



When we first came to Goxhill over 27 years ago, our first impressions were of the fabulous avenue of ornamental elm trees that lined the approach along the Barrow Road and the beautiful cherry trees along Ferry Road. My wife fell in love with the house that we came to look at and I spotted that there was a pub, the Generous Briton, just around the corner (well that is what it said on my old Ordnance Survey map). The village looked large and interesting and seemed to have all the facilities we might need, so we chose it as our new home. This was quite a major move for us from London to what some of our friends described as 'the back of beyond'. But we wanted to move to the relative peace and quiet of the countryside with all the benefits of bringing up our children in a better environment than London.

Our idyllic life in the country didn't start out too well. The house needed much more serious work doing to it than we realised and we had to live in a caravan on the drive for several months. Much to my disappointment the pub around the corner had closed many years before and the elm trees all died off one by one. My wife really missed all our friends in London and was stuck at home living in a building site with a new baby that arrived all of a sudden after she had been out digging up potatoes!

It was alright for me I was out working hard trying to set up a business and working on the house the rest of the time. But my wife was probably suffering from baby blues and was lonely and beginning to regret the move at such an emotional time.

But she decided to go out and meet other people in the village and thought GAPs (Goxhill Amateur Players) sounded fun, and as a result met some very interesting characters who have become lifelong friends. She also joined Mums & Toddlers and was soon on the committee, then Playgroup and onto FOGS (Friends of Goxhill School) becoming Chair of both. By this time we had two children and life revolved around taking them to various activities, Cubs, Scouts, Brownies, Guides, football, music lessons, horse riding, squash, gymnastics to name but a few. Who says there is nothing to do for the young people in the village? As a result we became thoroughly involved in village life, and do not regret moving from the big city.

I became a Governor at Goxhill School many years ago, and it is really pleasing to see the young people of the village getting such a good start in life. I recently attended their Harvest Festival and the children's enthusiasm for their singing and dancing was a pleasure to watch and the behaviour and consideration to each other and the staff was excellent. In class they work hard and obviously enjoy their learning and the high achievements of the school reflect this.

We hear so much about the bad things young people get up to, but these really are the minority. There are stories throughout this newsletter of young people doing things we should be proud of and there are many more we don't hear of. And there are lots of people giving up their time to provide these activities for the children of the village, as well as those organising clubs and societies and activities for all age groups. That is what makes Goxhill such an interesting place to live, and for that we should all be very grateful.

Finally I would like to wish all our readers, contributors, advertisers and helpers a very Happy Christmas and a successful New Year, from all at the Gander. **Jeff Teasdale**



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