

GOSDEN HOUSE

OVER 200 YEARS OF HISTORY

HISTORY TIMELINE

1745...the first ladies' cricket match was played on Gosden Common



1794...John Sparkes—a yeoman who made a fortune through clever property deals—built Gosden House on the site of a mediaeval manor house/farmhouse. His family lived at Gosden until 1890 when his great granddaughter—Mrs Emma Eastwood—built the larger and grander Enton Hall at Milford. They leased out the property for a further 30 years.

ILLUSTRIOUS RESIDENTS



1890...The house was leased to Lady Sitwell, grandmother of eccentric writers, Edith, Osbert and Sacha, whose family are believed to be descendants of the Plantagenet Royal families of France and England and the Scots Macbeths. Accounts of their time at Gosden can be read in various works including *The Scarlet Tree* by Osbert Sitwell

In 1908 it was leased to Stanley Christopherson, a man of great personal charm and an important figure in the City, becoming Chairman of the West Midland bank. His place in history, however, was earned as a Kent Test cricketer and he remained involved in cricket all his life. He was President of the MCC throughout the Second World War.



1919: Gosden House was bought by the trustees of Sidney Stern, Lord Wandsworth to provide education for orphans "with an agricultural background". It was opened as Gosden House School in November 1920 with a roll of 17 children.



Why not be oneself? That is the whole secret of a successful appearance

EDITH SITWELL



SCHOOL TIMELINE

1921: The Home School building (by the side of the fire escape) was built
1923...Junior House was built in the utilitarian style made popular by Lutyens
1938/9: the annexe was built and opened by Lord Horder, the Queen's physician

1928: All older boys left for Lord Wandsworth School for Boys at Long Sutton. Gosden House became a Girls School and Prep School for Boys.



During the war a house on Gosden Common was destroyed by a bomb and there was talk of evacuating the children to Scotland but air raid shelters were built instead - London children were also evacuated here.

1946: the school was closed by the Trustees and sold to Surrey County Council for £50,000.
1947: October 23rd: Gosden House Special Residential School opened with Miss Murray as Headmistress, 2 teachers and 16 girls.

From this date onwards Gosden House School has continued to provide an excellent and caring environment for our children.