



School Report



Hopefully, by the time that you receive this edition of the Gander, our lovely village will be basking in radiant sunshine and our famous blossom trees will be as radiant as ever. It must be said, however, that at the time of writing, this is merely wishful thinking. The past week has seen heavy snowfalls, with many schools in Lincolnshire closing due to this. At Goxhill, the snow was received with glee by both children and staff. Many children commented that Monday morning was their favourite playtime at school EVER! Staff and pupils had a whale of a time on the school field throwing snowballs and making snowmen (named after staff).

At Goxhill School, we strive to play an active part of our community. Prior to Christmas a group of pupils and staff spent an evening carol singing around the village, raising money for school funds. The singers split into four groups and had a friendly competition to see who could raise the most money (there was a prize of mince pies at stake). Team Brown thought that they had a winning strategy after being paid to stop singing. They attempted Cheer- Leading for a very short time. Team Lind performed slightly better and were never actually asked to stop. Team Coulam were the actual winners on the night, helped greatly by the fact that they were performing their medley of carols to the patrons of the Brocklesby Hunt – it is still not clear as to which was

more persuasive – festive spirits, or Mrs Coulam!

At the beginning of December, our Christmas Fayre took place. The evening was very successful, with over £700 being raised for school funds. It was nice to see so many families turning out to this festive event. Many thanks to Mrs Coulam and Mrs Neve who organised the event, the staff members who gave up their evening to run stalls and also to those friends of the school who donated prizes and refreshments for the event, as well as helping out on the evening.

At the beginning of February, the Memorial Hall celebrated its 90th anniversary. We were very pleased to be invited to take part in the celebrations. Children from a variety of year groups produced work based on the theme of Goxhill during World War Two. This was displayed in the Memorial Hall over the anniversary weekend before being moved to the Education Development Centre in Scunthorpe so that teachers from other schools could view the excellent work of our pupils. In addition to this, a group of our pupils performed a selection of war songs on the Saturday afternoon. Despite becoming involved at short notice, pupils entertained the audience (assisted by Sally Belcher on her violin) and we were thrilled with their performances. The songs were well received by the audience and our pupils were excited to be playing an active part in their community.

Towards the end of 2008, two long term members of staff retired. Mrs Sandra Smith had been trying to retire for quite a few years and almost managed it on

one occasion, but the lure of the classroom had continued. After working with pupils in a classroom setting for many years, Sandra worked exclusively with pupils with special education needs. Her friendly attitude and dedication to the children shone through and her medical advice to staff (Sandra had a previous nursing career) was invaluable. She will be sorely missed by all at Goxhill School and plans are currently being hatched to coax Sandra out of retirement (sorry Eddie).

We faced the unenviable position last term, in that the most crucial member of staff in a primary school was leaving. By this, I mean that Norman Wilson, our caretaker, retired. The range of tasks that caretakers need to be able to do is immense (look after the building, turn out if the alarm goes off, retrieve footballs from the roof, put shelves up, mend machinery and gadgets of any age/condition, put up with moaning teachers etc, etc). We know that Lorraine Wilson has a long list of jobs that she has been compiling in advance of Norman's retirement. We wish you well in your attempts to hide the list Norman.

Both Sandra and Norman will be sorely missed around school. The staff and governors of Goxhill School would like to wish them both a long and happy retirement and express a heart-felt thank you

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