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# Gosfield Grapevine



Aerial [Balloon] View of Gosfield [looking north] taken in about 1989

Issue 110 – December – January

Gosfield Parish Council

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## NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

The deadline for things to go into the next Gosfield Grapevine magazine is:

**Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2024**

Anything sent in after this will be put forward into subsequent magazines.

If you would like to advertise your community event, club, or business, and for anything Grapevine related, please contact the Gosfield Grapevine editor at:

[grapevine@gosfieldparishcouncil.org](mailto:grapevine@gosfieldparishcouncil.org)

## DATES TO NOTE:

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December – Thursford Christmas Spectacular  
(to book please phone Jo Colyer 07894-577629 or -477808)

Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> December – Winter Solstice

Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Day

Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> December – Boxing Day

Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> December – New Year's Eve

Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2024 – New Year's Day

Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2024 – Burn's Night

Following their sell-out summer concert at St Catherine's Church, The Hedingham Singers are pleased to be coming back on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December with their popular "Concert for Christmas", see page XX.


There will be a short firework display at Gosfield Hall on December:

4<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>

Chilly Dippers - Fridays 12.30-1.30 and Sundays 8am and 9am – suitable for beginners – booking in via FB@Gosfieldlakechillydippers

Last Friday of the month – 'Finding Your Feet' walks – start at the Community Shop – 10:30 to 11:30

## COMMUNITY DEFIBRILLATOR


**Location and** Maurice Rowson Hall, Church Road, 

**Post Code:** Gosfield, CO9 1TL

**ACCESS CODE:**

**What3Words**

**location:** "bedding-framework-elephant" **C159X**

Please note that a 999 call must be made before attempting to access the defibrillator. 

## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES:

This month, your Parish Council has been busy again and have been discussing the following:

Planning

- Children's play area repairs
- Grant application for the Neighbourhood Plan
- Repairs to the decking platform in the nature reserve
- Plaque for the repaired village pump
- Tree works required in the nature reserve
- Budgets for 2024/25

We are also obtaining specifications and quotations for the playing field car park and the playing field fencing.

Please refer to page 25 regarding the maintenance of your hedges and ensure that they are not encroaching on the footpaths and affecting pedestrians walking past your property.

I am pleased to report that we have yet again received an unqualified external auditor's report in respect of our accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2023. Thanks must go to our Responsible Financial Officer.

I do hope you all have an enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

Tricia Edwards

**Village Post Office  
– Community Shop**

**Open on Wednesdays  
from 2 pm to 4 pm**

## GOSFIELD YARNIES:

A Knitting and Crochet group.

Wednesday – 10am - midday

£3 per person – which includes tea/coffee and homemade cakes.

Ongoing planning applications for building works are as follows:

Erection of storage shed, Playing Field Church Road Gosfield Essex, Ref. No: 23/02623/FUL

Proposed front porch, first floor side extension, two storey rear extension incorporating Juliet balcony to first floor. Beechley Farm Parkhall Road Gosfield Essex CO9 1SQ, Ref. No: 23/02490/HH

Application for approval of details as reserved by condition 24 (Travel Plan) of approved application 17/01066/OUT, Land To The West Of Hedingham Road Gosfield Essex, Ref. No: 23/02479/DAC

## GOSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL:

ROLE:	NAME:	CONTACT INFORMATION:
Parish Clerk	Diane Jacob	5 Crocklands, Greenstead Green, CO9 1QY <a href="mailto:parishclerk@gosfieldparishcouncil.org">parishclerk@gosfieldparishcouncil.org</a> 07907-631172
Chairman	Tricia Edwards	Home Farm House, CO9 1RZ <a href="mailto:tricia.edwards@gosfieldparishcouncil.org">tricia.edwards@gosfieldparishcouncil.org</a> 01787-472958
Vice Chairman	Bob Waters	21 Meadway, CO9 1TG <a href="mailto:bob.waters@gosfieldparishcouncil.org">bob.waters@gosfieldparishcouncil.org</a> 01787-473863
Councillor	Maggi Pawsey	Tye Beams, The Street, CO9 1TP Via the Parish Clerk 01787-472967
Councillor	Carol Betty Hough	13 Braintree Road, CO9 1PR Via the Parish Clerk 01787-477208
Councillor	Joanne Lisa Colyer	13 Nuns Meadow, Gosfield, CO9 1UB <a href="mailto:joanne.colyer@gosfieldparishcouncil.org">joanne.colyer@gosfieldparishcouncil.org</a> 01787-477808
Councillor	Tony Strudwick	17 Park Cottages, Gosfield, CO9 1TP <a href="mailto:tony.strudwick@gosfieldparishcouncil.org">tony.strudwick@gosfieldparishcouncil.org</a> 01787-473444
Councillor	John Willis	3a Gosfield Lake Park, CO9 1UG <a href="mailto:john.willis@gosfieldparishcouncil.org">john.willis@gosfieldparishcouncil.org</a> 07932-859061
Councillor	Tony Farrelly	White Ash House, Gosfield Road, CM7 5PA <a href="mailto:anthony.farrelly@gosfieldparishcouncil.org">anthony.farrelly@gosfieldparishcouncil.org</a> 07930-870688
Councillor	Richard Edwards	Home Farm House, CO9 1RZ <a href="mailto:richard.edwards@gosfieldparishcouncil.org">richard.edwards@gosfieldparishcouncil.org</a> 01787-472958

For anything Parish Council related, please contact the Parish Clerk, as above.

## PARISH PONDERINGS - FROM ST. CATHERINE'S CHURCH

The Christmas music is playing in shops; decorations are going up on houses; and the organised amongst us have bought presents and cards and have everything lined up for Christmas. Others, like me, will be going up to the wire in terms of our preparations! And we are mindful that for many amongst us, the Christmas festivities come with a mix of emotions. It can be a bittersweet time of year for those who have lost loved ones, or who can't afford to celebrate as they would like, or who find themselves alone or away from family. The Christian message of Christmas is always one of hope, though: hope found in a tiny child who is Emmanuel, God With Us, whatever our circumstances or background or however we mark this time of year. He is with us in joy and in sorrow, a light that shines in the darkness to show us the way and give us hope for the future.

All are welcome to come and mark Christmas with us at St Catherine's Church and our sister church of St Andrew's, Halstead. This year, our special services are:

- Thursday 7 December, 6.30pm: Light for a Life memorial service, St Andrew's Church Halstead, remembering loved ones no longer with us
- Sunday 10 December, 10.30am: Advent "Jesse Tree" service, St Catherine's Church Gosfield, where we recall the bible story from Genesis to Jesus, with the help of visual aids and yes, a tree!
- Sunday 17 December, 3.30pm: Carol Service, St Catherine's Church Gosfield, when we'll be singing our favourite carols and hearing the traditional Christmas readings
- Sunday 24 December, 3pm: Crib Service, St Catherine's Church Gosfield, retelling the nativity story, especially for the young and the young at heart
- Monday 25 December, 10.30am: Christmas Communion, a joyous celebration of the birth of Christ, and more carols to sing!

We hope to see you there.

And if, amongst the busyness of this time of year, you would like to take some time out for reflection, you might like to download the Church of England's "Follow the Star" app, which takes you through Advent and Christmas with a daily reading and thought: <https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/what-we-believe/advent-and-christmas/follow-star-great-invitation> or search for FollowTheStar on the Apple app store or Google Play.

With love from us all at St Catherine's, Revd Katie



**Gosfield Grapevine Community Group**

## ST. CATHERINE'S CHURCH, GOSFIELD:

We are part of The Three Saints group of parishes along with St Andrew's Church, Halstead and St James' Church, Greenstead Green; and belong to the wider Halstead Area Team Ministry.

Everyone is welcome at your local parish church.

Refreshments – usually including home-made cakes and sausage rolls ! – are served after Sunday services at St Catherine's.

Sunday services are also streamed via Zoom. If you wish to join, the meeting details are:

**Meeting ID – 843 6287 0732, passcode 489461**

If you are housebound and want to join in worship but prefer the phone to Zoom, there is also the Daily Hope phone line, which offers familiar hymns and prayers free of charge if you dial 0800-804-8044.

\*\*\*\*\*

For families with children we offer additional activities and services:

\*\*\*\*\*

For more information on services and activities in the Three Saints Parishes, please contact the parish office on 01787-478471.

\*\*\*\*\*

## FLOWER ARRANGING AND CHURCH CLEANING

Do you have a passion for flower arranging? We are currently looking for people to join our team of flower arrangers to help with the floral arrangements which keep our lovely church looking beautiful.

Alternatively, perhaps you have a couple of free hours each month and would consider joining our church cleaning team?

If you would like to know more of what each of the above might entail, please contact:

**Judy Paterson on 01787-472514**

\*\*\*\*\*

## 11<sup>TH</sup> OF THE 11<sup>TH</sup> - REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

The Remembrance Service at the Maurice Rowson Hall on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November saw 177 adults and 59 children attending this year.

With Reverend Katie de Bourcier leading the service, plus the various uniformed attendees laying wreaths at the memorial as well as local representatives.

The congregation gave generously to the Royal British Legion, with thanks from the Church.

St Catherine's plans to hold 2024's service in the hall again, all will be most welcome.

## GOSFIELD CARPET BOWLS CLUB:

"Christmas is coming , the goose is getting fat":- but not for members of Gosfield CBC who have 3 more league matches in the North West Essex Division to complete before attacking the "goose" followed immediately after Christmas with 2 more league matches.

Whilst the number of clubs playing within the league is not yet at the level pre-COVID there are more clubs beginning to play friendly matches as a means, perhaps , to grow in member numbers prior to joining the leagues system in the near future.

Matches within the league are played to very strict rules, sides of 12 players play 2 matches of 4 players per match and 2 players of 2 players per match played over 9 ends per match.

Friendly matches are played in a more relaxed manner, games played as 4 players per side over 5 ends and as many games as can be played over the evening.

Pre COVID the evening ended with a supper of sandwiches, sausage rolls, cakes, biscuits .tea and coffee. . Present arrangements for both League and Friendly matches features wrapped biscuits tea and coffee. Both evenings end with a raffle for club funds.

Gosfield CBC will be holding their Christmas lunch at the Gosfield Lakes Golf Course as normal where the lunch will be served in the small private dining room that will have been decorated in a style to suit the Christmas tidings. This is always a very pleasant occasion looked forward to by many members.

We wish all our members , past and present , a joyful Christmas and a happy new Year.

Paul M Nicklin, Manager, Gosfield Carpet Bowls Club.

## VILLAGE CIRCLE CLUB

At our November meeting Joanne Bealer from 'The Little Flowerhouse' created 3 beautiful arrangements which we raffled off at the end of the afternoon and 3 lucky ladies each took one home.

Our Christmas Lunch will be held at The Kings Head on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December and for our Christmas meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> December, we'll be welcoming the Sudbury Belles, a hand bell ringing group, who will be playing Christmas Carols among other songs plus letting us 'have a go'.

So, if you'd like an afternoon of friendship and fun, come and join us at the Maurice Rowson Hall on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month from 2pm to 4 pm. Annual membership is £20 and visitors cost £3per meeting. We look forward to welcoming you.

PLEASE NOTE: There will be no meeting in January 2024 and our February meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> will be held from 2pm to 4pm in the Pavilion as The Rowson Hall is unavailable that afternoon.

Ann.



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**PARISH COUNCIL WORKING BODIES:**

Group / Committee:	Councillors:
Responsible Financial Officer	Richard Edwards
Nature Reserve	Hough
Allotment Officer	Waters
Footpaths	Colyer, Hough
Finance	Waters, Tricia Edwards,
Appeals	Colyer
Children's Play Area	Colyer, Hough, Pawsey
Planning	Waters, Pawsey
Grapevine Editor	Alan Summerland
Tree Warden	Hough
Personnel	Tricia Edwards, Pawsey, Waters
Neighbourhood Plan Committee	John Willis [Chairman], Tricia Edwards, Richard Edwards, Tony Strudwick, Bob Waters
Information, minutes and agendas:	<a href="http://www.e-voice.org.uk/gosfield">www.e-voice.org.uk/gosfield</a>

**MEMBERS OF OUTSIDE BODIES:**

Braintree Association of Local Councils	Tricia Edwards
Coffee Rooms Trust	Waters
Maurice Rowson Hall Management Committee	Strudwick
Rowson Perpetual Memorial Fund	Pawsey, Hough, Colyer
Playing Field Management Committee	T Edwards, Hough, Pawsey
Wethersfield Airbase Scrutiny Committee	Strudwick

<b>Member of Parliament:</b> Mr James Cleverly MP - or: Braintree Conservatives Association Office:	House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA <a href="mailto:james.cleverly.mp@parliament.uk">james.cleverly.mp@parliament.uk</a> Suite 11, The Centre, Lakes Industrial Park, Braintree, CM7 3RU
<b>Essex County Councillor:</b> Cllr. Chris Siddall	Essex County Council, PO Box 11, CM1 1LX <a href="mailto:cldr.chris.siddall@essex.gov.uk">cldr.chris.siddall@essex.gov.uk</a> Office: 01376-562288
<b>Braintree District Councillor:</b> Cllr. Peter Schwier Gosfield & Greenstead Green Ward	Long Fen, Great Maplestead, CO9 2RJ <a href="mailto:cldr.pschwier@braintree.gov.uk">cldr.pschwier@braintree.gov.uk</a> 01787-460473

**GROUPS, SOCIETIES AND COMMITTEES:**

Toddler Group	Emma	07872-916917	
Gosfield Players	Jules Wilkinson	07958-903932	
Gosfield Rainbows and Guides	Stacey Creak	07814-233219	
Gosfield Brownies and Guides	Gill Hillman-Crouch	01787-478097	Or: 07801-265603
Gosfield Beavers, Cubs and Scouts	Steve Sudbury	07885-467712	<a href="mailto:stephensudburygardens@gmail.com">stephensudburygardens@gmail.com</a>
Gosfield Girls Women's Institute	Janet Hull	07968-145599	<a href="mailto:gosfieldgirls.wiessex@aol.com">gosfieldgirls.wiessex@aol.com</a>
Gosfield Village Circle	Ann Willis	01787-274665	<a href="mailto:ann.willis2006@btinternet.com">ann.willis2006@btinternet.com</a>
Gosfield Community Shop	Brian Payne	01787-703787	<a href="mailto:thepaynes57@hotmail.com">thepaynes57@hotmail.com</a>
Gosfield Horticultural Society	Rebecca Westover	01787-477331	
Gosfield in Bloom	Mandy Adams	01787-273494	<a href="mailto:mandyladams@icloud.com">mandyladams@icloud.com</a>
Gosfield Fete Committee	Cherie Ames-Tull	07964-190103	
Gosfield Open Gardens	Brian Payne	01787-473670	<a href="mailto:thepaynes57@hotmail.com">thepaynes57@hotmail.com</a>
Gosfield Playing Field & Pavilion	Ann Willis	01787-274665	<a href="mailto:ann.willis2006@btinternet.com">ann.willis2006@btinternet.com</a>
Rowson Perpetual Fund	David Jarvis	01787-474562	<a href="mailto:davjar33@gmail.com">davjar33@gmail.com</a>

**ST. CATHERINE'S CHURCH:**

Priest -Reverend	Katie de Bourcier	01787-478471	<a href="mailto:halsteadrector@gmail.com">halsteadrector@gmail.com</a>
PCC Secretary	David Degnan	01787-472291	
Church Wardens	Jo Colyer	01787-477808	
	Judy Paterson	01787-472514	<a href="mailto:judith_paterson@hotmail.com">judith_paterson@hotmail.com</a>
Wedding Co-ordinator	Dave Patmore	01787-474047	
Bell Ringing - Tower Captain	Laurence Carter	01787-472225	<a href="mailto:laurencejcarter@gmail.com">laurencejcarter@gmail.com</a>

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### Gosfield Brownies



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07801 265603  
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Girlguiding to register your daughter  
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## ST. CATHERINE'S CHURCH 50/50 CLUB

<b>October Winners:</b>	No. 3 Mr. M Richardson	No. 43 Mr. A Summerland
	No. 6 Mrs. L Kemp	No. 115 Mrs. C Snowden
<b>November Winners:</b>	No. 10 Mrs. S Hume	No. 25 Mrs. K Sale
	No. 13 Mrs. J Colyer	No. 120 Mrs. M Moth

Anyone wishing to join, please contact **Hazel** on 01787-472593

Gosfield has Beavers (6-8 years) Cubs (8-10 years) meeting on a Wednesday and Scouts (10-14 years) meeting on a Monday, we are looking for more boys and girls to join us, we are also looking for more volunteers to help.

**1<sup>st</sup> Gosfield  
Beavers, Cubs  
& Scout Group**



Contact Steve Sudbury  
on 07885-467712, or:  
stephensudburygardens@gmail.com

## GOSFIELD VILLAGE ENTITIES

### SCHOOLS:

Gosfield Primary School	Jo Morgan (Head Teacher)	01787-472266	<a href="mailto:admin@gosfield-pri.essex.sch.uk">admin@gosfield-pri.essex.sch.uk</a>
St. Margaret's School	Carolyn Moss (Headteacher)	01787-472134	<a href="mailto:admin@stmargaretsprep.com">admin@stmargaretsprep.com</a>
Gosfield School	Rod Jackson (Principal)	01787-474040	<a href="mailto:enquires@gosfieldschool.org.uk">enquires@gosfieldschool.org.uk</a>

### SPORTS CLUBS:

Gosfield Carpet Bowls Club	Paul M Nicklin	01787-478269	<a href="mailto:paul.nicklin39@gmail.com">paul.nicklin39@gmail.com</a>
Gosfield Lake Golf Club	Tony O'Shea	01787-474747	<a href="mailto:gosfieldlakegc@btconnect.com">gosfieldlakegc@btconnect.com</a>
Gosfield Juniors Football	Mark Wiskin	07930-990013	
Gosfield United Football Club	Simon Fraser (Chairman)	01206-211470	
Gosfield Tennis Club	Richard Waters	07900-236754	<a href="mailto:richard.waters@gateway.net">richard.waters@gateway.net</a>
Gosfield Lake	Linda Turp (Office Manager)	01787-4785043	<a href="mailto:turps@gosfieldlake.co.uk">turps@gosfieldlake.co.uk</a>

### PUB, CLUB and EVENTS HIRE:

Maurice Rowson Hall	Amanda Degnan	01787-274992	<a href="mailto:rowsonhall@gmail.com">rowsonhall@gmail.com</a>
The Kings Head	Emma and Matt	01787-474016	<a href="mailto:info@kingsheadgosfield.com">info@kingsheadgosfield.com</a>
The Social Club	Becky	07960-014607	<a href="mailto:gosfieldsc@gmail.com">gosfieldsc@gmail.com</a>
The Apple Tree	Maxine and Keith	01787-477715	<a href="mailto:enquiries@theappletreegosfield.co.uk">enquiries@theappletreegosfield.co.uk</a>
Courtyard Brewery	Tanya and Marc	07710-230662	

### GOSFIELD SUPPORT:

Neighbourhood Watch Group	Louise Smith	07962-268376	
Community Agent	Sara Moutard	07938-733207	

### GOSFIELD POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICERS (PCSO):

PCSO 70714	John Thorne	07812-068636	<a href="mailto:John.Thorne@essex.police.uk">John.Thorne@essex.police.uk</a>
PSCO 70955	Jo Cooper	07812-068697	<a href="mailto:Joanne.Cooper@essex.pnn.police.uk">Joanne.Cooper@essex.pnn.police.uk</a>





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## Aerobics Classes

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Mon - 9.15am - Gosfield (Maurice Rowson Hall)  
Mon - 7.00pm - Gosfield School (Halstead Road)  
Weds - 9.30am - Earls Colne Village Hall  
Thurs - 9.15am - Pebmarsh Village Hall

## Chairobics Classes

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Weds - 1.30pm - Halstead Leisure Centre (function room)  
Thurs - 1.30pm - Halstead Leisure Centre (function room)

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## Winter Appeal 2023



### Non-food items

- Tinned Cold Meat (Spam etc.)
- Tinned Hot Meat (Stews, curries etc.)
- Tinned Hot Snacks (Beans and Sausages)
- Jam
- Packet Custard
- Tinned Fruit
- Tinned Rice Pudding
- Squash (small bottles)
- Coffee
- Sugar
- Long Life Milk (1lt cartons)
- Small Boxes Cereal
- Chocolate
- Biscuits Tinned Vegetables
- Tinned Fish
- Tinned Tomatoes
- Pasta Sauce

### Non-food items

- Nappies all sizes
- Washing up liquid
- Deodorants
- Feminine hygiene products
- Toothpaste
- Shampoo

We ask for small packs as larger packs do not fit in our boxes making it difficult for our clients to carry home. Also, we are unable (for hygiene reasons) to split large size or catering packs.

We follow the standards set by the Food Standards Agency. We can only accept donations of unopened and undamaged goods that are still well within their "use by" date (no less than six months if possible). Items which do not meet these requirements cannot be used and your donation may be wasted.

On behalf of all our visitors we thank you for your generosity.

T: 01376330694

E: [info@braintreearea.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@braintreearea.foodbank.org.uk)

W: [www.braintreearea.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food](http://www.braintreearea.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food)



**The Hedingham Singers**  
*a seasonal selection of Christmas favourites  
and carols for choir and audience*

# A Concert for Christmas

## 2023

St Catherine's Church, Gosfield  
Saturday 16th December - 2.30pm  
(Doors open at 2.00pm)

Tickets £10.00 (including mulled wine and mince pies)  
(under 16's free of charge)

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/The-Hedingham-Singers](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/The-Hedingham-Singers)  
or scan the QR code  
by phone: 01787 473161

All calls charged at standard rate plus any network providers' charges  
Booking fee may also apply

complimentary concert programme  
courtesy of **Oswicks**  
Property Professionals



## EVENTS AT THE SOCIAL CLUB THIS DECEMBER.



Saturday 2nd December. Turning on the Christmas lights. Come along and enjoy complimentary warm mince pies and mulled wine. Club opens at 7pm, lights switch on at 7:30pm.



Christmas Eve. Family evening starting at 7:30pm (bar will close at midnight).



New Year's Eve. Come along and see in the New Year. 8:00pm till late.

Happy New Year!

On Christmas and New Year's Eve please bring along a plate of food for a shared buffet.

**All members and Gosfield residents welcome.**

For further information on any of the above events please email Dave Jarvis at [gosfieldsc@gmail.com](mailto:gosfieldsc@gmail.com)

## LANDOWNERS URGED TO HELP US GET WINTER-READY

**Essex Highways crews have been out on the network through the spring and summer clearing gullies. Teams have also been grass cutting and weed spraying to prevent overgrown vegetation from blocking the highway and causing flooding.**

But Essex Highways needs landowners to be diligent and maintain their own hedges and ditches. This helps keep highways across Essex usable and safe. In anticipation of wetter weather over the autumn and winter, the highways team is preparing for more calls and incidents relating to flooding. Many local floods are preventable if landowners keep on top of ditch and hedge maintenance.

Landowners are responsible for maintaining trees, hedges, shrubs and ditches on their land. This applies even if they are close or next to a road or pavement. They have a duty of care to take reasonable steps to prevent, or reduce as far as possible, the risk of injury or damage that could be caused to anyone else. Most trees and hedges by roads are on land owned by private landowners, including district councils,

city council, parish councils, housing associations and homeowners.

Examples of works that should be carried out by landowners include:

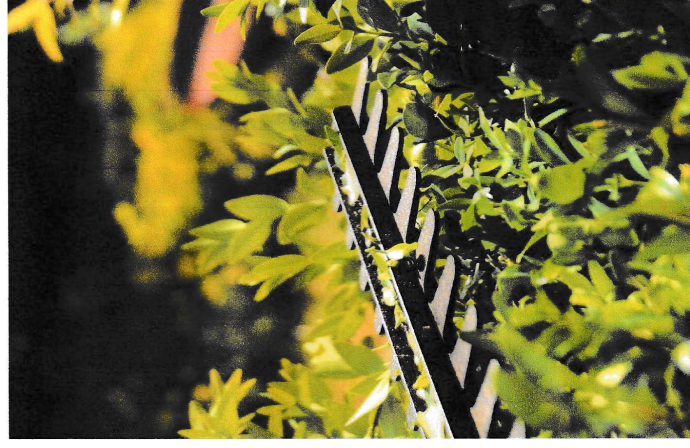
- cutting back overhanging branches, which reduce the width of or block the view of the road
- cutting back overhanging branches that reduce the height or clearance of the road for tall vehicles such as double decker school buses
- removing or trimming a damaged or diseased tree that is in danger of falling onto the road or pavement
- trimming overgrown hedges obscuring road signs or streetlights
- clearing any ditches located on private land to avoid any flooding during periods of heavy rain

Councillor Lee Scott, Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport, said: "Coming into the autumn months, it's important that preventative action is taken to ensure flooding is minimised across the county.

"Essex Highways crews have been busy throughout the summer clearing

gullies and maintaining our land in preparation, but we need this work to be complemented by landowners taking action too.

"I urge landowners - whether you're a homeowner, farmer or developer - to check ditches and hedges near roads and pavements and make sure they are properly maintained."



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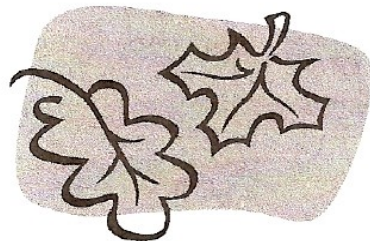
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Halstead, Essex, CO9 1TD



## Gosfield Lawn Tennis Club

New members are welcome of all ages and standards.

Professional coaching sessions available.

Adult memberships starts at only £30 for the first year.

For more information, contact our Secretary, and look at our website:

[www.gosfieldtennis.co.uk](http://www.gosfieldtennis.co.uk)

### Gosfield (Mobile) Library

Route 2 - Nuns Meadow, Saturday,

9:45 am to 10:15 am:

9<sup>th</sup> September

30<sup>th</sup> September

21<sup>st</sup> October

11<sup>th</sup> November

2<sup>nd</sup> December

23<sup>rd</sup> December

### Halstead Library

(Not open public holidays)

Monday 9am to 5pm

Tuesday 9am to 6pm

Wednesday Closed

Thursday 9am to 6pm

Friday 9am to 5pm

Saturday 9am to 5pm

Sunday Closed

## GOSFIELD COMMUNITY SHOP - UPDATE

Christmas is coming – so come and see our selection of cards and goodies. Order your Christmas turkey and ham from Priors Hall (our fantastic sausage supplier) forms in the shop. **Last orders 14<sup>th</sup> December.**

**Our Christmas opening hours will be as follows:**

**Christmas Eve : Sunday 8 - 12**

**Christmas Day : Monday Closed**

**Boxing Day : Tuesday 9 - 11**

**New Year's Eve : Sunday 8 - 12**

**New Year's Day : Monday 9 - 11**

Newspaper orders will be as usual.

Make a new year's resolution to join our merry band of volunteers, just two hours a week would be wonderful.

We have a delivery of fresh Hume's Bread, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. If you still want Hume's Bread please use this service, otherwise we may have to cancel it.

May we wish you ALL a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy new year.

**From ALL the team at your shop.**

## The King Charles III Coronation Garden

During January you may see some groundwork being done in the playing field to the left of the Community Shop in front of the 2 green sheds. We are planning to create a Community Garden for Gosfield and its visitors to enjoy. This is a joint project between Gosfield Community Shop, The Coronation Team, who provided all the entertainment over the Coronation Weekend last May, and Gosfield in Bloom, assisted by Matt Jarvis, Chairman of The Gosfield Playing Field Management Committee and supported by the Parish Council.

Matt will be doing the groundwork and hard landscaping for the garden, which will include paving the area with trellising in front of the sheds enabling us to grow a selection of climbing plants to screen them. As the spring comes in we will be planting the climbers, a central standard tree and a variety of tubs within the area. We will also be re-siting the original Gosfield village sign into the garden, which is at present being renovated, and providing some seating.

We have been lucky enough to secure a grant for £3,000 from the Community Gardens and Open Spaces fund, administered by Braintree District Council, which will help pay for the initial work and the rest of the funding will be supplied by the three main groups involved with the project.

It's an exciting project, which we plan to have completed by late spring, and we hope you enjoy watching it develop.

## Interested in Taking on an Allotment ?

The allotments are located in the village opposite Greenfields in The Street, Gosfield.

Once a plot is allocated the tenant must sign and return one copy of the agreement before any activity commences on the said plot. Rents are payable in arrears.

Plots will be inspected at frequent intervals to see that plot conditions are being complied with in accordance with the agreement, by our allotment Officer Councillor, Bob Waters.

If you would like to rent an allotment plot, please contact the Parish Clerk for further details. Tel: 0790-7631172 ([parishclerk@gosfieldparishcouncil.org](mailto:parishclerk@gosfieldparishcouncil.org)).



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[susieh2201@hotmail.com](mailto:susieh2201@hotmail.com)

Continued...

I was lucky enough to spend some time with an elderly relation of the Sparrows'. An old servant there had said that the entrance hall in the mansion of the 'Place' was so wide you could drive a cart down the corridor to the rear of the building. There was a boat house down by the river (Sparrows pond) where the insides of the walls were covered in Oyster and sea shells. The old original house 'Biggs' was left to become a ruin when plans to extend and improve were refused at the time and a legal battle ensued but regardless the mansion Gosfield Place was built.

Christmas Wishes and All the Best of Health to You All for 2024.

\*\*\*\*\*



Ox Yard in 1969

Continued...

Here's a recipe from one of the kitchen home demo parties written in the back of the diary. 8oz Self Raising Flour. 1 ½ oz of butter, 4 oz Grated Cheese, ¼ pint of Milk, pinch of Salt and pinch of Cayenne Pepper. Heat Oven to 425deg F. Method...SIFT the Flour into mixing bowl and add the Butter and rub it in 'lightly'. When the mix is crumbly then add the Cayenne and salt now add the grated Cheese mix it in and add the milk to make a soft elastic dough which should leave the bowl clean .. the amount of milk can be adjusted (and it wouldn't have been semi skimmed in those recipes) ROLL the dough out to approx. ¾ inch thickness and using a 2 inch cutter once you have the rounds just lightly brush the tops with a little milk and bake for 10 – 15 mins once cooked split and spread with butter and fill with some cooked bacon or not...that's up to you. Enjoy.

Oh and for Christmas 1973 I was given a Transistor radio... in a lovely Orange and Cream hard plastic casing. To stand near my orange units. But a Big surprise was Miss Lewin my Mum's friend bringing a box of sweets in for the children and her mother's sewing machine for me as my ancient Treddle was constantly causing problems. The prettily decorated machine was in perfect running order and with it came a bag of lovely soft material that she would like (when I have the time to make her a blouse. Which I duly did and gave to her for her birthday on 23<sup>rd</sup> January she was born in 1902 the same date different year as a scouting friend of mine which leads me into Scouts and Cubs briefly.

We have lost another old friend of the Scouting Family. At a time when groups are being amalgamated with other areas. Gosfield now comes under Braintree. I attended along with Steve Sudbury and Peter Dyson who were Flag bearing and Karen Howlett a retired Cub Leader like myself to the Memorial of Paul Hailey. His dedication to Scouting was well documented at the Memorial and over one hundred attended but I have another memory of Paul and his Father a soldier from London serving here during WW2 and marrying a local girl. They loved going Fishing, very early in the morning. Walking from Halstead across the back way into the old grounds of Gosfield Place and down to the river to quietly fish. It was misty above the ground very early and suddenly Mr Hailey said to his son DO NOT turn around lad. Just keep looking across the water but Paul, like us village children playing in the half dilapidated houses which have notices warning of dangers after the war, he just couldn't resist turning and never forgot what he saw. It was an old lady who was walking across behind them above the mist and going towards the waterfall (oh! you didn't know Sparrows pond had a waterfall? Well you do now. ) The old lady had a shawl over her head and a quiver type sack on her back full of twigs but what Paul noticed was she walked above the low lying mist her feet not touching the grass beneath and he never forgot it. I am typing this on All Saints Eve but it's a true story. Investigating years later when myself and Paul Hailey were members of the Halstead History Society we delved into things people locally were told about, such as the clock still chiming long after it had been dismantled and the 'Place' demolished.

There was once a little gate lodge by the old entrance of the original position of BIGGS later The Place. The old lady that lived there was 'smoked' out one year as she would not relocate. When they finally got her out she cursed all sons of the Sparrow family that none would have a long life ...and she was seen many times wandering in the fields near where her cottage once stood. Regards the curse I suggest you read up on the Sparrow lineage of sons as it is quite tragic. One son after the Boar War however survived his injuries. He drove his sister and a friend in their horse pulled open cart to visit other friends at Dynes Hall betwixt Halstead and Castle Hedingham .They approached Doe's Corner a smaller much sharper junction than now and high banked. There they would drive the cart straight across and up the lane leading to Gosfield. But suddenly at the last minute decided to go the opposite way ( left) and into Halstead via North Street ( now called Hedingham Road ) the sudden turn surprised the horse and the cart's wheel caught and rose on the bank turning them over and the curse of the old lady robbed the Sparrows of another son.

Continued 22



Happy 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary to the Gosfield Girls Women's Institute !

On 16<sup>th</sup> November we celebrated one year of the newly formed Gosfield Girls WI. We held a party with food and drink and of course cake !), with a quiz, raffle and music. Thank you to all our members in making this last year a success.

In September we welcomed a speaker from the Essex/Herts Air Ambulance and raised approximately £200 through our raffle and donations. In October we had Stephen Westover attend our meeting to talk about Woodland Habitats. It was great to have a speaker from our own Village !

We would very much like to increase our membership, to protect the longevity of the WI in our village, and we would welcome ladies of all ages to come along and meet us for a free 'taster' session. We have some interesting speakers and events in the coming months and so if you are interested in attending then please do come along.

If you would like to join us, then please call the GGWI Secretary Janet Hull on 07968 145599 or email us at our new address: gosfieldgirls.wiessex@aol.com

From everyone at Gosfield Girls, may we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Best regards, Jules Wilkinson, President.

25 <sup>th</sup> January	Amanda Sutherland – Film, Theatre & Theatrical costume design
15 <sup>th</sup> February	Blood Runners
21 <sup>st</sup> March	Easter evening – chocolate themed makes



## OPEN GARDENS - SUNDAY 16th JUNE 2024

A date for your new diary **Open Gardens** next year is on **Sunday 16th June 2024**.

This year we are raising money for the Scouts group and the Guides group.

We are still looking for some new gardens to show next year, it does not have to be grand or perfect. If you would like to open your garden next year and help us raise money for the Scouts and Guides please let me know.

*MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERY ONE AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.*

Brian and Pam. Thepaynes57@hotmail.com



# FINDING YOUR FEET WALKS

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## Monday "Cuppa" Club

In

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Plus good conversation, raffle and entertainment

First Monday of every month at 2pm

Looking forward to seeing you all there.



## GOSFIELD COMMUNITY SHOP:

Opening Times:

Monday to Saturday: 8 am to 4:30 pm

Sunday: 8 am to noon

## MEMORIES by Linda Marlow, Richardson, Kemp.

I pulled out some old DIARIES 1973, 74 and 75. In the 1973 one The Young Wives were getting Christmas sorted bazaars and the trip to the Pantomime for after Christmas.

The children went to The Civic Theatre in Chelmsford to see MOTHER GOOSE.... Ticket money due in by the 8<sup>th</sup> December. '73. My friend Johan paid for her and Geraldine and my two eldest and me. There was a Hannays Book Sale on the 6<sup>th</sup> up at the school. I spent part of my wages there and set aside money for my friend Margaret Kirk who's sadly no longer with us nor her husband Tony but both fondly remembered, she had hosted an at home sales party on the 4<sup>th</sup> I met up with Johan and paid her for the Pantomime tickets too . On 14<sup>th</sup> December a frightful GALE had blown, howling wind and trees bending, it rained so very hard. This was in the 3 day working week and the POWER strikes with cuts of power often hours in length but luckily none on Christmas Day , even so I baked and cooked on 'the power times' just in case.

The beginning of '73 was much brighter, we (the country) entered the COMMON MARKET on the 1<sup>st</sup>. but I had dithered too long in '72 to book for us to go on the trip to the Panto so on the Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> I took my boys to London to the Phoenix Theatre and saw some named greats like Michael Hordern (later SIR) as the donkey in a production of WINNIE THE POOH..... the boys loved it, and the Underground and the Train ride a carriage to ourselves, and all I could hear were their little voices ' Isn't it Funny How a Bear Likes Honey' ... doesn't make sense to you ? Maybe you have never read ' Winnie the Pooh'

We played Badminton at Bocking and Gosfield, my late husband Richard was very good player and his friend the late John Butcher was too.

On April 23<sup>rd</sup> we set off to RIPPERS the WOODWORK suppliers in Heddingham with a friend to collect the most gorgeous tangerine ORANGE coloured kitchen units. Specially made and measured in the factory there. It was a new line they were producing. Another choice of colour was Avocado, Marsha and Watson (my school pal whose dad owned Aylwards Farm) chose the Avocado. I had already papered the dining area with modern swirling Orange coloured wall paper SO it had to be the Orange for me. Is it really 50 yrs ago Marsha ? You upgraded decades later but I could never part with mine ..... it was Keith Broyd that papered and emulsioned the ceiling and another friend George Archer came along and fitted all the units. He was the go to carpenter living along Braintree Road. Dick Morgan who lived in the Cedars my Mums' friend Betty's husband always helped us out with electrical problems.

We WIVES attended numerous parties (not the drinking sort) those selling ladies items (remember PIPPA DEE ?) ... I know you do Gladys and Heddy and Dee Minor childrens wear oh and one that the late Ann Clark and Pauline Holmes jointly hosted where the lady just tipped piles of things on the floor in the lounge and we literally kept reaching into the pile ... I chose a pair of Orange checked trousers, oh how I loved Orange or RED. I wore them until they became stuffed animals for a Bazaar at the school years later. I never wasted material.

Sometimes shopping was hard once the 3 day week kicked in. I had to sometimes still get essentials. Mark needed new shoes £1,75, Lee needed an Anorak that cost £2.35 and Paul needed Boots £1.50 and the socks were 64p a pair. And my Mum saw some trousers for them at 68p half price in a sale. Now that's pure JOY when you are struggling. One thing they never lacked were BOOKS we were a book mad household and for all school sales we sent lots of books and toys for resale and scoured the event for ones yet to read. Lee was reading very early, destined it seemed for his adult career in education. But if I gave him a shilling to buy things he' bought back' what he had donated. My needlework skills helped pay for things as well and I accepted challenges like making a Denim jacket and jeans for a friends son. Maternity wear for friends and altering this and that when folk bought something that wasn't quite right. My relations had retired from running the Green Man and I acquired a lovely smiling honorary son while his Mum Janet learned skills in the kitchen there that made it famed for its catering. Mr and Mrs Arnold new licensees.





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**For further information regarding our new member packages, please call the office on 01787 474747.**



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**For Green Fees, speak to the Professional shop on: 01787474488**

**For events and hospitality please call the clubhouse on: 01787474400**