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ROUTE 10

August 2026			
4	F		R
11	F	G	W
18	F		P
25	F	G	

September 2026			
2	WED	F	W R
8	F	G	
15	F		P
22	F	G	W
29	F		R

ROUTE 11

August 2026			
4	F	G	
11	F		P
18	F	G	W
25	F		R

September 2026			
2	WED	F	G
8	F		W P
15	F	G	
22	F		R
29	F	G	W

Gosfield Grapevine



St. Catherine's Church – Tower Open Day – Bell Cradle and Ringing
Saturday, 19th September – Viewing and Participating ! [see page 20]

Issue 126 – August-September (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:

Wednesday, 23rd September, 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 (see also page 39):

Friday, 14th August – 2nd Gosfield Beer Festival (playing field)
Saturday, 15th August – 2nd Gosfield Beer Festival (playing field)
Saturday, 15th August – “Brentwood Mac”, Gosfield Lake Resort
Sunday, 16th August – 2nd Gosfield Beer Festival (playing field)

Monday, 17th August – GPC Meeting 7:15 pm

Thursday, 20th August – Gosfield Village Circle

Sunday, 30th August -Summer Family BBQ (Social Club)

Monday, 31st August – Summer Bank Holiday

Friday, 11th September – Quiz Night, Gosfield Players

Wednesday, 16th September – Braintree Male Voice Choir

Thursday, 17th September – Gosfield Village Circle

Saturday, 19th September – bell ringing open day

Saturday, 19th September – GHS Autumn Show

Monday, 21st September – GPC Meeting 7:15 pm

Wednesday, 23rd September - Autumn equinox

Tuesday, 20th October – GHS AGM

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

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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, Tricia Edwards:

Firstly, a big thank you to Gosfield in Bloom who, despite the hosepipe ban, are keeping our village looking lovely as usual.

Also, welcome to Paddington Bear. He looks amazing. For those who have not yet met him, he is in the children's play area on the playing field. He is soon to be joined by another tree sculpture.

The car park works are now virtually complete and we are awaiting the signage and also yellow marking out of the car park concrete areas. We will also be installing some flower planters. Again, thank you to all residents for their patience and understanding whilst the works have been carried out.

We have been without a full complement of councillors for some time and I am very pleased to announce that we have now appointed two new Parish Councillors, Anne-Marie Croft and Ben Muir. Thank you and welcome to you both for coming forward and volunteering for this role.

Now that the current projects on the playing field drainage, car park and tree sculptures are nearing completion, your Parish Council are planning further projects for the remainder of this year and we still have a small amount of section 106 moneys available. We are currently starting some minor improvements to the irrigation system at the allotments. We are looking into the possibility of a trim trail on the land at the top of Meadway. We are also continuing with our projects in the nature reserve, another bridge will be repaired and replaced shortly and some other projects in the five-year management plan will be carried out when funding is confirmed.

We are very pleased that the fete was a great success again this year.

Our Councillors have been working on a Gosfield Neighbourhood Plan for a number of years now which, in accordance with the Regulations, was submitted to Braintree District Council for review. I can now confirm that this has been accepted by Braintree District Council and we move to the next stage prior to the adoption, which is the Regulation 16 consultation of residents which I understand will be carried out from 17 August for six weeks. The documents and response forms will be available in the community shop from 17th August between 8.00am and 4.30pm. Unfortunately, you will not be able to take a copy of the document away but you may take the response form away to complete.

Ongoing planning applications for building works are as follows:

Proposed 2 No. front & 1 No. rear dormers & removal of chimney. Alterations to fenestration, addition of cladding at first floor, new raised rear patio & replacement garage, 31 Highlands Gosfield Essex CO9 1PH, Ref. No: 26/01548/HH.

External works to create pedestrian path with 2m high secure fencing and gates, and new surfacing for external play areas, Gosfield Community Primary School The Street Gosfield Essex CO9 1ST, Ref. No: 26/01033/FUL.

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 07894-577629
Councillor	Tony Strudwick	17 Park Cottages, Gosfield, CO9 1TP tony.strudwick@gosfieldparishcouncil.org 07505-825635
Councillor	Richard Edwards	Home Farm House, CO9 1RZ richard.edwards@gosfieldparishcouncil.org 01787-472958
Councillor	Anne-Marie Croft	annemarie.croft@gosfieldparishcouncil.org
Councillor	Ben Muir	ben.muir@gosfieldparishcouncil.org

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

PARISH PONDERINGS - FROM ST. CATHERINE'S CHURCH

It is June! It is meant to be wall to wall sunshine, gentle breezes and time to recharge our batteries and yet as I write this it is pouring with rain and I can hear thunder in the distance.

Why are things never as we think they should be?

The world in which we live is changing, and changing fast. As a child I remember firework displays in Lake Meadows, a beautiful park round the corner from my old house; wrapping up in layers and layers and still shivering from the cold. The summers that were not quite hot enough to give you a really good tan, not like the friends who went to Spain got and seeing the distinct change in the season. It feels very much like the world or at least the bit of it I know has become very muddled.

Do you remember the days when mobile phones didn't exist? Where going off in the car didn't mean you would actually reach your destination and sitting on the grass verge next to a busy A road and waiting for the AA or RAC to come and rescue you?

Oh, and the television - 4 channels or a time when there were even less, or no TV at all. Hoping Mum had cooked the Sunday lunch in time to watch the 2:30pm Sunday afternoon film in spite of having been to church in the morning and knowing I was on drying up duty! Doctor Who on Saturdays after the wrestling.

I think we'd have to agree that life doesn't stay the same, everything changes - well not quite everything. No matter how old you are, where you grew up or went to school; how many times you've been married or gone to prison or said something to hurt someone else - the love that God has for us is the one thing that is consistent. That love is so strong and unending it amazes me our churches aren't bursting at the seams with folk looking for that security, unconditional love, genuine friendship and a good piece of cake. In a world of uncertainty God is always there for **all** of us. Whoever you are, remember that you are precious and so loved.

Amen. God bless you all, Rev Sue Goldsmith.

ST. CATHERINE'S CHURCH 50/50 CLUB

June Winners:	No. 27 Mrs. V Beaumont	No. 56 Miss M Richardson
	No. 45 Miss D Richardson	No. 163 Mrs. B Wilkin
July Winners:	No. 18 Mrs. J Paterson	No. 51 Mr. Ashley Bishop
	No. 39 Mr. J Paterson	No. 70 Mr. P Dyson

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

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.

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 2 nd August	10.30	Holy Communion	St Catherine's
Sunday 9 th August	10.30	Morning Worship	St Catherine's
Sunday 16 th August	11am	Holy Communion	St Catherine's
Sunday 23 rd August	10.30am	Morning Worship	St Catherine's
Sunday 30 th August	11am	Team Service	Great Maplestead
Sunday 6 th September	10.30	Holy Communion	St Catherine's
Sunday 13 th September	10.30am	Morning Worship	St Catherine's
Sunday 20 th September	11am	Holy Communion	St Catherine's
Sunday 27 th September	10.30am	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.

Become a member of The Friends of St. Catherine's Church.

The Friends of St. Catherine's Church is registered with the Charity Commission with funds invested funds, the interest on which we use to help support the upkeep of the Church and Churchyard.

Sadly though, over the years, the membership has dwindled somewhat and we are now appealing for more members to join us in our work for the Church. Single Members pay an annual fee of £10, whilst joint membership costs £20 and that's it! You won't be asked to do any fundraising or tin rattling though you may be invited to join the committee if you'd like to. The Friends meet on a quarterly basis, including our Annual General Meeting, to consider any requests for funding from the PCC (Parochial Church Council). If you'd like to know more about us or would like to join us please contact the secretary, Ann Willis by email at:

ann.willis2006@btinternet.com

or call 07773 -40216. We look forward to hearing from you.

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PARISH COUNCIL WORKING GROUPS:

Group / Committee:	Councillors:
Nature Reserve	Strudwick, R. Edwards
Playing Field Management Committee	T. Edwards, Hough, Strudwick
Allotment Officer	Strudwick, R. Edwards
Footpaths	Colyer
Finance	R. Edwards, T. Edwards, Waters
Appeals	Colyer
Children's Play Area	Colyer, 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	R Edwards, Strudwick, Waters
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 [Halstead]: Cllr. Isi Rocha	Essex County Council, PO Box 11, CM1 1LX cllr.isi.rocha@essex.gov.uk Office: TBC
Braintree District Councillor: Cllr. Peter Schwier Gosfield & Greenstead Green Ward	Long Fen, Great Maplestead, CO9 2RJ cllr.pschwier@braintree.gov.uk 01787-460473

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

MAURICE ROWSON HALL – SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

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 10:00pm.

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 9.30am to 11.00am, Fitness Class 6pm to 7pm
Bowls 7:00pm to 9:00pm.

Thursdays: 'Sunnydays' 9:00am to 12:00pm

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

Once-a-month bookings:

Mondays: Cuppa Club 2:00pm to 4:00pm (1st Monday of the month)

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

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

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

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
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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)



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VILLAGE CIRCLE CLUB

Amanda Sutherland returned for our June meeting, but with a different theme this time. As well as her magnificent jewellery making from anything and everything to making fascinators and garments from ordinary everyday items, she has now diversified into hypnotherapy and explained the theory and process behind helping people with all manner of phobias and addictions.

Our July meeting saw us meeting once again in the village hall for our annual afternoon tea. The food is provided and laid out on cake stands for us by Tracy of Tracy's Catering in Great Yeldham, ably assisted by Rachel, and always not only looks wonderful but tastes wonderful too. We have the works: a selection of finger sandwiches, quiche, vol au vents, cheese straws, freshly baked scones with clotted cream and raspberry jam plus a selection of cake bites and shortbread hearts. A glass of Pimm's is provided at the start of the tea with tea and coffee served later in the afternoon all of which was enjoyed by 37 of us, 31 seated for the afternoon and the remaining 6 delivered in cake boxes to various members unable to attend. What a lovely afternoon it was. Great atmosphere, friendly company and delicious food.

Next month's meeting on 20th August sees the return of Chris Parfitt who will once again regale us with tales from another one of his expedition holidays somewhere in the world and our September meeting, on the 17th, will find us back in the hall for another games afternoon.

So, if any of this appeals to you, or you like to see what else we do, just come along to the Maurice Rowson Hall in Church Road Gosfield on the 3rd Thursday of any month and join us. Visitor's fees are just £3.00 which includes refreshments of tea, coffee and cake, and you can visit as often as you'd like to, or call Ann on: 07773-140216 for more information.

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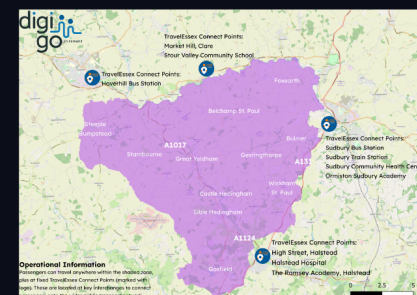
DigiGo is coming to your area!

From 26 July 2026, DaRT services will become DigiGo. Following Essex County Council's Bus Network changes, residents will soon benefit from DigiGo, a flexible, demand-responsive transport service designed to make local travel easier and more convenient.

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On Sunday 30th August, we will be holding a Summer Family BBQ at the Club.

Come along and enjoy a drink and something from the BBQ.
(Please note that it's cash only at the BBQ).

In addition to our normal range of drinks from the bar, we will also have Pulp Medium Apple (6%) and Celtic Marches Thundering Molly (5.2%) draft ciders, along with a barrel of Courtyard Summer Freedom beer.



Doors open at 2.00pm.

For further information on the Social Club, or if you would like to be emailed our newsletter detailing future events at the club, please email gosfieldsc@gmail.com

Gosfield (Mobile) Library

Route 2 - Nuns Meadow, Monday,

9:45 am to 10:15 am:

8th June
29th June
20th July
10th August
21st September
12th October

Library - Halstead - Braintree

(Not open public holidays)

Monday	9am to 5pm	9am to 7pm
Tuesday	9am to 6pm	9am to 5:30pm
Wednesday	Closed	9am to 5:30pm
Thursday	9am to 6pm	9am to 5:30pm
Friday	9am to 5pm	9am to 5:30pm
Saturday	9am to 5pm	9am to 5pm
Sunday	Closed	Closed

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.



GOSFIELD COMMUNITY SHOP:

Opening Times:

Monday to Saturday: 8 am to 4:30 pm

Sunday: 8 am to noon

Monday "Cuppa" Club

In

The Maurice Rowson Hall

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

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MEMORIES, continued:

I read recently about Queen Victoria's 4th daughter Louise Caroline Alberta. 1848-1939. I quote via an article by Ian Macdonald that she was a precocious child a rebellious adult and her life viewed by many as one long scandal. After some delicate situations the Royal family decided to marry her off but she refused their choices and chose an older man John Campbell, The Marquis of Lorne. She was a keen artist and studied sculpture (unheard of then for a young lady especially a Royal one).

She insisted on designing her own wedding veil for her 1871 wedding having supported Embroidery charities to raise funds for the poor. When residing in Canada where her husband had been made GOVERNOR GENERAL she was much admired for her philanthropic ventures and during the 'bloody' 1885 North- West Rebellion she created a medical fund to care for fighters on both sides. The province of ALBERTA is named after her. At the same time, she antagonised her mother by supporting the Suffragist movement. An example of her sculpture skills however is the Marble Statue of Queen Victoria in her Coronation Robes outside Kensington Palace. There was a competition for a Sculpture during the Queens 1887 Jubilee. Princess Louise entered anonymously and it was chosen to the amazement of her family. GOSFIELD planted an OAK TREE known as The LORNE OAK in celebration of her marriage in 1871 to The Marquis of Lorne. Despite her rumoured affairs she cared for him as he grew older and was said to be grief stricken at his demise. My father in WW2 was in the regiment named after her. The Princess Louise Kensington Regiment.

I hope the Fete was well supported as the weather was glorious but hot weather now is not for me. I doubt the poor builders of our Primary School (The original Lecture Hall) were very happy as it was built during the year of THE BIG STINK. 1858. A very long year of very high temperatures.

Remember 1976's very hot summer? I had a disgruntled youngest son fast approaching his 5th birthday, but it fell just after the cut-off date for joining his brothers at school that September. Meaning he had got to wait until possibly the Easter term or the next September. Please note he is still at Primary school after 32 years of his teaching career. As I type this 2 more of my Grandchildren have Graduated from University. One goes back in September to start their Master's Degree and the other just gained their Masters. Now what is out there career wise? That is the question. My era had so many choices with availability of jobs. So Good Luck to all who have finished their studies and Good Luck to all house holders with New Council Bins. I have been missed out 4 times on 'my route' and my food waste has now liquidised itself. I know EWWW. I'm sure they will get into a routine eventually. I'm thinking maybe Christmas? On the upside I do not have to knit any school cardigans or jumpers anymore through the summer hols by September. Now it's a fleece world... I said earlier I don't like Change very much or Spiders that watch you as you type Arghh.. Now where is that old beaker and piece of card? You know I cannot squish it as my Nan always told me "If you want to live and thrive then Let a spider run alive" YES Nan I hear you...still.



Gosfield Grapevine Community Group



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

I am reasonably accepting of some things in life changing but not others. Like seeing names that I knew so well in the Obituaries page of the local press. My condolences go out to John Lewis' family on the death of Valerie his sister-in-law in Canada. That's all the WOOSTER girls that I knew, gone now. Margaret, Valerie and Rosemary. Valerie married Alun Baker of Highwood Farm in Russells Road and they eventually settled in Canada where they ran a thriving business linked with their farming. She rang me to tell me of Alan's death and I can't believe she too has gone. RIP girls.

Bruce Braybrooke's wife has died, and during the Cricket season. The late Bruce was a superb Gosfield bowler. Reunited. Too late for the last publication was the death of GRAHAM COX. Much Loved brother-in-law of Justine Cox, nee Smith, daughter of another villager the late Jack Smith. Jack would've been helping tidy the park after the Fete and helping to roll the grass of the cricket green years ago. My very sincere condolences to all the above families. You are in my thoughts.

The COX's grandfather was involved with the village Cricket team and when the 'French' family who ran the Church Road shop and Post Office retired EDDIE COX his son took over. On entering the shop to the left was an opening and it led into where a long counter with a huge cheese or joint of gammon covered in muslin stood beside a slicer. I remember Mrs Cox letting me try turning the wheel and to make sure my fingers were kept well out of the way. WHY? Because she told me she did not know how much to charge for young girl's fingers. Mr Cox (Eddie) used to deliver the Daily papers too. It was an old Beer House a couple of centuries ago. A large house later divided into 2 properties as it is today. Hops were grown on its land where a modern house now stands and BEER was all it could sell. Opposed to its neighbour The Kings Head which was an Inn and could sell Spirits and food and offer accommodation. There were a few Beer Houses scattered around the village area and some were of ill repute in much earlier times harbouring fugitives and such like.

When old Mr French was the shop-keeper he ran a 'For Hire service' with his horse and cart and it was a popular venture. The outside of the shop had pots and pans and baskets hanging all around it. His son Reggie French was a stalwart of village Tennis and Horticultural Societies also the producer of many Gosfield Dramas performed on the then old Sunday School Room stage. A tennis court was built behind the shop premises. Reggie was Clerk to the Local Magistrates Court. He would joke that you could find him in one Court during day time and another in the evenings. Ernie Shadrack of Park Hall Road also had a Court built, as did Mrs Broyd in her grounds of Little Cottage in the Street (now the Gosfield Brewery) these courts and a few others combined were the forerunners of the first Tennis Club and eventually culminating in the one we still have along Braintree Road. Which when opened hosted a match with a guest female player from Wimbledon. Decades later a male Wimbledon champion visited Gosfield. His Adidas Trainers are still popular, he is American Stan Smith who beat Nastase in 1973 for the male singles title. He was here on a break from tennis as my younger sister was working and travelling the World Tennis circuit with him and his wife and children. She still lives in USA close by them. They were just visiting our family but took a tour around the village amenities. Admiring the position of the Church and Lake with the Hall just across in view. I was thinking the other day that it is over 104 years since Augustus Letch demolished Gosfield Place. Brick by brick. I was recently sent an in depth SPARROW Family History containing some detailed reasons why it had to be sold. They were not the straight forward reasons I had always read about or been told of.

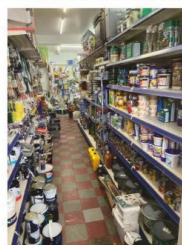
BOB W. If you haven't read the latest research on it let me know and we'll have a cuppa.

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