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'A wonderful community effort - Gosfield always pulls it off and delivers!'

Such was the warm tribute the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Essex, Dave Monk paid to Gosfield villagers who turned out in number for the dedication ceremony of the new War Memorial on Saturday 2nd November.

The stormy weather abated for several hours for the occasion that marked the successful culmination of the Gosfield War Memorial project, which had started work in April towards the challenging target of building the new memorial by Remembrance Day 2019.

Although many of us might not have noticed as we walked by, the previous wooden war commemoration board outside the village hall, was in a very fragile state. It would certainly not have lasted intact until the next war centenary commemoration. Realising that it needed preservation, villager Alex Mair, already having taken a passionate interest in researching and writing the history of the fallen of Gosfield, took a leading role in gathering together a small group of like-minded people; Isla Gill, Kate Sale, Bob Waters, Steve Sudbury, Nathan Ames-Tull and Dave Ames which became the impromptu 'Gosfield War Memorial Committee'.

Stonemason, Nathan Ames-Tull generously offered to build the new memorial at cost-price and various fund-raising activities were then arranged throughout 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 old wooden commemoration board was repaired and renovated by former Gosfield resident, Dennis Humprey and plans are now underway for it to be placed in an appropriate indoor site.

The dedication ceremony for the new memorial started off in St Catherine's Church and was followed by a procession towards it along Church Road. 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 Cub Scout Monty Ames-Tull in front of a large crowd that included invited guests, VIP's and many 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, served by Maxine and Johanna from the Apple Tree, was then much enjoyed by all.

Gosfield War Memorial Committee would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has supported and helped in any way towards the project. It is a marvellous achievement for our village. The new memorial looks wonderful and I think that we can all be very proud to have contributed towards the building of a very special village monument that will last for many generations to come.

Kate Sale

Gosfield War Memorial Committee



War Memorial Committee: Alex Mair, Steve Sudbury, Kate Sale, Nathan Ames-Tull, Dave Ames Isla Gill and Bob Waters.



The Rev. Rose Braisby of St Catherine's Church



Afternoon tea in the village hall after the parade