

## 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.*