

Goxhill Gander Annual General Meeting Wednesday 4th June 2025

Held at The Parish Rooms 6.30pm

- 1. Present:** Jeff Teasdale, John Noton, Jack Lawtey, John Hamlin, Rebecca Noton, Ferne Carmichael, Janet Shephardson, Penny and David Carnell and Heather Jacques
- 2. Apologies:** Stuart Cooke, Bev Manifold and Gerard Burns
- 3. Welcome from the Editor** – Jeff thanked the hardworking and loyal Gander team for attending and the members of the public.
- 4. The minutes from the last AGM were approved.**

5. Treasurer's Report –

Income is higher than 2023 due to the increase in advertising prices, money from the calendar and some earned interest.

Expenditure was higher due to increases in printing and website costs. In addition, we paid for the printing costs for the open gardens' material, two grants of £250 and the replacement laptop. Cash balances are down £1755 on the previous year but this was all due to the additional items and we broke even on advertising against recurring costs.

6. Editor's Report –

A major improvement this year has been the addition of John Hamlin to the team, who stepped forward to help putting the Gander artwork together, taking on 9 or 10 pages for the last edition.

With Ferne doing a brilliant job taking care of editorial admin behind the scenes, they have both certainly eased the burden on me. For this I am extremely grateful.

My role has grown over the years to be involved in so much more than simply laying out the artwork of the pages. From drumming up new contributors and encouraging a regular supply of interesting articles or information, spotting things that could make interesting reading or events that may need supporting, as well as retaining existing contributors. I do write some of the articles too, acting as a reporter and photographer on village events, problems etc. I read all articles as they come in and suggest any clarification or

amendments if needed. I cross check dates of events from different sources. Juggle all that comes in for each edition and fit it in like an amorphous jigsaw. Allocating the most appropriate articles on to the colour pages. Squeezing some things in, having extras available to fill any spare space, is quite a task. I am always on the lookout for a good image for the front cover and what to write about in the editorial. Also designing and amending ads as required and organising the pages, including rotating ads on the colour pages and updating the advertisers' index. Being a presence at and supporting many village events and keeping the lines of communication to the Gander always open.

I could go on ...

So, you can see why I still want to free myself from the responsibility for the Gander altogether, at 79 years old, over 17 years and 64 editions. None missed.

However, having an established editorial team already may help to make it a more attractive proposition for someone to come forward, to perhaps help initially and hopefully take on more responsibility.

But the Gander is not about me. It is about all those who write the articles, send in the news and information etc, that make it such a popular, and I hope, a successful village newsletter. They are too numerous to list all those who make such a vital contribution to so many editions of the Gander. A huge thankyou to every one of them.

But I will single out one! Aileen Hanlon Bennett retired as the author of 'Off the Hoof', after the Winter 2024 edition. She has written her articles for 30 years, 113 articles in total, initially concentrating on horsey matters but becoming more widespread as she took on many causes on behalf of the village. Her contribution to the Gander will probably never be beaten. So, a huge thank you to Aileen. You are a star! Typical of Aileen she persuaded Jo Burns-Firth to take over writing 'Off the Hoof' for the Gander. So, we have not lost out on this vital article.

I thank the editorial team and all the other vital members of the Gander Team who look after the admin, invoicing, treasurer responsibilities, coordinating distribution and delivery, for their hard work and support. And, just as much a part of the team and deserving of our thanks, are the vital deliverers, many of whom have been doing it for years, who ensure every edition is delivered by hand, whatever the weather. Without you all the Gander could not continue.

Plus, the Gander is enormously grateful for all the advertisers who cover the production costs and enable it to be FREE of cost to all the village. I hope it is equally beneficial for them to appear on the pages of the Gander.

Our thanks also must go to Stan Robertson, who has managed our website for many years, through severe illnesses with cancer. He has always managed to get each edition of the Gander on our website, and to deliver his quota of newsletters to his area of the village as well.

John Hamlin has agreed to investigate the running and hosting of the website with a view to taking it over from Stan, as he too would like to retire. Thank you, John for this, using your experience of running a website in your work.

I must also thank Zoe Marshall of Newton Printers. She stepped up when her husband Pete died during covid and has continued to do a marvellous job printing the Gander for us, always excellent quality and always on time. And so helpful and amenable.

That's it from me. Any questions, comments, complaints?

7. **Assistant Editor's Report** – Ferne reiterated Jeff's comments about Aileen and mentioned that we had recently received a lovely thank you message on social media. Everything running smoothly co ordinating the articles and information for each edition, the only issue sometimes is receiving and organising the events information. John Hamlin talked about improvements to the website. As we do not have many hits and the current site is acting as an archive it has been suggested that to save costs, we put everything on a hard drive and host separately. John is happy to create the new website this summer. He is also happy to continue editing 9 to 10 pages and suggested we possibly approach some young people (possibly on media/journalism courses) who would like some experience writing and editing.
8. **Advertising** – We lost some advertisers last summer but also gained some new businesses. It was suggested that we look at Barrow's Missing Link magazine which is ceasing to be published to see if there are any people who may want to advertise with us, and it was noted that there are several new businesses in the village who could be approached moving forward if we have spaces available.

Advertising Rates

This depends on the income/outgoings balance. Newtons have advised the increase in their printing costs for the next year. We have reviewed this and other costs and reluctantly had to increase our rates for 2025-26, by 3%.

9. **Distribution** – Jack continues to oversee the distribution of the Ganders. Generally everything is running smoothly with the occasional missed delivery promptly dealt with. Janet Shephardson has joined the team, taking over Jane Arnott's role as a distributor. We currently require 1115 magazines each quarter.

10. **Invoicing** – The annual invoices will be sent this month to all the current advertisers and hopefully the majority will continue to advertise with us.
11. **Website** – Stan Robertson continues to manage it very well. As mentioned in the assistant editor's report John Hamlin will be taking over and creating a more cost-effective site to suit our needs. The current costs are due to increase by fifty percent, so it does need to be streamlined.
12. **Short Award** – We will continue awarding the Short Award and provide a new board for the memorial hall to display the future recipients.
13. **Grants to local organisations** – We will continue to offer grants of up to £250 (funds allowing) to local organisations and individuals. This is promoted in each edition of the Gander.
14. **The Future of the Gander** – Although we have more members on the committee and additional editors working with Jeff, he still needs more help...a lady, Rose Williams has shown an interest to assist with the editing. Jeff and Ferne will meet with Rose to explain the current situation and hopefully we can move forward positively!
15. There were no questions from the public, but they did confirm that the Gander continues to be valued by the villagers, and they thanked the committee for all of their efforts. It was stated that the format is good, the articles are enjoyable to read, and it is useful to have the list of advertisers.
16. **AOB** – N/A

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.