



the Gander

Five years ago, when I came forward to help the Gander and took on the role of editor, it was in response to the threat that without new blood the newsletter would come to an end there and then. I had the time, the energy and the ability to do it, and I am very pleased that I did. I could not stand by as the village lost a vital element of what makes it a community when there was something I could do.

Perhaps without quite such a dramatic threat today, we are approaching the same position again. As nobody came forward and offered their help after my article on this page in the last edition, we were forced to make some difficult decisions. None of the suggestions for reducing my workload (the most realistic of which was cutting down to three issues a year) was thought by the AGM we held in March to fit with the values of the Gander since it was founded in 1987, meaning the reality is this: we do four editions a year or we do none, without help I can no longer produce that number, and my fellow team members are not in a position to take over.

Because I still enjoy the work I do on the Gander and do not want to see it come to an end, I offered to stay in my present role as editor until next summer. This would have meant we could invoice all our advertisers over the summer and guarantee the service we have worked hard to maintain these past four years for another 12 months. However, a deterioration in my health and Mike Gathercole's confidence that he will be able to produce the Gander using resources at the school or Parish Council have led me to decide this is the last village newsletter I shall produce under the current arrangement.

My preferred option, and now the only one that will see me continue to assist in the production of your quarterly Gander, is a return to the system operated in the early years – the recruitment of a new fourth member of the team responsible for advertising. My being able to focus on the articles and leave someone else to deal with the commercial side would save me some time, but I would have to give up both the admin side and the lay-out of the even-numbered pages if this were to offer a real advantage. There is no rule to say one person has to take both these roles, so do not be put off if you want to help but do not think one part of the job is for you. Equally, if you feel you would enjoy and be good at any of the other aspects of the newsletter I control, get in touch and we will accommodate you. The most important thing is that this publication continues if at all possible.

I am responsible for creating the role of editor in its present form - I responded to circumstances as I found them and believe I have done a good job - but I cannot let history or ego affect decisions about the future. If you want to know more, the minutes of the AGM are printed in full on the website and the three of us are available to answer any questions. If nobody comes forward to help by the end of June I shall complete work on the website with the intention of stepping down altogether next year, leaving Mike to manage the publication of the Gander. Enjoy reading it in this format while you can.

Adam Ellis

The Gander Team

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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 or direct to the editor.

Please note that comments or opinions expressed in articles printed are not necessarily those of the team.

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