



## the Gander

**A**t the end of term Andrew Jackson leaves his post as head teacher at Goxhill School after seven years. This edition of the Gander carries four pages looking back over Mr Jackson's time in the village, thanking him for his hard work and celebrating his achievements. From the reports we publish in every edition, we can all see how our village school goes from strength to strength, and as head Mr Jackson is at the centre of all that. One thing that is for sure, however, and I know Andrew would agree with me on this, is that no head or teacher can do it without the support of a dedicated and trusted team. Schools rely on their ancillary staff - caretakers, dinner ladies, teaching assistants - for their smooth running. As we praise Mr Jackson, I would also like to thank those people who have made his job so much easier.

On 28th October Goxhill lost one of the greatest servants of its primary school. Ethel Collingwood may not have been as involved with the school during Mr Jackson's tenure, but for more than 40 years she was essential to its running. As school secretary she served five heads, but when age meant she was no longer able to continue in this capacity she helped out in so many other ways. Through my years at the school she was an ever-present help to staff and pupils alike, a volunteer who just loved to be around the place, and who was vital to so much that went on. Mr Jackson's predecessor as head, John Bailey, pays tribute to Ethel on page 19 and it is hard to think of someone more deserving of such words.

I am proud to have known Ethel and to celebrate her, but though I have lived in Goxhill all my life there are people I do not know and stories I have not heard. At Christmas we often leave a small gift for the teenager who delivers our newspaper, for the milkman, the postman, the people who make our lives run smoothly, but who we perhaps don't know too well. We may not know their name, or even recognise them outside where we expect to see them, but quite rightly we take the time to say thank you for the important contribution they make.

There is no reason why these expressions of gratitude should only come when the person has moved on or died, or even just at Christmas. Every day we rely so much on the often hidden acts of selflessness, kindness or just a job done well, but how often do we stop and say thank you? The Gander is here for such expressions when they relate to our neighbours in Goxhill - whether to a known individual or collectively. In this issue we have thank yous for the upkeep of the cemetery, for supporting a petition, and for attending a concert and helping raise money for chapel funds. I myself wish to use this space to say thank you to the volunteer who put this newsletter through your letter box on a cold December day. And whether I know you or not, whatever you bring to this community, wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*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](mailto: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.*

*© The Goxhill Village Newsletter 2008.*