

*Water, Water Everywhere, Continued from previous page...*

than the old one. In the following years the drains were made deeper and when the excavator reached the bridges which were constructed of brick arches, as wide as the drain at the bottom and as high, letting the water have an unrestricted flow, it ripped the arches out and replaced them with a fabricated steel pipe approximately 4 feet in diameter which restricted the flow by as much as four-fifths. So in times of heavy rain the volume of water cannot reach the Clew as fast as it could under the old arches. After the drains were modified the drainage board opened up a new drain where the drain in Neatgangs Lane meets the drain at Sykes Lane up into the clay pit at quebec (better known as the Tile Yard today) , a wide piece of the bank between this new drain and the pit was removed and a concrete sill fitted several feet above the dyke's normal level. They said it was to act as a reservoir for when heavy rains occurred and it would reduce flooding the area.

The Sewerage System in itself has few problems , then why does it overflow in times of heavy rain? Because some of the builders in the past have fed the fall pipes from the roof of dwellings into it instead of the surface water drains or dykes. This is one of the problems which could be rectified to some extent by disconnecting the Fall Pipes from the sewerage and connecting them to a Water Butt or a Surface Water System.

So to stop future flooding the only thing to be done is to restore the old dyke drainage system for nothing else can take the volume of water it can, though I see this as an impossible task because the local residents will not want to see an open drain in front of their dwelling exposing all the service pipes to the elements, let alone the inconvenience it would cause, and the farmers will not want to see small fields for their modern tractors and implements, nor will the Drainage Board want the expense of replacing their pipes under the bridges with the old type Arches. Though, unless this is done, there is no hope to stop the future flooding unless the three arterial (main service) drains from the haven are restored to the village, this then leaves the problem with the village dykes which have been filled in, let alone the ponds. I can recall two ponds which have houses on top of them and one pond under a road.

So, all I can recommend is for residents to adopt the Boy Scouts' motto "Be Prepared" to protect the dwellings. Any DIY man could make a board with a foam rubber back for a seal to cover the Air Bricks and bolted onto the wall with rawl bolts and for the doors, make a dam board to fit the door frame 2/3 feet high accordingly with a seal on the contact surface and screw it to the frame, making

sure the frame is well sealed at the wall, then for an added protection top have a coal bunker behind the garage filled with sand and a bundle of sand bags to fill and place in front of those already fitted boards which could be removed and stored in the garage or loft for when the evil day arrives (this would give limited protection for given time water will seep almost anywhere). It is now not a question of IF but WHEN the next flood arrives.

And as always we have the Jobsworth who try to Shut the Stable Door after the Horse has Bolted,. They know as much about Dykes as Dykes know about them, after making a lot of noise (for talk is cheap) with some brainless suggestions, nothing constructive will be done to prevent future flooding, the Noise will fade into the background until after the next flood when it will flare up once more.

I have heard the Water Table has started to rise (it dropped a number of feet when the pumping stations were constructed in the 1950s), the reason given is that the Humber Bank industries are using less water due to the closure of food factories in recent years. I have noticed this for the past 10 years for the Springs which had been derelict for many years started to flow occasionally and have increased this last three years, and when not flowing the level is only inches below the top of the bore pipe whereas 10 years ago it was several feet.

Until a century ago, Goxhill like other villages built on a flood plain relied on the local farming community to provide them with work and food. This could only be achieved if the drainage system was kept in first class order, so the drainage system was always a priority.

At Goxhill another threat has loomed over the horizon, in an article in the Daily Mail, I quote extracts: HUGE SWATHES OF ENGLAND WILL BE ABANDONED TO THE SEAS, MANY OF THE SEA WALLS AND BANKS THAT HAVE PROTECTED THE EAST COAST FOR HUNDRED OF YEARS ARE NO LONGER "ECONOMIC" AND CANNOT BE MAINTAINED. An article in the local Telegraph a year ago said the farm land at Goxhill was NOT WORTH THE EXPENSE. I recall the flood in January 1953 when the Humber overflowed the Goxhill Bank covering many acres of farmland though didn't enter dwellings, but the flood on 17th December 1921 when the bank was breached, a number of farm houses and cottages were flooded, far more devastating than in 1953, so now we have threats of floods from both the sky and the River Humber. Be Prepared.

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**Off the Cuff, January 2008.**