



the Gander

I've been thinking quite a bit about babies recently. Spring is in the air and that always makes me think of new life, one of my friends and his wife had a daughter in February, and Troy, who many of you will know has lived with us for 13 years, becomes a father himself in early June - indeed his son may already have been born by the time you are reading this.

Though Troy isn't my brother, I consider the baby to be as close to being my nephew as possible without being my blood, and that goes for my whole family. Because he came to us aged seven, my parents were building on foundations that were already in place, and as the Jesuits' famous saying tells us, much about him was already set before his arrival in Goxhill, but they should feel proud of what they have done, as he should of himself, as he moves into the next stage of his life.

I have also been thinking quite a bit about babies recently because it is usually the metaphor I call on to describe the Gander. At job interviews or in career-related conversations I produce copies to show not just what I can do but where I come from and what contributed to making me who I am. Though I say the newsletter is "my baby", perhaps it is actually more like Troy is to my mum and dad - in my foster care. Other people are responsible for the existence and appearance of the Gander, have laid down the template, set the example which I build on. And like him, it has to stand on its own two feet, pay its own way - and has now produced a baby of its own.

The Gander team did not sit down and decide to launch the website just for ourselves. The suggestion came out of our AGM over a year ago, and coincidentally launched about nine months after we had decided to go ahead with it. Though I hope many of you have taken a look and were pleased with what you saw, it is still a work in progress. When the website cries, we are still learning if it needs changing or more food; and the technical language of its construction is to me like the goo-goo ga-ga-s many say to newborns. After a few teething problems (yes, I know I have moved on several months, but it is only a metaphor) it is up and running - links are established, I can upload news and features, and receive feedback messages from visitors.

Now I'd like to hear some of that feedback, as well as receiving stories, photos and ideas. Like any new parent, the newsletter itself cannot be responsible for everything the website does. We need you, so speak to us and we can make it grow into a part of the village everyone can feel proud of. From now on when you see Troy, he will look slightly different - as a father he will be - even though much will stay the same. For that reason we have changed the outer appearance of the Gander too. The new cover is a sign we have moved forward, even if essentially the same. We have added significant long-term responsibility - but we cannot, will not, do it alone.

Adam Ellis

The Gander Team

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Tel</u>	<u>Role</u>
Mike Gathercole	'Ferry Lodge', Ferry Road.	532208	Co-ordinator
Adam Ellis	'Fresh Fields', Ferry Road (DN19 7JZ).	01430 432699	Editor
John Noton	'Owlet Cottage', Mill Lane.	532628	Treasurer
Jane Arnott	'Innisfree', Churchside.	530962	Distribution.

Please contact any of the above with any queries that you may have regarding the Gander.

Articles should be sent by e-mail to: goxhill-gander@fsmail.net or direct to the editor.

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

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