

Gosfield's Eleventh Hour Success!

'A wonderful community effort - Gosfield always pulls it off and delivers!' was the warm tribute the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Essex, Dave Monk paid to villagers who turned out in number for the dedication ceremony of the brand-new Gosfield War Memorial on Saturday 2nd November.

The stormy weather lulled for several hours for the occasion which marked the successful culmination of a fund-raising project for the new War Memorial. Discussions started earlier this year about how best to preserve the existing wooden commemoration board in the village and had led to the idea to build a new stone memorial that would appropriately honour the war-time sacrifices made and would last for many generations to come.

A small committee of villagers began work in April and set themselves the very challenging target of raising the necessary funds and having the new Memorial in place by Remembrance Day 2019. A generous offer was received from Gosfield stone mason, Nathan Ames-Tull, to build the new memorial at cost-price and various fund-raising activities took place during the year, including a coffee morning and a summer concert and strawberry tea. Hand-made metal poppies were specially created for the project by Gosfield metal artist Barry Deal and were also sold to raise funds.

The dedication ceremony commenced in St Catherine's Church and was followed by a procession along Church Road to the new memorial outside the Maurice Rowson Hall. The parade was coordinated by the Royal British Legion and included Army Cadets, Air Training Corps and uniformed village organisations. The memorial was unveiled by the Deputy Lord Lieutenant Dave Monk and Monty Ames-Tull in front of a large crowd that included invited guests, VIP's and villagers. After the dedication ceremony everyone gathered in the village hall for the cutting of a celebratory cake by the Deputy Lord Lieutenant who congratulated Gosfield villagers for the inspiring effort and wonderful community support that had achieved the erection of the new Memorial in such a short period of time. A delicious afternoon tea was then much enjoyed by all.

Kate Sale





Alex Mair with The Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Essex Mr Dave Monk



The Royal British Legion leading the Parade.



Mr Robert (Bob) Waters, Parish Council Chairman.