



the Gander

I've left writing this until last. The rest of the Gander is put together, all ready for sending to the printers, and there's only this bit to do. I often leave it late because finding a subject to spin off yet another plea for your support, articles, photos etc gets increasingly difficult as I try not to repeat myself more than is necessary, but this is the latest it has gone. I received the first submission for this issue in mid June and was still taking phone calls shortly before the August bank holiday. With the invoicing of all our advertisers during July, it has certainly been a marathon.

The fact that I have left it this late means that I do now have an appropriate base point to write on. In the last few days the Olympics have ended with British athletes taking an incredible 47 medals - 19 Golds, 13 Silvers and 15 Bronzes - the last of the summer exam results have come out, and the US Presidential race has reignited with both candidates picking their running mates.

As I'm sure many of you know, I am the least athletic person imaginable. As evidenced by this article and pretty much everything else I do, I don't believe in speed - I'd rather do the job at my own pace, but right. Nonetheless, I watched coverage of the Beijing Games and cheered as home-grown heroes like Rebecca Adlington, Chris Hoy and Bradley Wiggins managed extraordinary physical feats I couldn't even dream of. Years of training paid off magnificently, but within days thoughts moved to London 2012 and starting all over again.

I want to congratulate all those who have received exam results this summer. This is something I know much more about having only finished my university education last year. In the same way as the Olympians, however, before you can take in the results of years of hard work, thoughts turn to the next step: GCSEs to college courses, A-levels to universities. And it doesn't stop there - we never really stop learning, for example I have resumed driving lessons after a long break and hope to be able to return to the village more often as a result.

Because I am a bit of a politics geek, I have been following the US elections quite closely. I find it all fascinating, particularly now the American people have such a historic choice to make. Whoever wins the White House in November really will affect us in the UK - even in Goxhill - with ramifications for petrol prices and future US-UK troop movements to name just two. Most importantly in terms of what it says about the Gander, no sooner is a winner declared than the process begins again. The victor immediately starts thinking about re-election; and should Barack Obama lose, Hillary Clinton starts thinking of running in four years, and is already positioning herself just in case.

The Gander is the same as all these. The work is constant, never stops, and results from team work. I want the Gander to be something of which all villagers are proud and make claim, which develops and grows, and makes a practical difference, perhaps changing perceptions along the way. As I say in every one of these pieces - we can't do it alone.

Adam Ellis

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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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