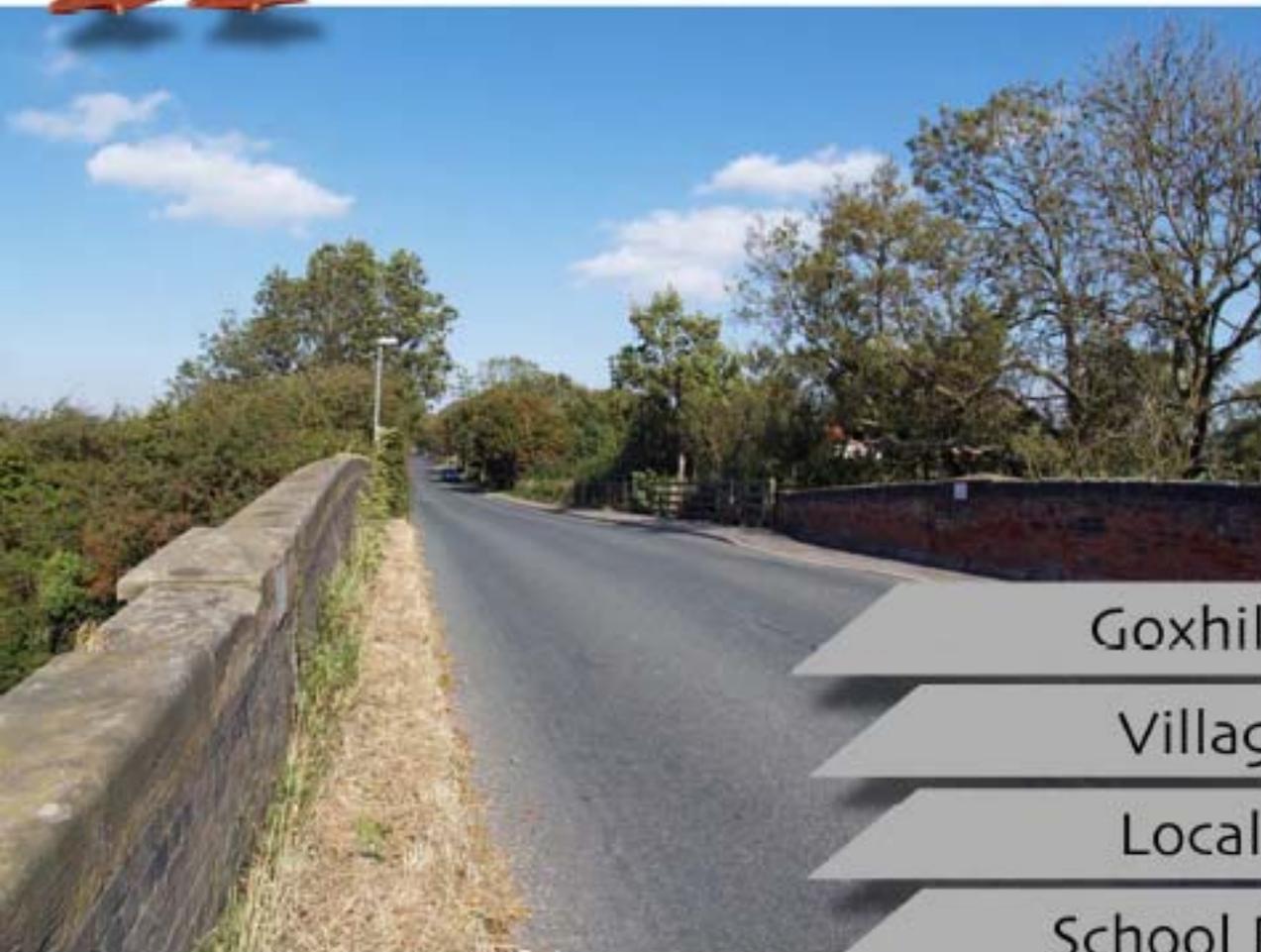




the Gander

GOXHILL VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

Summer 2009



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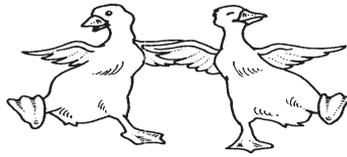
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the Gander

Five years ago, when I came forward to help the Gander and took on the role of editor, it was in response to the threat that without new blood the newsletter would come to an end there and then. I had the time, the energy and the ability to do it, and I am very pleased that I did. I could not stand by as the village lost a vital element of what makes it a community when there was something I could do.

Perhaps without quite such a dramatic threat today, we are approaching the same position again. As nobody came forward and offered their help after my article on this page in the last edition, we were forced to make some difficult decisions. None of the suggestions for reducing my workload (the most realistic of which was cutting down to three issues a year) was thought by the AGM we held in March to fit with the values of the Gander since it was founded in 1987, meaning the reality is this: we do four editions a year or we do none, without help I can no longer produce that number, and my fellow team members are not in a position to take over.

Because I still enjoy the work I do on the Gander and do not want to see it come to an end, I offered to stay in my present role as editor until next summer. This would have meant we could invoice all our advertisers over the summer and guarantee the service we have worked hard to maintain these past four years for another 12 months. However, a deterioration in my health and Mike Gathercole's confidence that he will be able to produce the Gander using resources at the school or Parish Council have led me to decide this is the last village newsletter I shall produce under the current arrangement.

My preferred option, and now the only one that will see me continue to assist in the production of your quarterly Gander, is a return to the system operated in the early years – the recruitment of a new fourth member of the team responsible for advertising. My being able to focus on the articles and leave someone else to deal with the commercial side would save me some time, but I would have to give up both the admin side and the lay-out of the even-numbered pages if this were to offer a real advantage. There is no rule to say one person has to take both these roles, so do not be put off if you want to help but do not think one part of the job is for you. Equally, if you feel you would enjoy and be good at any of the other aspects of the newsletter I control, get in touch and we will accommodate you. The most important thing is that this publication continues if at all possible.

I am responsible for creating the role of editor in its present form - I responded to circumstances as I found them and believe I have done a good job - but I cannot let history or ego affect decisions about the future. If you want to know more, the minutes of the AGM are printed in full on the website and the three of us are available to answer any questions. If nobody comes forward to help by the end of June I shall complete work on the website with the intention of stepping down altogether next year, leaving Mike to manage the publication of the Gander. Enjoy reading it in this format while you can.

Adam Ellis

The Gander Team

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Tel</u>	<u>Role</u>
Mike Gathercole	'Ferry Lodge', Ferry Road.	532208	Co-ordinator
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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 the Gander.

Articles should be sent by e-mail to: 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.

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School Report



I can't believe that I have completed one full term and by the time you read this we will be part way into our summer term. Everyone had told me about the beauty of Goxhill when the sun shines and the fullness of the blossom trees in the spring. It certainly is a gem when everything starts to grow again. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time so far. Everyone has been so welcoming and helpful and I know that it will take some time yet, but I know things will get even better as I settle into my post here at Goxhill Primary.

We had a number of events during the course of the spring term ranging from really interesting trips linked to the curriculum for all the year groups. The Foundation Stage visited the farm and had a lovely fun day; Year 2 had a number of enrichment trips out to the theatre in Scunthorpe and the museum - I got the opportunity to visit Normandy Hall with year 1 children and discovered that I no longer need to travel an extra 8 miles (according to Richard, our caretaker) down the A15 to school but rather can come through Barton and Barrow to get to school at a more speedy time in the morning!

Years 3 and 4 visited Eden Camp and Murton Hall re-

spectfully, where Mr Langdale introduced us a centurion called 'Dave' and we got dressed up as roman soldiers - the pictures will be on our new website which we are hoping to launch quite soon! Year 5 enjoyed a visit to the Hull Museums whilst poor year 6 has worked so hard to prepare them for the tests in May. Despite this we're confident that they will do their best and they can look forward to many exciting enrichment opportunities in June and July as they get ready for their next big step in September when they start in their secondary schools. We'll certainly make sure they'll have many memorable occasions to add to the ones they already have for their time at Goxhill Primary School!

We had children singing at the Memorial Hall to commemorate it's 90th anniversary and we entered a football team in Glandford Park and came 3rd out of 25 teams entered...and that's just the start! We had a fantastic Bingo night that managed to raise £350 for school funds, a really fun time raising money for Comic Relief, an Easter hat parade at Greendale's, even Easter Bunny made an appearance at the end of term for the children in the Foundation Stage! All of this was topped off by a spectacular performance from Year 5 presenting 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears'. The children from our choir and the violin-

ists even took to the stage sharing their success from the Brigg Musical festival. The talent we can celebrate from our school is amazing. We are all so proud!

One of the most exciting things about joining Goxhill Primary School is inheriting a team of highly motivated, committed and interested staff who really want to make a difference to the children, their parents and the community. There is such a willingness and enthusiasm to want to create as many exciting and creative opportunities as possible. People get things done so efficiently at Goxhill and almost before they are asked to do it!

We are currently in the process of organising our Summer Fair and details already have gone out in the 1st newsletter of this term. We are welcoming anyone who would like to come and help out on Saturday 18th July and we are hoping that it will be the best ever yet! As well as the many stalls that you will be familiar with, we are having a variety of displays and even a 'Goxhill's Got Talent' Competition. This is open to anyone who feels they can entertain; further details can be picked up from the school's office. There will

Continued over the page...

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School Report - 2

Continued from previous page...

be prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd winners and as well as having the usual refreshments I am hoping to apply for a license for a 'beer tent' on the day. More details will follow in subsequent newsletters from school.

Mr Brown has been working with Mr Murphy on a new design for our school website which at the time of writing is about to be launched. Bill Ballham came in for a day to take photos for the website and we all had fun being 'papped and snapped', with the exception of some staff who preferred to stay in the background. We hope that, just like 'The Gander', our new website will help the school to be an active part

of the community. As well as keeping up with events in the school, you will also be able to take a virtual tour, listen to pupils' contributions to 'Goxhill FM', from our school's podcasting facility. You will also be able to view the memories of past times at our school with articles and photographs kindly given by former pupils. We would love it if former pupils would sign our guest book, or share their memories with us. We hope you have a look at our website at www.goxhillschool.com.

We are looking forward to a great term and hope that summer will be kind to us and provide us with some fine weather.

As always, we appreciate all the support we receive in school and welcome anyone who may find they have a 'spare' half hour to come in and help out, either hearing children read or just supporting small group activities. We would also like to say a big thanks you to the Goxhill Parish Council who support the school in a number of ways. Your help is much appreciated and I hope that we can build on our partnership in the future.

We wish the Gander much success with this edition.

Best Wishes
Miss Breslin
*On behalf of all of the staff
and Governors of Goxhill*

Goxhill Womens' Institute

Goxhill Women's Institute meet on the second Monday of the month (except for August) at 7.15pm at Goxhill Memorial Hall. We would welcome any newcomers to our meetings and the following is a brief note of our programme for the coming year:

- June - Woodturning**
- July - Wendy's Wonderful Wednesday**
- September - Bedazzled**
- October - Harvest Festival**
- November - Adventures with an Iron Man**
- December - Wildlife Encounter**
- January - To be announced**
- February - Social Evening**
- March - AGM**

Some of these evenings sound quite intriguing – to find out more why not come along and find out for yourselves.

On the 24th June 2009 we are arranging a day trip to Lincoln to include time for retail therapy & lunch, followed by guided tour of the Cathedral after which afternoon tea in the Cathedral Tea Rooms will be available if required. There are still some seats available.

For more details please contact **Mrs. Iris MacLeod** on **01469 530772**.

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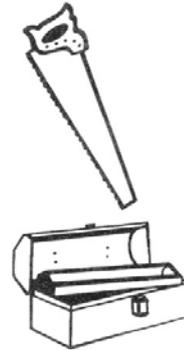
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Letters from the Churches

One Friday evening at chapel, the eve of Paul Cook and Katherine Warton's wedding, Kay Smith delivered to me the huge pulpit Bible from the now closed Thornton Curtis chapel. Coming to Kay through her Grandma, with its opening pages missing and its well worn leather cover, this Holy Bible revealed many years of faithful use in the worship of God. As with other historical literature it will now be kept in the archives at Lincoln.

Today Bibles look very different from this one of the past - in modern English, often with bright covers and aimed at specific readers such as teenagers, couples, and toddlers (for mum or dad to read aloud at bedtime!).

Quite a few of us will have received a Bible through the Gideons organisation, with helpful index as to relevant texts when perhaps desperate, lonely as well as when on top of the world! Dipping into God's word is always good, but feeding on it daily is, like regular physical eating, the best. Thankfully feeding off God's word has no penalty clauses like putting on weight, quite the contrary it keeps us spiritually healthy with God's peace and purpose in our lives.

The challenge is always to dig deeper into previously unread parts - it really is a fascinating read, full of characters, love stories, amazing acts of God and most importantly God's message of salvation to us that our relationship with the Lord Jesus is His chosen way.

Amid the gathering of family and friends, beautiful flowers and cameras at the ready stood Paul and Katherine taking their marriage vows. I gave them their first gift as a married couple - a Good News Bible (yes, with a bright cover!).

Whilst Paul and Katherine's bright covered version was rightly pristine the well thumbed Thornton Curtis pulpit Bible had obviously served its purpose well - Bibles are for reading!

God bless, Gillian

Reverend Gillian Belford
01652 632148

Do you remember when you could go into a cafe and the choice of hot drinks was tea, coffee or hot chocolate? Now when you go to order coffee the choices are vast: latte, Americano, espresso, skinny, flavoured, de-caFFEinated, cappuccino and all sorts of permutations and combinations of these and more! (one even offered me bits of marshmallow to float in my coffee!)

In the Christian walk though there are just two choices: do it God's way or not. The Bible contains an array of options for us, and even though we know what choice we should make (just look at the book of Proverbs!), often we still take the wrong one.

Following their entry into the 'Promised Land' Joshua gave the children of Israel a choice: serve the Lord or serve the gods of other nations; but made it clear what he and his household were going to do. The Israelites had seen God in action in their wanderings in the wilderness and decided en masse to serve God, thereby committing themselves to getting rid of any false gods in their possession, and ultimately entering into covenant with Him there. Moses presented the Israelites with a choice from God too: I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing, therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live. (Deuteronomy 30 v 19).

The story of Adam and Eve at the very beginning is a symbolic story of the eternal choices which face us all, and of course they made the wrong choice. There are areas in all of our lives where God has given us options and we have been influenced to make what we now know to have been the wrong choice. The amazing truth though, is that God is always prepared to give us a fresh start, to make a new choice and when we put our faith and trust in Jesus Christ the blessings of this choice will remain with us through eternity.

Reverend John Girtchen
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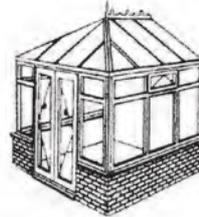
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All is Revealed

It was a beautiful afternoon, the sun was shining from the West but shadows had not lengthened and there was still the prospect of a lovely evening. It was low tide on the river and the brown mud stretched as a broad band beside the water. It was spring and in the village the pink and white cherry blossom was decorating the trees and showing Goxhill at its best. Thus it was when Google Earth captured the images for the latest update of its coverage of Goxhill.

We know from all of this that it was probably late April or early May. The Oil Seed Rape was just coming into flower and so the farmers will be able to tell us in which year it was grown in that particular field. Some of us will see other clues, the colour of a new car, new building, or a newly planted lawn or allotment. My own guess is that it was 2008 just one year ago.

Now this offers wonderful opportunities for looking over the fence at our neighbours and the detail that can be seen is quite alarming but there are better things that can be done than looking at Mrs Wot-sit's laundry. Although we see Goxhill more or less as it is at present we can do a little Archaeology and go back a few hundred years. We shall not need a shovel or a trowel nor shall we need the assistance of the famous Time Team just you and I using Google Earth will do some Arial Archaeology

I want you to go to Google Earth and travel to Goxhill and join me on Bridge Hill. Set the Eye Level at about 200 feet and we will begin.

The road over the railway bridge is the highest piece of road surface in the village and we can see

the cut for the line on either side of Ferry Road.

If we travel northwards along the road we can see dark and lighter markings in the grass of the fields on both sides of the road. This is the ridge and furrow of the old Mill field. Before Goxhill was divided up into fields owned by individual farmers there were four big arable fields and each person was allotted one or more strips of land in each field. These strips were ploughed individually with a single furrow plough pulled by oxen and or horses. By ploughing up one side and down the other side of the strip the soil was cast up to the middle where it formed the ridge and between the strips was the furrow.

When the land was enclosed the owners of these fields put them down to grass and used them to keep animals. The ridges and furrows remained in the fields and we can see them today. Those on one side of the road exactly match the ones on the other side. Ferry Road was made at the time of the enclosure and cut right through the ridge and furrow of the old open field.

A little further along in the next field on the village side of the road the end pieces of the ridges or lands are curved. They are called S lands and can be found in many parts of England. This was caused by swinging the team of horses or oxen out of the furrow before turning round the end of the ridge. The furrow and baulk across the ends of the ridges was the headland this was used when there were no roads by all of the people to get to their own strips with their animals and implements and to carry away the harvest.

If we travel further along Ferry

Road past the end of Willow Lane we come to a most interesting field on the right. It is full of bumps and hollows there are some ridges and furrows running at a right angle to those which we saw at first. This is much earlier because we know that this field was already divided into private closes before the enclosure. Fortunately one piece had to be allotted in the enclosure act. This was awarded to Cathleen Trower and the owners of each of the closes adjoining hers are named. The large dark marks are hollows which follow the boundaries of these closes. Cathleen Trower's award was the large square piece next to Meadow Close the piece running alongside Willow Lane belonged to William Keeling. Mr Markham owned the close alongside Ferry Road Mr Burwell had a close in the corner whilst Mr Markham owned the close and homestead in Mill Lane. Cathleen Trower had a narrow access track at the end of William Keeling's close where Meadow Close joins Willow Lane and the name of her close was Green Close.

Ariel archaeology can be found in many places in Goxhill and some of it can be seen on Google Maps. Most of what can be seen requires much more advanced interpretation than I can give. Because the enclosure of the village is so well documented it is possible learn a lot by comparing the written evidence with the pictures on screen. Do have a look and see what you can find.

Maurice Brawn

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Neighbours

I brought my family to live in Goxhill in 1964 having bought a house down Gatehouse Road from Fred Hepworth, a local builder. Gatehouse Road then was tree-lined and very pretty; sadly in later years, because of Dutch Elm disease, they were cut down.

Spring of that year was very wet. As we were moving our possessions into our new home a young man from one of the other house came up to me - 'Can I be of any help?' he asked. 'Oh yes please' I said, and a very good worker and helper he was too. His name was Billy Dent.

My family soon settled into our new home. Our next door neighbours were Mr and Mrs Thornton and we soon became friends. They were the best neighbours that we have ever known.

Soon I began to cultivate the garden. Arriving home from after work, another resident, Mr Fred Evison called me to him. 'Now then,' he said, 'I see you are going to work in your garden. Being a wet spring, you've had a bad start - come round with a trowel and you can have a pulling of peas from my garden'.

Mid-October and another resident of Gatehouse Road, Mr Frank Heaton, knocked on our door. He had a large bucket full of apples and simply asked 'Can you make use of these?' 'Yes, we can', I replied. 'What will you do with them?' he asked, and I told him my wife would make apple dumplings. 'That's good' he said, 'you know what to do with them.' I honestly believe that if I had told him that I didn't know, he would have taken them back home with him.

Mr Charley Robinson was another resident and I used to take books for him to read. Mr and Mrs Stan Breese were also excellent neighbours. Sad to recall, as the old residents either moved on or passed away, so did the community spirit.

I enjoyed my 31 years down Gatehouse Road and my life became richer for having known such good neighbours and friends.

Mr F Galloway.

Article from South Bank Players:

THEFT AT ROPEWALK

Imagine...returning from a pleasant anniversary celebration with your oldest friends to find that your house has been burgled. Imagine...the burglar is still in the house and has you convinced, for a while, that he is, in fact, a policeman investigating the break-in. Imagine...once his true identity is known, the burglar reveals that he knows all kinds of uncomfortable truths about you, your spouse and your friends... Well...that burglar is none other than Spriggs, who succeeds, in *Theft*, Eric Chappell's witty comedy-thriller, in disturbing two seemingly happy marriages and one formerly strong friendship with his own brand of subversive observation. Premiered at the Theatre Royal, Windsor, with George Cole as Spriggs, *Theft* is a tongue-in-cheek delight, packed with stinging one-liners, daring reversals and many sharp comments on marriage, money and crime. This is to be performed by the South Bank Players on Friday 12th and Saturday 13th June at the Ropery Hall, Ropewalk, Barton-upon-Humber.

South Bank Junior Players are going strong and at present there is a waiting list to join (names still being taken). Their next performances will be at Ropery Hall on Friday 10th and Saturday 11th July. Tickets for these performances will be on sale at the Ropewalk information centre.

As we are fast approaching our 25 year reunion we are still currently seeking members from the past groups - Barrow Trinity Players, Just Good Friends and South Bank Players. If you have had links with any of the groups or are in touch with others that have been involved please do get in touch (contact details below).

The cast of *Theft* in rehearsal

We hope you will be able to join us at one or more of our performances. If you would like to join us on stage or help backstage with scenery, sound, lighting, costumes etc we are always on the look out for new members. Just a commitment to the group and a sense of humour is all that is required!

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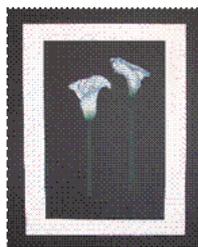
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edition of the
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Saturday
1st August

Notice Board

Cash Bingo

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

As ever your caller is Tina Whyley.

The Luncheon Club

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All enquiries should be made to
Mrs Iris MacLeod tel. **530772**.

If you want the Gander to continue in something
like its present form, and you can help make sure
this happens, do please get in touch.

The newsletter has grown too large for one per-
son to do alone - even with the support of Mike
and John - especially with my imperfect health
and need to live away from the village for work.
I would prefer to continue to be involved in some
capacity, but that requires new people to come
along because the other solutions do not fit with
my present situation.

If this is indeed the last newsletter with which I
am directly involved, I want to thank all those
who have contributed during the past five years -
every writer, advertiser, deliverer and supporter,
even those who missed deadlines or been critical
of the content. I am grateful to you all.

I shall continue to work on the website and
remain with the Gander management team, at
least until our AGM next spring.

Whoever puts together the edition this autumn
and beyond will have my full support.

Long may the Gander continue.

Adam Ellis

Memorial Hall 200 Club Winners

<u>Month</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
February	111	Mr D Prior	£28.00
	166	Mrs J Fulston	£28.00
March	12	Mrs Mager	£28.00
	33	Mr N Wilson	£28.00
	81	Mrs B Cuthbert	£224.00
April	184	Mr T Richardson	£28.00
	201	Mrs L Brocklesby	£28.00

The **Methodist Schoolroom** is available for
hire at a competitive price.
To book, contact **Jane Arnott** on **530962**.

Jane and Edward Arnott wish to thank everyone
who sent cards, prayers and well wishes after
the death of beloved mother and grandmother
Ethel Collingwood in October.

If anyone is interested in a copy of the
Airfield Plans in 1944 showing all sites,
buildings, shelters, runways and dispersals,
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Tel. Ron Parker on 532183 for details.
e-mail ron.parkgox@btinternet.com

Wanted: Daffodil Bulbs.

If anyone is disposing of surplus daffo-
dil bulbs this summer or autumn, they
will be appreciated for the Airfield Me-
morial to extend the already established
beds of daffodils there. For collection,
please contact Ron Parker, Tel. 532183.
or email ron.parkgox@btinternet.com

The cover photo of this edition was supplied by David Wright.

Please have submissions for the
Autumn issue of the Gander in by
Saturday 1st August

Autumn edition distribution: 1st week of September.

*Send to the usual email address (below) - they
will all still reach their destination.*

*In the words of Mike Gathercole, with or without
Adam, "it's business as usual".*

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Memories of the Memorial Hall

The recent event celebrating the formation of the Goxhill Memorial Hall Committee was a very enjoyable affair and prompted me to recollect my own memories of 'The Hall'. I have only a vague memory of the original structure, a wooden pavilion, perhaps a rather grand description for such a simple building. Tall trees grew on both sides of the road, forming a tunnel effect, which to me as a small child was a frightening place.

I was born and lived in a small cottage down Willow Lane and had to walk through the trees whenever I went into the village. One day when I was walking home during a violent storm, which turned the day almost into night, I remember I dared not walk into the darkness, under the trees, and I stood there getting soaked until the storm passed over.

The trees on the south side had to be cut down to make way for the present building. Thankfully the large beech trees at Spring Garth remain. On the day of the official opening we assembled at the school. We were waiting in the cloakroom when Sir Berkeley Sheffield, the opener, walked in. He stood and talked with us for a while and I recall how he impressed us with his easy manner and how ordinary he seemed. Our headmaster Mr. E W Ridge then trooped us off from Thorn Lane on the short walk to the Memorial Hall. I have seen the photo of us all in hats and coats, smiling on the steps but sadly I can't remember anything of the event except that the whole village turned up for it.

During the 1920s about ten of us girls were involved in plays and shows at The Hall. These involved after-school rehearsals led by Miss Buckley and Miss Fanthorpe who were teachers at the school. The Hall is of course a place of many varied functions, but in the 1930s and 40s the Saturday night dances stand out in my memory as much as anything. They attracted people from miles around; the music was provided by some of the best bands in the area.

The organizations within the structure of The Hall have all enjoyed many years of success; the Bowling Club and the Women's Institute are to name just two. When I look back and remember this village institution has been active for ninety years and is still going strong – run by unpaid but dedicated people, I think it is quite something. A real achievement, I would say, particularly in these troubled times when household names are going under and highly paid people are part of this downfall! Yet The Hall goes on..... Let's look forward to the centenary.

Madge Austin (95)

The Short Award

Nominations for the 2009 "Short Award" were – Miss Hannah Guggiari, Mr. M. Gathercole, Mr. R. Parker, Mr. D. Carnell, Mr. M. Gorbett and Mr. G. Girdham.

Congratulations to Geoff Girdham, who received the most votes for his many years voluntary fund raising efforts, especially his outstanding contribution to the Lincolnshire Old Churches Trust with his sponsored cycle rides. The award was made at the Memorial Hall A.G.M. and Geoff received a B&Q gift voucher, presented by the Hall Chairman Mr. Charlie Leaning.

**The Gander would love to share your memories of the Memorial Hall or any other village institution or event; even better if you have photographs we would be able to copy and print.
If you can help, please contact us in the usual ways.**

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Countryside Myths

There are many myths in the countryside started in good faith or invented for amusement by Country-men for a leg-pull to their Townsfolk friends in the days beyond recall. The most common one, or at least when I was a youth, was on how a Fox gets rid of his Fleas. It was said that a flea-ridden fox would visit a flock of sheep and collect some wool from scraps of it laying around in the field with his mouth and go to the nearest stream or pond, then backing slowly into the water tail first, the fleas would run in front of the water, along his back and finally over his head onto his nose climbing into the wool, he would then duck under the water and let go of the wool at the same time, leaving the fleas to float away on the wool, then a flea-less fox would walk out of the water, shake itself dry and be on its way to the farmer's chicken run for dinner if it wasn't shut-up, safe and sound.

Anyone who has a dog knows that fleas do not run when it goes in water - the fleas just sit still. The experts on fleas say when water reaches them it does not touch them, nature providing them with a pocket of air, could be called a bubble which forms around them due to their water proof skin, until it is dry again. The only thing I know of this is that to try to drown one in a bowl of water they just float merrily on the top. When a fox with fleas comes out of water he brings as many out as he took in, all in good health.

Then we have the Hedgehog. Farmers used to kill them because they used to suck their milk cows dry at night (so they said or thought). It was said that when a cow laid down the hedgehog used to creep up and help itself at the Milk Bar while the cow slept - as if some hedgehog could drink that much! Today, a good cow can give up to six gallons of milk a day, milked at twice, which contains almost no cream; something like 70 years ago and beyond, with different breeds, a good cow that only gave three gallons though the cream content was excellent - on a pint bottle of milk you could see as much as an inch or an inch and a half of the real thing at top of the bottle and a family fight followed to see who could get it for their corn-flakes (today to put cream on them is sure death, according to the experts). So, a good cow at night would have a gallon and a half for the morning milking and along comes Prickles for his nightcap of milk - well, I would say by the size of him if he could hold a cupful (1/4 pint) he would be full considering he would still get a feed of the usual worms and slugs to fill up with (there must have been some "Obese" hedgehogs around with all that cream). The hedgehog suffered death for the sake of a myth or misinformed farmers.

Not to be left out is the Badger. I was told that they have three-inch (7cm for the younger generation) shorter legs at one side of their body than the other, which was explained to say they could run up a plough furrow (one leg in the furrow and one on the ridge) to keep level. What happens when they get to the end of it and a field which has been harrowed level, or a pasture field? No doubt you could observe a Badger with a 45 degree list to starboard, or Port whichever side of the legs were the shortest. This was in the days of horse ploughs with a small shallow furrow, today with the modern tractor ploughs the Badger would have to grow extended legs at one side to match the deeper furrows, maybe giving them a list of 90 degrees on level ground. However, this myth lasted into the middle of the last century. Next time you see a road casualty have a good look at the length of its legs and you will see they are the same length at both sides.

Others:

- * The easy way to catch a bird is to put some salt on its tail (if you are near enough to put some salt on you could grab it by the hand).
- * When crows nest high in the tops of trees (with reference to Rooks or Rookery for a nesting site) it is a sign of a good spring. If they nest lower, it is a sign of bad weather springtime. Maybe, maybe not!
- * A good Goose will lay an egg by Valentines Day: usually correct - there are many more such sayings throughout the Rural Countryside though these selected are relevant to Goxhill a century ago.
- * A Swarm of Bees in May is worth loads of Hay. Why? I don't know!

Ron Parker.

 <p>BARTON arts WEEK 2009 27 June – 4 July</p>	<p>Tickets are available from: Barton Local Link, High Street; Lindsey Relay, George Street; The Ropewalk, Maltkiln Road and from the numbers listed with event details.</p> <p><i>Tel: 079 3456 1556 Email: bartonarts@hotmail.com</i> <i>Website: www.e-voice.org.uk/bartonartsweek</i></p> <p>Includes:</p> <p>Sat 27th June - Midsummer Dinner Dance. Sun 28th June - Victorian Day in Barton. Mon 29th June - The Path to Paradise. Tues 30th June - Illyria Open Air Theatre. Wed 1st July - Concert Royal. Thurs 2nd July - BADAOS Best of British Night. Friday 3rd July - Jon Richardson. Sat 4th July - 4You(th); Barton Town Brass Band.</p>
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Goxhill Parish Council

The full Parish Council meet at the Parish Rooms the first Thursday in each month at 1930hrs and all members of the public are invited to attend. The full council of eleven members all elected by the parishioners represent your views appertaining to Goxhill on a variety of issues. At the May meetings the following were elected by unanimous vote as follows:-

Mr M Gathercole Chair to the full Council
Mrs V Gorbutt Vice Chair to the full council

The full council is then sub divided into a committee structure to represent different committees for the village. These are reproduced below with each councillor identified for each of the committees.

- Cemetery and Avenues: Mrs V Gorbutt, Mrs S Bruce, Mr P Shields, Mr C Leaning, Mr G Bradnum.
- Footpaths Committee: Mr M Gathercole, Mrs V Gorbutt, Mr T Shepherdson, Mr I Ross
- Parish Rooms: Mr M Gathercole, Mr G Bradnum, Mr P Shields
- Playing Fields Committee: Mr C Leaning, Mr T Shepherdson, Mrs H Sugden, Mr I Ross
- Allotment Committee: Mr M Gathercole, Mr G Bradnum
- Memorial Hall Representative: Mrs V Prestwood
- ERNLLCA: Mrs V Prestwood
- BCCRP: Mr M Gathercole

Should any member of the public wish to contact the parish Council this can be done on a Tuesday and Thursday morning on 01469 533971. In addition to this number you can contact any member of the council on their home telephone numbers obtainable via the public notice boards.

Allotments

A vacancy has arisen for an allotment. Should any person wish to enquire about a plot please contact Mr M Gathercole 01469 532208



Photographs of tawny owls in the churchyard, taken by Duncan Knowles. The birds have since flown.



The Gander's Editorial Policy

The Gander operates a policy of not refusing to print any contribution unless it is libellous, clearly inaccurate, designed to offend, submitted anonymously, or received after the deadline. Sometimes the subject of articles might be contentious, but this would not be a reason to refuse publication – this is a newsletter for all villagers, whether you agree with them or not. After recent discussions of our editorial stance, the Gander team agreed that in future, should a contribution be received that could potentially cause offence or embarrassment, the individual or individuals concerned will be offered the right to reply in the same issue - something not previously guaranteed. *This arose out of a specific complaint referring to the spring edition, which we do not intend to revisit, save to say affected parties were offered - and rejected – the opportunity to respond in this edition.*

That said, if you do not like the actions of the Parish Council, the Memorial Hall Committee, the Gander itself, or any other organisation, the matter may be best addressed directly to them in the first instance. All these volunteer groups work for you, for this community; their members do their very best and should have our support and respect. Additionally, all of them are always on the lookout for new members to bring fresh perspectives and ideas - you might be able to help.

The very last thing anybody should do if they think something is not working as well as it should is be silent; the Gander has and always will offer you a voice, but it is not your only one.

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Reginald Johnson MBE LWM

On October 23rd 1935 the School Committee at Hull Trinity House Navigation School admitted 31 boys who had undergone three months probationary training. Among these boys were two former pupils from Goxhill Methodist School. The boys were Thomas Plumtree and Reginald Johnson. This article looks at the career of Reginald Johnson.

Reginald Johnson was born at Louth, Lincolnshire on 22nd January 1922. He later moved to Goxhill and lived with his parents at "Glenora House," The Square, Goxhill. His father was a marine engineer employed on the Railway Ferry boats, plying on the River Humber from New Holland to Hull. It follows that Reginald would pursue a career in ships. Reginald left Trinity House on 7th October 1937, at the age of 15 years 9 months on being accepted as a cadet by J & C Harrison of London.

After passing examinations, Reginald was appointed as Third Officer on "S.S. Thursobank" This ship was completed by J. Readhead & Sons Ltd, South Shields in 1940. She was 5,575 grt for the owners, Andrew Weir & Co, London. Thursobank had taken on 7839 tons of general cargo, which included Martin Maryland light bombers destined for use in Middle East. The route "Thursobank was to take took her from New York to Alexandria via Cape Town. She was to sail unescorted with a crew of 55. There were seven DEMS gunners on board.

While sailing in Chesapeake Bay she was torpedoed by U-373 (Paul-Karl Loeser). The U-boat was part of Operation Drumbeat. It had been commissioned on May 22nd 1941 and was on its seventh sailing, leaving La Pallice on 1st March 1942, returning six weeks later. On this voyage U-373 sank SS Mount Lycabettus, a Greek ship of 4,292 grt which had left Baltimore bound for Leixoes, Portugal. This sinking took place on 17th March 1942. Five days later, U-373 had its second success, sinking SS Thursobank.

The U-boat struck at 05.09 hours. It required a second torpedo to sink the ship - this was fired at 05.35. The Captain, 21 crew and 7 DEMS gunners were lost and 26 crew members took to the lifeboat. These men were picked up by the Norwegian tanker "Havsten" and landed on March 25th 1942 at Halifax, Nova Scotia. The "Havsten" was on a voyage alone from Aruba with a cargo of diesel oil for escort vessels in Iceland.

Upon arrival at Halifax the Chinese crew survivors from the "Thursobank" were court-martialled. It was alleged that they threw away the oars, refusing to share food and warm clothing with the four British officers and placing them at the front of the boat.

Reginald Johnson was the Mate or Third Officer; he had just had his twentieth birthday. The Third Officer is a licensed member of the deck department of a merchant ship. The third mate is a watchstander and customarily the ship's safety officer, responsible to the captain for keeping the ship, its crew and its cargo safe eight hours each day. Traditionally, the third mate stands on "8-12" watch: from 8am to 12noon and from 8pm until midnight.

On watch the third mate must enforce all regulations, such as keeping the fire fighting equipment, lifeboats and various other emergency systems in good and working order.

A confidential statement made by Reginald Johnson dated 8th June 1942 reads:

1. We were bound from New York to Cape Town with general cargo of 8,600 tons, Eight aeroplanes in cases were stored on deck with one four inch, one 12pdr, 2 Hotchkiss, 2 Marlins, 4 P.A.C. We had a crew of 61 including 12 gunners, 5 naval and 7 army. Of these 27 are missing (including 3 naval and 4 army gunners).

2. We left New York on 21st March 1942, sailing independently and without escort I had no information about submarines being in the area, although I had heard that two ships had recently been sunk in that area. The sky was cloudy and overcast, but visibility was good, the sea was very rough and the wind south-westerly, force 7 We had just finished zig-zagging and making about 10 knots, our course being 141 degrees, I took over the watch on the bridge at 20.00hrs.

3. About 30 minutes later I noticed what appeared to be the wake of a torpedo crossing the bow from starboard to port, about 20 yards from the bridge. I called the Master who immediately came to the bridge and ordered the course be altered 39 degrees to 102 degrees true. As nothing further was seen we resumed our course of 141 degrees at 21.30. At 22.00hrs the Master went below. We proceeded without incident until 22.40 when a gunner at the look-out saw a torpedo approaching from the port beam.

4. Simultaneously there was a violent explosion on the port side of the ship abreast of the engine room. The ship shook and took a slight list to port. It was pitch dark and I could not see damage actually was but I could see damage actually was but I could see that the after port lifeboat had been blown to pieces on the boat deck. The Master ordered the boats to be lowered and all the crew assembled on the boat deck. The engines were stopped by the emergency stop valve from the boat deck.

5. The starboard lifeboats and the port forward life-boat were all lowered and the crew scrambled into them quickly and got clear of the ship. The second mate was in charge of one of the starboard boats but I did not see him at all after the incident. I believe that two men launched a raft and got away on it.

6. I was in charge of the Captain's starboard lifeboat; the captain insisted on remaining on the ship and seeing that all the crew were clear. He ordered me to get the boat away. I do not know what became of him - when I last saw him he was shining his torch into my boat.

7. When my boat was 20 yards from the ship I heard a much more violent explosion which appeared to be in the same position as the first one, and I did not see the ship again.

8. The wind was blowing a moderate gale so I thought the best thing to do would be to put the sea anchor out and to heave to. I burnt four red flares in order to attract any survivors who might be swimming about in the vicinity, but nothing happened. At dawn I saw the two men on the raft but was unable to reach

Continued on the next page...

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Reginald Johnson, continued...

them owing to the gale and the high sea. There was a lot of wreckage floating about which must have come from my ship. I decided to remain at anchor until the weather moderated and commenced rationing the food and water.

9. Fortunately we had a good supply of drinking water and I was able to allow a dipper full to each man every day. I would here like to comment on the excellence of the new concentrated food, which sustained us very well during the time we were in the boat. I had 33 of the crew in my boat, including the 3rd engineer, an apprentice, 5 gunners (2 Navy, 3 Army) and 26 Chinese ratings. The 3rd engineer reported that the Morris motor in the lifeboat was out of order as the magneto was wet and too near the bottom of the boat, where the water was a foot deep.

10. We succeeded in pumping out the water with a semi-rotary pump which was in the boat, but by that time our feet were wet and as it is freezing cold during the night, and we had no dry sea boots we suffered from extreme cold. I'm sorry to report that one Chinese member of the crew had to have both feet amputated. Most of the crew suffered from sea-sickness.

11. I had trouble with the Chinese ratings, who seemed to be under the impression that the white men were going to claim the food and they announced their intention of throwing overboard all the white men in the boat. The situation became dangerous for a time although there remained an undercurrent of dissatisfaction amongst the Chinese during the whole time we were in the boat. I reported their behaviour to the Naval authorities at Halifax, but I do not think any kind of disciplinary action was taken against them.

12. On the 24th March, after being laid to the sea anchor for 3½ days the weather moderated so I set sail and steered to the westward hoping that I could reach the American coast in spite of the northerly set of the current. The peak of the lug was well topped up and the boat made good headway through the water.

13. About 23.00 on 26th March I sighted a ship on the port bow about ½ a mile distant and burned the remaining two flares, flashed my torch and ordered very man to switch on their life jacket light. The ship altered course and steamed towards us. She turned out to be the Norwegian tanker M.V. Havsten. I steered the boat alongside her starboard side where the pilot ladders were put out. I managed to climb up the ladder but to my surprise, on reaching the ship's deck, I could not stand up because my feet were frostbitten.

14. We were treated with every consideration on board the HAVSTEN and were landed at Halifax on March 28th 1942 where most of the crew were treated for frostbite. Only 10 Chinese members of the boat's complement escaped the affects of exposure. I had distributed the massage oil amongst the crew but was not produced until 3 days had elapsed and I regret not having used it earlier. I was admitted to the hospital at Halifax. All members of the boat's crew with the exception of myself and the 3rd engineer wore protective suits. My suit had been stolen shortly after I got in the boat.

15. The apprentice had only one a pair of trousers under his protective suit I do not know what happened to the other life boats or the raft and can only conclude that they must have capsized during the gale.

16. Finally I would like to suggest that there should be a bigger clearance space for the propeller, there was only one eighth of an inch between the propeller and the stern-post and the propeller became jammed against it.

Report by Reginald Johnson
8th June 1942

Reginald Johnson was awarded a Disability Allowance on May 13th 1942. This allowance was discontinued on 22 October 1942.

The Honours and Awards Committee has considered the claims to recognition of Reginald Johnson, 3rd Officer of SS Thursobank and submits that the Appointment shown below be recommended to the Treasury Committee.

S.S. THURSOBANK, was attacked and sunk by an enemy submarine in March 1942. Her Third Officer, Mr Johnson was in charge of the starboard lifeboat in which there were 34 survivors. Although only twenty, he showed great skill, leadership and resource in a boat voyage of five days until they were picked up. For most of the time the weather was bad, and the Chinese crew were troublesome. To his seamanship, discipline and unwavering resolution the 34 survivors owe their lives.

Dated 8th July 1942

The London Gazette, 18th August 1942 states:-

Reginald Johnson Esq., Third Officer

"The ship was torpedoed. The Master stopped the engines and ordered the crew to the boats, one of which was in charge of Third Officer. A gale was blowing so he decided to lie to his anchor till the weather moderated. After 3 ½ days they were able to sail and two days later they were picked up.

By firmness and tact the Third Officer though only twenty years old, maintained discipline and the 34 survivors owe their lives to his seamanship and unwavering resolution."

SECRET - SS Tursobank.

The ship was torpedoed. The Master stopped the engines and ordered the crew to the boats. The port lifeboat had been destroyed by the explosion but the three other boats and one raft were successfully lowered with most of the crew. The Master insisted on staying on board till all the crew were clear. He ordered his Third Officer to get his boat away and was not seen again. A second torpedo then struck the ship and she sank quickly. A moderate gale was blowing so the Third Officer decided to lie to his anchor till the weather moderated and started rationing the food and water. After 3½ days they were able to set sail and two days later were picked up by a Norwegian ship.

There was some trouble with the 26 Chinese ratings due perhaps to the period of forced inactivity, but by firmness and tact the Third Officer (though only 20 years old) maintained discipline. To his seamanship and unwavering resolution the 56 survivors owe their lives.

Maurice Barrick.

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Well, it's been a busy term as always with the children having lots of fun. Last term the children enjoyed our Spring and Celebrations topic. They made some lovely crafts to take home. At the end of this term, we held a very successful Easter open morning where the sun shone encouraging lots of families to attend welcoming new faces. The children had great fun doing activities both inside and outside as well as hunting for eggs from the Easter bunny. For some of these children we said 'good-bye' as they moved on to 'big school' and we would like to take this opportunity to wish them well as they progress onto pastures new.

Since the start of the new term, we have had new children attending. They have all settled well into pre-school and enjoying activities as well as learning new skills. Our Summer topics are about 'holidays' where we will look at places to visit, transportation, weather, colours as well as following the children's interests and also planning activities and experiences to meet our children's individual needs. We are also planning a trip to widen the children's experiences. At the end of this term we will also hold our annual end of term open morning. This will be held on 16th July from 9.15 – 11.45, all are welcome, we would love to see you there.

Our pre-school is open to all children from 2 to 5yrs. We are situated in the Memorial Hall, Chapel St. We are registered with Ofsted and North Lincolnshire Council. Three year old children are entitled to 5 free sessions a week from the term after their 3rd birthday. We have excellent relationships with Goxhill Primary School and we are able to offer the children the opportunity to visit there with our staff on a Tuesday morning the term before they are due to start school.

Our opening times are as follows:

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9.15 – 11.45	9.15 – 11.45	9.15 – 11.45	9.15 – 11.45
12.45 – 3.15	12.45 – 3.15	12.45 – 3.15	

Children wishing to stay all day require a packed lunch

For more information please call in during session times or contact us on 07873 428906.

Alternatively, contact the supervisor Mrs Julie-Ann Whall on 01469 532265 (Out of Hours).

Charity number 1018539

This is the first of a regular series of Pre-School reports.

GOXHILL BOWLING CLUB NEWS

At the beginning of each bowling season, the Ladies County President traditionally hosts a friendly bowling match at her home club between ladies from the South Bank of the Humber and ladies from the North Bank. This year Goxhill Bowling Club are proud to say that one of their members, Mrs. Tina Morris, holds this position and as a result the friendly was held at Goxhill on Sunday, May 10th with around 70 ladies taking part.

Before the match took place, a presentation was made to Mrs. Lorna Broughton by Tina in the club house, to mark her retirement as "tea lady", a job she has done tirelessly for many, many years. It was to show the appreciation of all the club members for this invaluable service.

Christine Ellis



Tina with Lorna and husband Maurice, club Chairman.



*Tina Morris, County Ladies President shown with three members of Goxhill Bowling Club
Left to Right: Chris Ellis, Tina, Vicky Herbert and Dorothy Jerrison.*

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BAYSGARTH NEWS

We would like to start off this newsletter by saying a huge thank you and farewell to Mrs Barbara Billinger who retired at the end of the spring term after a working life devoted to teaching. Mrs Billinger will come in during the summer term to teach a small number of Art lessons so we look forward to seeing her around the school. Also farewells and thank you for all their contributions to the school go to Mrs Major and Mr Davey who left us in April. We would like to welcome Ms Smith and Ms Pilley who have joined the English Faculty as Key Stage 4/5 and Key Stage 3 Team Leaders respectively, and to Mr Redfern who has joined the school as Head of our Inclusion Faculty.

Rock Challenge is an annual event which Baysgarth has entered a massive 13 times. It is an 8 minute performance which tells a story through music, dance and drama. It is an amazing experience for all involved, an opportunity to become part of a great team and meet many new people. This year's Rock Challenge 'Take Me Out' was based on a Western theme and was successful in achieving 3 awards; Best Lighting, Best Set Design and also a student leadership award. It is such a fantastic day and brilliant experience and special mention must go to two members of staff: Mrs Valentine and Mr Scruton. Rock Challenge could never happen without their help year after year. They kept the group going when things weren't looking so great and put countless hours into the performance, Thank you so much to the whole team and a big well done to everyone!

Once again Baysgarth School was the venue for the inter-school cheerleading competition which was held on Monday 23rd March. A great atmosphere provided the backdrop for some excellent routines and chants to be performed along with a demonstration from the Lincoln Jets professional Cheer Team. Many thanks to all who helped make the occasion a success and to the 6 members of the "Baysgarth Boomerangs" Cheerleading Squad who represented the school.



Work continues with the Baysgarth School Sports Partnership: the most recent event is the Sports Hall Athletics involving over 200 primary school pupils. Barton St Peter's were overall winners and will go on to the Humberside competition. Thanks must go to the staff who coordinated the event, ably assisted by some 40 Baysgarth sports volunteers from all years. PE staff and some of our GCSE PE students, have also taken sessions in badminton and multi-skills with Bowmandale pupils at the leisure centre. Our ever improving partnership with the leisure centre will enable us to offer a wider range of activities to pupils, including swimming,

fitness and use of the gym. Other new activities to be introduced are judo, golf and sailing.

Freddy Josh led the Y8 rugby team to victory in the Scunthorpe and District Schools Rugby competition last term. This was a great team achievement but special mention must be made of Tom Bowes and Ben Herrick who scored numerous tries to secure the victory. Our Y8 Football team reached the Cup Semi Final and were narrowly beaten away at South Axholme. 2-1 up with minutes to go they conceded a late equaliser and then again with the match heading for penalties they conceded another to lose 3-2. Ben Herrick, the team's top scorer scored the goal of the game from the half way line; Liam Blomeley scored the other goal.

Baysgarth also has its fair share of budding "Oliviers" and on Friday 20th March we were proud to hear that 15 members of our school went to North Ferriby, to take part in the All England Theatre Festival as part of the South Bank Players Junior group youth entry. Although the group did not make it through to the next round, we were delighted with the performances of all the youngsters, especially Luke Bennett in Y8 who scooped the Best Actor Award for his outstanding performance.

We received our National Healthy School Award on April 2nd, which builds upon that already received from North Lincolnshire Council. This reflects the tremendous work taking place in lessons across the curriculum, our extra-curricular activities and dining arrangements. Thanks go to all the staff and pupils involved in helping the school receive recognition of such key aspects of our work in this way. Examples of the work carried out are:

- New Health Education programme: Choices Clinic – advice for health, relationships, smoking cessation, student advisor
- Voted the most improved meals of all North Lincolnshire secondary schools: Licence to Cook - 50% of food lessons are practical cooking; revamped canteens and new menus
- 2 hours PE for all; and increased range of activities in lessons and extra-curricular opportunities; leadership and coaching awards for pupils; hub school for Baysgarth School Sport Partnership
- Peer Mentors for all groups: sports mentors winning the Diana Award; programmes to promote confidence and self-esteem; new Vertical Tutoring system to further promote a caring community; one of the lowest incidences of bullying in all North Lincs secondary schools.

Reminder of Term Dates

1 June	School Re-opens
17 July	School Closes for Summer
3 Sept	School Re-opens

For further information about Baysgarth School, A Specialist Technology College, please contact Colin Saywell, Headteacher, on 01652 632576 Don't forget to visit our exiting new 360° school tour website!! Visit us now on www.baysgarthschool.co.uk

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Menaces of the Future

The winter wildlife numbers for December and January get better than ever. Each winter, vast flocks of Plover - both Green and Golden - are ever increasing; some days on the marsh and foreshore they are beyond counting. One day near the haven there was a flock of Turnstones which were in excess of 100. Twenty years ago I thought it was good if I saw five together. The Blacktailed Godwits are still in strength of around 1,000, with the Ringed Plovers & Dunlin on the out-marsh, not forgetting the Curlews.

On the inside marsh there is the odd Kingfisher to be seen and the Little Egrets are still around the fladges of water and drains. When I was at the Marsh-side Reserve at Southport in December, there were three on the marsh, and the warden said they are no longer an attraction there for there is a 40-strong colony of them at the other side of the estuary (the Ribble) and they can be seen regularly flying over for a visit to this colony or vice versa. Though they are not in such numbers here, it may not belong before they are.

The Otter footprints in the Goxhill/East Halton Beck are still to be seen at times. When the ones bred in captivity were released in the rivers around Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk during the 1990s, there were reports and complaints that they were relieving the Goldfish Ponds of their contents in rural villages near the rivers. Many people believe otters only live in rivers and lakes etc, however they can move around on land and do so at a fast speed if they wish, often for some distance from water if need be, though they like to have water around when resting to slip into if danger threatens. Dogs are the otter's only enemy, so with Otter Hunting banned by the 1960s, they are in little danger except for the occasional dog which may meet up with them. I remember in approximately 1945 an occupant of Council Villas on Thornton Road found one in his chicken run one morning and shot it for the chickens' safety (I don't remember if it had killed any or not). Another one, only half grown, was killed by dogs at Hogcotes, the old Pinfold field in Goxhill Marsh some years later - and this one should still be somewhere around for it was set up (skinned & stuffed) by a Taxidermist on a plinth for preservation.

Last winter there were many reported sighting of Deer visiting the village itself, though there is some confusion on identification between our resident deer, the Roe and the Muntjac. Roe deer are of British origin, while the Muntjac were imported from Asia in around 1900 by the Duke of Bedford to his Woburn Abbey estate in Bedfordshire, some of which escaped and have in the past century spread across the countryside, and arrived at Goxhill. The Roe are the largest and can be identified as such by their rump - when they run or move away from you, they show a round patch of white like a powder puff in winter and are dark brown, while in summer the powder puff is buff and their coat is a foxy red. The bucks' antlers are two-feet long when mature. Meanwhile, Muntjac, are smaller (the smallest deer in Britain) and at a glance not unlike

a Golden Labrador dog in size or colour. Like the Roe, their coats change with the seasons: a red/brown in summer and darker in winter; their rump has a vertical streak of white between the legs, the tail on the under side is white and they lift it vertically if they are alarmed and run away from you extending the white streak. They also have a black V on their forehead and look potbellied compared with the Roe deer. The bucks' antlers are only four-inches long. The fawn of the Roe deer are born in May or June while the Muntjac has no breeding season and the fawn can be born any month of the year; both species can be seen feeding at anytime of the day or night. Before these two species arrived some 12 years ago we always had the odd Fallow Deer for a visitor and mostly likely come from the Brocklesby Woods.

February saw the winter visitor numbers remain stable with the flocks of Waders and Mallard Ducks feeding on the tide edge in numbers as big as ever. A Little Egret was seen feeding in the Dyke along the side of the road at Littlewick in South End, and there were also sightings of it in the inland dyke of the marsh. Otter footprints could be seen in the beck at South End, a mile further toward Thornton Abbey than previously - near Langmere wood - and again in the Sykes Lane area which is almost three miles away as the "Crow Flies." They get there by swimming up the connecting drains, which means it may have been the same Otter. If so, it had been on a nine mile journey. Experts say that an Otter has a 40-kilometre territory of Rivers, Streams & Drains (a favourite home for them at Goxhill is the old clay pits of the derelict brick-yards) in which they can swim. They are great travellers, and though mostly nocturnal can be seen in the summer evenings out and about before dusk. Though otters are said to be loners, I have in my time seen two together, which I expect would be a pair; I have also twice seen three that I expect would be a Mother and her two young (called Kits), which usually stay with her for a year until fully grown. This of course was over 50 years ago before the poison pollution in the rivers & streams made them almost extinct. Their holes are usually in rotten tree roots on the waterside and known as a "Holt".

On Beck-side animal paths or tracks, the footprints of Foxes, Badgers, Roe and Muntjac Deer could all be seen on the same path in places where it is mud due the recent rains.

Towards mid-January small flocks of Starlings were seen gathering over the village doing their evening flight before bedtime, approximately half an hour before dusk. They started with a few hundred, but increased to something like 2,000 or more by the beginning of February. Many watched them as they outmanoeuvred the RAF's Red Arrows.

March update: On 10th, I saw a Marsh Harrier visit the nest site at the Dawson City reserve. Whether it was

Continued over the page...



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Registered Charity No 702871

Menaces of the Future, continued...

the regular nester returning or just a visit from one that has wintered here, I do not know. Both the Marsh and Hen Harriers have been seen in the parish during the winter, along with the Short Eared Owls which are regularly seen hunting on the long grass on the Outmarsh. Fifty years ago they were known as Dutch owls by the locals, for during the winter we get many migrating here from Holland. The same day I saw some Frogspawn and the Hedgehogs making their rounds at night which says spring is on the way.

1st May update: By now most of our summer visitors have arrived. The Cuckoo was a week early, giving its call for many residents to hear over the Easter weekend; the Egrets continue to be seen around the Parish Drains; the Green Plover (Lapwing) are once more nesting with us for the fifth year running after a period of 40 years absence, along with the return of the Marsh Harrier. The pair of residential Churchyard Tawny Owls have once again succeeded to rear four offspring that are about ready to leave their nesting box at the time of writing (I have named them Ben, Tom, Jade & Chloe - hope I got their sex right). This means they must have laid their eggs in late February. During the spring, the pairs of Mallard ducks were in reduced numbers compared with last year, as were the Water Hens (Moor Hens) whose numbers in 2007 were greater than in living memory with flocks of over 20 to be seen in the drain side fields in several places within the Parish.

There are continual reports in the Press of new species or rare birds arriving which have not been seen in the UK for a century or more (all due to this Global warming of course). The return of most is due to protection - having in the past being shot or trapped for their meat and their eggs gathered for omelettes driv-

ing them out of the country, they are now finding it a safe haven and are returning. I have been looking forward to the return of a species that I have never seen, but was often spoken of when I was a kid - a "Kelly Loo Loo Bird". A Curlew was always called a Kelly, so I thought it would be similar with a long beak and legs for when I asked what it was like I was told "it sticks its beak in the ground and whistles out its bum hole." Maybe it was shot or trapped to extinction for it has not returned to date.

In the future, with this new species of bird and three animals increasing in numbers, the Gardens & Fish Ponds will have to be watched - for Herons and Egrets by day and Otters by night, and the Deer will come and munch away anytime at anything in gardens that suits their taste or fancy, browsing like a goat at all the expensive or exotic plants and shrubs that are the Gardener's pride. It will be a 24-hour job.

What to do about the herons, egrets and otters, I don't know. Today I would say they are un-eatable - unlike 250 years ago, when anything with flesh on its bones was eaten. Only the Deer could be an addition for the larder - 300 years ago Venison could only be eaten by kings and his lords with many a Peasant convicted for stealing a deer from his Lordship's forest to feed his starving family and shipped to Australia as a prisoner never to return home, however things have progressed and venison is now allowed on everyone's table and you can too now live like a lord (and don't forget the wine). If the deer become a menace or times become hard in a recession, who knows? Perhaps they will disappear in the dead of the night and appear on a table or in a freezer. Problem solved, and the deer will not munch your beloved garden plants anymore.

Ron Parker (May 2009)

Good Wines, Good Company, and Lots of Laughs

The charity Wine Tasting Evening held in the Memorial Hall on Saturday 18th April was declared an unmitigated success by all who attended.

The hall echoed to the sound of laughter and the clink of glasses as 78 people gathered to raise money for the Help for Heroes charity. The evening was enjoyed by wine "connoisseurs" from as far away as Wakefield, Scunthorpe, Barnetby, Saxby as well as Goxhill.

There was a choice of 10 wines to try from local wine merchant, MR Wines and 3 bottle beers from the renowned Tom Woods brewery all supplied at very competitive prices. A very impressive bread and cheese supper was subsidised by local supermarkets and wholesalers. All of which ensured that the majority of the ticket money went to the charity.

The support given to the organisers by Goxhill businesses was amazing with over 30 prizes donated for the raffle and we would like to thank each and everyone for their generosity.

At the end of the night we had raised a total of £600 for our chosen charity HELP FOR HEROES, which raises money to provide additional medical and support services for injured service personal and their families.

Despite the fact that we had posters throughout the village, leafleted over 200 houses, advertised in the Gander and had tickets on sale at three businesses in Goxhill less than 10% of ticket sales came from this form of promotion. It is difficult to understand why our evening attracted so little support from the general public in Goxhill but we are interested if you know why.

Please feel free to contact me and give me your views, we may hold other fund raisers or social evenings and your views may alter the way we promote them.

Ring Jack Lawtey on **01469 532015** or e-mail jacklawtey@btinternet.com

H & HJ Huteson & Sons

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The Gander

Advertising Rates

For Inclusion in four issues:

(The year runs from August to August and we try to have all advertisers synchronised to save on administration)

Half Page £105

Quarter Page £60

Eighth Page £40

Small Box £25

Payment must come prior to inclusion.

Public Service Announcements and Charity Appeals are printed free of charge, up to a maximum 1/4 page.

All current advertisers will be invoiced for the coming year in July. If you are not presently one of them but wish to join us from the Autumn edition, contact **Mike Gathercole** on **01469 532208** before the end of June and we will make room for you - whether you are a new business or have been established in our community for years.

It really does work, so join us for 2009-10.

Mayflower

Barrow Parent and Toddler Group

The group meets every Monday between 10am and 12pm in the Barrow Village Hall.

Ages from birth to five years

0-6 months FREE

6-12 months £1.00

12+ months £2.00

Additional children maximum £1

This is a structured group designed for parents to interact with their children in play, crafts/ baking, eating fruits, songs and dance run by a committee of volunteers.

Newcomers welcome. First session free. For further information, please contact Tina - 01469 533119

Donations Gratefully Received

Registered Charity No. 1076677

Index of Advertisers

These advertisers in the **Gander** are vital for the continuation of this newsletter. Please give them all your support.

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If you wish to advertise with the Gander please contact us as soon as possible.

We believe the Gander remains a valuable community resource as it enters its 23rd year.

We hope you agree.

E-mail:
goxhill-gander@fsmail.net

Telephone:
01430 432699

Post to:
Fresh Fields, Ferry Rd.

Deadline:
All submissions for the Summer issue of
the Gander
Should be in by
Saturday 1st August
Distribution 1st week of September.
(For date sensitive copy)

Useful Numbers

Health

<u>Doctors Surgery - Barton</u>	(01652)
General Enquiries	635435 / 6
Emergencies	632573
Appointments	632565
Prescription Line	632257
Facsimile	632122

NHS Direct 0845 4647

Hospitals

Scunthorpe General	01724 282282
Hull Royal Infirmary	01482 328541
Grimsby - Diana. P.O.W.	01472 874111

Dentist - Barton

Jeremy T. Walker 01652 633580

Chemists - Barton

Lloyds	01652 632129
Moss	01652 632393

Veterinary Surgeons - Barton

Barton Veterinary Centre 01652 636359

Emergencies

Electricity Emergencies

Freephone (24 Hours) 0800 375675

British Gas Emergencies

Freephone (24 Hours) 0800 111999

Anglia Water Emergencies

(24 Hours) 08457 145145

Helplines

Alcoholics Anonymous 0845 769 7555

Childline (Freephone) 0800 1111

Citizens Advice Bureau

Grimsby	01472 359005
Scunthorpe	01724 8484645

Cancer Support Group 01724 282282

Crimestoppers 0800 555111

Drugline 0800 526475

Lone Parent Helpline 0800 018 5026

Marriage Guidance (Relate)

(Lincoln) 01522 524922

NSPCC (Freephone) 0800 800500

Police Domestic Violence Unit

(Scunthorpe) 01724 274161

RSPCA (National Linkline) 0990 555999

Samaritans (Lo-call) 0345 909090

Social Services

Emergency Duty Team 01724 296500

Travel

National Rail enquiries

24 Hour Linkline 0345 484950

National Express Bus Services

Enquiries 0990 808080

Humberside Airport 01652 688456

General

Goxhill School 530743

Bavsgarth School 01652 632576

Clerk to the Goxhill Parish Council -

Mrs. C. Tooby 533971



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Church Street
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North Lincolnshire
DN19 7HX
(01469) 531821

Opening times.

Monday: 9.00am to 5.00pm
Tuesday: Closed
Wednesday: 9.00am to 5.00pm
Thursday: 9.00am to 7.00 pm
Friday: 9.00am to 7.00pm
Saturday: 9.00am to 4.00pm

Special Gents Night
Wednesday 5.00pm to 7.00pm

