00
1718	to a sufferer by fire	00. 02. 00
	to a traveller	00. 02. 06
1725	given to a distressed saylor	00. 02. 06
1734	wants of S-- M-- & J-- B--	01. 01. 00

Local Charities

The book also records disbursements of Charity Money from 1707 -1726. In 1707 money from the Sacrament (4s.9d) and the money paid by John Kirkhouse (10/-), William Southaby (6s.8d), and Peter Claphamson (6s.8d) was distributed among seven people in amounts varying from 1s 5d to 6s 8d. This charity is still in existence.

The Poor Law Itself

The following document illustrates how the Poor Law worked in Roos.

Township of Roos, February 8th 1801

Notice is hereby given by the Overseers of the Poor of this Township that a Vestry Meeting will be held on Wednesday next, the eleventh day of February instant, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon of the same day, in the Vestry Room of this Church, when, and where, all persons who are rateable for the relief of the poor of the said township are desired to attend, and to take into Consideration, jointly with the said Overseers,

what Kinds, Quantities, and Qualities of Provisions for the necessitous Poor of this township are to be purchased, and laid in for their relief, as Substitutes for sparing the consumption of wheat, and bread corn.

And also to consult in what way Employment may be afforded to Poor Men who do not desire other relief than that of Employment, and having their Bread corn at a price which the earnings of their respective families will enable them to pay.

Dated the eighth day of February in the year of Our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and One.

At the Vestry Meeting it was, without one dissenting voice, agreed to find employment for those Poor Men who do not ask for Parish Relief, at the rate of one day for every five pounds a year each Parishioner occupies.

Witness our hands
the day and year
within mentioned

Jno. Simpson
John Wright
William Clappison,
Overseers of the Poor.

Mr Wilbraham gives extracts from the earliest Overseers' records. Here is a selection of examples from 1827 to illustrate how money was raised and spent.

Tax 3d in the £.

£151.6.4 spent in relief out of £200.15.0.

John Dowforth	52 weeks @ 2/6	6 10 00
Ann Owt's child	do @ 4/-	10 08 00
Jane Ion's child	do @ 3/-	7 16 00
Eliz. Cook	do @ 1/6	3 18 00
George Ellerby	15 weeks @ 2/6	1 17 06
Journey to Headon with book		0 04 00
County Rate		9 16 02
20 ozs worsted @ 2hd		0 04 02
Knitting 3 prs. of stockings		0 01 00
To Magistrates Hull to sign indentures		0 04 00
Washing & mending shirt		0 02 02

Apprenticeships

One of the duties of Overseers was to place poor boys in apprenticeships. Mr Wilbraham quotes an indenture from 1769. Thomas Carter and Francis Clappison, Roos Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor, placed Nathaniel Burstall, "a poor child of the said parish," as apprentice with Robert Wreathall, a weaver at Preston. Until the age of 21, he was to live with and work for his master, "according to the form of the Statute in that case made and provided."

"During all which term the said apprentice his said Master well and truly shall serve, his secrets shall keep, his commands (being lawful and honest) at all

times willingly shall perform, and in all things as a good and faithful servant shall demean himself towards his said master and all his family. Matrimony with any woman during the said term he shall not contract nor from his Master's service at any time absent himself without his leave first obtained."

For his part, Robert Wreathall, in return for 11/6d paid by the Overseers, contracted to fulfil his obligations as master, promising :

"that he will teach learn and instruct the said Nathaniel Burstall his Apprentice.... in the said trade or Mystery of a Weaver which he, the said Master, now useth according to the best of his skill and understanding therein and shall and will, during all the said Term find, provide for and allow unto the said Nathaniel Burstall his apprentice, sufficient and enough of Meat, Drink, Washing, Lodging, Apparell and all other necessities meet for such an apprentice and shall and will at the expiration of the said Term find, provide for and deliver unto his said Apprentice proper and sufficient apparell meet for such an apprentice to have and wear."

The agreement was authorised by two Justices of the Peace and signed by all the parties, though the apprentice himself could only make his mark.

Income Support

In 1795 minimum amounts were specified that each poor household should receive, based on the number in a man's family and the price of bread. Parish officers had to make up the difference between a man's wage and this subsistence level. This system, which subsidised and thereby encouraged low wages, made many labourers permanent paupers. It ended only with the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834.

Roos Poor Rate 1785

Mr Wilbraham copied details from a manuscript book of Rev. John Simpson, "lent by Mrs Furley, late of Hilston." Over the names of Fr.A. Clappison and Edw. Wallace, Overseers of the Poor, the entry begins :

S.C., G.E., A.A., A.J., J.C., J.R., wid. H.M., and wid. T. to be relieved.

Town Stock £6. Tax @ 1/6 in £ - £61.3s.3d.

It then gives the rental of properties assessed and the rates the occupiers were to pay, with separate totals for South End (£41.8s.9d) and North End (£19.14s.6d). In the south, the highest rate was £26.11s.0d (Robert Bell, rental £354) and the lowest 1s.6d (Thomas Dunn, rental £1). The highest in the north was £4.11s.6d (Jno. Wright, rental £61) and the lowest 3s.0d (William Clappison, rental £2).

Mr Wilbraham also supplies a list of Roos overseers for some of the later years of the Elizabethan Poor Law, from Christopher Gaul and Christopher Cooke in 1716 to David Brown and William Dickinson in 1834.

Parochial Charities

Reference has already been made to bequests by GREEN and MARRIOT dating from Charles II's reign. Earliest records are found in the Old Churchwardens' Book for 1705 : 10/- from Green's Charity on the house at Tunstall and a noble (6/8d) from Marriot's Charity (plus another noble - origin unknown), both sums now paid out of the Grange Farm. Mr Wilbraham comments, "At the Enclosure of the Commons there was a little farm owned by William Clappison (1.1.13 plus 1.10 - i.e. 1.2.23). It may be that the owner bequeathed a noble soon after the example of Green and Marriot."

Prior to 1786 another charity came into being - a rent charge by the will of T.DIXON on a house and croft at the back of the village just south of Cote Farm entrance. It was given out in the form of penny loaves on the four Sacrament Sundays and six penny loaves each Sunday besides. After 1868 it was paid in cash. In 1809 the house and croft were owned by H.Snaith and tenanted by H.Clappison. In 1847 the owner was J.Smith and the tenant T.Collinson. In 1865 the owner and tenant was Fran. Mountain - hence the name. Later it was paid in cash.

This croft now forms a part of the Grange Farm who pay the charity to the Trustees. The trustees are : four elected by the Parish Council, one by the parishioners of Garton and one by the parishioners of Owtwick, "affording yet another example of the state depriving the church of its age-long privileges." (*Mr Wilbraham's point seems to be that the Dixon bequest was originally mediated by the Church but was later managed by representatives of the civil parish.*)

By TENNY's will of 1816 the interest on a £100 mortgage on a house and paddock was left to the Minister & Churchwardens of Roos church to be distributed to the poor on Sacrament Sundays, but this was not mentioned again after 1847.

The will of JANE HOGG established a rent charge on a 25-acre field in Rimswell Carrs for the education of poor children in Roos. It amounted to £6. There is record of its payment in 1786, but none after 1809. A table monument in the Churchyard has an inscription, now almost faded out, mentioning her bequest. John Hogg was one of the sixteen men in the early 1700s and held one of the ancient enclosures.

The Need for Change

For over 200 years local Overseers had administered the Elizabethan Poor Law. Fortunately, the last Roos Overseers' book has been kept.

The making-up of wages out of the Poor Rate became a scandal. Understandably, labourers unable to earn a week's full wages sought relief from the Overseers. In 1829, £2 was paid to Elizabeth Cook to make up her wages; in 1831 George Ellarby received £3.15; the next year T.Dennis had £4.3.6d. This money came from rates paid by folk more fortunately placed.

All over the kingdom the cost of relief was going up by leaps and bounds. In some places land went out of cultivation because, with such heavy rates, it no longer paid to till it.

The new legislation arose as a result of a Commission that had revealed these and other abuses.

The Poor Law of 1834

The Machinery

Under the new Act, the parishes - some 15,000 in number - were grouped into 643 Unions. Roos became one of the 27 parishes in the Patrington Union. Subject to supervision by a Poor Law Commission and the Local Government Board, each Union was controlled by a Board of Guardians elected from the districts concerned. Officials - the relieving officers - had to enquire into the condition of applicants for relief and report to the Guardians.

The old power of the Overseers was thus restricted. They were no longer elected by parishioners. Instead, ten names were submitted to the Justices of the Peace, who chose two. Thus in 1863 we find that Roos nominated C.Suddaby, J.Branton, G.Dobson, C.Atkinson, J.Langthorpe, W.Tover, J.Maltas, J.Dickinson, B.Atkinson, and R.Watson.

The Poor Rate was levied by the Overseers, who paid someone to collect it. The first rate collector in Roos was George Taylor, who lived in the bungalow in Lamb Lane. Charles Silversides, the schoolmaster, was collector for many years.

The Workhouse

Outdoor relief - i.e. relief outside the workhouse, in money or kind - might be given to the sick or aged, to widows and children. For the able-bodied, so it was hoped, the Union was to be, "the hardest taskmaster and the worst paymaster he can find, and thus induce him to make the application for relief his last and not his first resource." The "workhouse test" was applied; a man was normally allowed relief only inside the workhouse, and his lot there was worse than that of the independent labourer outside.

Last of the Old

The change-over took place in early 1837. Here are some of the last entries in the Overseers' Account Book for the quarter ending January 1837 - i.e. prior to the hand-over to the Patrington Union.

Hannah Marshall	Oct. 27 - Nov. 21	6 weeks	15. 0
John Dowthorpe	do		18. 0
Mary Smith		2 weeks	10. 0
do	do	4 weeks	1. 8. 0
John Whiteing		6 weeks	15. 0
Thomas Runton	suit of clothes		2. 7. 0
do	shaving one quarter		2. 6
Vestry clerk wages			15. 0
10 ozs worsted			1. 8
E.Mortimer			1. 0. 0

Start of the New

The first entry under the new Act reads as follows:

1837	Nov. 26	Paid to Union	8. 5. 0
	Jan. 28	do	16. 10. 0
	Feb. 14	County Rate	10. 18. 8
	Mar. 18	Union	12. 7. 6
		W.Ion poor house	3. 0
		Dr Raines for attending sick	2. 10. 0
		Vestry fire	2
		Clerk	15. 0
		Glazier	4. 0

Housing the Poor

Ivy Row

Under the new Act the parish had no responsibility to house its poor. However, the Church owned a thatched cottage in Ivy Row, doubtless the old medieval Guild House. For many years it was occupied for a rent of 5/- per annum by a church official known as the Dog-whipper, but was later rented to the Overseers. It stood in a paddock of one rood thirty-two perches. Like all thatched houses, it required frequent repair, as the Church accounts show.

In 1821, when the Overseers acted as agents for the church, the occupier, George Johnson, was given notice to quit as the house was to be pulled down and replaced by a row of six brick and tiled cottages. They were very small, just two rooms on a ground floor. The Committee consisted of the Rector (Rev. C. Sykes), churchwardens (W.Dickinson and W.Wright), and the two Overseers. The cottages cost £102.11s.6d. To cover the cost, a rate of 1/6d in the pound was levied and raised £100.4s.6d.

The croft was fenced in 1826 and was tenanted by J.Foyston for two guineas a year. The cottages were inhabited free by chosen poor folk. In 1832 the croft was divided into three gardens, each later let at 14/- a year.

In 1876 an enquiry was held to find out to whom the cottages belonged. No claim was made by the Lady of the Manor and it was confirmed that they had been built on land belonging to the church.

In 1880 Miss Dickinson paid 1/- a year to rent the cottages and chose her own tenants. The cottages were extensively repaired that year, costing the churchwardens £15. Subsequently other masters paid the rent to place old servants there as vacancies arose.

In 1885 the two cottages at the east end were converted into a Reading Room, later consecrated as a Mission Room. The other four were converted into two. Eventually, the row was condemned.

Peter's Garth

The Church possessed two other cottages in Peter's Garth, 3 roods 36 perches, and for the use of the Overseers they paid rent of a pound each cottage. Again, being made of clay and thatched, they often

cost the Church almost as much as was paid in rent. They were demolished in 1849.

South End

The parish owned a cottage, divided into two tenements, adjoining what is now J.M.Kirkwood's property. They were pulled down in 1838 and their site is now used as a garden.

Lodgers

According to the Overseers' Minute Book, householders were persuaded to accommodate poor folk for payment.

Overseers' Difficulties

The Minute Book shows that between the enclosures and the 1834 Act the Overseers had an increasingly hard task. Half of the householders were not assessed, either because they were receiving relief or because in some cases their property was worthless.

Before the new Act came into force, there were only 64 houses whose occupiers were assessed. Earlier, assessment had been of land and houses combined, whereas under the new Act land and houses were assessed separately.

At the beginning of the century the total assessment had been £1,329. In February 1836 it was £1,587. Under the new scheme, landowners or occupiers were assessed at a total of £2,564. 7; the 126 houses at £504. 1. 0½. To avoid friction, the new assessment was made by an outsider, Samuel Stephenson of Carlton near Aldbrough.

Consequences

Parson Sykes lived long enough to see the effects of the New Poor Law. As the rates fell the landowners raised the rents. This, coupled with a fall in the price of wheat from 66/4 in 1831 to 48/6 in 1836 would not please farmers, who had been deprived of the cheap labour encouraged by the old system.

There were even more far-reaching effects on the labourers. The plight of the old, sick, or incapable was lamentable, for they were obliged to "go on the parish" and to enter the workhouse was very hard. The able-bodied were thrown on their own resources.

Some emigrated to the colonies - 454,422 between 1853 and 1860, Roos folk among them. A letter by one of them - a Metcalf - recounts terrible hardships in crossing the Atlantic in a sailing ship.

Fortunately the Act was passed in a period of industrial expansion. Towns, railways, and public works attracted country workers. Many older people, including Roos folk, remember years they and their fathers spent away from their native villages, working in places as distant as Middlesbrough.

Under the new system many abuses of the 1601 Act were swept away, though the aim had been limited, "to avert starvation, not to bestow comfort" - and to be classed as a pauper became a social disgrace.

Fat is Beautiful

I've always been pleased with my portion
And glad of what's put on my plate.
Because I enjoy what I'm eating,
I never stop putting on weight.

I've learned from my years of indulgence
That it's better to butter your bun.

Whoever you are,

You're sure to go far

If you eat your way up to a ton.

It isn't too hard to achieve it;

The secret is not to relax,

Though one's appetite reels

At a snack between meals -

And a snack between meals between snacks.

Yes, indeed I know what it's costing

(I pretend it's only a phase)

While beefy and barrelly

I play to the gallery

And reject the low-calorie craze.

I suppose I should listen to reason

And cut down my eating quite soon;

But whenever I stifle my passion for pudding

And take the advice of do-gooders do-gooding

I look like a punctured balloon.

Goodbye-ee

I cooked a chicken yesterday;

It really was quite nice.

I had enough left over

To curry with some rice.

Then trying to economise

I stewed the bones, you see;

I added lots of grated veg

And stock cubes, two or three

For hours I let it simmer

And then - what do you think? -

With care I strained my lovely broth

Straight down the kitchen sink!

To a Sleeping Husband

I cannot sleep with you tonight -

Don't think I find you boring;

I love you even when you're tight

But just can't stand your SNORING.

Don't think I've run away from you,

Don't think my love is cursory;

Just come and find me when you wake -

I'm sleeping in the nursery.

A wife's unselfish, so it's said;

I am tonight - a lot.

For while you stretch out in the bed

I'm squashed up in the cot.

Didi.