

## Have a Gander at [www.goxhillgander.com](http://www.goxhillgander.com)

It is one thing to write an article for circulation in the village magazine but to discover that your efforts are on view to the whole world takes a little getting used to. Something that began in a very amateurish fashion with type writers and a duplicator has gradually become a very technical and accomplished publication. Now it is part of the World Wide Web. It would be unbelievable for me to suggest that I do not derive pleasure from the publication of my writing and so, in appreciation but with great apprehension, thank you very much to the Gander team.

I was very surprised to see the presentation and the way that it all worked. There are plenty of people to tell you that viewing things on the screen is not as good as seeing them for real. Sitting here in comfort and looking at the report of the council meeting is a lot better than standing in front of the notice board on a cold day with rain in the air. You can be a little too real. With an advertisement list from Accountancy to Window Cleaning included on line the whole world can find the best of services and supplies here in Goxhill.

The front cover of the Gander often has very good black and white pictures of a part of the village but these cannot do justice to the colour photographs from which they are taken. The small illustrations that have been included on the web site are very good and I hope that we shall have more pictures from the village photographers.

There was a blank page which I found when I tried to look at Village Tales. I cannot believe that there are no tales but think that the people with the best ones may not be confident that they can write them down. If you have something that you would like to send to the Gander if you tell me about it I will

write it for you and you can have your piece with your name in the Gander.

We have looked at a very modern development but there have been many changes during my lifetime and the pace of change seems to increase with every passing year. Many people are unhappy about this but I feel that I have been most fortunate to live in a time when so much has happened to improve the way in which we live. Although I was not here to see it, during my lifetime many roads in the village were first treated with tar and stones. Piped water, sewers, electricity and telephones are all "recent" arrivals here.

If we go back much further the comparative wealth of the people living in the village has changed completely. There was very little other than sleep and work in most people's lives. Commuting to work involved walking from the village to the fields and back again. When you arrived home there was work to be done to grow food in the Home Close. Wives had a full day of work but at certain times and seasons they had a change from cooking washing cleaning. At Hay time and Harvest they went out into the fields with their husbands.

1759 Ezabell Watson

July 22

4 days at Hay 2 Shillings

July 29

4 days at Hay 2 Shillings

August 5

4 days 2 Shillings

August 12

3 ½ days 1 Shilling 9 pence

For 3 days work her husband earned 3 Shillings

There is another piece of information there. Ezabell was working at the Hay in August, now late July is the time of the Barley Harvest and Hay time or Silage

time is over. Times have certainly changed.

There has also been a change in the harvest field. When I first helped on the farm wheat grew waist high. The straw when cut by scythe reaper or binder could be used for thatching, providing that it was not broken by thrashing. Now there is so little straw that only specially grown wheat straw is long enough for thatching houses and because of the bad weather last year the thatchers have no material to work with.

I have made a list of the names of the people who worked for Thomas and Joseph Hardy and of their annual wages. The names change regularly. The rate of pay for each person usually increased year by year but then there was a newcomer to take the place and start again at a lower rate. I have a bit of a problem in deciding where Goxhill servants lived. In Barrow and in Barton there are many houses with three floors where servants could live in the garret rooms but in Goxhill there are only about two of these. Has anyone a suggestion? It is always interesting to look at the old deeds and Copyhold documents of Goxhill houses; they often tell us where people lived. From these it seems that many people built small houses called Tenements close to their houses where their workers lived. It is always a pleasure to read old deeds and to make a Modern English translation of their content.

Change does not necessarily take a long time. I notice that nowadays as I move about the village I seem to look at puddles in the road, where the drain gullies are, and matters of that nature. I hope that like me North Lincs council will soon Have a Gander<sup>1</sup> at the puddles and drains in the streets of Goxhill.

<sup>1</sup>Forces Slang Have a Look

*Maurice Brawn*