

1ST GOXHILL RAINBOWS - please help?

Hi, I'm Paula Russell and I am the unit leader of 1st Goxhill Rainbows. I'd like to tell you a little bit about myself and the Rainbows unit.

I'm married to Mark (he's on the Gander team, the allotment committee and also is a school governor) and we've lived in Goxhill for 8 years. I work part-time and I've also been involved with Rainbows for 3 years, initially as a parent helper and now as a unit leader. Both our daughters attend Goxhill Primary School, Megan is also a Brownie and Hannah is a Rainbow. We all love being part of the village and it's many activities.

That's enough about me, now down to the nitty gritty!

Rainbows is part of Girlguiding UK for girls aged 5-7 years and there has been a Rainbow unit in the village for nearly 20 years. We meet during term time on Tuesday evenings, 5.00pm - 6.00pm, in the school hall. We always have lots of fun and our activities include crafts, group discussions, games and songs, coupled with learning about ourselves and the wider world (it's amazing what you can pack into 1 hour!) We have close links with Goxhill Brownies and I'm sure that all Rainbows moving up to Brownies do so, smoothly. We always have a waiting list, so if you think your daughter/grand daughter/niece etc. would like to join us, please don't hesitate to contact me either at school or at home.

However, now that I have explained about us, I need to tell you about the situation we are currently in.

Until September 2009, I was co-leader of the unit with Elaine who has since retired, although I do have continued support from an ex Rainbow, who is now 16 and also a few parents who are able to help at meetings, for which I am always grateful. However, I am at a stage now where I need someone to become a more permanent addition to our unit who is prepared to share some of the responsibilities of running it with me. Being the sole leader, I do fear for the unit's future and although the planning and preparation is not in depth, I find it difficult to fit everything in along with my home and work life. I'm sure you'll agree that not only will the Rainbows themselves lose out if the unit closes, but also Goxhill as a whole. We've already lost the Guide unit in Goxhill, please don't let it happen to the Rainbows.

So, if you are aged 18 or over and can share the responsibilities of planning the activities and running the meeting with me, then I'd love to hear from you. Many thanks, **Paula Russell. Tel: 01469 532009**

PATIENTS' FORUM

The Central Surgery in Barton has established a Patients' Forum to improve communication with patients and to garner opinion. The main aim of the initiative is to further improve services in the area.

The Forum committee comprises six patients, the senior partner of the practice, Dr Robert Jaggs-Fowler, and the Practice Manager, Mr Gary Hunter. It is chaired by one of the patients and together they will attempt to reflect patient opinion and identify need. It is also one way in which the practice seeks to inform patients of new developments in the services it provides.

This is the first committee of its nature for Barton and the surrounding villages. It is not intended to deal with serious individual complaints, as a rigorous complaints procedure already exists. The committee seeks to find more general opinion on such matters as opening hours, patient appointments, prescriptions, the breadth of services available etc.

The committee has already looked at surveys conducted by the NHS and in the vast majority of cases this practice exceeds national averages. However, the practice is always seeking to improve, hence the move to establish another means of communication between the patients and their health carers.

The Chairman of the Patients' Forum would welcome your comments and suggestions. Proposals for change and criticisms will be communicated to the practice, as indeed will expressions of gratitude and satisfaction. There is always the possibility that our patient body could influence local NHS policies. Wherever possible we will attempt to advertise any changes that are made.

Patients can contact the Chairman by letter c/o Central Surgery, Kings Street, Barton-upon-Humber. There is also a web site operated by the NHS where comments can be made about the services this practice offers. Go to www.nhs.uk click on "Find and Choose Services" then enter your postcode. Patients may make anonymous suggestions but those who contact the Forum can be assured that all matters will be dealt with in a confidential manner. Those who do provide their name and contact information can be more certain of receiving feedback.