

# Dear Gander: the good and the bad

Congratulations on The Gander Spring 2007. It is always a pleasure to keep up with village events. I particularly enjoyed the "inauthentic story of how the village got its name." It is a much more entertaining explanation than the real thing – more of that later. My sister Gladys and husband have been staying with us. We all enjoyed our visits to the village, at its best adorned by the flowering cherries. Both father and myself helped Sam van den Bos and friends with the planting. Gladys and I have been spending a long time looking at your cover photograph and we may have identified two or possibly three of the girls: Jean Palmer to the right of the lad on the cycle and Joy Drinkall next to her. The girl on the right could possibly be Anne Plaskett. There is a real puzzle, though, because the photograph was taken in the afternoon, which means the group were leaving school and walking home. If we are correct in our identifications, the girls must have been walking AWAY from their homes. The blazers show the pupils were at secondary school. Gladys was at Immingham School then and blazers were worn there as well as at Barton Grammar. We look forward to seeing other readers' views.

Back to the story of how the village got its name. Michael Border and I have been exploring this subject thoroughly over the last two years and we hope to publish our findings in a new book on the history of the village in the Middle Ages soon. Some residents of Goxhill played an important part in the events of 1066 and the village Lord was murdered soon afterwards when fighting for Hereward the Wake against William the Conqueror. All through the Middle Ages Goxhill Lords played a leading role in national affairs. The de Goxhill family lived in South End, in what we are convinced was a mighty castle, alongside "the Priory". From this castle, a later Lord, Hugh le Despenser, organised the counter attack against Braveheart, Robert the Bruce, after the battle of Bannockburn. Hugh failed miserably and, like his close friend King Edward II, met a most gruesome death.

The book will have lots of information on farming as well as politics and about the weekly market and annual fair. There is a chapter, too, on All Saints' Church – its history and architecture.

Finally, congratulations to the pupils of Goxhill school for adopting the railway station.

*Russell Cook*

## To The Gander

It is with great reluctance that I write to condemn the security provided by the Council and the Police for the elderly and disabled persons residing at Greenfields, and the residents of Goxhill.

On the morning of Saturday 3rd March I discovered my car was vandalised the previous night, the radio and my walking stick were stolen and the contents of the glove compartment taken and thrown into a nearby garden, some items have not been recovered. The damage caused is extensive, costing over a thousand pounds and me a £75 excess with my insurance company plus a great deal of stress and inconvenience. This is the third time I have had a car vandalised in the same place by probably the same persons. The driver's door has been badly dented, the bonnet chipped by thrown stones and the windscreen and nearside window smashed.

On calling the police I was informed that they were short handed at weekends and that house burglaries and traffic accidents take precedence. I am confused where theft with vandalism comes in. Upon insisting that an officer attends the scene, I was told someone would visit in a few days. Over a week later no such visit had taken place, though the police did turn out in force in the area to zealously man a speed trap and no doubt treat drivers as they would criminals were they ever to meet one!

Without doubt if any of the perpetrators were caught in the act and given the good hiding they deserved, the police would have arrived in minutes to arrest the good citizen responsible.

I, like so many people are fed up with the motives and motivation of the police who are expensive to maintain and poor value for money, particularly in Goxhill. There have been a number of instances of vandalism in the village and the police know who the

culprits are having trapped them on CCTV, yet they still fail to patrol the village or restore law and order.

I telephoned Mr Carl Riley of North Lincs. Council Housing Department requesting that I be allowed to park my car in front of my bungalow to make it secure. His response was that a drop kerb would have to be put in at a cost of £300 which the council would not pay. When I said that a dropped kerb existed further along the path, he said I was not allowed to drive on the pathway. When I asked for the CCTV for the security of the complex, he said there was no chance despite the Warden's house and Communal Room having windows broken, theft from cars and sheer wanton destruction to people's property.

The brave morons no doubt boast of their conquests, including the theft of a walking stick needed by a disabled person. I am pleased to see the Parish Council is contemplating legal action against the parents of culprits caught on CCTV whilst vandalising the camera and Goxhill Memorial Hall.

The responsibility is primarily with the parents of these low life - they should be made to pay for all of the damage sustained. Then perhaps they will exercise appropriate parental controls on their "little angels" and convert them into worthwhile human beings.

In the unlikely event that this will happen, the police have a responsibility to POLICE our village and should be equally held to account for the damage and losses sustained by decent law abiding people.

Undoubtedly, the vandals are just a few in number, but the devastation and cost enormous. Something must be done now to stop them and preserve the security and good reputation of the village of Goxhill.

*Name and Address Supplied to Gander.*