

The Rooster

Roos Village Newsletter

No. 83

January 2002

Roos Parish Council

Only four members were present at the meeting on 14th January: Councillors Cheeseman, Cook, Priest, and E.R. Winter. East Riding Councillor Stewart Willie was in attendance.

Minutes

December's Minutes were approved. No matters arising were discussed.

Correspondence

Litter bins

A letter from the East Riding's Principal Environmental Services Officer clarified issues about the provision, design and siting of litter bins.

The authority could supply a limited number of bins on a first-come, first-served, basis. In the main it was assumed that parish councils might purchase their own bins. If so, they must be set securely on approved sites: they must be of reasonable size but must neither obstruct the highway nor impede pedestrians. They must be of an approved standard design and colour.

Members did not discuss whether more litter bins were needed. Nor did they consider applying for any bins to be provided by the East Riding.

Code of Conduct. The Local Councils Association for the East Riding and Lincolnshire invited two members from every parish council to attend a meeting about the Code of Conduct that each must formally adopt by 5th May. Councillors J.C.Priest and E.R.Winter undertook to attend a meeting in Hedon on 27th February.

Road safety. The East Riding offered a regular supply of posters and leaflets on road safety. It was agreed to request specimens of each.

Erosion near Pasture Lane Tunstall

(Pasture Lane is the start of the road to Hilston, otherwise known as Hogsea Lane.)

Messrs Frank Hill & Son had written on behalf of clients concerned about the need to protect the road from imminent damage. Support and financial help was requested.

It was agreed that the Clerk should reply sympathetically but explain that money spent trying to protect the road would be wasted and that, in any case, the problem was not one for the Parish Council.

Cllr Willie said that the East Riding Council had power to

relocate the road but that any effort to protect its present position would be opposed - no doubt successfully - by English Nature and the DETR (formerly MAFF).

Planning

Owstwick Grange (Thompson). Reserved matters had been approved. Noted.

Town Farm, Tunstall (Grayson). Detailed application for erection of general purpose farm building. Supported.

46 Pilmar Lane, Roos (Thompson). Retention of a detached garage. Cllr Priest said that a garage had been built with planning consent but its pitched roof - an asset - exceeded the agreed capacity. If approved, the application would regularise the situation. Supported.

Nutmeg Cottage, Rectory Road. (Property previously known as Shillingbury.) Demolition of existing cottage and its replacement with a larger dwelling. After some discussion of the space available the application was supported.

Rectory Cottage, Rectory Road (Thompson). Erection of double garage and conservatory to rear. Once satisfied that there was no connection with a previous application to erect a further dwelling to the rear, members supported the application.

Accounts - None

Outstanding items

The Queen's Jubilee. The Chairman reported that Cllr Mrs Kirk had suggested that the Parish Council should supply a wrought-iron seat with a appropriate wording. The suggestion was favourably received but a decision was deferred to the next meeting when there were likely to be more councillors present.

Any other business

Road sign at North End crossroad. Cllr Cook pointed out that moving the sign to the opposite side of the road had not cured the sightline problem: the sign now obstructed visibility in the other direction.

Stones on verges. Cllr Cook said that stones placed at the edge of verges to protect the grass made it difficult to manoeuvre large agricultural vehicles. Cllr Willie said that the verge was part of the highway. No one had any right to place obstacles there. The solution was to report their location to the Highways Department, who would remove them.

Pavement near Black Horse. The Chairman said that the metal cover over a nearby manhole was dangerous for pedestrians. Other members noted that the problem had been remedied once by British Telecom, the agency responsible. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to ask for further action.

PUBLIC SESSION

Quality Parish Councils

Cllr Willie asked if details had been received outlining the criteria for the "Quality" award. The Clerk said that none had been sent. Apparently some copies had not been delivered. A copy for Roos had been promised. The Chairman said that, compared to most, Roos Parish

Next Parish Council meeting
Monday 11th February
7.30 p.m. in The Memorial Institute
Members of the public always welcome

Council did very well, notably in its prudent concern not to spend public money irresponsibly.

Members of the public were then asked to leave so that members could receive notice of the resignation of the Parish Clerk, whose last meeting will be in March. See the notice of vacancy below.

NOTICE OF VACANCY

Applications are invited for the post of

Parish Clerk

Details of the Clerk's duties and salary may be obtained from the Chairman :
Councillor G.E.Winter, 3 Chestnut Garth, Roos, HU12 0LE. (Phone : 01964 - 670234)

Written applications are required as soon as possible but in any case no later than noon on

Friday 22nd February 2002

Roos Cricket Club AGM

The Annual General Meeting was held in the Roos Pavilion on 8th January.

The following officers were elected.

President
ChairmanTony GrantTreasurer
CaptainSteve CowellVice-Chair
SecretarySimon Thompson
Peter DearingVice-Captain
Vice-CaptainPhil Wright

The Chairman reported that the Club was in good heart for the 2002 season. Two consecutive championships and improved facilities kept the Club progressing well. Bill Bailey has retired as groundsman. He was presented with a tankard in appreciation of his stalwart service to the Club.

It is hoped to have an overseas player for the new season and also play junior games to encourage the youth of the village.

On 11th January weekly nets started in the sports hall at Withernsea High School. The cost is £1.00 for juniors and £2.00 for adults. The sessions are held on Friday evenings from 5.0 to 7.0 and all are welcome.

Vandalism at Roos School

Deplorable damage to trees in the school grounds was noticed on 6th January and the next day the police were informed. They advised publicity in the Holderness Gazette in the hope that anyone with information about the culprits would come forward. Most residents will have seen the Gazette's front-page article with its photograph of the headteacher, Mrs Penny Fairey, standing by one of the trees.

Wilful damage

Two trees had been chopped off at the trunk with an axe. Someone came equipped to do damage - this was clearly a premeditated act.

One of the trees stood just inside the front hedge and had been there since soon after the school opened, probably for twenty years. Its spring blossom was a delight.

The other truncated tree grew behind the school. In addition, three or four other trees at the rear had branches broken off.

Other incidents

Standing on the fringe of the built-up area of Main Street the school is an easy target for vandals. Attempts have been made to keep both the buildings and the grounds secure. The main door is locked even during the day and at night and during holidays the gates are closed and padlocked. These safeguards seem to be a challenge to the mindless wreckers rather than a deterrent.

For example, on Mischief Night the padlocked gates were lifted off their hinges. How many relatively strong arms were needed for that? How old were the culprits?

At the start of December a strong plate-glass window was broken and bottle tops were pushed inside. How much drink had been consumed in the grounds beforehand? What was its alcohol content? Replacing the window cost £130, money that should have been spent on the pupils.

Recently the glass in the font door was penetrated by an airgun pellet, leading to further expense. The school is not the only target. It is reported in the village that an airgun shot broke the rear window of a bus on its way to Withernsea. The irresponsible marksman enjoys causing public nuisance, even at the risk of personal injury.

At other times, glass bottles have been deliberately broken and left on the grass of the school field. The danger to youngsters playing there is obvious. "The school has a fine building and stands in lovely grounds," says Mrs Fairey. "It's terrible that just a few individuals can do such damage."

What can be done?

The culprits are likely to be local teenagers. As they say on "Crimewatch", "Somebody out there must know - or at least suspect - who they are." It is rumoured that some people do know but prefer, perhaps, not to get involved.

The police need names, especially if backed up by facts what was seen and where and when. As "Crimewatch" viewers know, even a report of suspicious activity may be helpful when pieced together with other information. Ring Withernsea police on 621371.

On the other hand, parents need to ask themselves,

"Where does my son or daughter go in the evenings? What does he or she get up to? Can I be confident that one of mine isn't being led astray by the desire to show off in front of mates? If I can't, shouldn't I find out?"

The best sources of information are teenagers themselves. The vast majority will deplore what is going on as much as their elders. Some of them will hear accounts of what so-and-so has dared to do and will believe them - but will be reluctant to pass on the information.

None of us likes to tell tales, even about people whose activities we disapprove of. But if we keep quiet about what we know we become accomplices of the offenders. Roos itself suffers and not just materially: we are all tainted and shamed. That's worse than helping to bring

Dancing in the hemlock

Last month "The Rooster" featured J.R.R.Tolkien, the author of "The Hobbit" and the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy. Mr Basil Reckitt had asked if anyone knew where Tolkien lived in Roos during the 1st World War.

He has written again enclosing the following extract from the biography by Humphrey Carpenter. In the extract Tolkien is referred to as Ronald.

"After the christening (of his first child) Ronald returned to duty and Edith brought the child back to Yorkshire, moving into furnished rooms at Roos, a village north of the Humber estuary and not far from the camp where Ronald (promoted to full lieutenant) was now stationed. By this time it seemed unlikely that he would be posted overseas again.

"On days when he could get leave he and Edith went for walks in the countryside. Near Roos they found a small wood with an undergrowth of hemlock and there they wandered.

"Ronald recalled of Edith as she was at this time, 'her hair was raven, her skin clear, her eyes bright and she could sing - and dance.' She sang and danced for him in the wood and from this came the story that was the centre of *The Silmarillion*, the tale of the mortal man Beren who loves the immortal Luthien Timuriel, whom Beren first sees dancing among hemlock in the wood.

"Tolkien's time at Roos came to an end in the spring of 1918 when he was posted to Penkridge, one of the Staffordshire camps."

Mr Reckitt guesses that the wood where Edith danced was Wood's Plantation or perhaps Fox Cover, adding, "I don't think it could have been Dent's Garth – too near the village and camp for private singing and dancing!"

Speculations

The publicity given to the film of the first part of "Lord of the Rings" has given rise to a good deal of guesswork. "The Holderness Advertiser" and Radio Humberside, for example, have tried to explore the local connection but nothing specific has emerged. No one seems to know an actual address.

Andrew Lockwood recalls that as a boy he was regaled with one of the many memories of Alan Foster, our

former butcher in Roos. Alan remembered chatting up a soldier who later became a famous author. Andrew says he was told that the author lived in Coltman Row.

Eric Godfrey, who lives at present in Coltman Row, has himself been told that his house was rented to the army as an officers' mess - but during the 2nd World War!

Fred Foster, Alan's brother, says that his family used to own Coltman Row but he is not old enough to remember the 1st World War. He knows nothing of a Tolkien connection. His brother Jack (and wife Lucy) might have had distant recollections but they have been dead for some time.

As far as personal memories are concerned the scent is cold. No one now alive is old enough to remember.

The Tolkien Society

Soon after last month's article appeared Tony Simpson at North End rang to report that there was a Tolkien Society and that there was a mass of information on their website: www.tolkiensociety.org. It includes a full and interesting biographical article on the author.

An e-mail to The Tolkien Society asking for any details of Tolkien's address in Roos proved fruitless, though the query was turned round: they would be glad to know of any information gleaned locally. Please ring me if you know of any leads.

(I apologise that in the last article Tolkien's name was spelt incorrectly throughout, L.H.)

ROOSTER DEADLINE

Please pass material for the next issue to Leslie Helliwell, Canwick, Lamb Lane (Phone : 670291)

bv

Friday 8th February

WANTED

Notices, reports, news items, stories, poems, articles, opinions, arguments, ...

G.W.Wilbraham: The History of Roos - 31 All Saints' Church (continued)

Church plate

The 1809 inventory mentions a silver chalice with cover, weighing 8ozs 2dr, and dated 1570. According to the Yorkshire Archaeological Society Report of 1912 on the Church Plate in the East and North Ridings and the City of York, the Roos chalice is one of the oldest in the Deanery. There are two others of the same age, at Easington and Owthorne, both with covers

In 1570, the year after the Pilgrimage of Grace and the Rising in the North, Archbishop Grindall ordered that the ancient chalices should no longer be used but a communion cup of silver with a cover of silver. The covers were used for the bread. Not a score of chalices exist. The word "chalice" was expunged from the Prayer Book but was reinserted in 1662.

The cover of the Roos chalice is missing and the weight of the cup is now given as 6ozs 7dwt, the difference being accounted for by the missing cover.

Another piece in the inventory of 1809 is a silver paten. It is 8^{5l} ins in diameter and weighs 11ozs 4dwt. Its marks indicate a date of 1627. It was a gift of Sir Mark Sykes, the previous Rector. It is a richly-embossed dish with a foot and was probably originally used as a bowl for rose water.

Rev. Charles Hotham, M.A.

The Rev. Christopher Sykes died in 1857 aged 83 and was buried with his wife. She had died in 1828 aged 54 having caught a chill while carrying water when the Rectory was burnt down. Their grave is surmounted by an obelisk with a cross.

He was succeeded by his son-in-law, Charles Hotham. Reference has already been made to his efforts and those of his wife for elementary education in the parish.

His greatest work was the restoration of the church. A brass tablet on the north wall of the sanctuary is inscribed

To the GLORY OF GOD
At his sole expense
the Rev. CHARLES HOTHAM,
M.A.
Rector of this Parish
restored this church A.D. 1842.

- The aisles were completely taken down (together with the south porch) and rebuilt a little wider.
- A west porch was built. The south porch and door and north door were not replaced.
- A new west window was inserted in the tower wall and filled with stained glass, including the Sykes crest.
- The cemetery (part of the building) was taken down and windows left as before the alterations were made.
- For the first time a heating apparatus was installed.

Old glass from the aisle windows was not reinserted but we know what it was from Poulson in the section (of "The History of Holderness") on the old gilds. On the other hand some old glass was inserted in the south clerestory.

In the same year the tower was re-roofed by the church-wardens, William Dickinson and David Brown. They gave £100 towards the restoration expenses.

Perks

For many years the churchwardens recorded: "Expenses for Easter Monday £1.1s." After the Vestry Meeting in church, members used to adjourn to the Roos Arms to conduct secular business. The 1847 Vestry Meeting resolved that the guinea be henceforth applied to defray the expenses of a dinner for Vestry members present.

The end of church rates

For very many years church expenses were met not only by rents from church property but also by occasional church rates. The rates were decided by the Vestry Meeting and were legally levied on parishioners and occupiers of land. As well as paying the cost of conducting services, the income paid for the upkeep of the church, belfry, bells, seats, ornaments and the churchyard fence. The care of the church fabric was laid jointly upon the priest and churchwardens. If the latter neglected their duties they could be dealt with by the ecclesiastical courts. The last Church Rate levied was in 1862 and brought in £38.2.3 at 2d in the pound.

An Act of Parliament in 1868 did not directly abolish church rates but allowed parishioners to contribute to the repairs of their churches. The result was that in most parishes voluntary contributions replaced rates. After 1868 donations as well as collections are first mentioned in accounts in the time of the next Rector.

Rev. Richard B. Machell and church music

The Rev. Charles Hotham died in 1866 and was interred in the Sykes vault. Sir Tatton Sykes then presented the living to the Rev. Richard B.Machell.

Mr Machell instigated moves to build the organ chamber on the south side of the chancel and instal a two-manual pipe organ with pedal-board.

In earlier days other musical instruments had been used, as the church accounts reveal.

- 1552 Inventory one pair of organs.
- 1797 Pitch-pipe 5/6.
- 1816 Viola bag 5/-; 3 fiddle strings.
- 1818 Strings 1/10 (and regularly up to 1844).
- 1848 Offered for sale for £3.
- 1851 Sold for £1.

In Charles Hotham's time a very good mixed choir under the leadership of Charles Silversides had become well known in the district - all the more notable in that they sang unaccompanied. They occupied the two back pews and also a drop seat. Much of their sheet music is still to be found in the church.

The present organ was dedicated on July 27^{th} 1881, built at a cost of £180.19s (2^{nd} digit not clear – may be £100.19s.) and the organ £25.1.4. (Perhaps this means that the organ chamber cost the larger amount and the organ itself £25.1.4.) The architect's fee was £16.7.6 and the cost of the faculty £3.6.4.

Miss Machell, the Rector's daughter, was the first organist, followed by T.Price Lewis. In wartime there was Mr or Mrs Baker of Halsham. From 1919 to 1965 the organist was Mr G.W.Wilbraham, schoolmaster. (Mr Lewis and Mr Silversides had also been schoolmasters.)

The organ has been overhauled twice and in 1905 a new stop and another bellows were added.

Extension of the churchyard

Before 1867 the approach to the church was from the north side. The only access was along a path going past Dent's Garth and then west to the beck and along it to the north-east corner of the churchyard.

Mrs Hotham and Mrs York, daughters and heiresses of the Rev. Christopher Sykes, gave land to extend the churchyard and allow access to the other road (i.e. Rectory Road as we know it). They also gave £100 towards the cost of fresh fencing.

A sunken fence was constructed. It ran from the southwest corner of the churchyard round the south and east sides and north side up to the road. The cobble wall was 211 yards long, forming a sunk fence four feet high. The trees were allowed to remain. Now, 100 years later, some are still standing. Others have been planted by Mr B.N.Reckitt, churchwarden. (Mr Reckitt does not remember planting any here.)

A row of holly bushes was planted along the bank above the wall and a footpath was made between the hedge and trees around the yard.

The beck had been formerly been open and formed the churchyard boundary. It was now covered in with a brick culvert — a length of 75 feet. The total cost of this work was £80. 166 tons of cobbles, with bricks and lime were led (i.e. transported) free, and £6 was realised from the sale of gravel and timber

Four years later, 100 yew trees and forty laurels were planted, creating the avenue of yew trees that made the approach to the church so pleasing and an attraction for visitors and passers-by.

Church stained glass

Clerestory, south side: window on east

The oldest stained glass in the church is to be seen in two of the clerestory windows on the south side. In the easterly one is the sun in splendour, which used to be in the east window before the present one was inserted by Mrs Hotham in memory of her husband. At the foot is a Latin inscription pertaining to one of the gilds of the Middle Ages. There are some fragments round the borders of the window. Only by getting on the leads of the south aisle is it possible to see closely these ancient pieces of glass.

South aisle, second window from east end

The second window from the east end of the south aisle was the gift of Mrs Lawrence Stephenson of Hollym, formerly of Roos, in memory of her parents, Edward and Sarah Wallis. It was ordered before her death from Burlison and Grylls and depicts three Yorkshire saints.

S.Paulinus, first Bishop of York 627, wearing a mitre and other eucharistic vestments, holds a model of York Minster. The arms of the see adorn the pedestal on which he stands.

S.Hilda, Abbess of Whitby, holds in her hand an Abbess's staff and in the other a book as patron of learning. She stands on a pedestal with the arms of Whitby.

S.Chad, who succeeded Paulinus, in mitre and cope, holds a model of Lichfield Cathedral where he was Bishop after vacating the see of York in favour of S. Wilfred. Arms of Lichfield.

Chancel

The decorated window in the chancel is filled with stained glass representing "The Marriage at Cana in Galilee".

In the left light are the bride and bridegroom in the background and in the foreground the servant with the water-pots. In the centre light Our Lord is performing the miracle and His Mother looking anxiously on. In the right light are three of Our Lord's disciples and two others. In the top centre niche is the figure of The Lamb and in two others are angels bearing scrolls: "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain."

The window was dedicated: "To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Lawrence Stephenson, born at

Hompton July 30th 1825. died April 5th 1889, buried at Roos."

Chancel, south side: Barony Window

The so-called Barony Window is in the chancel, south side. The glass was once in the window now in the organ chamber but was inserted in the present one in 1904 as it had been hidden by the organ. The window had been taken out at the restoration of the church, 1842.

The edges of the three lights consist of alternate strips of red and blue glass with a small yellow boss between.

In the centre of the left-hand light is the coat-of-arms.

East window

The stained glass fills the five lights and fifteen niches. It was put in by Mrs Hotham in memory of her husband. The pictures in the five lights take up half the space, the remainder being taken up by patterned glass. The background is alternately red and blue.

The centre light has the Crucifixion with Mary and John on either side. The artist depicts the sun and moon obscured by the arms of the cross. Over the picture, in the design above, is a small head of the Devil with a protruding tongue. This peculiar device occurs twice more in the same window and also twice in a window in the north aisle.

In the extreme left-hand light Christ is shown with five other figures and a scroll bearing the words, "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness." On the right of this we see Christ blessing the little children.

On the extreme right there are the figures of Christ and six Apostles, among them St John and St Peter holding the keys. To the left of this is a picture illustrating the text on a scroll, "Feed my Lambs."

In eight of the niches is a figure and the word "Alleluia".

Clerestory, south side : centre light

In the centre light of the south clerestory window there is a multifarious collection of pieces of glass arranged around a shield: "Party per fess embattled arg. and sable three martlets counter-charges. Thompsons of Humbleton. Elizabeth Thompson married Charles Hotham, Rector of Wigan 1665." It is conjectured that this coat of arms was inserted by the Rev. Charles Hotham, a

descendant of the above.

Above this shield is another with a stag resting on its haunches with one of its legs holding up a scroll bearing "O.A.TE DEO" ("Orate Deo"? - "Pray to God").

Three other fragments arranged round the lower shield have "DIEU ET MON DROIT" from a royal coat of arms.

There are a number of small fragments with patterns and figures, one a fragment of the royal arms dated 1415 -1603. This royal coat of arms is unique. It first appeared on the great seal of Henry IV.

Quarterly: 1 & 4 France modern azure, three fleurs-de-lys or.

> England gules, three leopards 2 & 3 (lions passant guardant) or.

In 1906 a severe hailstorm broke a number of panes of glass and took out a piece of this coat of arms.

West window

The west window is filled with multi-coloured glass in patterns of geometrical design and in the centre light is the coat of arms of the Sykes family. This window is a splash of colour but is unfortunately hidden from the sight of folks leaving church by the belfry chamber curtains.

Baptistry

The newest window is in the baptistry. It was erected in

memory of the Rev. Edward Milsom, M.A., Rector for thirty years, by his parishioners, friends and relatives. The side lights are filled with the figures of St Nicholas and St Edward the Confessor, surmounted by arms. In the centre light is the Blessed Virgin Mary as Queen of Heaven with a crown held above her head by two angels.

All this fine glass - old and new - is still to be seen and is insured by The Church Council.

There was some other glass when Poulson visited this church gathering material ready for his mammoth "History of Holderness". He mentions two other shields.

Chancel, north window

1st argent, a chevron, or; 2nd or, a lion rampant azure, debruised by a bend Gebony. A & G.Sutton.

Sayer of this family married Anne, daughter of William, Lord Ros.

The other window was behind the pulpit. It was taken out later when the organ was built.

1st Party per pale. gules, 3 bougets, argent, Ros.

quarterly

2nd gules, a fret, or.

as 1st

The Rooster

Donations: Year April 2001 - March 2002

Recent donations from the following are gratefully acknowledged.

Mrs E.Hinch

Mr & Mrs T.Stone

Mr & Mrs C.J.Hutchinson

Mrs S.Turner

Mr & Mrs J.C.Priest

Two months to go

Readers who wish to support "The Rooster" in this financial year but have not yet done so, please pass donations by the end of March to Canwick, Lamb Lane. The bank requires cheques payable to "L.Helliwell".

Coming events, reports, advertisements

"The Rooster" needs more items from its readers, not least notices of coming events and reports of those that have already occurred.

Thanks to the generosity of supporters who help pay for the newsletter, clubs and societies can have their advertisements printed free. Just make sure the material is made available before the monthly deadline.

Views and opinions

If you feel strongly about something to do with the village (or about anything else) write to "The Rooster". It would be entertaining and often profitable if we could have an ongoing dialogue about local concerns.

If you have a grouse or a suggestion, don't just tell your neighbour or the people in the pub, let the rest of us know.

Litter bins

At their last meeting the Parish Council did not respond to the East Riding's letter about litter bins.

I found this disappointing, an opportunity missed, since the authority let slip that it might actually provide a bin or two if a proper request was made.

When he was Chairman of the Parish Council Alan Bowden persuaded members to invest in one, which he put in place himself near the Roos Supermarket near the path through to Beechwood Views.

Roos has a need for more bins. Most people could think of places where they would help to cut down litter in the village. Not everybody would use them but most would.

As a first step it would be worthwhile to draw up a list identifying places where bins would be of benefit.

Good bins are expensive but even if they were to be paid for from the Parish Council's own funds it should be possible to buy one or two a year until needs were met. The cost would be negligible as a proportion of the total Council Tax we pay.

If you agree that there should be more bins in Roos, have a word with one or more of the parish councillors and suggest where you think they could be sited.

Better still, write a letter giving your views to the Parish Clerk: Mr Alan Santos, Baytree, 17 Elm Garth.

Or write to "The Rooster"

L.H.