



the Gander

Every year at about this time I help my Gran by typing-up a round-robin Christmas letter that she sends to old friends some of whom she has not seen for decades. Most of them are not heard of from one year's end to the next; not receiving a letter from them means that probably she never will again. I've started thinking about the letter a bit earlier this year with me being away from the village and my Grandma being in hospital in Hull and not likely to be coming back to live in Goxhill in future.

At the beginning of each December I'd get several pieces of paper of hand-written notes that I put on a page with colour and pictures, and printed several off to be posted across the UK and around the world. One went to Australia, another to the United States. Basic stuff about the children and grandchildren, memorable events; perhaps you send and receive similar - this is certainly the time most people will, whether it's a few words in the card or sheets and sheets reeling off everything. Though you may struggle to think of things to say or ways to make the telling interesting, it is always nice to stay in contact however limited, and particularly pleasant to receive news of old friends if we have not been in recent or regular touch.

Four times a year I have the task of sharing with you the memories and experiences of people who live or have lived in this village for many years. It is a role similar to that of a letter writer at Christmas, it just comes round a bit more often. The Gander will always focus on the bread and butter, the names, the dates. The letters from the schools and churches are integral, as is a touch of local history and the opportunity to respond to recent events. A lot like my Gran's missive.

As promised in the last issue, we will soon give people everywhere the chance to find out what is happening in the village. The website which is going live by the time you are reading this, and will be open to all by the New Year, will hold archives from newsletters of the past, instantly accessible adverts and the promise of a more instantaneous form of communicating events with a message board. Inside these pages we advertise another new internet advance for the village 'Goxhill Trader', which runs free ads for anything you want to sell but would not put on eBay or the like. Rest assured, however, that even as 2008 approaches fast on the rails, none of the old standards will be lost. Our priority will remain with the paper copy that comes through your letter box every March, June, September and December because we know the old-fashioned ways of keeping contact are important, they mark the passage of time. It is as important to inform you of Ron Parker's book on the American stay on the airfield during the war, as of the modern advances. All things contribute to making Goxhill what it is, all the year round. And they all go in your Gander.

Adam Ellis.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Gander team

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Please note that comments or opinions expressed in articles printed are not necessarily those of the team.

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