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ROUTE 2
DECEMBER 2024
3 10 17 24
JANUARY 2025
2 8 14 21 28
THURS WED

ROUTE 7
DECEMBER 2024
3 10 17 24
JANUARY 2025
2 8 14 21 28
THURS WED

Gosfield Grapevine



Steve Sudbury receiving a £300 cheque for the 1st Gosfield Scout Group from Mark Skinner, Mike Smith, Gemma McKinley and Marc Blake

Issue 116 – December – January (2025)

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, 24th January, 2025

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

DATES TO NOTE:

Thursday, 5th December – Village Circle Club annual meal

Saturday, 7th December – Christmas Concert (St. Catherine's church)

Saturday, 7th December – Christmas Lights (Gosfield Social Club)

Tuesday, 24th December – Family Evening (Gosfield Social Club)

Wednesday, 25th December – Christmas Day

Thursday, 26th December – Boxing Day

Tuesday, 31st December - New Year's Eve Party with DJ (Gosfield Social Club)

Wednesday, 1st January – New Year's Day

Tuesdays 4.30pm – dusk; Fridays 12.30-1.30; and Sundays 8am and 9am – Suitable for beginners – booking in via FB @Gosfieldlakeopenswimming

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. 

GOSFIELD COMMUNITY SHOP:

Gosfield Community Shop were nominated in the Volunteer Group of the Year category of the recent Braintree District Council Volunteer Awards. We were shortlisted and 3 volunteers attended the awards evening in Witham. We were delighted to be awarded Highly Commended and the certificate has pride of place in the shop.

We always welcome new volunteers so, if you would like to join an award winning team, leave your details in the shop and our Volunteer Coordinator, Jo, will contact you to arrange training etc.

38

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES:

We have been advised by County Cllr Chris Siddall that progress is being made on reducing the speed limit on Gosfield Road to 40 mph from Foley Corner to Petersfield Lane.

I am pleased to report that works will start in the New Year on replacing the fencing by the playing field along Hall Drive with bow top fencing. This is long overdue and thanks must go to the Rowson Trust for their grant towards these works.

An application is being made to the National Lottery for a grant towards resurfacing the playing field car park, including a drainage system sui table for the whole playing field. We hope to hear the outcome by March.

The Parish Council is continually chasing up Essex County Council re the two very noisy manhole covers in The Street.

We are asking for ideas from future users of the new skate ramp on the playing field as to which design you may prefer, subject to cost. If you have any suggestions, please let the Parish Clerk know.

The Parish Council have again made a donation towards the Christmas tree in front of the social club and we send season's greetings to everyone.

Tricia Edwards.

Ongoing planning applications for building works are as follows.

Erection of garden room, 21 The Lindens Gosfield Halstead Essex CO9 1GW, Ref. No: 24/02404/HH

Erection of first floor side extension incorporating a two-storey front gable projection and part single, part two-storey rear extension to include integrated annexe at ground floor level. Erection of front porch and single storey rear extension to replace conservatory. Alterations to exterior including new fenestration, roof tiles and horizontal cladding, 7 Meadway Gosfield Essex CO9 1TQ, Ref. No: 24/02374/HH

Bin Collections:

 Grey bin and food bin
 Different collection day

 Clear sacks and food bin only (green bin suspended)

 Green bin (subscribers only), clear sacks and food bin

 Different collection day



GOSFIELD COMMUNITY SHOP:

Opening Times:

Monday to Saturday: 8 am to 4 pm

Sunday: 8 am to noon

Telephone: 01787-703787

3

GOSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL:

ROLE:	NAME:	CONTACT INFORMATION:
Parish Clerk	Diane Jacob	5 Crocklands, Greenstead Green, CO9 1QY parishclerk@gosfieldparishcouncil.org 07907-631172
Chairman	Tricia Edwards	Home Farm House, CO9 1RZ tricia.edwards@gosfieldparishcouncil.org 01787-472958
Vice Chairman	Bob Waters	21 Meadway, CO9 1TG bob.waters@gosfieldparishcouncil.org 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 joanne.colyer@gosfieldparishcouncil.org 01787-477808
Councillor	Tony Strudwick	17 Park Cottages, Gosfield, CO9 1TP tony.strudwick@gosfieldparishcouncil.org 01787-473444
Councillor	John Willis	3a Gosfield Lake Park, CO9 1UG john.willis@gosfieldparishcouncil.org 07932-859061
Councillor	Tony Farrelly	White Ash House, Gosfield Road, CM7 5PA anthony.farrelly@gosfieldparishcouncil.org 07930-870688
Councillor	Richard Edwards	Home Farm House, CO9 1RZ richard.edwards@gosfieldparishcouncil.org 01787-472958

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

PARISH PONDERINGS - FROM ST. CATHERINE'S CHURCH

Is it me, or do you think advertising for Christmas starts earlier and earlier? Certainly the supermarkets seem to have been displaying Advent Calendars and Christmas goodies for a few weeks now.

For the St Catherine's Church family the run-up to Christmas started last week-end, when we held our annual Christmas Fayre.

As has become our tradition over recent years the Guides and Rangers came along to support us. They were working on their "Growing Money Challenge", when they have to use their initiative and abilities to make the money grow. Between them all they had come up with some interesting and original ideas. Visitors were enticed into buying reindeer made out of pegs, doggie treats, little bags of reindeer food for scattering outside on Christmas Eve, and woolly hats to mention just a few. I am told that they all really enjoyed the day, learnt some new skills and were very happy with the income generated! Visitors to the fayre were impressed by their marketing skills and selling techniques, too. And we did have many visitors! In fact we were delighted with the number of people who came along to have a look around the various stalls, spend their money, and enjoy a coffee and mince pie with friends and family –there was a lovely atmosphere, with a real buzz in the hall, and we would like to thank everyone who came along to support us. Much preparation had gone into the fayre but it was well worth all the hard work.

I think many will agree that preparing for Christmas can be pretty hard work, too! All those presents to buy and wrap. Then the Christmas cards to write and deliver, or post, if you can afford the stamps! Then there are menus to be planned, food to be shopped for, not to mention the sorting out of accommodation for guests and family who are coming to stay. With all the Christmas social engagements the days just seem to whizz by.

But wait. In the midst of all the busyness and excitement let us stop and take a moment to remember what Christmas is really about, what all the preparation is for. We are celebrating the birth of the baby Jesus, this tiny baby who was born in a stable on that very first Christmas Day. Baby Jesus, wholly divine and wholly human, who came to earth to show us how to love each other as God loves every one of us.

As the well-known carol puts it "We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell: O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel" – God with us, God with all of us, if we are just prepared to let him into our hearts, our lives. Let us take time to stop and think about that this Christmas. May I wish you all a happy and blessed Christmas, Judy.

GOSFIELD GIRLS

If you have an interest in joining us, then please come along for a taster session – first one is free ! Our members represent a wide age group and so we hope you feel you can come along. All ladies are welcome. Please contact me, Jules Wilkinson (President) if you have any questions 07958-903932.

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. Services for the next two months at St. Catherine's and other churches are as follows:

Day	Date	Time	Service	Location
Sun	1 st December	10.30	Holy Communion	St Catherine's
Sun	8 th December	10.30	Morning Worship	
Sun	15 th December	10.30	Holy Communion	
Sun	15 th December	15.30	Carol Service	
Sun	22 nd December	10.30	Morning Worship	
Tues	24 th Dec/Christmas Eve	15.00	Crib Service	
Tues	24 th Dec/Christmas Eve	23.00	Midnight Mass	St Andrew's
Wed	25 th Dec/Christmas Day	10.30	Christmas Communion	
Sun	29 th December	TBA	Team Service	St Andrew's
Sun	5 th January	10.30	Holy Communion	
Sun	12 th January	10.30	Morning Worship	
Sun	19 th January	10.30	Holy Communion	
Sun	26 th January	10.30	Morning Worship	

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

For those who prefer to access an online service, each Sunday at 10am Three Colnes Churches live stream via Facebook (The Three Colnes) or You Tube (HalsteadAreaTeam@halsteadareateam3650). There is also the Daily Hope phone line, which offers familiar hymns and prayers free of charge if you dial 0888-804-8044.

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

ST. CATHERINE'S CHURCH 50/50 CLUB

October Winners:	No. 26 Mr. D Bedwell	No. 32 Mrs. S Wilson
	No. 51 Mr. Ashley Bishop	No. 41 Mrs. D Boyle
November Winners:	No. 60 Mr. R Sycamore	No. 48 Mr. & Mrs. P Carter
	No. 63 Mrs. D Boyton	No. 59 Mrs. R Poulter

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



Gosfield Grapevine Community Group

GOSFIELD CARPET BOWLS CLUB:

Our club is approaching the half way point of matches within the Winter League of the Northwest Essex competition for the 2024/25 season. At present we have played 4 matches out of a total league program of 10 games home and away. We have played 4 matches out of a total fixture list of 10 games scoring 17 point out of a possible 32 and are at present lying in 2nd position within the league.

Very good you may think and it is true that we are well placed at this time of the season . The reality is however that we have played more matches than some of the clubs below us . However we are very optimistic that we will finish the season in a higher position this year than we did last season when we finished in 6th position.

We continue to play the normal 2 club nights per week i.e. Monday and Wednesday nights. We play competitively in the North West Essex competition whilst playing "friendly" matches against local clubs that do not play within the league system. Membership within the club remains steady at 22 members .

It is rewarding that as the effects of the COVID pandemic are receding, clubs not playing within the Winter League competition, are beginning to seek other clubs with whom they may play friendly matches prior to re joining the leagues at a later date.

Our club will play its last league match of the 2024 year in December and will enjoy our club Christmas Lunch mid December . Our first match in the New Year will be on Friday January 24th against Finchingfield . We trust that by that time we will have worked off any Christmas spirit and be fit and ready to play carpet bowls once again.

Paul Nicklin, Manager, Gosfield Carpet Bowls Club.

Monday "Cuppa" Club

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Afternoon tea, sandwiches, cakes, coffee and tea all for just £2

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GOSFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

2024 has been a very successful year for Gosfield Horticultural Society, with three very good produce shows. In fact, the Autumn Show was the second biggest since my records began in the mid 1990's. This degree of support, together with the excellent tea and cakes for visitors in the afternoons, courtesy mainly of Paul and Graham, gives us great hopes for a successful year in 2025.

With winter upon us, it is time to get our gardens ready for spring, planting bulbs and shrubs, autumn sown onion sets and broad beans, lifting dahlia tubers, raking leaves off the lawn (leave them on flower beds as a mulch and wildlife cover), and pruning fruit trees. In particular, think about next year's shows and what you might be able to exhibit. The schedules will be available in the social club and village shop shortly after Christmas.

Happy gardening, Stephen Westover (Show Secretary).



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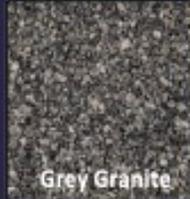
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EVENTS AT THE SOCIAL CLUB THIS DECEMBER.



Saturday 7th 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.

Raffle for the Gosfield in Bloom 'Barrow of Booze' and other prizes to be drawn on the evening.



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

The Club Christmas raffle will be drawn with all profits being donated to Alzheimer's Society.



New Year's Eve. See in the New Year at the club dancing to all your favourite music until the early hours with our professional DJ. Club opens at 8:00pm

For further information on any of the above forthcoming events, or if you would like to be emailed our newsletters detailing future events at the club, please email gosfieldsc@gmail.com

FRONT COVER: Mike Smith, Social Club Chairman, was pleased to present a cheque for £300 to 1st Gosfield Scout Group. The money was raised at a BBQ held at the club on the Sunday, of the Gosfield Village Garage Sale and from the sale of a barrel of beer kindly donated by Courtyard Brewery.

From left to right are Steve Sudbury, Group Scout Leader, Mark Skinner of Courtyard Brewery, Mike Smith Club Chairman, Gemma McKinley organiser of Gosfield Village Garage Sale and Marc Blake of Courtyard Brewery.

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, Tony Farrelly.

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



GROUPS, SOCIETIES AND COMMITTEES:			
Toddler Group	Emma	07872-916917	
Gosfield Players	Jules Wilkinson	07958-903932	
Gosfield Rainbows	Stacey Creak	07814-233219	
Gosfield Brownies, Guides and Rangers	Gill Hillman-Crouch	01787-478097	Or: 07801-265603
Gosfield Beavers, Cubs and Scouts	Steve Sudbury	07885-467712	stephensudburygardens@gmail.com
Gosfield Girls Women's Institute	Janet Hull	07968-145599	gosfieldgirls.wiessex@aol.com
Gosfield Village Circle	Ann Willis	01787-274665	ann.willis2006@btinternet.com
Gosfield Community Shop	Brian Payne	01787-703787	thepaynes57@hotmail.com
Gosfield Horticultural Society	Rebecca Westover	01787-477331	
Gosfield in Bloom	Mandy Adams	01787-273494	mandyladams@icloud.com
Gosfield Fete Committee	Ian Scott	07798-753639	
Gosfield Open Gardens	Brian Payne	01787-473670	thepaynes57@hotmail.com
Gosfield Playing Field & Pavilion	Ann Willis	01787-274665	ann.willis2006@btinternet.com
Rowson Perpetual Fund	David Jarvis	01787-474562	davjar33@gmail.com
ST. CATHERINE'S CHURCH:			
Priest -Reverend	Katie de Bourcier	01787-478471	halsteadrector@gmail.com
PCC Secretary	David Degnan	01787-472291	
Church Wardens	Jo Colyer	01787-477808	
	Judy Paterson	01787-472514	judith_paterson@hotmail.com
Wedding Co-ordinator	Rae Haylock	01787-472171	halsteadparish@gmail.com
Bell Ringing - Tower Captain	Laurence Carter	01787-472225	laurencejcarter@gmail.com

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VILLAGE CIRCLE CLUB

We had a very interesting October meeting when Sophie Ede, from the charity Hearing Help, gave us a potted history of her journey from a talented opera singer, who entertained royalty both at home and abroad, to suddenly becoming a deaf person in her early twenties, joining this small charity who guide deaf people through all the help that is available to them and also becoming their CEO.

November's meeting was great fun. Alison & Dave brought their indoor curling equipment and, after guiding us through the rules and techniques, divided us into teams for a grand competition. Much hilarity as sadly the stones either didn't make the circle or flew off in all directions until eventually the winning team was declared and prizes received.

Next month we go to the Golf Club for our Christmas lunch on 5th December and on 19th December the Sudbury Belles, a local hand bell ringing team, will entertain us with popular songs and carols and we even get to have a go.

So, why not come and give us a try in 2025. Our next meeting in the Rowson Hall will be on 20th February from 2 pm to 4 pm and we'd be very pleased to see you.

For further information please contact Ann Willis on 01787-274665 or 07773-140216 and we look forward to meeting you.

GOSFIELD VILLAGE ENTITIES

SCHOOLS:

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

SPORTS CLUBS:

Gosfield Carpet Bowls Club	Paul M Nicklin	01787-478269	paul.nicklin39@gmail.com
Gosfield Lake Golf Club	Tony O'Shea	01787-474747	gosfieldlakegc@btconnect.com
Gosfield Juniors Football	Mark Wiskin	07930-990013	
Gosfield United Football Club	Simon Fraser (Chairman)	01206-211470	
Gosfield Tennis Club	Richard Waters	07900-236754	gosfield-tennis@hotmail.co.uk
Gosfield Lake	Linda Turp (Office Manager)	01787-4785043	turps@gosfieldlake.co.uk

PUB, CLUB and EVENTS HIRE:

Maurice Rowson Hall	Amanda Degnan	07308-530638	rowsonhall@gmail.com
The Kings Head		01787-474016	info@kingsheadgosfield.com
The Social Club	Becky	07960-014607	gosfieldsc@gmail.com
The Apple Tree	Maxine and Keith	01787-477715	enquiries@theappletreegosfield.co.uk
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	John.Thorne@essex.police.uk
PSCO 70955	Jo Cooper	07812-068697	Joanne.Cooper@essex.pnn.police.uk



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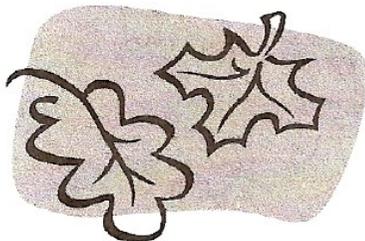
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Gosfield Lawn Tennis Club

New members are welcome of all ages and standards.

Professional coaching sessions available.

Adult membership starts at £54 for the first year.

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

www.gosfield-tennis.co.uk

Gosfield (Mobile) Library

Route 2 - Nuns Meadow, Saturday,

9:45 am to 10:15 am:

12th October

2nd November

23rd November

14th 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

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Octopus Energy - Octo Assist Fund:

Free Electric Blankets - Those who are "*medically vulnerable, elderly, or living alone*" will be prioritised.

Winter Fuel Payments

Standing Charge Waivers and more

<https://octopus.energy/financial-assistance/>

Ovo Energy - Ovo's Extra Support:

Heated Throws

Energy Efficient Kits

Payment Support

Energy Efficient upgrades (lost insulation, new boilers, heat pumps) and more

<https://www.ovoenergy.com/extra-support>

If you're working with/know vulnerable people with low incomes, please ask them who their energy provider is as they could be eligible to claim a blanket or other means to support them through the colder months.

PARISH COUNCIL WORKING BODIES:

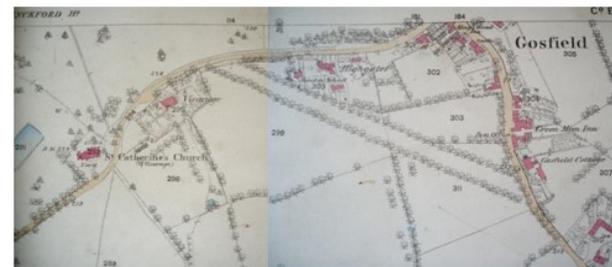
Group / Committee:	Councillors:
Responsible Financial Officer	Richard Edwards
Nature Reserve	Strudwick
Allotment Officer	Farrelly
Footpaths	Colyer, Hough
Finance	Waters, Richard Edwards
Appeals	Colyer
Children's Play Area	Colyer, Hough, Pawsey, Strudwick
Planning	Waters, Pawsey, Farrelly, Colyer, Tricia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

MEMBERS OF OUTSIDE BODIES:

Braintree Association of Local Councils [BALC]	Tricia Edwards, Waters
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
Member of Parliament: Mr James Cleverly MP - or: Braintree Conservatives Association Office:	House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA james.cleverly.mp@parliament.uk Suite 11, The Centre, Lakes Industrial Park, Braintree, CM7 3RU
Essex County Councillor: Cllr. Chris Siddall	Essex County Council, PO Box 11, CM1 1LX cllr.chris.siddall@essex.gov.uk Office: 01376-562288
Braintree District Councillor: Cllr. Peter Schwier Gosfield & Greenstead Green Ward	Long Fen, Great Maplestead, CO9 2RJ cllr.pschwier@braintree.gov.uk 01787-460473

The Avenue of Limes

The photos below which are taken from a map of Gosfield in 1876 are intriguing. They shows the avenue of Limes which still largely exists although some trees were lost over the years and in the storm of 1987 (The Sunday School on the map is the present Rowson Hall). But the photos also raise some interesting questions like what was it for and how far did it stretch? It is pointing directly at Gosfield Hall but only goes to the edge of the Playing Field. Did it originally go further?



The original entrance to Gosfield Hall was to the West and still survives. That made sense because it would have been from London that important guests would arrive along roads which were no better than farm tracks. That is the way Elizabeth I would have come on her two visits to Gosfield Hall. Opposite Hawkwoods farm at Blackmore End is a carriage splash-a pond which was used for washing down carriages before they arrived at the Hall, which shows the direction from which carriages came.

Then around 1700 the geography of the Hall changed with a new modelled East front and grand entrance created by Sir John Millington. Access logically to the Hall then would have been via The Street - a road probably growing in importance. That is when I believe the Avenue of Limes may have been created. (This could be determined by a dendro-chronologist taking core samples of the existing trees). But did the Avenue go further all the way to the Hall to which it is pointing. It is possible of course but would imply a very long Avenue. It then might have been swept aside in Lord Nugent's subsequent remodelling of Gosfield estate in the style of Capability Brown and the creation of the Park. My gut feeling is that it never went that far and simply offered a vista, a glimpse of the Hall through a short Avenue.

The entrance to the Hall then became what it is today, via Hall Drive which was then improved upon by Samuel Courtauld in the 19th Century with the addition of Lodge houses and metal gates. (When I arrived in the village in 1971, the South Lodge was still there as a ruin but the gates had gone). In the Second World War the United States Air Force put in the present concrete road.

As a post script, the Parish Council were asked to suggest a name for the new development of 17 houses in amongst the old avenue of Limes. The Council were keen to maintain the historic link with the Avenue of Limes but were worried that it would lead to confusion with existing addresses in The Limes, so they found a compromise solution in using the old English word for a Lime Tree, The Lindens.

Bob Waters.



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MEMORIES and historical snippets, from Linda (Marlow, Richardson) Kemp

My last article was similar with Autumnal content to one I had written before in a previous issue.....Chestnut gathering and Christmas Cake making,....surely it's not all iced Muffins now. A Rich fruit cake, cheese and a glass of port My Nan's Christmas tea treat on 'the day'

Firstly I must say what a wonderful attendance there was for Remembrance Day 2024 in Gosfield. I was too drugged up to be able to attend and I absented myself but not like one a few years ago when (not in a whisper) I said to my son Mark ' your father as a teenager used to play the cornet here'. My mind was drifting in the quietude and then I realised I had spoken aloud to him during the 2 mins silence ! Oh the shame. I think only Drew and Pauline Mathieson noticed.

I am thankfully NOT on that particular medication this time but had my first dose of Covid.

I was recently able to attend (thanks to son Mark adjusting his work schedule in the City) the farewell service to an ex. Gosfield girl of 85. She attended St Margaret's school and then Boarding school. She was always involved in Gymkhanas at the Fetes, selling raffle tickets, active member of Gosfield Tennis Club and a keen Halstead Hockey Team player, where she met her future husband Rex Raven Rayner. Sheila Rayner. Nee COPPOCK. May you rest in peace.

Sheila was only 8 when her mother died. I was only 8 when she became a friend of our family and I became her 10 yr old Bridesmaid at their wedding in our St Catherine's Church.

Her father probably built your house/ bungalow in the village. They lived at RUSKIN on the corner of Petersfield Lane. A close friend of hers was also a bridesmaid Lorna Goodram.

Lorna's sister Dorothy was involved in Girl Guides in the village. She married and had a son but she then sadly died as a new mother.

Lorna married Tom Wakeling from the High Garrett area and another Halstead All Blacks Hockey player. Lorna recently asked about donating her sisters Guide pack data / album. She now has Steve's number but our Museum is always happy to take and store such items for anyone interested. Free to access if wished as are most items. Our History Society is for Halstead and Local areas.

Sometimes it is hard to keep all the memorabilia at home. That I know.

I saw an article recently about WITCHES marks on some old beams. During the renovations to Gable Cottage two inglenook fire places were revealed. One bressammer beam had clear ' witch markings'. Did you know the last two convicted witches in our area were at High Garrett?

I recently found a copy of ' A report to Police HQ', that a 1 H E bomb had been dropped on Nov 4th 194? in a ploughed field to the rear of Petersfield Farm leaving a crater of 60' diameter and 30' deep with slight damage to the farmhouse. No casualties.

My Grandfather Alf Drury was a survivor of WW1. He walked the lanes around the fields near the farms to extinguish the small incendiary bombs dropped in WW2. Wheeling sand in the same wheelbarrow used for their vegetables.

Apparently it was the best means to stop the fire spreading and I wonder now if that's why our old village hall and school had a row of buckets of sand inside. We had candles to light on our Christmas Tree, but they were only lighted on Christmas Day. I never heard of anyone in the village having a fire of that type growing up.... but I think the big chimney at the Kings Head caught fire one winter as my mate Peter Robinson sat in our house to play records with me while his dad Frank dealt with it. It's weird how some things just float back into your thoughts, like how the Wood's bungalow (New Rd.) and up for demolition (maybe already done) was built by 'Coppocks' for Sheila's Grandmother. A fact she told me in her last letter.

Continued:

In the same week, sadly, Shirley Jolley nee Randall age 82 died (of the Stanley Randall family) part of Gosfield Tennis Club History. Both were very much a part of the club. Stan is on the 50 year celebration picture with other noted folk. During late October this year I decided to go visit a friend Pat Warner she married Tony Clark in 1966 just after myself and Richard wed. We 2 couples were the first to live in The Limes maisonettes. I postponed my visit as I caught Covid and was quite poorly. Pat sadly died at the end of October aged 80. Her mother took such good care of the Memorial by the village Hall for years...as once did Mrs Arnold...village life. Like polishing the church brass. Fond memories. I wish you all Good Health this Christmas and for 2025.

SNIPPETS OF PAST VILLAGE HISTORY. From my jottings.

CLOSE ROLLS 1279-1288 AD in reign of Edward 1.

Richard de Gosefeld acknowledges that he owes John Cole 4 marks. To be levied , in default of payment, of his lands and chattels in Co. Essex (Fine paid.)

LAY SUBSIDY of 1327 by Jennifer Ward

Has Gosfield as a MEDIEVAL ESSEX COMMUNITY. 'VILLATA DE GOSFELDE'

A prime landowner is named MATILDA DE BUTTETURTE some others are Thoma de Hodyngg.

Philipa Ostage... Johanne de Godwineshey.....Rogerero at Strete.

John de Listone held Liston Manor and the right to present the Parish Priest at every alternate vacancy.

Note I have selected a few names only. THERE ARE MANY MORE.

1557 and LORD RICH (or RICHE) of Gosfield Hall was the Commissioner for the County and was the means of bringing many to the Stake...: amongst whom were Richard and Thomas Spurge. They were seized at Bocking because they absented themselves from Church.

1672

The Vicar of Gosfield (self-styled as Minister of the Gospel, discharging the office of Vicar of Gosfield) was Dr. Henry Wilkinson and before the Act of Uniformity in 1662 was the Principal of Magdalen Hall, Oxford University. He took up the living unnoticed for a while but by 1672 he had left and obtained a licence to be a PRESBYTERIAN teacher at his house in Gosfield. His brother was TUTOR to HENRY, PRINCE of WALES , Henry being the eldest son of JAMES 1st of England.

All a bit distant ? How about a bit more recent ? THE SALE BY AUCTION of THE KINGS HEAD. 1874.

The property abuts to the WEST properties owned by Samuel Courtauld Esq.

To the SOUTH those of Basil Sparrow Esq.

Property including The Knife House (I have a pic of that) and a large productive garden.

To the West are properties a 'shop' and Byford Cottage etc.

To the South are Cottages Bramble, Holly, Broom etc As we still recognise the names today...I have a picture of elderly relations of Mrs Peggy Shelleys' (Peggy nee Chambers) as they sit in the gardens at the rear of the Kings Head. Now car parking. Peggy was a pal of my late mother and has just made it back home to The Firs in Gosfield after a serious stay in hospital. So Welcome home Peg X.

Braintree Area Foodbank

Braintree Area Foodbank have been providing food, for those in crisis, since April 2012. Their mission is to see that no one should go hungry. With centres in Braintree, Halstead and Witham, the need for the Foodbank is increasing with over 5,703 people fed in the last financial year, of which over 2,595 were children. We are sure you will agree that these numbers are unacceptable.

If you feel able to support the Foodbank by donating items there is a collection box in the Community Shop, which is regularly collected by members of St Catherine's church and delivered to the Foodbank.

BAF are very grateful for the recent donations from Gosfield, especially the Harvest and Reverse Advent Calendar donations.



<u>Food Items:</u>	<u>Non-food Items</u>
Tinned hot meat (stew, curry, etc.)	Shampoo
Tinned vegetables	Toothpaste and brushes
UHT milk or milk alternative	Shower gel
Cereal (small box)	Bar of soap
Tinned hot snacks (Ravioli, Macaroni Cheese etc.)	Deodorant
Tinned rice pudding	Nappies (Size 5, 6)
Coffee (small jars)	
Packet instant custard	
Packet instant mash	

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

Monetary donations are also accepted, or supermarket gift cards.

Only unopened and undamaged goods that are still well within their "use by" date (no less than six months if possible) can be accepted. Items which do not meet these requirements cannot be used and your donation may be wasted.

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Gosfield Fete 2024/25

Back in early October, we held the AGM of the Gosfield Fete Committee, to discuss this year's Fete facts and figures.

Despite the worst weather in about six years, we were so proud of the folks of Gosfield for turning out in great numbers to support the fete. Many people braved the swirling rain and wind to enjoy our many stalls and attractions, and as always a huge thanks to all the youngsters who put on an impressive show with their floats and their arena performances.

From the profits of the bar, BBQ, tea rooms and committee stalls, we were able to make our regular charitable donations to the local Scouts, Guides, Brownies and Rainbows as well as the Gosfield Playing Fields committee.

Now for some rather sad news...2024 was the last year for our wonderful Chairwoman & vice chairwoman, Cherie & Kelley. Both have served the committee tirelessly for over ten years and we will miss their contributions immensely. Thank you both for everything you did to make the fete the success it has become.

We desperately need new and motivated local residents to replace our outgoing committee members. It isn't an exaggeration to say that, without more help, next year's fete will NOT happen. Please consider helping us create the highlight of the village year. It's just a few hours per month, about six evening meetings per year and obviously help on the fete weekend. We hold our regular meetings at the Gosfield Social Club.....please join us !

Thank you, Ian Scott.

**1st Gosfield
Beavers, Cubs
& Scout Group**



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

1st Gosfield Scout Group

www.1stgosfieldscouts.co.uk

We meet at Gosfield School in Halstead Road on Wednesdays Beavers (aged 6 to 8) 5.30 to 6.30 and Cubs (aged 8 to 10) 6.30 to 7.30 - scouting is open to both boys and girls, all are welcome.

We are in need of more leaders, in particular we would like to start up the Scout section again, aged 10 to 14 - anyone up for the challenge ?

Steve Sudbury Group Scout Leader.

BRAINTREE COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

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community.transport@braintree.gov.uk

GOSFIELD COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH TEAM:

SEPTEMBER 2024 ON ESSEX ROADS

People killed on Essex roads	5
Serious casualties	64
Warning letters issued	921
Mobile phone offences	174
Drink drive arrests	81
Drug drive arrests	85
Seatbelt offences	227
Vehicles no insurance	406 (Seized)
Careless driving offences	318
Speed watch letters issued	921

The vital role of the Community Speed Watch volunteer is needed now more than ever, in helping to achieve the aims of Vision Zero.

We all know our roads are much busier and faster, I was appalled the other evening to see just how fast The Street traffic has become.

I believe we still hold all the equipment to run speed watch, but after having organised speed watch for more than six years, and now not fit enough to take part,

Would any Gosfield resident be willing to take the responsibility under their wing ? I believe the old team members are still willing to assist. Need only be an hour a month, at differing times of day. Best wishes David Degnan.

Please email me on davidjdegnan@gmail.com

GOSFIELD NATURE RESERVE

The nature reserve continues to be a place for dog walkers and others to enjoy, and it is particularly good to see that youngsters are still playing outdoors, in spite of the lure of the screen. I am aware of only one instance of (mildly) anti-social behaviour there this year. A small campfire and a few empty cans were left and, unfortunately, a few pallets, one partially burnt, with nails projecting. If the culprits are reading this, please clear up properly, and avoid leaving anything that may injure people, dogs and other animals.

Although the wild flower displays were good in the reserve this year, some Ash trees are dying of Ash Dieback Disease (*Hymenoscyphus fraxinea*). Some felling will take place this winter, and tree surgery and hedge laying is also planned along the footpath from Greenfields into the reserve. We will endeavour to give notice of the work, as some paths will be temporarily closed. Please respect any warning notices, and heed instructions from operatives.

Gosfield Brownies & Guides:

Gosfield Brownies & Guides are celebrating turning 85 this term.

There's a lovely newspaper article printed in the 29th December 1939 edition of the Halstead & Colne Valley Gazette, about how Gosfield Hall hosted a children's Xmas party, for the first time in many years, for the evacuees. The rooms were decorated with a festive theme, with lots of games, food and presents for the youngsters. Notably, "Full justice was done to the turkey"!.

Just as WW2 was starting in this country, a group of girls from Bounds Green school in north London were evacuated from the city and sent to Gosfield Hall, to be billeted there. The owner Mr Lowe, and his staff opened the doors of the Hall in September 1939 and welcomed some 30 children and their teacher Miss Sansome. Many of these children had never seen the countryside before but along with the Hall's staff and the school's teacher they soon settled into their grand surroundings.



Gosfield Guides exercising outside Gosfield Hall 1940

Not long after arriving, and with the conflict worsening, the decision was made to open a Brownie and Guide pack in October, 1939. These were opened and run by the Hall's Matrons Mrs Prince and Mrs Tennant, along with Miss Sansome. Not only could the girls learn how to help the war effort, it also kept them busy and eased their homesick feelings. They were kept very busy around the village, they were taught how to put out fires if the enemy dropped bombs, helped other evacuees settle into the village, fundraise to buy 2 Girl guiding planes and an ambulance nationally, plus lots more. It was decided to dig up part of the lawns surrounding the Hall in order to create allotments, growing food for all the extra hungry mouths! Brownies and Guides went to work, preparing the plots and sowing the fertile land. The Brownies and Guides became a real asset to the village as they are today.

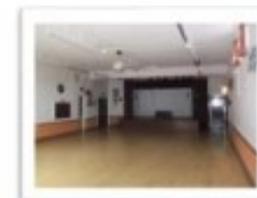
Gosfield Hall hosted the Brownies and Guides on Monday, 25th November, with a candle lit procession from the Maurice Rowson Hall down to the church and across the fields to Gosfield Hall, arriving through the inner courtyard and singing Christmas carols before entering the Hall. The Hall was fully decked out with Xmas trees and decorations, fires lit and candles flickering. A Christmas meal was served in the Ballroom before a guided tour of the house.

MAURICE ROWSON HALL – SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES



MAURICE ROWSON HALL

Church Road, Gosfield



**WHAT'S ON AT THE HALL IN DECEMBER
AND JANUARY**

Regular bookings

Mondays: Aerobics 9:15am to 10:15am Pilates 11:00am to 12:00pm Rainbows 4:30pm to 5:30pm

Brownies 6:00pm to 7:30pm Bowls 8:00pm to 10pm

Tuesdays: Yoga 9:45am to 11:30am Karate 6:00pm to 7:00pm Yoga 7:00pm to 8:30pm

Wednesdays: Bowls 7:00pm to 9:00pm

Thursdays: Sunnydays Toddler Group 9.30am to 11.30am

Fridays: Pilates 10:45am to 11:45am Guides and Rangers 7:00pm to 8:30pm

Sundays: Dog Training 10am to 12:00pm Gosfield Players 4:00pm to 6:00pm

Once a month bookings

Mondays: Cuppa Club 2:00pm to 3pm (1st Monday of the month)

Thursdays: Village Circle 2:00pm to 4pm (3rd Thursday of the month)

Gosfield Girls WI 7:30pm to 9:00pm (3rd Thursday of the month)

Saturdays: Craft Market 10am to 1pm (2nd Saturday of the month).

Contact details for Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Rangers, Bowls, Village Circle, Gosfield Girls WI, Village Circle and Gosfield Players can be found elsewhere in this Grapevine magazine.

For further information on the Rowson Hall, please contact the Booking Clerk, Amanda Degnan, on 07308 530638 or by emailing rowsonhall@gmail.com

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