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On

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

As you enter our Churchyard you will observe a little way along on the left a very old Head Stone dedicated to the memory of Mrs. Rebecca Strait who died MAY 23rd, 1789, aged 94 years. Many years a Diligent and Faithful school mistress in the village. The old Parish register actually states that she was buried on May 17th, 1789. Let's hope a clerical error. Born circa 1695.

There are mentions in the village long ago of a Grammar School, and a Dame's School and Sunday Schools. These would be paid for schools, so only a select few children were educated.

50 years on in 1839, The Rev. Charles W. Lloyd Vicar of Gosfield was asked to complete and return a questionnaire by The London Diocesan Board of Education about the provision of Education for the POOR of the Parish (which he only completed partially). See attached table, page 16, for details.

20yrs. on in 1859 Miss Charlotte Taylor was the National School Mistress. Basil Sparrow of Gosfield Place had earlier erected a school. The population was recorded 1851 as 595. By 1861 it was 620. Scholars were listed as 55 male and 73 females of ages from 3 yrs. to 15 (the older ages were girls).

Beardswood Farm along the road on the right from Park Hall (for new villagers it is the road that continues beyond Gosfield Lake) was farmed by George SCATCHERD and Ethel. George is buried near my Father in our Churchyard but Ethel his wife has only recently died at the grand age of 106. She was living with her son Andrew and family in Wales. Andrew's twin Margaret is a friend of my youngest sister Wendy who loved being at the farm. I'm not sure if John is still there but there's also David who I know is still local. My condolences go to them all. Caroline Boyton remembers her Mum Pauline working at Gosfield Hall with Ethel and loved visiting the Farm. Ethel surprised her by skipping (with a rope) for exercise. No wonder she made it to 106.

Samuel Courtauld of Gosfield Hall wrote to his ailing wife as Autumn approached in the season of their lives "Well Dearest, And so the sun rises and sets and the Seasons roll on their changeless courses, bringing very near now to us the moment when to us time shall be no more- the change to us so great, so less, than the falling of a leaf- than the falling of a leaf in some untrodden forest'.



GOSFIELD COMMUNITY SHOP:

Opening Times:

Monday to Saturday: 8 am to 4:30 pm

Sunday: 8 am to noon

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.

Number	Question	Answer
1	What is the population of the Parish	Between 510 - 550
2	What schools does it contain for Education of the Poor	Daily and Sunday, Infants
3	Are all of these schools in Union with National Soc.	NOT
4	Would there be an objection to join the above	I believe there would be
5	How many children is each School Room capable of containing	There is but ONE school room in separate parts of which the Boys and Girls are placed, capable of containing 75
6	What is the actual number of Children on the books of each school	75
7	What is the Average number actually attending each school	Almost the full number constantly
8	What is the number of those who attend the Sunday School ONLY	No answer given
9	Give distance - Parish Limits or beyond	2 miles, not beyond limits
10	What additions in last 5 years 1. To the means of education 2. No of children received education in the Principles of the Church	There has been not any
11	The same questions with reference to the last 2 years	NOT ANY
12	Are any schools, connected with the established Church, now in course of erection or in contemplation	NO
13	In whose hands are vested the General Management and Superintendence of the existing schools in your Parish or District, for the Education of the Poor in the Principles of the Church of England ?..... ".The management and superintendence of the school is vested in the hands of a MRS. MILLWARD a lady residing in the Parish. The Clergyman has not authority therein."	
14	How long have they been established	-
15	From what funds or benefactions	-
16	How are they supported	Entirely of the above mentioned lady
17, 18	-	(further questions about support/ funds)
19 to 25	-	[re. financing]
26	How many children are clothed How many children are Boarded	The whole number are clothed
27	What number of Schools do you know or believe to exist in your Parish or District, NOT in connection with the Church and of what description	There are NOT any, not in connection with the Church
28	What number do you suppose to be wholly without education (in your Parish)	I know of very few
29	What estimate do you form of the number of children in your Parish or District who are educated in Dame's schools, Mid Schools and schools for the Higher Classes	There is a Dame School within Parish, the average no of children attending at which 18-20 daily. I believe the means of education might be attended
30	Supposing the means of Education within your Parish or District, not to be commensurate with the wants of the population , what are the obstacles which impede the extension of those means and by what methods may they be overcome	I must decline answering this latter part of the question as I cannot do so without difficulty under the peculiar circumstances of the case
31	What provision is made in Parish for Supplement education? For instance ADULT schools, Evening Lectures, Lending Libraries	There was once an Adult school but it has been discontinued for some years
	signed by: Charles W. Lloyd (Vicar)	(I think the man had had enough by then !)

Gosfield Fete 2026

Once again, the wonderful villagers of Gosfield came together for another hugely successful Fete in the glorious summer sunshine.

As the Committee, we have so many thank-yous to list for making the day very special as always...so here goes;

- *Our Friday night volunteers putting up all the marquees and preparing the field*
- *Becky for arranging the bar*
- *All the volunteer bar staff on the day*
- *Gina & Mike for their legendary BBQ skills*
- *All the volunteers in our Tea Rooms*
- *All the lovely people who donated some truly delicious cakes (which sold like, er, hot cakes!)*
- *Our road safety volunteers directing traffic for the parade*
- *All of the volunteers running the committee stalls*
- *Jason for hosting the arena and holding it all together!*
- *All the wonderful school children and dance/drama schools that provided us with arena entertainment*
- *The young farmers for their awesome tractors!*

We are holding our Annual Fete AGM on Tuesday 20th October at the Social Club, where we will confirm next year's Fete Day, sign off the accounts for 2026 and distribute our profits to the Playing Fields and local children's groups. Absolutely anyone is welcome to attend to see exactly what we do and how we do it.

You will see above the amount of people giving their time and efforts each year for such a traditional and popular event...and more than ever before, we need people to join us as Fete Makers. It's not a lot to ask, a few meetings per year and your ideas brought to the table - we have the core of a great team but we've lost some regular fete makers to other commitments this year and we really need your help. Please contact us at gosfieldfete@gmail.com or call direct on 07798-753639 if you can make a difference!

Ian Scott - Gosfield Fete Committee, Treasurer.

Gosfield (Mobile) Library Route 2 - Nuns Meadow, Monday,	Library - Halstead - Braintree (Not open public holidays)		
9:45 am to 10:15 am: 12 th October 02 nd November 23 rd November 14 th 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 7pm 9am to 5:30pm 9am to 5:30pm 9am to 5:30pm 9am to 5:30pm 9am to 5pm Closed

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GOSFIELD VILLAGE ENTITIES - continued

GROUPS, SOCIETIES AND COMMITTEES:

Toddler Group	Emma	07872-916917	
Gosfield Players	Alison Bongo-Brown		gosfieldplayers@gmail.com
Gosfield Rainbows	Stacey Creak	07814-233219	
Gosfield Brownies, Guides and Rangers	Gill Hillman-Crouch	01787-478097	Or: 07801-265603
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, 745 pm to 9.00 pm, novices and experienced ringers welcome.

New ringers required urgently !

GOSFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

In spite of my rather depressing offer in the Grapevine last month, we had a surprisingly good Autumn Show on Saturday 19th of September, with just over 200 entries. The stars of the show were a stunning display of Dahlias grown by an exhibitor from Great Bardfield, and two superb flowering pot plants, one Begonia and one Petunia. After much deliberation, the judge awarded Best Exhibit in Show to the Petunia, grown by Lorrena Wilks.

We also hosted the Inter-village Festival Cup competition, with entries from Great Bardfield and Finchingfield, as well as our own. Careful marking resulted in Finchingfield beating us by just one point, with Bardfield a close third.

The show was well supported by visitors, who enjoyed the displays and the excellent home-made cakes with tea or coffee, and we wish to thank all who have been involved in the three shows this year.

Please join us at our AGM in October, and start to plan next year's gardening with a thought to what you might exhibit in future shows.

GOSFIELD CARPET BOWLS CLUB

The winter league program for the Essex Carpet Bowls Association 2026/27 began as normal in September . However the Gosfield Carpet Bowls Club did not enter into the Essex Leagues organisation for the coming year .The main reason for the decision was that due to the low number of clubs wishing to play in the league and the distances that members would have to travel to play some of the away games on a dark winters night it was decided to play more local clubs on a "friendly" arrangement.

It is however important for our club to play competitive matches against other clubs and for that reason we have arranged a series of matches against other non league clubs within our area .This has proved to be very competitive and well received by the membership.

Club membership remains at a good level and we continue to play on a Monday and Wednesday evenings .However we are always looking for new members , either experienced players or non experience players that wish to try their hand at a new competitive game. We hold two meetings each week .on a Monday and a Wednesday evenings. Should you wish to try your hand at a new but competitive game please visit our club on either the Monday or Wednesday evenings for a trial game.

Paul M Nicklin, Gosfield Carpet Bowls Club.



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GOSFIELD VILLAGE ENTITIES

SCHOOLS:

Gosfield Primary School	Mrs. Bower (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	01787-471771	gosfieldsc@gmail.com
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
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