

# the Gander

**Goxhill Village Newsletter**

Autumn 2007



Manor Lane in June. Like many of Goxhill's roads, underwater.

**Goxhill Views**  
**Village Tales**  
**Local People**

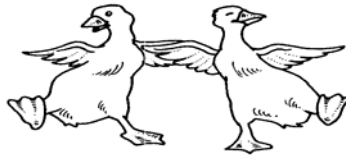


**School Reports**  
**Church Letter**  
**Off the Hoof**

---

**Twentieth anniversary issue**

---



## the Gander

In July it was my 25th birthday: St Swithin's Day and it rained. For those who know the legend, I would say the story held true - as many of you can testify, this has been the wettest summer on record. There is, of course, no scientific basis to the myth about the long-dead Bishop of Winchester - rain on the middle day of the seventh month naturally means the summer is not all most people hope for. For me too, July 15th was just one day: perfectly pleasant despite the weather but it didn't really make a difference to what happened on the next day or the next. Birthdays are as arbitrary as the rain. It's what happens either side that makes the difference, whether it be good or flood.

In this issue we mark 20 years of the Gander. Over the page Alan Gould recalls how this newsletter came into being, and in 80 editions appearing every quarter since, successive editors, co-ordinators and contributors have tinkered around the edges, moving it on through both toil and technology to what we have today - still evolving but sticking closely to the set of ideals we hope you share of an impartial voice for every villager, delivered free to every home.

Though I think I have a pretty good memory, I can't remember a time when Goxhill didn't have the Gander. Every three months from when it began, my brother and I helped our mother deliver to the stretch of Ferry Road nearest to our home. It became a regular event throughout the year and I know from distributing Ganders today that many of our dedicated and reliable volunteer deliverers feel the same. But time and tide move on and nothing lasts for ever.

For me the changes came in July when I got a job in East Yorkshire and moved to a property 'on the other side'. I shall continue to edit this newsletter because Goxhill is my home and the routine comfortable. I also know, without blowing my own trumpet, that there are few people willing or able to replace me. Things will, however, have to change, even if for now it is just the phone number on which I can be contacted. With everything now electronic I could be in Australia and it would make no difference.

Of more pressing concern is the loss of several of our deliverers. This summer five of them, a majority who had served us all for two decades, became for a variety of reasons unable to continue. We thank them for their efforts over the years and whether they move away or just into new opportunities we wish them well. Now they need to be replaced or how you get your Gander will have to change. Some alterations are acceptable, but this isn't one of them so please, please, if you can offer half an hour every three months for a short walk, do contact us.

By the next issue we hope to be able to share our plans (currently at an advanced stage) to add a website but this should never be at the cost of the paper newsletter. For 20 years that has been what the Gander was all about and so long as we have your support that will not change. Happy birthday.

**Adam Ellis.**

### The 'Gander' Team 2007

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Tel</u>	
Mike Gathercole	'Ferry Lodge', Ferry Road.	532208	Co-ordinator
Adam Ellis	'Fresh Fields', Ferry Road (DN19 7JZ).	01430 432699	Editor
John Noton	'Owlet Cottage', Mill Lane.	532628	Treasurer
Jane Arnott	'Innisfree', Churchside.	530962	Distribution.

*Please contact any of the above with any queries that you may have regarding deliveries, advertising, letters or contributions you would like to submit.*

*Articles should be sent by e-mail to: [goxhill-gander@fsmail.net](mailto:goxhill-gander@fsmail.net) or direct to the editor.*

*Please note that comments or opinions expressed in articles printed are not necessarily those of the team.*

*© The Goxhill Village Newsletter 2007.*

# How THE GANDER was born.

In the Spring of 1987, Goxhill was abuzz with speculation. All through the village and the parish, residents were looking forward to being able to vote for the first time in twelve years at their Goxhill Parish Council Election. Normally a local village election would not cause such a stir, but on this occasion there were no less than eighteen candidates to choose from, and many of them would become new Councillors if elected.

Interest in the 1987 election had also been heightened by the distribution to every household of a joint manifesto for all candidates. This publication was promoted by the Community Council of Humberside, and arranged by Pip Teasdale of Willow Farm.

That now historic sheet, on just two sides of A4 paper, carried a short statement by each candidate. It also carried an invitation to anyone interested in forming a regular village newsletter to attend a meeting in the Parish Rooms. The issuing of that election statement was a huge success. It had the dual effect of attracting a record number of votes for the new Parish Council, and just as importantly it resulted in the formation of a committee called Goxhill Community Newsletter Group whose responsibility it would be to produce Goxhill's own newspaper.

The new Group's first task was to find a name for the publication. Numerous ideas were suggested, but eventually 'THE GANDER' was chosen at Alan Gould's suggestion, based on his entirely erroneous belief that the word 'Goxhill' had evolved from an earlier name of 'Goose Hill'. Only later was it pointed out that one early Saxon name for this village had been 'Gouzle', but by then the paper had been named 'THE GANDER'.

The Gander Group spent the summer of 1987 sorting out all the details necessary for producing a publication of sufficiently high standard to grace our village. They were conscious of the excellent quarterly paper produced in Barrow called 'The Missing Link', and they felt that anything Barrow could do, Goxhill could do better.

A number of cardinal principles were laid down at that time for THE GANDER. It was to be a quarterly newsletter; it would be delivered free to every dwelling in the parish; it would be financed by the advertisements it carried; it would be open for any resident or voluntary group to participate in; it would be owned by the village's residents; it would be free and independent of any financial, political or statutory bodies and it would hold Annual General Meetings; these principles have held to this day and they have served THE GANDER well.

By September of 1987, the Gander Group were ready to issue the first edition of Goxhill's own newspaper. [See right] At that time the Editor was Laurence Boxer of Gallifrey, South End, Carol Thornton of The Playground, Thorn Lane was the advertising manager and Alan Gould of Woodrising, Thorn Lane was Group Secretary, Michael O'Leary of Trinity Close followed shortly later to begin his long and reliable contribution as Treasurer to the Group. Ten A4 pages were typed onto duplicator wax skins and 600 copies were rolled off on Alan's ancient Roneo duplicator.

A squawking chick had been hatched, to grow and to thrive and to serve us all.

Twenty years later, with the issue of the eightieth edition, Goxhill can rightly be proud of its journalistic achievement. The advertisers, the authors of articles, the deliverers, and the various selfless group workers have all made their individual and collective contributions. This village is a better place for that, and may it long continue.



by Alan Gould

With thanks to Joan Gould and Carol Thornton

**and all who have helped serve this newsletter and the village over the last 20 years**

To all members of the Gander teams of the past and regular contributors- Alan and Joan Gould, Laurence Boxer, Michael and Alyson O'Leary, Paul and Carol Thornton, Richard Owen, Don Noble, Moira Abbott, David Hemstock, Len Dixon, John Guiggari, Paul McDonagh, Darren Walker, Stan Robertson, John Dakers, Caroline Atkins, Janet Holland, Elaine Hughes, Peter and Victoria Rose, Maurice Brawn, Aileen Hanlon-Bennett - and every one of our deliverers, advertisers and readers, thank you all. Here's to another 20 years.



# School Report



## Goxhill School is Expanding.

**M**any of you will have noticed when passing the school that changes are afoot this summer. At last we are having an extension to the entrance of the school. There will be a new office and additional rooms which staff can use to support and meet the individual needs of pupils. It is an exciting time for Goxhill School. Of course it does mean there will be a modest amount of disruption in the Autumn Term. The Office has been temporarily re-sited at the side of the school and visitors, parents and staff will need to get used to using that as the main school entrance until the building works are complete. All being well Goxhill School will have the new facilities in use by Christmas.

## Mrs. Boxer's retirement

After teaching at Goxhill School for over 20 years, Frances Boxer has retired. The event was marked in an informal way at Frances' request. An evening event was held at the school for friends and colleagues past and present. There was a buffet reception and guests were able to mingle and pass on their best wishes to Frances in the glorious sunshine. There was also a special assembly on the last day of term. Pupils presented Frances with specially made cards and she received vouchers to purchase a greenhouse. Frances thanks all parents, friends and staff who contributed towards the gift.

## Extended School Provision

**Out of School Club** - Our affiliated Out of School Club is still very popular, thanks to a very able and committed staff led by Clare Robinson. As well as providing child care from 3.30pm to 6pm each evening the club runs a breakfast session from 7.55am to 8.55am.

**Holiday Provision** - In May half term the Out of School Club held five daily music workshops when children could learn to play music from a different part of the world each day with a qualified teacher.

**Extra curricular activities** - The school also hosts a range of additional activities such as netball, football, athletics, choir, music tuition, 'Dancersise', Cheer Leading, Brownies and Rainbows.

## Work Experience

When our pupils leave us they choose to transfer to many different secondary schools in the area. We are always delighted that so many of our past pupils opt to come back to Goxhill School for their work experience placements. This summer pupils in Year 10 and 11 have returned from Baysgarth School, Caistor Grammar, Vale of Ancolme and King Edwards Grammar School in Louth. We have also worked with past pupils on placements from The Grimsby Institute of Further and Higher Education and North Lindsey College in Scunthorpe. In September two more past pupils will work with us from Sir John Nelthorpe School in Brigg. It is always great for us to welcome our past pupils back to Goxhill School.

## Looking Back over the Summer Term

As always, we had a very busy summer term at Goxhill Primary School with a wide variety of events crammed into a very short amount of time.

### Events

Pupils enjoyed taking part in:

- *'Afrikan Fusion'* - a full day experiencing the music, dance, cooking and traditions of Africa.
- *Pedestrian and cycle training*- Keeping safe on the roads is an essential life skill and we hope that our pupils will be safer after having taken these courses. We were pleased to celebrate the fact that all of our Year 5 pupils passed the cycle test at the end of the course. Many thanks to the patience of our volunteer helpers who spent many hours with the children in order to make this possible.
- *Wider opportunities in music*- pupils enjoyed learning to play the recorder and African Drums and working on their rhythm work and singing skills.
- *Sports coaching*- pupils took part in sessions to help them improve their outdoor games skills with a qualified coach.
- *Class assemblies*- our pupils are always keen to share what they have learnt. Last term our talented pupils from the Foundation Stage to Year 4 performed plays, sang songs and played music to the delight of their families and friends.

*Continued overleaf...*



## School Report - 2



*Continued from previous page...*

### **School Visits** - at Goxhill

School we believe that it is essential to broaden our children's experiences by linking what they are learning in school with real life. As such we aim to take them on educational visits at least termly. In the Summer Term pupils visited Barton, Uncle Henry's Farm, Normanby Hall, the Deep, Lincoln, Bridlington Seaside museum and Hull University.

### **The Year 6 residential visit**

This took place earlier this year in June. Pupils enjoyed spending a week away from home with their friends in university accommodation on the north bank of the river. Pupils took part in activities such as taking a guided tour of a coal mine, shelter building and orienteering, ice skating, bowling and swimming. They visited various attractions on the East Coast and while it rained in Goxhill, they were soaking up the sun in Scarborough!

**Sports days** were planned and then rescheduled due to the bad weather. However the ground remained too wet and so for safety reasons sports days were cancelled. For the first time ever we are now planning to hold our sports days in September and so we are keeping our fingers crossed for good weather at that time.

### **Goxhill Community Summer Fayre**

One of the highlights of the term was the Summer Fayre. Yes, the sun actually shone! The glorious afternoon sunshine created a lovely, summery atmosphere. A good time was had by all. Pupils, families, local people and friends all joined together to enjoy the cheerleading and Karate dis-

plays, the games, stalls and especially the cream teas. We would like to thank all staff, parents, helpers and volunteers for their assistance on the day.

### **Y6 Graduation Evening**

This was a new venture for us and combined the Year 6 Leavers' Service and their summer concert. Pupils from Year 6 sang songs, read poems and acted out short plays about their memories of school. They performed their own version of Joseph and danced to 'Amarillo'. The Reverend Girtchen delivered an emotional speech and then helped the Chair of Governor, Mike Gathercole, present all pupils with a dictionary as a memento of Goxhill School. The performance was well attended and enjoyed by all. It ended when the children performed a tear-jerking rendition of the Robbie Williams 'Angels' as the finale song.

### Looking Ahead

At the end of the present academic year, we look forward to an exciting new term at school. As all pupils move into their new year groups, we always have in mind our future pupils. If you have a pre-school child over 6 months old who, as yet, is not registered with us we would be delighted if you could contact the school office by telephone on **530743**, by e-mail on [head.goxhillprimary@northlincs.gov.uk](mailto:head.goxhillprimary@northlincs.gov.uk) or via our website: [www.goxhill.ik.org](http://www.goxhill.ik.org)

We would like to thank the local community for the on-going support and help it gives to our village school. The staff, pupils and governors of Goxhill Primary School hope that you all had a glorious and happy summer!

As you may have seen, this summer marks 100 years since the formation of the Scouts.

**Lord Baden-Powell** was slightly eccentric but also spoke quite a lot of sense.

Some of his ideas still stand today. Have a read and see what you make of a few of them:

"No boy ever began smoking because he liked it but because he thought it made him look like a grown-up man. As a matter of fact in generally makes him look a little ass."

"Alcohol is now shown to be quite useless as a health giving drink and it is mere poison when a man takes too much."

*I imagine many of you have opinions on this one:* "The way you stop a runaway horse is not to run out in front of it and wave your arms, as so many people do but to try and race alongside it, catch hold of the shaft to keep yourself from falling, and seize the reins with the other hand."

*Finally this quote is sure to get some response out of you. It is on the character of bees:* "They are quite a model community for they respect their Queen and kill their unemployed."

[goxhill-gander@fsmail.net](mailto:goxhill-gander@fsmail.net)

Deadline:  
**Saturday 3rd  
November**

# Letter from the Churches

Imagine there is a bank which credits your account each morning with £86,400, carries over no balance from day to day, allows you to keep no cash balance, and every evening cancels whatever part of the amount you had failed to use during the day.

What would you do?

Draw out every penny, of course!

Well, everyone has such a bank. It's name is time.

Every morning, it credits you with 86,400 seconds.

Every night it writes off, as lost, whatever of this you have failed to invest to good purpose.

It carries over no balance. It allows no overdraft.

Each day it opens a new account for you.

Each night it burns the records of the day.

If you fail to use the day's deposits, the loss is yours.

There is no going back. There is no drawing against the tomorrow.

You must live in the present on today's deposits.

Invest it so as to get from it the utmost in health, happiness and success!

The clock is running. Make the most of today.

Treasure every moment that you have! And treasure it more because you shared it with someone special, special enough to spend your time.

And remember, time waits for no one.

Yesterday is history.

Tomorrow is a mystery.

Today is a gift. That's why it's called the present.

How we use that present is up to us and I guess we have different ideas about this the older we get and as our circumstances change. Jesus had a couple of things to say about our uses of time. His teaching given is in his famous 'Sermon on the Mount' about the folly of spending our time worrying about things we can't change, or upon the pursuit of material wealth at the expense of spiritual poverty. You can read more of this in Matthew's Gospel, chapters 5 and 6.

The Christian view is that all things come from God. The time he gives us is a present, a gift. How we use it is up to us.

*Reverend John Girtchen*

## Calling ALL joggers/runners

In April I successfully completed the London Marathon. After months of pounding the streets around the villages on my own, I was intrigued by an advert for Barton Athletic Club.

I nervously turned up at Baysgarth School one Thursday evening at 6.30pm not knowing what to expect. A group of about 20 people, men and women of varying ages were gathered in the car park. Group Leader, Claire Vickers, (Sports Development Manager, North Lincs Council Schools Sports Partnership) soon welcomed me and explained that each week the route is varied sometimes incorporating hill or sprint sessions, but ALL abilities are catered for. People new to running are given the option of easier alternatives, whilst more experienced runners or those looking to increase their speed can be pushed by fellow runners.

We set off together, through Barton, stopping after a mile to regroup and stretch before splitting into pace groups to run along the riverbank. I pushed myself to keep up with a sprightly young runner, whilst discussing running experiences. The friendly atmosphere and change of scenery made a pleasant alternative to running on my own and before I knew it, I was back in the school car park. I then learnt that a fellow runner had cockled over on her ankle in Barton and was unable to carry on. Claire had used her mobile to ring for a taxi and then helped her get home. This just highlighted one of the many advantages of running in a group.

It is not true that you have to be a 'good runner' to join a running club – you just need to enjoy running – or at least enjoy the feeling, once it is over!

All are welcome to join Barton Athletic Club. Just turn up on a Thursday evening at 6.30pm in the car park at Baysgarth School, Barton, or contact Claire Vickers on 07771 806917.

*Julie Donald*

# Notice Board

## Cash Bingo

Every **Friday night** in the **Memorial Hall at 8pm** - Strictly Adults Only .

The **Luncheon Club** meets at the **Chapel** at **12noon** on the **third Wednesday** of every month.

If you would like to come along and share a two-course meal and conversation with similar older residents please contact **Jack Elwood** on **530690** to book your place.

## Memorial Hall 200 Club Winners

<u>Month</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
May	22	Mrs A. Lawson	£26.25
	124	Mr. G Cartwright	£26.25
June	94	Mr. R Reece	£26.25
	166	Mrs J Foulston	£26.25
July	119	Mr A Barrick	£26.25
	166	Mrs J Foulston	£26.25

*\* We apologise for any confusion caused by the mistaken naming of Mr M Parker as an April winner*

## The 'J' Team

The 'J' Team is a children's group for young people from the age of 4 upwards.

We meet at the **Methodist Schoolroom** on a **Friday** from **3.45 – 5.15pm** during term-time; during when activities including games, singing, craft, stories and prayers take place.

If you would like your child to come just bring them along one Friday, or for more information ring **Sandra Smith** on **530065**.

The **Methodist Schoolroom** is available for hire at a competitive price.

To book the Schoolroom contact

**Jane Arnott** on **530962**.

## Darby & Joan Club

We meet every Tuesday at 2pm in the Memorial Hall – All are welcome.

£1 - includes tea and a raffle.

Contact **Jane Arnott** on **530962**.

Rabbit - free to good home,  
2 year old cross lion head/lop, hutch as well  
Contact **01469 532628** to discuss.

**PLEASE USE THIS NOTICE BOARD TO  
MAKE YOUR ANNOUNCEMENTS,  
APOLOGIES, APPEALS AND  
APPRECIATIONS.**

## Church and Chapel Dates for Your Diaries

- Sunday 16th September: Methodist Chapel, Harvest Festival Family Service, 10.30am.
- Sunday 16th September: Methodist Chapel, Harvest Festival Service, 6pm.  
Preacher for both services, former Goxhill resident, Rev. Richard Towle.
- Friday 5th October: Primary School Hall, Churches Together Quiz Night. Contact Sandra or Jane.
- Thursday 11th October: Greenfields Community Room, Harvest Festival Service, 2pm.
- Friday 12th October: All Saints, Harvest Festival Evensong and Supper, 7.30pm.
- Sunday 14th October, All Saints, Harvest Festival and Baptismal Service, 9.30am.
- Sunday 4th November, Methodist Chapel, Bereavement Service, 6.30pm. Remembering loved ones whether lost recently or long ago.
- Sunday 11th November: The Memorial Hall, Village Service of Remembrance, 10.45am.  
Preacher the new Methodist Superintendent Minister, Rev. Gillian Belford.
- Sunday 11th November: Airfield propeller memorial, Remembrance Service, 2pm.

## Deadline

Please have submissions for the Winter issue of the Gander in by **Saturday 3rd November**.

Distribution: 1st week of December, for all your Christmas features.

**E-mail: [goxhill-gander@fsmail.net](mailto:goxhill-gander@fsmail.net)**

# BAYSGARTH NEWS

## Baysgarth welcomes the Primary Schools

A whole series of visits and exciting activities took place during the Summer term involving pupils from our partner primary schools in the Baysgarth cluster – this included the three primaries in Barton and those in the surrounding villages from South Ferriby in the west to South Killingholme in the east: a total of twelve schools including ourselves. Activities included a very successful 'Wake and Shake' festival on July 5<sup>th</sup>, rounders and cricket competitions; a Forensic Science day where pupils had to solve a mystery 'Whodunit'; designing, making and testing Jitterbugs in Technology, along with numerous staff visiting the primary schools from our Maths, Science, Technology and PE facilities either taking lessons or preparing for pupil visits to Baysgarth. These activities culminated with the Y6 Transition Day on July 9<sup>th</sup> and parents meeting in the evening.

## Water Sports

Despite all its efforts, the weather did not deter Baysgarth pupils from enjoying their end of school activities, although Sports Day was delayed so many times, it could truly have been said to be a 'watered down' version! However, Years 7, 8 and 10 took part in the events with great enthusiasm – their spirits were not dampened. In fact it whetted their appetites for more sports as Interform Cricket and Rounders took place during the afternoon sessions.

## What an Experience!

Year 10 Work Experience took place at the beginning of July superbly organised, yet again, by Mrs. Newstead.



Many of the pupils received high praise and indeed proved that they could fit into the workplace quite happily. Perhaps the Super Student this year was Catherine Toyne, who went on placement to the North Lincolnshire Council. They were so delighted with her all-round performance that they invited her back for an extra week and also asked her to help 'man' their stand at the Providers Convention held at Ashby Link on July 12<sup>th</sup>. Well done to all the students, and especially to Catherine.

## Time for School!

The improvement from the school year 05/06 when we achieved an overall figure of 93.3% has been maintained this year with a whole school attendance rate of 93%. Of course, we will be working hard to improve even further on these figures.

## Into Orbit?

Year 9 pupils were sent on a three day Space Adventure during the last week of term. Their mission was to design, build and launch three types of rockets, with the aid of the Science Department, superbly commanded by Miss Philips. What did the Year 9s think? 'It was great fun', 'I got to work with people that I didn't know well and we had a fab time', and 'I really enjoyed myself'. A happy landing was had by all.

## Summer School Activities

45 Y6 pupils, who will be coming into Baysgarth's Y7 in September took part in a 'Harry Potter Sleepover' on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> July, when Baysgarth became Hogwarts for 24 hours. The event was a fun way of celebrating the creativity, imagination and high quality literature for children produced in this last of the books about JK Rowling's School-boy hero. 'Pupil Post' should have brought you details of a whole variety of FREE activities for pupils in years 7 to 10 during August. Activities will include an Art Club, Skate Park, Dance Club, Football and a Film Club. Details of future events can be obtained from Sarah Wells on 07717586975.

## Sport for All

Major works commenced next to the Sports Hall on the school site during the summer holidays, with our new MUGA – Multi Games Area or all weather pitch – which should be completed by the end of October. This is another exciting development for us and will undoubtedly improve our PE and sporting facilities, and through these, further enhance the ways in which we can work with local community groups. Such a project undoubtedly helps our work in developing PE and Sport in almost half of the schools in North Lincolnshire as part of the Baysgarth School Sporting Partnership.

## Time for a Boast

Supported classes are exciting new developments within our Inclusion Faculty involving very small groups of pupils (approx. 10 per group) in years 7, 8 and 9. Specialised staff will be working with these youngsters on individual programmes in carefully planned and designed rooms to support their particular learning needs. This is a major change in approach for us and we will be following the progress of the pupils with great interest.

## It's the County Sports Results

Athletics: Outstanding performances from Josh South and Daniel Lidgett helped Baysgarth to 7<sup>th</sup> place out of 14 schools from across the Humberside region (including National finalists and Hymers). Following their participation in the County Athletics Championships, the following qualified for District Teams:

Josh South	Triple Jump
Alex Hodson	1500 Metres
Ricky Lindsley	1500 Metres
Sophie Ayres	Shot
Amy Waulmsley	Discus
Michelle Paisley	200 Metres

Sophie and Michelle went even further to represent the County, and to receive their County Colours. Well done to all those who took part, organised supported or cheered on at any of the activities.

If you want to know more about the school then why not visit our 360° tour around the buildings on our state-of-the-art website? Or call into the school office and collect Issue 2 of our full colour school magazine "School Daze".



# Goxhill Parish Council

**Allotments** The tenancy agreements are now ready for the allotments. If anyone is interested in renting an allotment, please contact the Clerk to the Parish Council, Parish Room, Howe Lane, Goxhill, DN19 7HS

**VACANCY** - There is a vacancy for a Parish Councillor.

Applicants must be aged 18 or over and have lived in the Parish of Goxhill for 12 months or more. The Parish Council meet at 7.30 pm on the first Thursday of each month.

Interested parties should apply in writing to:

Clerk to the Parish Council, Parish Room, Howe Lane, Goxhill. DN19 7HS

**Invitation to Tender** - Goxhill Parish Council is seeking tenders from suitably experienced providers to provide maintenance and mowing services for Goxhill cemetery.

The services must include:

From mid-October :

- Clearing and cutting back paths and edges
- Cutting and pruning front and side hedges
- Minor tree maintenance
- Keeping entrance clear and tidy,
- Levelling up graves
- Occasional bench painting
- Keeping a tidy appearance

The Gander would like to congratulate Mick Rash on his recent retirement from delivering the Target to our doors every Thursday, whatever the weather, for 20 years. Thank you for all your efforts: we hope you enjoy more time with Gillian and the grandchildren.

From January onwards, all the above plus: Regular grass cutting and strimming.

The contract term is for an initial period of 12 months, with a view to extending this, if the service is satisfactory. It is estimated that the work involves approximately 100 hours per year.

Further information can be obtained from the Clerk, or any member of the Parish Council

Should you be interested in this work, please submit your sealed tender to Goxhill Parish Council, c/o Mrs C Tooby, Sleepers, 4 St Michaels Court, Goxhill, North Lincolnshire DN19 7HF.

A lot of Vandalism has been done at the memorial hall over the School summer holidays, cost wise it amounts in the region of £1500. It is known who some of the culprits are and their names have been sent to John WHITE the community Police Officer for the area. As parents who read the gander do you know where your offspring have been over the Summer Hols. Most of the damage has occurred during the day and the Parish Council will endeavour to claim compensation from the culprits irrespective of whether or not the police prosecute.

Without doubt the damage done will be repaired and the costs of such will regrettably be obtained from the Parish precept of the Council Tax that all you readers are paying. If you know of anyone who has damaged the Memorial Hall or any property within Goxhill I urge you to contact the parish Council in confidence or if you want to contact me direct please do so. Any information however obtained will be passed onto the police for there action together with costs for damages.

*Mike Gathercole*

To reply to anything the Parish Council has to say, or make any suggestions on future projects, please let us know.

*Contact us at the usual address:*

**[goxhill-gander@fsmail.net](mailto:goxhill-gander@fsmail.net)**

The Deadline for the next edition of  
**the Gander** is  
**Saturday 4th August**

Distribution 1st week of September.

## **The rain it raineth every day on the just and the unjust Fella, But mainly on the just, because the unjust hath the just's Umbrella**

I am quite sure that there are many people who are not at all interested in the history of Goxhill. They will wonder why I so often write about the past and about the enclosure of the village. The reason is quite simply that the past and in particular the enclosure of the village created the place in which we live today.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of June the streets of our village and some of our houses were flooded. If more attention had been paid to the infrastructure that was put in to place in earlier times many of the areas that were flooded could have been spared the experience. As a child I was taught that if you do as you like you must be prepared to like what you have done. This seems reasonable but unfortunately the actions of those who do, as they like often have long lasting results which remain long after their demise. Too many people have done things in the past, which present problems in the village today.

Older people talk about a ring of drains all round Goxhill. Unfortunately in modern times this suggests a continuous ring main encircling the village. This was never the case but there were several separate deep drains. These joined together to carry away the water to the Haven and on the West Side of the village to the Budford drain in neighbouring Barrow. These drains were set out in detail and their dimensions laid down in an Act of Parliament in 1775.

One clause in the act is rather interesting to anyone who watched as the water approached or entered his or her front door.

“And we do further order and direct that the Fence Ditches of all and every the allotments herein before made and also the said ancient enclosed lands by and through which the water may be drained from any other allotment or ancient enclosure into any of the public or private

drains aforesaid shall from time to time and at all times herein after be so well and sufficiently cut open scoured and cleaned by the respective proprietors there of so that in no wise to hinder or interrupt the water from passing and draining from any other allotment or ancient enclosure through such fence ditch or ditches into any of the public or private drains aforesaid”

Now this worked very well because the Vestry Committee controlled the village and appointed people to do various jobs. Amongst these were two Dyke Reeves who were responsible for the drains and the flood protection banks by the river. The drains which flowed to the haven had a sluice which allowed the water to flow out at low tide but prevented the tide water from flowing back in. This was called the Clough.

William Sleight was a shepherd and he would go every day to look at the sheep grazing in the marsh. On November 23 1793 the Dyke Reeves paid him five shillings for “Looking after the Clough”. This would be in addition to his farm pay and it would be about six weeks pay for a farm worker. Come back William I think we have a job vacancy.

Since all of these drains were planned and dug out by hand there have been a few changes. The railway arrived and this altered the lay out of several drains. The light railway now disused followed with similar result. The open drain from Lophams to the Chapelfield Road disappeared when the airfield was built. The deep drain at Abbeygarth went when the houses were built. The Fish Dyke once beloved by small boys is no more.

We must not confuse surface water drains with Sewers. Our sewers carry foul water, they do not work and by early morning on the 25<sup>th</sup> they were overflowing. This was long before the Record Rainfall, which is blamed

for everything, had fallen from the skies. The sewage content of the flood made a bad situation infinitely worse. It does seem strange that whilst there are stringent penalties for discharging sewage into streams rivers and the sea there is no penalty for allowing it to over flow into the streets of our village.

Of course not everyone wants to live beside an open ditch and so in the most desirable of situations the ditch is piped. Whilst affluence must be displayed on the surface economy is the requirement below ground and woefully small pipes are used. This was not always so. When drains close to houses were covered because they were foul, they did an engineering job. A culvert three feet deep was made, the sides lined with brick and the top was a perfect brick arch. This was covered with a thin layer of earth and so is not seen.

These culverts are still working. It is quite remarkable that such a perfect job should be made of something that would be completely hidden.

The Vestry Committee is no more and I am not at all sure who the proprietors of the large public drains are. One thing is however certain and that is that the sufficiently cutting open scouring and cleaning of most of the drains is long overdue.

These Boon payments persisted over many years. In Goxhill in 1775 when the village was enclosed The Corporation of Trinity House was entitled to, “certain out rents distinguished by the name of Sickle Boon Rents”, and so a portion of land was allotted to the corporation in lieu of these rents. This finally extinguished the last tenuous link with medieval bond service in Goxhill. Thirty-two years later the bill brought to Parliament by William Wilberforce was passed into law and slavery was abolished throughout the British Empire.

*Maurice Brawn.*

# Recollections of Goxhill School

The old school had three classrooms, the largest of which was used by the whole school for morning assembly after which the top Juniors and the Infants would go to their own rooms. Then screens would be put across the largest rooms to create two separate teaching areas. Teaching in this situation was far from ideal and one could always hear what the class on the other side of the screen was being taught. There was one large cloak room which also served as the main entrance to the school. The adjoining School House was unoccupied but was used for storage, medical examinations and, occasionally, for group teaching. There was no electricity supply to the School and rooms were heated by coal fires and coke burning stoves.

There were four teachers. Mr Huxtable was the Head Master and taught the Middle Juniors. The Top Juniors were taught by Miss Salter who had come to Goxhill with a group of evacuees from Hull. Other teachers, that I remember, were Miss Parritt, Mrs Labourne and Miss Peggy Raby. Mrs Towle was the caretaker.

The education provided was of a formal nature. There was little opportunity for practical experience. We chanted tables and learnt the basic rules of arithmetic without understanding what we were doing. We had to learn lots of conversion tables, i.e. inches to feet and yards, ounces to pounds and stones, etc. There was also emphasis on English. Composition was a regular exercise followed by learning of all the corrected spellings. We had lessons devoted to the teaching of grammar, comprehension and poetry. We had few "reading" books but we had reading practice of some kind every day. Poor spellers and readers often missed their playtimes until some improvement was made. (I write from bitter experience!) The paper of which the books were made was often of an inferior quality and coloured illustrations few. The Top Junior children were allowed to take home a library book once a week. Choice was rather limited since the library was a small cupboard full of books which were changed, infrequently, when the library van came round.

Physical education consisted of drill, country dancing to a wind-up gramophone, and simple games, all of which took place in the playground.

The Top Junior girls devoted almost the whole of one afternoon a week to needle work. We were expected to be able to produce wearable garments for, like food, clothing was rationed. As well as sewing, we were taught how to knit socks and vests. One girl would knit the front of the vest and another, the back. Similarly one would knit a sock and someone else the other to make a pair. The problem came when the two were put together since it was seldom that two people knitted at the same tension. Younger children made kettle holders, scarves etc.

While the girls were occupied with needlework, the boys would be busy in the gardens or looking after the

rabbits which were kept in the yard at the back of the house. Sometimes the girls also worked in the gardens but never doing the interesting jobs like planting. Instead they would be given jam jars containing salt water and told to pick the caterpillars off the greens and drown them in the jars. Others had the unenviable task of weeding the paths. The whole aim of gardening was to provide food. I do not remember any flowers being grown. There were beehives in the orchard area and as far as I'm aware these were Mr Huxtable's responsibility. We were warned to keep away from the hives. The only contact we had with the rabbits was to go and look at them occasionally. They were kept for food and their skins, which could be sold to make gloves etc. A few chickens were also kept in the orchard part of the main garden to provide eggs and meat.

When I started school, children who lived too far away to go home at lunchtime brought a pack-up which was eaten in the main classroom. In the winter a hot drink would be made for them, the kettle being boiled on the fire. Later the Memorial Hall was used as the School Canteen. Meals were prepared by Mrs Osgerby and Miss Stubbs in the kitchen there. We were escorted there and back in a 'crocodile'. This was very pleasant in the summer but it seemed a long walk in the wet and cold of winter.

The School population was very mixed. Although most pupils were local children there were quite a few evacuees staying in the village. This was a good learning experience for all concerned as some of these children were very 'street-smart' but ignorant of the country way of life.

The "dick nurse" was a regular visitor since, as today in schools, there was a constant battle against head lice. Medicals were carried out in the old School House. We were inoculated against diphtheria but I believe this was the only vaccine available to children at this time. There were no antibiotics and illnesses had to take their course. Hygiene was not a top priority! The toilets; earth closets, emptied regularly by the "dilly man", were situated at the back of the school, quite a way from the classrooms. One only went when really necessary on a cold winter's day. Squares of newspaper hung on a nail on the wall of each toilet served as toilet paper. There were no washing facilities in the immediate vicinity and no running water in the school. A hand pump, in the garden, provided water which had to be carried across the playground to the washhouses for cleaning hands.

During the war gas masks had to be carried at all times. Every so often we had gas mask drill and their efficiency was tested. Thankfully we never had to use the masks for real. They were not easy to put on and soon became hot and uncomfortable to wear. Sometimes we had air raid practices. The shelter was built on the other side of School Lane, where the Council

*Continued on next page...*

# Off the Hoof



'Whenever I enter a village, straightway I find an ass'

Rev. Sydney Smith  
(1771-1845)

At the time of writing it is just coming in to August and it is scorching hot outside. It is difficult to believe that just two weeks ago, Goxhill was all but under water with fields down the marsh flooded. Farmers with livestock were having to use the first cut of hay as feed, while doubting whether they would get a second cut. When the weather changed, everything had to be done at the same time - the hay, peas, corn and straw. Farmers have been working round the clock to get the crops in.



I, like many other horse owners, was very worried that I would be losing all my hay and at times like these, farmers would have to look after their own stock first in the event of shortages. But I was lucky! I was very fortunate in having George Turner from East Halton to do my small field. It is now all wrapped and in and I even have a bumper crop. I was concerned that it would not have any feed value, but Mr. Turner assured me that it was 'Good stuff.'

The farmers are really having it bad at the moment with the announcement of another outbreak of Foot and Mouth, so all movement of livestock has been sus-

pending. I would remind you, that if you are walking through a field and there is a trough with disinfectant in, please clean your footwear thoroughly and not just dip your soles in it.

Both the Goxhill and the Barton shows were cancelled owing to the bad weather. Perhaps next year the organisers will liaise and ensure that they are not on the same day.

Jo Burns has still been able to participate at some venues as they have parking on tarmac and jumping indoors. Jo has qualified two horses for the Welsh Masters and five for the SCOPE BSJA Festival. She was very pleased with her homebred 11y.o. mare *Maggali*, who went clear in the 125 Speed Class at the Lincolnshire Show.

Julie Lamming has qualified for the Royal International Horse Show at Hickstead on her coloured horse *Jon-Jo*. Julie and Dave travelled down and stayed with Aggie (nee Creasey, formerly of Goxhill), and her husband Chris at their equestrian centre, and made an occasion of it. Luckily, the weather had improved and they attained a rosette.

Chloe Foulston is all set to follow in her mother and aunt's footsteps, and now has her first pony named '*Billy Whizz*,' he is a handsome little chap of Exmoor extraction. No doubt they will be getting further mentions in 'Off the Hoof.'

I have no horsey tips to pass on this time; but if you clean your own windows, either at home or the car - When drying off, dry up and down on one side and from side to side on the other. This way, you soon spot whether that elusive smear is on the inside or

outside.

Keep your results and tips coming in. Until the next issue...  
Take care - Ride safely.

Aileen  
01469 530643

## Recollections of Goxhill School...

houses have since been built. We would be marched from the classrooms into the shelter which always seemed cold, dark and damp. We were always glad to be allowed back to School.

Re-cycling is nothing new! We were taught never to waste anything. Used paper put into a large Hessian sack in the cloak room ready for collection. Most of wore some sort "hand-downs" from relatives or friends and there was no shame in wearing mended clothing. We also made our small contribution to the war effort by collecting "ship halfpennies" in school to pay towards a battleship. Rose hips were collected for the manufacture of rose-hip syrup for babies and young children. On one occasion I remember going gleaning in a nearby field for corn to feed the school chickens. Anyone taking a rat's tail to school could earn a halfpenny as this proved the vermin was destroyed. (No Health and Safety in those days!)

One wonderful Christmas, the American forces stationed in Goxhill gave us a party to remember. We were collected from School and transported in army trucks to the campsite where we were given a positive feast of food we never saw on our own tables. After the meal we watched a film and then went home clutching a stocking full of sweets.

Kathie Lawson,  
At school Kathleen Clark.

If you have personal memories of Goxhill School, old or new, please write in to the Gander.

[goxhill-gander@fsmail.net](mailto:goxhill-gander@fsmail.net)

## Digest of the meeting on the problems of flooding and drainage in Goxhill, held at the Memorial Hall on Tuesday 24 July 2007

*Over 50 people attended and copies of the report have gone to Shona McIsaac MP and the Parish Council.*

**Background information**—Carol Thornton as President of the WI, realised that a public meeting was required and since the next WI meeting would be not until September, she personally called the meeting to start the process of solving the many issues raised by gathering the community knowledge which must be the start of the solution.

The WI also started a petition to call for the drainage problems to be sorted out. This has currently raised 250 signatures. The next task will be to collate the information of which areas flood onto a map and to call a meeting to discuss the ancient waterways and how this information can be used to install a working drainage system in the village.

**Sample quotes:** "The water went away dramatically when an 85 year old lady went out early the next morning and prodded each drain in the line and started to clear each one and allowed the water to start to drain away. By 9.30am the lane was almost clear!"

- "Water was bubbling out of the road drains."
- "Our property has been flooded 5 times in 4 years. Twice within the last 6 weeks."
- "A new housing estate has been built in the field at the back, despite objections from residents, Parish Council and Glanford Council, but was overruled on appeal. Drainage infrastructure was a major issue in the objections."
- "The natural drainage from the field included a large pond and dykes. These have been filled in and built over, so creating nowhere for surface water to go to and drain away."

**Historical issues raised:** "System unchanged for at least 40 years. There used to be a flushing system up near where Lime Grove is now. They took it down when the houses were built. Said they would push the flow through."

- "All houses had dykes at front (Thornton Road). Some houses have 12" pots put in before filling in. Don't think many others did. Also dyke between council and private houses has been filled in."
- "Poor drainage system was reported to the Council approx. 10 years ago before Keigar built the 'Bridles' property. The Council said the new properties would make no significant difference, even though it doubled the number of houses. The drainage has been getting steadily worse in the last 10 years."
- "Pond in field behind Willow Farm and dykes no longer there. A ditch between Willow Farm and Perron Cottage filled in 30 or more years ago."
- "The village used to have large ditches running through it. These have long been potted and filled in. When I was a lad if you went to fetch the ball from the ditch alongside the school field you would disappear, so they must have been more than 4' deep."

**Possible solutions:** Urgent remedial action on drains and dykes.

- Preventative maintenance on drains
- Larger capacity sewer
- Pumping station operating at high tide to pump excess water out of the system
- Enforce clearance of ditches – these are supposed to be able to hold large volumes of water, which they will do if clear, ready to empty when the sluice gate is opened.
- Reinstate old drainage routes that have been removed or damaged
- Reinstate at least some of the many ancient village ponds, which used to act as sumps to hold excess water and/or install large holding lagoons outside the village.
- Proper consideration to capacity of both foul and surface water drainage before planning applications are granted.
- Formation of an emergency plan so that people know who to call, what to do, and where to get sandbags.

For more details, contact **Paul & Carol Thornton**, The Playground, Thorn Lane. Tel. **531308** or email [paul@villac.org](mailto:paul@villac.org)

### Dear Gander,

Regarding the article by Russell Cook in the summer Gander which identified two of the girls in the earlier cover photo. This could not have been so for the photograph was taken in 1945, 2 years after Jean Palmer and Gladys had left school - I was in the same year. I have confirmed the information with Jean who says it is not her. Joy Drinkall also says she is not in the picture as she went to the Barton Convent School while I went to Immingham, and due to the war no blazers were available, only a very few pupils having them from having started before the war or obtaining them from older siblings.

The 78th Fighter Group were in the village between December 1942 and 1st April 1943, so the picture dated 1945 is not from their time in Goxhill. I have a copy of the 1975

'Duxford Diary' book where the photo was first published, and much clearer than possible in the Gander. No-one then or since could identify the children. It may be of some interest to readers that there is a photo of Major Lloyd R Cogswell who married Goxhill girl Isobel Atkin in the book.

The 78th Fighter Group is still in touch with Goxhill for I received a complimentary copy of their monthly newsletter, the Checkerboard, which is published most months, taking its name from the art on the noses of the aircraft so they would be recognised in combat.

I now have quite a collection of the newsletters and anyone interested is welcome to borrow them, 8th AF News, 'The Mighty Eighth' I receive because I'm a member of the 8th Airforce Historical Society, or the 'Duxford Diary'.

*Ron Parker.*

# GOXHILL - GREENVILLE?

Environmental issues in a rural village.

Reprinted because of unforeseen technical faults in the last issue cutting off the final third. We apologise to Alan.

In a world becoming increasingly concerned about global warming, never has the Green slogan of "Think Globally, Act Locally" been more apt to those of us who live in rural communities. Issues like pollution, climate change, ecology, food production, transport, re-cycling, energy consumption etc. affect the lives of villagers as much as they do dwellers in towns and cities.

Adopting a greener lifestyle does not have to mean making great sacrifices or dramatic changes to the way we live. We can enjoy our homes and gardens, our families, our leisure and pleasures in the manner we choose while at the same time taking a little more care of the planet on which we live. In whatever way we in Goxhill choose to become a little greener, it will be part of acting locally. It will also be our personal contribution towards the world environment in which we all live, and that will be thinking globally.

Our modern 21<sup>st</sup>. century society has developed on the increasing availability of private cars and commercial road transport. These assets have been an immense boon to all of us and they will remain an important feature in our lives for the foreseeable future. Their emissions do cause air pollution however, and the fuel on which they run often comes at the cost of international conflict. While quite a few Goxhill residents live without owning a car, most of us need one or more of them, and we all depend upon commercial road transport more than we may have thought.

Goxhill village is mostly surrounded by agricultural land. That land is mostly used to grow food, either for humans to eat, or to feed to livestock which humans will eventually eat. Some of the food grown around this village is eaten in the village, but the majority of it is not. At the same time all of our village's residents eat food, the majority of which is grown and processed elsewhere. This creates the need for one network of transport to take away most of the food grown here, and another to bring to us the food we need.

That factor of double transportation is repeated for every village and town in the whole country, and it is just one small example of how dependent we have become on road vehicle distribution, and why our roads are so choked up. Some of

the food we eat comes from other countries, partly by choice, partly by necessity, and some of the food produced in this country is exported, thus involving air, seaborne and rail transportation. This has been and always will be the case, there is no question of attempting to stop it, but we can look at ways of reducing it, and its environmental penalties.

Happily, the process of reduction has already begun. As people become more concerned about where their food has come from, so shops and supermarkets are responding by stocking more local produce. In a similar way, concerns about how livestock are treated and how crops are grown is resulting in an increasing proportion of certified organic produce being offered and sold. Much of the recent interest in locally produced and organic food is being catered for by farm-shop sales and Farmers' Markets. Whole-food and Health-food shops too like to stock such wares.

The most certain and most local way to obtain fresh healthy food is enjoyed by those who grow some of their own. So it is good to see that there is resurgence in home food gardening, whether it is only to have a summer supply of delicious tomatoes or for twelve month's provision of vegetables, fruit and salad stuffs to be ready for the table at all times. It is not long ago that horticulture was one of Goxhill's main industries. That enterprise and Goxhill's beautiful avenues of flowering trees are a tribute to the families from Holland who settled in this village and demonstrated the horticultural suitability of Goxhill's soil and climate.

Not everybody who would wish to grow their own food has sufficient garden space to do that, or they may not wish to use what space they have in that way. For those, an allotment is one of the answers, and it is encouraging to know that Goxhill Parish Council is striving to make allotments available to them. In this way the horticultural heritage of our village will be maintained, and Goxhill will have made great steps towards becoming Greenville.

***This article by Alan Gould  
aims to open an ongoing dialogue about  
green and environmental issues in Goxhill  
and like villages.  
Its continuance will depend upon the  
responses it attracts.***