

Gosfield Remembers

By Kate Sale

At the end of 2018, around the time of Armistice Centenary in November, a casual conversation started in Gosfield....

Several villagers had spent a lot of time cleaning and repairing the wooden war memorial that is situated outside the Maurice Rowson Hall and a comment had been made about what state of repair future generations were likely to find it in for subsequent anniversary events. It was in this way that a small discussion group first got together. This significant anniversary of the Great War seemed to be a timely prompt for a discussion of how Gosfield could best preserve village heritage into the future yet demonstrate afresh a recognition and honouring of the sacrifice made in two World Wars.

The idea emerged for the construction of a new and lasting War Memorial in the village and as you may have seen, the idea has been previously 'floated' in the Parish Magazine and received an incredibly positive reception. The 'Gosfield War Memorial Committee' is a small ad hoc group of villagers including Alex Mair, Isla Gill, Steve Sudbury, Bob Waters and myself, we have met on a few occasions in the Social Club over the past few months to discuss different ideas and share information and contacts.

As a result of our networking we have received a most generous offer from stone masons and fellow Gosfield residents, Nathan Aims-Tull and Dave Ames, who have offered to create a beautiful new memorial for our village at purely cost price! We invited them to become part of our group and together joined in this unique and wonderful opportunity and we are hugely grateful to them. Working together with Nathan and Dave we have discussed the most fitting and appropriate size, shape and setting of a new memorial that would reflect key aspects of the current wooden one and so lend a sense of community and belonging.

It is proposed that it will be made out of granite and have two side wings and topped by narrow stone coping, the names of those lost in the both wars will be marked in white and a large central cross will have 24ct gold leaf fill which will look absolutely stunning as it shines in the sun light, It was agreed that the wording would be the same as the existing one and with the addition of a QR code on the back of the monument which will link to on-line information for anyone interested in historical research related to the fallen.

The cost of the new memorial will be £12,270 and some money has already been pledged with further fund raising being planned. *

*foot note. The project took twelve months to complete and in only eight months we collected a sum total of just over £14,000 which covered all the costs including the memorial dedication day.