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Gosfield Grapevine



The new skate ramps during construction – now finished and grassed

Issue 122 – December - January (2026)
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, 23rd January, 2026

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, 11th December – Village Circle Christmas Lunch

Saturday, 13th December – Christmas Concert (St. Catherine's church)

Saturday, 6th December – Christmas Lights (Gosfield Social Club)

Monday, 15th December – Gosfield Parish Council meeting

Wednesday, 24th December – Christmas Eve – Family Evening (Gosfield Social Club)

Thursday, 25th December – Christmas Day

Friday, 26th December – Boxing Day

Wednesday, 31st December - New Year's Eve Dancing (Gosfield Social Club)

Friday, 1st January – New Year's Day

Thursday, 8th January – Braintree Wildlife Trust PP

Monday, 19th January – Gosfield Parish Council meeting

Chilly Dippers is on Fridays 12.30-1.30 and Sundays 8.30 and 9.00 – beginners will need an induction – 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:

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.

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES:

Remembrance Sunday was very well attended and helped by the beautiful sunshine. Well done to those involved in the arrangements for the day which went off perfectly.

Our skate ramp is now open, having been completed very efficiently by our contractors. The total cost amounted to £55,000, plus VAT, all of these moneys were provided by the developers of The Lindens, Sport England and the Rowson Perpetual Trust. Hence, there was no cost to the parish.

The Parish Council's main priority going forward is to carry out improvements to the playing field car park. The Parish Council were fully supportive of previous proposals regarding this but unfortunately the funding required for that project could not be achieved. The Parish Council have therefore decided to undertake a lower cost project, and have appointed a working party to produce a revised specification which can hopefully be fully funded.

The Parish Council have recently appointed Councillors T Strudwick and R Edwards as a working party for the Gosfield Nature Reserve to work alongside Westover Woodlands, our warden/contractor. The GNR is a valuable asset which is owned by the Parish Council, and we are currently finalising a five-year plan and are seeking input from all parishioners as to how they would like to see the nature reserve used in the future. All input would be greatly appreciated. Please email the Parish Clerk with your thoughts.

The Parish Council are currently two members short and are actively recruiting persons who are interested in and want to help manage and guide Gosfield. If you are interested, please contact myself or, alternatively, come along to the next Parish Council meeting which is scheduled for Monday, 15th December in the Pavilion at 7.15pm.

The Parish Council wish all parishioners a happy Christmas. Tricia Edwards.

Ongoing planning applications for building works are as follows:

Erection of a 2.44 m boundary fence, 23 Braintree Road, Gosfield Essex CO9 1PR, Ref. No: 25/02275/HH.

Demolition of existing units & erection of 4 No. dwellings, Land Adjacent Woodlands Parkhall Road, Gosfield Essex, Ref. No: 25/02268/FUL.

Gosfield (Mobile) Library Route 2 - Nuns Meadow, Monday,		Library - Halstead - Braintree (Not open public holidays)		
9:45 am to 10:15 am: 1 st December	Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday	9am to 5pm 9am to 6pm Closed 9am to 6pm 9am to 5pm 9am to 5pm Closed	9am to 5pm 9am to 6pm Closed 9am to 6pm 9am to 5pm 9am to 5pm Closed	9am to 7pm 9am to 5:30pm 9am to 5:30pm 9am to 5:30pm 9am to 5:30pm 9am to 5pm Closed

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 Meadow, 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 07894-577629
Councillor	Tony Strudwick	17 Park Cottages, Gosfield, CO9 1TP tony.strudwick@gosfieldparishcouncil.org 01787-473444
Councillor	Richard Edwards	Home Farm House, CO9 1RZ richard.edwards@gosfieldparishcouncil.org 01787-472958
Councillor	* 2	Volunteers needed !

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

Bin Collections:

Green circle – green bin [if paid], clear sacks and food bin;
Grey square – grey bin and food bin

The recycling bins - regime will change in June, 2026

PARISH PONDERINGS - FROM ST. CATHERINE'S CHURCH

Hello everyone,

By the time this has been published I will have been licensed and in the midst of the wonder that is Christmas in the Church of England and in that part of it called The Three Saints Parishes.

To be honest with you I have been raring to go and the waiting has been frustrating. Although we moved my Dad's, Roy, home and ours into one property you really can only unpack so many boxes before you start to feel more than a little strange.

I am told that I am a patient person, I did work as a Deputy Headteacher in a secondary school so maybe I am more patient than I think but during this time of waiting to be with you, I was suddenly struck by the impact of Advent waiting.

Advent is not meant to be a massive countdown to Christmas day, although it so often feels like it; or waiting for the 'Strictly Come Dancing' Christmas special; or waiting for the peace and quiet of normal life to resume. Advent is a waiting that is expectant, not passive. The kind of waiting that has you on the edge of your seat rather than slumped back and half asleep. We wait in the darkness for the Light to return, personally I find the fact that God left us the Holy Spirit while we wait for Jesus to return quite breath taking.

There is plenty of waiting in the Bible. Israel waits for the Messiah - Imagine that wait, knowing only what the Old Testament had taught about him and you have to spot him. Moses waited in the wilderness. Simeon and Anna waited in the temple and Mary waited for her child, our saviour, to grow inside her and all of us waiting on Christ's return.

Waiting is not always a bad thing but in a society that has become so driven by instant gratification - with Amazon packages sometimes arriving on the same day they were ordered, films only just out of the cinema on demand on our televisions and food delivery apps whipping a beefburger round to our homes before the idea of it has really left our heads - not that I am complaining about any of this but waiting in faith, like we do at Advent, is a good thing.

The wait of Advent creates a space in us for God to work. The wait of Advent exposes our hunger for control and forces us to give that back to God. The wait of Advent makes God's gift to us even more meaningful when it does arrive.

I hope your Advent wait was God filled and that your Christmas is or was (depending on publication dates) Merry and Bright.

God bless you, Rev Sue.



GOSFIELD COMMUNITY SHOP:

Opening Times:

Monday to Saturday: 8 am to 4:30 pm

Sunday: 8 am to noon

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
	Sunday 7 th December	10.30	Holy Communion	St Catherine's
	Sunday 14 th December	10.30	Morning Worship	St Catherine's
	Sunday 21 st December	10.30	Holy Communion	St Catherine's
		3pm	Carol Service	St Catherine's
	Wed. 24 th December			
	Christmas Eve	3pm	Crib Service	St Catherine's
	Thursday 25 th December			
	Christmas Day	10.30	Holy Communion	St Catherine's
	Sunday 28 th December	10am	Team Service	Great Maplestead
	Sunday 4 th January	10.30	Holy Communion	St Catherine's
	Sunday 11 th January	10.30	Morning Worship	St Catherine's
	Sunday 18 th January	10.30	Holy Communion	St Catherine's
	Sunday 25 th January	10.30	Morning Worship	St Catherine's

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.

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On

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Or look online www.girlguiding.org.uk to register your daughter TODAY!

PARISH COUNCIL WORKING GROUPS:

Group / Committee:	Councillors:
Nature Reserve	Strudwick, R. Edwards
Playing Field Management Committee	T. Edwards, Hough, Pawsey
Allotment Officer	Strudwick, R. Edwards
Footpaths	Colyer
Finance	R. Edwards - plus all other councillors
Appeals	Colyer
Children's Play Area	Hough, Strudwick
Planning	Waters, Pawsey
Grapevine Editor	Alan Summerland
Tree Warden	T. Edwards
Maurice Rowson Village Hall	Strudwick - to attend M R Hall meetings
Car Park drainage/surfacing	TBA
Wethersfield Scrutiny Committee	Strudwick - to attend WSC meetings
Information, minutes and agendas:	www.e-voice.org.uk/gosfield

MEMBERS OF OUTSIDE BODIES:

Braintree Association of Local Councils [BALC]	Tricia Edwards
Coffee Rooms Trust	Waters
Rowson Perpetual Memorial Fund	Pawsey, Hough, Colyer

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
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Village Post Office – Community Shop
Open on Wednesdays from 2 pm to 4 pm

MAURICE ROWSON HALL – SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Church Road, Gosfield, CO9 1TL

WHAT'S ON AT THE HALL IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY [2026] ?

Regular bookings

Mondays: Aerobics 9:15am to 10:15am, Pilates 11:00am to 12:00pm, Rainbows 4:45pm to 5:45pm, Brownies 6:00pm to 7:30pm, Bowls 8:00pm to 10pm.

Tuesdays: Yoga 9:45am to 11:30am, Hummingbird Hub 12pm to 5pm, Karate 6:00pm to 7:00pm. Yoga 7:00pm to 8:30pm.

Wednesdays: Wiggles and Giggles 9.30pm to 11.45pm, Fitness Class 6pm to 7pm Bowls 7:00pm to 9:00pm.

Thursdays: Sunnydays 9am to 12pm

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

Sundays: 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)

Braintree Wildlife Trust. 7.00pm to 10pm (2nd Thursday of the month) next meeting Thursday 8th January 2026

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

One-off bookings for December and January

Saturday 13th December. Wiggles and Giggles 9:30am to 11:30am

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

Free Wi-Fi available at the Maurice Rowson Hall courtesy of Gigaclear

DOG WALKERS

Can all dog walkers please keep their dogs on leads and also, with the darker nights, also wear something light so they can be seen.

Some residents / visitors are very nervous of dogs and will be put off at the sight and behaviour of loose dogs.

Gosfield Grapevine



Community Group

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 Officers Cllr Tony Strudwick and Cllr Richard Edwards.

If you would like to rent an allotment plot, please contact the Parish Clerk for further details. Tel: 07907631172 (parishclerk@gosfieldparishcouncil.org)



EVENTS AT THE SOCIAL CLUB THIS DECEMBER.

Saturday 6th 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 'Buckets of Booze' 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 Prostate Cancer UK.

New Year's Eve. See in the New Year at the club dancing to all your favourite music until the early hours. 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

Essex Wildlife Trust Braintree Group



Rewilding in East Anglia An illustrated talk by Tim Gardiner

Maurice Rowson Hall, Church Road, Gosfield CO9 1TL

Thursday 8th January 2026 at 7.30pm

Please contact Tracey Kay for more details: email: kay.tracey@yahoo.co.uk

Please check www.essexwt.org.uk/events for latest information



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www.gosfield-tennis.co.uk

GOSFIELD FETE

The Gosfield Fete Committee held its Annual General Meeting on 21st October at the Social Club, and this was followed by the first meeting for the 2026 Fete. The previous officers remain in place; Mrinal Devadas as Chairman, Ian Scott as Treasurer and Ashley May as Secretary. Sadly, there were just five attendees at the AGM, and although we received apologies from our other committee members, there were no new faces showing an interest.

The 2025 Fete was another fantastic success for the village. We managed to attract a record number of stalls and visitor numbers were great - thank you all for supporting the event like you always do. Even though we ended the Fete Day at 6pm this year, we still made healthy profits to give back to the community, and sizeable donations were made to the Guides, the Rainbows and the Brownies. We have also earmarked funds for urgent repairs required to the Fete Shed behind the Pavilion, which will hopefully begin at the end of November.

A huge vote of thanks from the Committee goes to everyone who helped on the day (and the night before!) We definitely could not do this event without you, special mentions going to Becky from the Social Club, Mike and Gina on BBQ duties, all the schools and groups who contributed to the procession, our road marshalls, our generous programme sponsors, our stall holders and not forgetting Matt Jarvis, the Committee's very own Mr Fixit !

The date of the 2026 Fete will be 4th July. We have yet to decide a theme, and we really need your help on the Committee in the coming months to begin the organisation process once again. Our next meeting will be at the Social Club at 8pm on 11th December and we warmly welcome any new members with new ideas. It's only about six or seven evenings per year that we meet, plus a few hours a month dedicated to tasks to bring the whole event together. We need you! Please contact Ian on 07798 753639 if you can help!

Gosfield Fete Committee.



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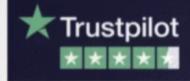
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GOSFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

We seem to have had a very long Autumn this year, with unusually warm weather and little rain. As I write this the Autumn fruits are hanging on, with Holly, Dogwood, Dogrose, Hawthorn, Sloe and Crab Apple providing a bountiful food source for the birds and animals, and Ivy flowers still covered in foraging bees and wasps. Ladybirds are still about in large numbers, and the Autumn foliage colour has been spectacular. The only downside is that the start of winter jobs in the garden has been delayed.

In spite of this, planning for next year's shows is underway, dates are set, and the schedule is nearing completion. It will be ready in the village shop and social club just after Christmas. Many classes are the same as usual, but we are trying something a bit different in the craft section next year. If you are good at making things, and want to make something useful for the house or garden, now, as ever, is the time to start planning.

Dates for 2026:

Spring Show Saturday 28th March, Maurice Rowson Hall

Summer Show Saturday 18th July, Maurice Rowson Hall

Autumn Show 19th September, Maurice Rowson Hall

Annual General Meeting Tuesday 20th October 7.00p.m. Gosfield Social Club

GOSFIELD PITS NATURE RESERVE

The late Autumn is delaying the start of winter projects, but the reserve continues to provide a quiet space for people to exercise and enjoy the natural world. We plan to have a morning volunteer work party on Saturday 31st January, mainly removing bramble to maintain the acid grassland clearing. There will be posters with more details early in the New Year.

**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.

Gosfield Guides



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VILLAGE CIRCLE CLUB

Gosfield's Village Circle's October meeting welcomed the return visit of retired prison governor Lindsay Whitehouse who gave an excellent talk on how he went about identifying and catching criminals within the prison.

A member of Braintree Museum was our November speaker who gave us an insight into the achievements of some of the leading ladies from around the north Essex area and we end the year with a Christmas Lunch at the Golf Club.

2026 kicks off with a meeting in January, on 15th, a first for us, when we've planned an afternoon of games, quizzes, tea, coffee, cake and chat!

If you'd like to come and see what we do, we meet on the 3rd Thursday afternoon of each month, from 2pm to 4pm, in the Maurice Rowson Hall, Church Road or call Ann on 0777340216. We'd be very pleased to see you.

Gosfield Girls WI

If you have an interest in joining us, then please come along for a taster session – first one is free! We meet for 11 months of the year at the Maurice Rowson Hall on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7.30pm. We hope you can come along. All ladies are welcome.

MEMORIES and such like from LINDA. (Marlow, Richardson) KEMP

I have recently been given an incomplete memoir that was amongst my late Aunts papers, it was penned by one of her friends a brother of Kenneth Sewell one of the WW2 soldiers remembered on our War memorial. Ironically it was during the Remembrance period of November that I came to read it. His is a name on the Gosfield War Memorial that once caused interest as he was not a Gosfield person. He was a Londoner

The following explains how he came to be called up from Gosfield.....the partial memoir was written by Kenneth Sewell's younger brother Len 'in his later life' which of course Kenneth never had.

Their Father still working on the North Woolwich docks during the bombing arranged for the family to be relocated to a small Thatched cottage in Braintree Road , Gosfield. He noted the AA book told him the population was 200 or so, less than half the number in the street where their lives had been spent to date. The cottage had 4 rooms, an outside sink, a water pump and convenience/ wash house. It was on the edge of a track leading to Hopes farm.

//Off the six of us went travelling to the local station then Bus to the village. We had packed some of our bits and pieces and stood looking at 4 rooms. One with a cooking stove. One with a fireplace and 2 bedrooms. Mum said "females in one and you males in the other". There was a table and 4 metal slatted chairs. Although it hadn't been occupied for some time it had been kept clean by Mrs Bacon across the main road. The Garden was stocked with vegetables and cared for by Mr Bacon.

Father would travel down with more furniture, pots and pans. Some of which luckily was moved before the house took a big hit. The Hall we had been sheltering in had taken a direct hit after we left. Many deaths we were told. Mother and sister Lil soon got things sorted in the cottage. Dad met a man in the Kings Head who delivered to the Docks so Father arranged with him to collect some more of our stuff.(just in time). Our 2 brothers were in the forces already and Ken would be next, then 'me' and youngest brother Fred but surely War would be done with before they needed us. Fred and Winnie attended the local school, I was a few weeks away from working age of 14 so just cut the firewood etc(Dad would come with me at weekends and fill an old pram with any wood we could find) Then I got a part time delivery boy job temporarily with Halstead shop ' GREENS' but by then I was old enough to go with Ken to start work full time in Sible Hedingham at a wood working place called RIPPERS opposite a Cinema called The Plaza.

Mother started work part time at Gosfield Hall after a while. She noticed an empty Lodge House by the Hall road entrance adjacent to the School. This would be convenient for Win and Fred going to school next door etc. She made enquiries and within a couple of weeks we were moving in. My married sister husband and daughter took over the little cottage. My sister Lil started working at Crittalls Factory in Braintree welding panels for BAILEY BRIDGES. Hard work.



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Community Agents provide support to individuals in order to maintain independence living in their own home. We can help anybody over the age of 18 that is in particular need of a home visit in order to source the support needed. Community Agents can assist with:



Gosfield Parish Council
Parish Clerk: Mrs D. Jacob
5 Crocklands
Greenstead Green
Halstead
Essex
CO9 1QY
Tel: 07907631172
parishclerk@gosfieldparishcouncil.org

www.e-voice.org.uk/gosfield

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To refer yourself, family member, friend or neighbour to Community Agents.

Please call EWS direct 0300 303 9988

Please note you must have the person you are referring's permission. Lines open Monday to Friday 8am-7pm and Saturday 9am-12pm.



EWS
Essex Wellbeing Service

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Co-option for two vacancies on

Gosfield Parish Council

The Parish Council would like to invite applications from members of the public to fill two vacancies within the Council. We are a vibrant and democratic Council, if you would like to be involved and contribute to your parish, please contact in the first instance for an application form to the following:-

Mrs Diane Jacob, Gosfield Parish Clerk, 5 Crocklands, Greenstead Green, Halstead, Essex, CO9 1QY
e-mail parishclerk@gosfieldparishcouncil.org
Telephone 07907631172

Co-option policy available on the Parish Council website www.e-voice.org.uk/gosfield

MEMORIES, continued:

On the day, Ken and me started at Rippers we couldn't get inside the gates as some men were striking outside. They were asking for the wage of 4 pence an hour to be increased by a penny. The bosses later agreed and so in we went... we had a wage increase before having started! We were to become Sawyers mates, and there was a canteen of sorts in 2 old WW1 Nissen Huts. These were bombed one day and so proper Brick ones were built and it became a good canteen and later in 1943 when the Americans were local it became a NAAFI. Ken had yet to be called up but it was good in Gosfield playing Snooker in the 'Coffee Room / Reading Room' opposite the Kings Head and having a game of darts. Ken left Rippers after an accident that cut the top of his finger off but soon started working for The Feltham Sand and Gravel Company (there were several gravel and sandpits in the area.) Twice a week Ken had to go back into London with Reports and other documents for them. Meanwhile me and Fred made friends with village boy Johnnie Brooks. Then the war caught up with us...the Americans arrived to build an Airfield just behind us and the Foe soon found out and attacked. \\ To be continued in the next issue.

Meanwhile Thanks to Roger Smith for correcting my error on the group photo Keith Nokes not Richard Noakes. Roger thinks the girl I couldn't name is Mary Tarbin. I was good friends with Mary she was my age group but that girl seems younger, I'm sure someone would know. Also, the young boy hasn't been named as yet. Could it be James Lee or Keith Hunt?

As this magazine goes to print the joint Funeral of two Gosfield friends will be taking place. Malcolm Osborne and his wife Jo (Johan) have sadly passed away and within a couple of weeks of each other. I sat with Jo remembering our good times over the years. Selfishly willing her to pull through but sensing she would go to her husband of over 6 decades, the pairing of souls embarking on their new journey together. I like to think so.

T's the season to try to keep warm and well. It will be 2026 before you get rid of the Christmas Tree needles but the Iced Fruit Cake might last much longer, but not if you let me near it. It's my favourite. All Good Christmas and New Year Wishes to you all.

ST. CATHERINE'S CHURCH 50/50 CLUB

October Winners:	No. 6 Mrs. L Kemp	No. 115 Mrs. C Snowden
	No. 104 Mrs. A Clark	No. 155 Mrs. J Tarbin
November Winners:	No. 16 Mr. R Smith	No. 70 Mr. P Dyson
	No. 69 Mrs. J Barlow	No. 189 Mrs. M Hannan

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

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Hedge and Tree Pruning – Cutting:

Most trees and hedges by roads are on privately owned land.

Landowners are reminded that trees, hedges, ditches and other vegetation close to the highway needs to be maintained with summer drawing to a close.

Overgrown vegetation can prevent roads and paths from being safe when wetter weather, and shorter days draw near, blocking paths and restricting clear view of the highway.

Grass cut in wet conditions can also lead to clumps being deposited by lawnmowers onto highways. Therefore, grass cutting is ideally carried out when the weather is drier.

Landowners are responsible for maintaining foliage on their land, even if it is close to a road or pavement. They have a duty of care to take reasonable steps to prevent risk.

Overgrown vegetation can restrict paths, reduce sight, and cause floods when ditches and drains become clogged.

Now bird nesting season is over, landowners should carry out work such as:

- removing overhanging branches that obscure the view of the road
- removing overhanging branches that lower the road's clearance for tall vehicles, such as double-decker school buses
- trimming or removing trees that are in danger of falling onto the pavement or road
- removing overgrown shrubs that block lighting or traffic signs
- clear trenches on private property to prevent flooding when it rains

Residents with hedges abutting the pavements: please ensure that hedges, etc, do not encroach onto the pavements/roads to help ensure clear visibility on our roads and footpaths for pedestrians and road users alike.

Village Life

As with the proverb "it takes a village to raise a child" here in Gosfield we are lucky to have that luxury. [are we lucky or do we create our own luck]

I recently was told a story of two little girls who loved to go to the Nature Reserve to have breakfast with the fairies, what a lovely magical childhood for these young people. Now they can also enjoy the new skate ramp and the open space land top of Meadway which will shortly be officially handed over to the village. The Parish Council has facilitated all the above.

Being a parish councillor comes with its own challenges but also rewards. I cannot relate the feeling of elation that comes from being able, in any small way, to bring about changes that better the lives of Gosfield residents. And the feeling that I am helping to be seen working with people instead of doing things to them.

Tony Strudwick

 **healthwatch** Essex

Slipper Swap Events

Say hello to our team at many different locations! No need to bring your old slippers we will provide you with new ones.



Events:

- 07/11/25 - Queens Hall, Halstead, CO9 2BY, 12pm-1.30pm
- 11/11/25 - 75 Swan Street, Sible Hedingham CO9 3HT, 1.30pm-4.30pm
- 14/11/25 - Silver End Congregational Church, CM8 3QF, 10am-1pm
- 18/11/25 - Bocking Village Hall, CM7 5LA, 10am-12pm
- 19/11/25 - Braintree District Council, CM7 9HB, 2pm-4pm
- 02/12/25 - Witham Town Hall, CM8 2FE, 10am-1pm
- 09/12/25 - Earls Colne Recreation Club, CO6 2NG, 10am-1pm
- 16/12/25 - Kelvedon United Reform Church, CO5 9AE, 10am-1pm
- 17/12/25 - Steeple Bumpstead Village Hall, CB9 7EA, 10am-12pm



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GROUPS, SOCIETIES AND COMMITTEES:			
Toddler Group	Emma	07872-916917	
Gosfield Players	Alison Fisk		gosfieldplayers@gmail.com
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	Joanne Hedley	07749-472832	
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 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	Sue Goldsmith	01787-478471	halsteadrector@gmail.com
PCC Secretary	TBC		
Church Wardens	Jo Colyer	07894-577629	
	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
Please note: bell ringing practice on most Tuesday evenings, 7.45 pm to 9.00 pm, novices and experienced ringers welcome.			
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Gosfield Parish Council

Future scheduled meeting dates, subject to the Parish Council being quorate, however, check website for agenda to confirm dates, start time 7.15pm

17th November 2025 (In the Pavilion)

15th December 2025 (In the Pavilion)

19th January 2026 (In the Bernard Brooks Committee Room, Maurice Rowson Village Hall)

16th February 2026 (In the Bernard Brooks Committee Room, Maurice Rowson Village Hall)

16th March 2026 (In the Pavilion)

23rd March 2026 (Annual Parish Assembly – In the Pavilion)

20th April 2026 (In the Pavilion)

18th May 2026 (In the Pavilion)

22nd June 2026 (In the Pavilion)

20th July 2026 (In the Pavilion)

17th August 2026 (In the Pavilion)

21st September 2026 (In the Pavilion)

19th October 2026 (In the Pavilion)

16th November 2026 (In the Pavilion)

14th Dec 2026 (In the Pavilion)

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GOSFIELD CARPET BOWLS CLUB

The club continues to play a series of “friendly” matches against local clubs ,some of whom we have not played before .when we played within the Essex Carpet Bowls Winter League .Playing some of these new clubs has also changed some of the playing times during the year. Several of the new clubs only play during the afternoons which is a complete change for the Gosfield club. It remains to be seen whether this policy will be increased in the future and become a popular policy. In the meantime we continue to play club nights and “friendly” matches on a Monday and a Wednesday evenings in the Rowson hall .

The membership of our club remains steady at 20 members with the regular cub nights held in the Rowson hall on a Monday and a Wednesday evening. Members may play on both evenings or on either one with out first informing the club Manager Michael. Its a case of just turn up, , play, enjoy the sport and the company,

This is the first year since before the COVID epidemic that we have not played in the Essex Carpet Bowls Associations league system. It remains to be seen whether our future membership members prefer the formality and competitive nature of the league system or of the informal and more friendly nature of the current arrangement.

Paul Nicklin, Gosfield Carpet Bowls Club.

Essex Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)

Small actions, big impact for nature recovery

Nature recovery begins with all of us. The Essex Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) has now launched and outlines how everyone in Essex can play a role in reversing biodiversity decline. Whether it's creating a wild patch in your garden, volunteering at a local habitat project or contributing your ideas to your town council, the LNRS makes it easy to get involved.

At the heart of the LNRS is an interactive map that shows opportunities for wildlife enhancement across the county. Even small changes in your neighbourhood can add up to big gains for nature. You can explore actions, get involved, and find your local area's priorities on the Essex Nature Partnership website.

Start your journey to support nature recovery:www.essexnaturepartnership.com



GOSFIELD VILLAGE ENTITIES

SCHOOLS:

Gosfield Primary School	Joanne Deaves (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	office@gosfieldlakegolf.club
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	
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			

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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