

Report to the Parish Council for 2023-24

TYSOE HERITAGE RESEARCH GROUP (THRG)

The THRG has had another fruitful year and continues to trace the origins and development of Tysoe parish and its population from earliest time through to the present. The group's website (www.tysoehistory.org.uk) was launched on 17 June 2023 and demonstrated to a large audience in the Village Hall. The site includes aspects of archaeology, documentation, photographs, videos, digitized books on Tysoe and the results of the group's research. This is a dynamic website which is being supplemented and updated regularly.

Additions over the year have included an analysis of Tysoe's **Churchwardens Presentments to the Bishop** which reviews the internal issues and squabbles that took place in the church in the 17th and 18th centuries. There is also an analysis of Tysoe's **Vestry Book** for the years 1800-1826 which looks at the contemporary population, help given to the poor and local appointments. Another addition has been the story of **Building the Village Hall 1925-1932** which logs the funding, progress and personalities involved in the project. Another new addition **A Warwickshire Life** by Frank Lomas charts the life of one man from Tysoe through the later 19th and early 20th centuries, including his service during the first World War.

The year also saw the anniversary of a major emigration of Tysoe's residents to New Zealand and a presentation was given in the Village Hall on the exact day (December 13th) 150 years after the event. This talk has now also been amplified and is on the website entitled **The Tysoe 36**; it looks at the families, why they left Tysoe, the boat they sailed on, problems on the voyage and the life that greeted them on arrival.

Three physical publications were written during the year: a new short guide to the church and two broadsheets covering 'trails' around the churchyard, one on the geology of the memorial stones and one on lichens. Both 'trails' have been printed as colour broadsheets and will be available to purchase shortly. We expect two further broadsheets to be available in the coming year, one on graffiti in the church and the other on the geology of the memorials in the Sandpits Road cemetery.

Other major research programmes ticking over include further work on field names using data from the Inclosure Act, the Civil War and its effects on Tysoe, investigations into a "Secret Garden" located within the parish, and a record of wells, springs and water heads in the village. The group also intends to undertake a review of the Red Horse depiction on the escarpment in 2025 and is currently making plans. There is also a major academic monograph **The Making of Medieval Tysoe** in the final stages of preparation.

During the year the grave memorials database has proved of great value to Tysoe exiles and those interested in genealogy. External interest has been shown too in Tysoe Wills and in telephone boxes.

The Group is open to all, with or without experience. It currently consists of about a dozen volunteers (including two recent new recruits) who are interested in the origins and development of the Parish of Tysoe through time and who wish to preserve and disseminate the evidence for Tysoe's past and explore a range of research avenues. The group continues to be a Working Party of the Parish Council.

John Hunter for THRG April 2024