

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.