

Laura Malkin would like to thank all those people who sponsored and supported her in a skydive at Hibaldstow Airfield in aid of Breast Cancer Care on Sunday 15th February. They helped her raise £310.50, and Royal Mail are going to match the total raised by all the skydivers.

Below are photos of Laura and the team of jumpers who joined her: Lisa Tipple and Sarah Toop (of Barton), Laura Malkin and Clara Smith of Goxhill, Laura Alkhazali (Winterton) and village postman Martin Wharton (of Barton).



*The Gander wants to hear about all your charitable activities. We will help you raise money for a good cause and celebrate your achievements afterwards.*

Email us or contact us through the website, or by phone on 01430 432699.

Dear Gander,

I am writing to you due to a recent personal disappointment. I am 25 years old, married with two children and have lived in Goxhill my whole life. My eldest daughter recently turned three, and had her very first birthday party. It was a lovely day filled with much as happiness a parent could wish for. However, this had not come easily. When first organising the party my first thought was to book the hall. Now being a Goxhill girl, the Memorial Hall seemed the obvious choice. Little did I know about how difficult this would be.

Firstly I had to find out who to contact. This seemed such a simple task, but unfortunately took nearly a week to find out who to contact and how to contact then. I thank a friend from the pre-school for pointing me in the right direction. Then I rang the number, only to be greeted by a very rude man who gave the distinct impression he had better things to be doing than talking to me. I was told it was his wife I needed to speak to, so I asked if she was there, only to be told she was busy. I then asked when would be a convenient time to call back as I was wanting to book the Hall - again I was told his wife was busy. Then after a few seconds of heavy sighs from the man I was told to wait a minute. He then came back on the phone and I ended up having a three way conversation with the man and his wife about whether or not I could rent the Memorial Hall. I was asked a lot of questions, such as why did I want it, when did I want it, how many people would be going, and what would we be doing in the hall. Some of these questions were relevant to the rental, and some were not. I was made to feel like I was one big inconvenience. I explained I wanted the Hall for my daughters 3rd birthday as we wished to have a party for her with the other children we knew, and I was hoping to hire an indoor bouncy castle. I was replied to by the man saying, "we don't allow that", and the phone been put down.

Now I assume he meant the bouncy castle was not allowed and I will also assume this is down to insurance, which is understandable. However, I do feel it would have been better if I had been told this, rather than the above. Now my reason for this letter. I feel sad, very sad, that the village I live in and love has such rude people in charge of hiring out the Memorial Hall.

As I understood things, the Hall is there for people to use, as either a community or for private hire. Why is it so hard to find out how to hire it? And why do those people act like you are a huge pain. When hiring the hall you are using it for the purpose it is there for. Why have a village hall that no-one is allowed to use. I know from talking to others I am not the only person who has had these problems. In the end I took my business to Barrow Village Hall, where I shall go in the future, or at least until Goxhill Memorial Hall is made more accessible.

**Name and Address Withheld**

Email us at [goxhill-gander@fsmail.net](mailto:goxhill-gander@fsmail.net) by Saturday 2nd May.