

The return of

Copper's Corner

I would like to start with an apology.

I am sorry that the regular feature from some time ago 'Coppers Corner' disappeared from 'The Gander'. A missed opportunity to tell the village about what the police are up to and explain when things don't go as we would like. From this edition things are changing and *The Gander* will be one of the ways we can tell you what is happening. Not the only way of course, as we are giving all our local officers mobile email access so you can contact them at any time. The potential to use the library as a regular surgery plus the Cop Shop in the village, I hope will give you access to your local officers, Pc John White and Police Community Support Officers Jay Pick and Sarah Heath.

I have just got in from playing at the park with my two boys. We were joined by a couple of their friends, played some football and joked about a group of teenagers looking silly, and not older, as they were smoking. As we were leaving some of these youths were sat on the bench near the entrance. I noticed one was playing with a cigarette lighter, entertaining the girls present. They were local youths and were not committing any offences. I thought back to a comment Mike Gathercole had made to me concerning two weekends of damage to the school and wondered if they were responsible. I will never know, they were doing nothing wrong but later that tonight, who knows. I wonder if their families knew what they are up to, do they care about what they are doing when they wave goodbye and so look forward to a relaxing evening of peace and quiet. I wondered how I will challenge as mine get older and want to venture further a field.

Criminal damage in Goxhill is a real concern to me. The school has a tight budget and has suffered senseless damage and money, no doubt planned for our children, will be spent on repairs rather than education. The Memorial Hall is also a target and I am aware of the occasional damage to cars. It is really sad, as in general, it is not visitors to our village who are responsible. It is our own. I hope parents and friends will challenge and ask what their young people are up to. If not, they cannot be surprised when they get a knock on the door from my officers.

Much has been said about policing in our village. Pc John White is a regular face to some and is a police officer committed to helping and sorting

out problems which need his personal attention. I am delighted with John's enthusiasm and know he puts a lot of his own time into the village dealing with enquiries. He is not the only officer who can respond but is the named officer for the area. He gets frustrated when he has to patrol other areas of North Lincolnshire due to the *thin blue line*. When I speak to him, I am impressed about what he knows, who he knows and who he suspects is responsible for the damage and other crime we suffer in the village.

The other night I heard the helicopter hovering over Goxhill. I made a quick call and found that a patrol in East Halton had tried to stop a van and then been rammed. The helicopter had followed and located a house in the village where the suspects had run. Arrests quickly followed, as hiding in the roof space is obvious even to the youngest of cop!

Goxhill is a wonderful, friendly place to live and I know we want it to stay that way. I for one, don't like to think there are people looking to commit crime in the village but have to face up to reality. There are some looking for such opportunities. Please don't give them the chance. An unlocked garage, a laptop or mobile phone on the car seat or a sat-nav can be very tempting. Lock it away and it won't happen. As warm nights roll in, please keep doors locked. And as the saying goes, *'its better to be safe, than sorry'*.

If you have information concerning any crime please contact Pc John White or use Crimestoppers, tel. 0800 555 111.

Stuart Donald
Chief Superintendent
Humberside Police

It's good to have **Copper's Corner** back but it does not stop the Gander printing criticism of the local constabulary when it comes to us. A report of damage to a parked car is on page 23; this is a letter received from a concerned resident:

Dear Gander,
I read with interest a report in the local evening paper that up to three policemen had been sighted patrolling our village streets. Could the Gander publish details of when and where this rapidly decreasing species are most likely to be seen? I and many other villagers would actually like to see them with our own eyes.

Yours faithfully,
Mrs AA Burford.