

# **TYSOE & DISTRICT RECORD**

**FEBRUARY 2024**

**Issue No: 843**

**Price 50p. Annual Subscription £5**



Bohemian waxwing, a winter visitor from Scandinavia.

Photo: Richard E Photography

**Welcome to our first edition for 2024. This issue includes:**

- **Highlights from the festive season**
- **Reasons to be grateful and how to stay positive**
- **Tysoe Post Office and the Horizon Scandal**
- **Insights into Warwickshire Life**
- **Brian's Bizarre Gadgets . . . And much more!**

## NEW YEAR - WISHING YOU A HAPPY ONE!

We are very blessed in Tysoe to have such a wonderful community to put on events for us all - Tysoe's Christmas Tree Lighting-Up, Christmas carol services and craft fairs, community parties and BINGO! People give freely of their time and talents for the greater good. There are too many individuals to mention by name, but please consider yourselves thanked.

### Oh yes you DID!



We are also fortunate to have a suitable venue, our own Village Hall where we can get together and celebrate – one of the key things missing from a lot of new housing developments. The Treasure Island Panto saw the hall filled with families – and not only villagers – but with laughter, audience participation and a lot of ice cream!

Here's hoping that the Tysoe & District Record will be reporting on many more great community gatherings in the rest of 2024.

Team Record

### THE RECORD TEAM

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Hard copy to Shirley at Orchard House, Back Lane or Carol at 16 Windmill Way.

**March copy deadline - Saturday  
17th February 2024**

## COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

# NEW YEAR 2024

As we embark on the year 2024 many of us will reflect on the past 12 months and could easily feel that there is little to be celebrated and not a lot to look forward to.

Certainly the media constantly bombard us with upsetting news of wars; global warming; natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes etc.; deaths of celebrities; the ongoing pandemic; the cost of living crisis; shootings and stabbings and, not least of all, corrupt politicians.

But taking time to appreciate the positive aspects of life can give us a sense of perspective and help us to be thankful for what we have, rather than what we do not.

We should remember that ordinary people often are amazing – and that although bad things do occur every day, wonderful things also happen - babies are born; lives are saved by our fantastic doctors and nurses; disasters are averted; trees are planted; problems are addressed, albeit not as quickly as we might like; the sun sometimes shines and people care!

Here in Tysoe we are lucky enough to have beautiful scenery, clean air; friendly people and, although our ground is very soggy at the moment, at least we are not flooded out.

I am grateful to the many individuals who put a lot of effort into making life more fun and interesting for us all in this area and I intend to support as many local events as possible, as I know I will benefit from this as much as everyone else.

We should do our best to ensure that individuals realise they are not alone in their struggles and that there is always something to be thankful for, even in difficult circumstances. Being kind to each other is key and we should remember that a smile and a kind word costs nothing, but just might make a difference to how someone feels.

Helen Keayes



## SWINGING INTO CHRISTMAS IN SPECTACTULAR STYLE



What a wonderful way to start the festive celebrations with a selection of favourite Christmas songs accompanied by jazz trumpet, saxophone, guitar, drums, double bass and keyboard. The audience (a full-house both days) was transported to a Winter Wonderland. David Fellows and TADA opened proceedings with a spirited rendition of 'The Most Wonderful Time of The Year' before the appeal went up for a white Christmas with 'Let it Snow', Kate Temple-Brown serenaded us with a sultry version of 'Santa Baby', while Ken Barrington, Tysoe's very-own Santa Claus, sang 'Have yourself a Merry Little Christmas'. All the choral songs were interspersed with jazz numbers by Jazz 59. The musical combination worked a treat! TADA sparkled while Jazz 59 kept everyone's feet tapping throughout. For the matinee Tommo even got to say the: *"Big fat man with the long white beard. He's comin' to town."*

Many congratulations to impresario Steph Howles and the musical directors, Ilona Sekacz and David Freke, to all the choir for putting in the hours of practice and to Paul Dowler and Jazz 59 band for providing the extra swing to proceedings. The concerts raised £1,120 for the Dementia Café.

The Editor



"A Great Big **THANK YOU** to Steph, the TADA Singers and Tysoe residents who supported the Village Hall concerts. Through your generosity we have funds to be able to launch a new community mini-bus service specifically for Tysoe's Dementia Café. Please get in touch if you, or someone you know, can use this service.

Also thanks for supporting our 'Jazz in the Garden' and 'Christmas Craft Fair' earlier this year. The community spirit in Tysoe is both humbling and fantastic! "

Paul & Heather Dowler

## New for 2024 - Transport for Tysoe Dementia Cafe



We know there are people who are unable to attend simply because they don't have any transport

People living with dementia who need a carer for support can attend with a family carer or friend - The mini bus will initially cover Kinton, Oxhill & Tysoe

We are offering this once a month, but if we can prove there is a need, then we will make it more frequent  
This will be a free service -

So If this is of interest to you please get in touch

Phone: Heather & Paul on 01295 688376

Email: [talkdementia.uk@gmail.com](mailto:talkdementia.uk@gmail.com)

Visit: [talkdementia.uk](http://talkdementia.uk)

## MORE TASTY TEMPTATIONS AT TYSOE TEA ROOM!

Little people and grown-ups had great fun icing gingerbread men at Tysoe Tea Room before Christmas. Do join us for **Valentines Day**

**Crafts on Wednesday 14th Feb**

including some heart cookie icing?



We offer a wide range of hot teas and coffees, soft drinks, delicious homemade sandwiches, a variety of cakes, toasted teacakes, scones and other sweet treats. We look forward to seeing you soon.

**Opening times:**

Wed -Sat 9am- 3pm

**For enquiries email:**

[Tysoetearoom@gmail.com](mailto:Tysoetearoom@gmail.com)

**Tysoe Village Stores  
and  
Tea Room**



## NEW YEAR'S EVE BOND PARTY



We count ourselves lucky in Tysoe to have Monica, Jenny and the team at Happy Herefords put on such fabulous events. The latest New Year's Eve celebrations catered for everyone. The burger barn looked spectacular, decked out in all its NYE finery!

The proceedings started with a party for youngsters with dancing, games and much letting off steam! It was followed by a Casino-Vegas-James-Bond themed event for 'grown-ups'. Amazingly Erst Starvo Blofeld came out of hiding to be there with his white cat. In fact there were two Blofelds, although the second one looked to have a white dog instead (the whiskers didn't quite conceal the canine features). Solitaire also put in an appearance but she'd left her tarot cards at home. Oddjob had had an astonishing growth spurt since the filming of *Goldfinger* back in 1964. Meanwhile James Bond was spotted honing his skills at the shooting range (though even he struggled to hit anything with the guns provided), riding the bucking bronco and smooching up to the Gold Lady. The Happy Herefords team came dressed for the part wearing 'Licence to Grill' aprons.

Cocktails abounded while Black Jack was played on the tables and the roulette wheel kept spinning all evening, though no one wept blood as far as we know. Young Rosie, Benji's daughter, sang some Bond theme tunes beautifully, as guests danced and counted their way down to the New Year 2024.

Huge thanks to Happy Herefords for such a wonderful event - '*Nobody Does It Better.*' The whole evening was a *Licence to Thrill*. As you can see some people made more of an effort at fancy dress than others, Oliver!





# HAPPY HEREFORDS



HAPPY  
HEREFORDS

**HERBERTS BURGER BARN**  
**NEW YEARS EVE**  
**CASINO VEGAS JAMES BOND**

CASINO, TABLES & CROWDIERS, BOWE, BULL,  
DANCING WITH CALLER, SHOOTING GALLERY,  
BAR, FOOD, LIVE SINGER & DJ

TICKETS £25 FROM BURGER BARN  
£20 ONLINE INCLUDES FOOD  
LOADED TRIES FROM HAPPY HEREFORDS  
FOOD 8-10PM BARS LATE

CALL OR MESSAGE: 01454 877917/01454 877918  
01454 877919  
www.happyherefords.co.uk



## PRIZE WINNERS IN ST.MARY'S RESTORATION 200 CLUB

# 200

OCTOBER: 1st 153. 2nd 92. 3rd 82. 4th 148.

NOVEMBER: 1st 123. 2nd 98. 3rd 195. 4th 128.

DECEMBER: 1st 116. 2nd 95. 3rd 123. 4th 148.  
5th 14. 6th 175.



The Christmas meeting was a great evening where we entertained ourselves. This year's panto was Snow White performed as a radio play in less than 10 minutes. A special commendation has to be given to Jackie

Thompson for performing as all seven dwarfs. I can't mention all of the artistes or their acts, suffice it to say the standard of performances remained high!

At the Holly Fair and Dementia Cafe Christmas Fair, the WI ladies manned a craft stall and a tombola. From their efforts we were able to donate £50.00 to Crisis at Christmas; £151.95 for Warwickshire Air Ambulance and £50:00 to the Dementia Cafe. Well done to all for their hard work and commitment to raising money for charity.

We look forward to 2024 and our usual varied programme of Speakers. You can read about January's talk on page 12, while February is Tysoe's own Jennie Rake, her illustrated talk is entitled "**A Shetland Journey- not just ponies and knitting.**"

Eileen Mann, WI President

Follow us on Facebook, email [tysoew.i.1917@icloud.com](mailto:tysoew.i.1917@icloud.com) or visit [www.tysoewi.com](http://www.tysoewi.com)



**ST. MARY'S CHURCH TUESDAY MORNING**

**20TH FEBRUARY 2024**

**9am -12 noon - It's FREE!**

Includes *STAY AND PLAY* for mums and tots!

**Message from Rev'd George:** I email out a monthly sheet showing services, events etc. If anyone wants to be added to the list please could they email me their address and I will include them. Email: [revgeorgeh@outlook.com](mailto:revgeorgeh@outlook.com)



## HOLLY TREE FAIR AT ST MARY'S



Merribells handbell band

There was a buzz within the walls of St Mary's church on Saturday 9th December when a dozen stallholders, forty musicians/singers and many villagers paid a visit to the annual Christmas fair.

Jackie Thompson's popular stall supporting Macmillan was able to pass on £400 from the sale of donated goods, Beki Benjamin sold unique gifts and decorations in support of a Ukrainian charity. Festive entertainment was provided by the excellent CCOTS choir conducted by Anna Harcourt and the Merribells handbell band played a selection of seasonal songs and carols. Grateful thanks go to all who supported the fair in so many ways. £1000 was raised to Support Crisis at Christmas.

Jennie Rake



## Come and Sing Candlemas Eucharist

**Saturday, February 3rd**  
**St. Mary's Church, Tysoe.**  
**3.30 pm until 7.00pm.**

**Director: Julian Harris, Organist: Maddy Evans**

If you love to sing you are warmly invited to this beautiful church, to sing and share the Candlemas Eucharist. Rehearsals start at 3.30 pm: all are welcome to join us for the service at 6.00 pm

Nominal fee of £5 including loan of music for the day and refreshments.

If you are coming,  
it is helpful if you could please tell  
Rev'd Jill Tucker, 07973 994800  
[revjill.tucker@btinternet.com](mailto:revjill.tucker@btinternet.com)





## Friday Lunch Club Christmas Party

On Friday 1st December 31 people were served a Christmas lunch of prawn cocktail, turkey with all the trimmings, trifle and/or little ginger puddings with a ginger sauce, tea and coffee with chocolates.



The two Daves, with some help from Jude and Jackie, enacted two of Roald Dahl's Revolting Rhymes to much amusement.

Most months we have 25 or more coming to join us. It is all possible because of the terrific band of helpers - enthusiastic, hard working and willing. We have help at the end too, when the diners put the hall back to rights for us. It's always a happy occasion. *Happy New Year*

Nicola Rexton



## POPPY APPEAL 2023

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this year's Appeal in any way. We raised £2804.32p. Although slightly down on our average take, this figure was not surprising given the cost of living crisis and reduction in cash usage. The good news is the final figure will be better than this. I am still awaiting details from Poppy HQ about card reader and QR code donations. These will hopefully swell our figures to >£3k. If anyone would like to join the collecting team for next year, please let me know (Tel: 01295-680316).

David Sewell



# Tysoe Social Club

Tysoe Social Club thanks all our members and supporters for joining us over the festive period. Christmas Bingo was a roaring success, so much so that we have decided to host three bingo nights in 2024 - look out for upcoming dates online and in print. We have a wealth of entertainment for all this year with some of our favourite bands returning, along with new bookings for the club. As well as **Mystery Prize Bingo Nights**, we have also scheduled popular interactive nights including **Skittles, Quizzes, Race Nights, Darts, Snooker and Domino Tournaments**.

Saturday, 3 February

Quiz Night

Doors Open 7.00pm

Quiz starts 7.30pm

Maximum four people per team - £2.50 a person

Cash prize for winning team



Saturday, 24 February

Live music from 'Get Loose'

Doors Open 7.00pm

Band playing from 9.00pm



Membership is fixed at £10 for the year and payment is being taken now. The club is open to all. Members benefits include discounted drink prices and use of the Snooker & Pool tables - for more information on membership and it's benefits, please come in and see us during **opening hours: Monday - Saturday, 7.00pm - 11.00pm**.

**Please note:** the Village Hall is hosting a private party on 17 February and the Social Club is providing the bar. The Club will be open to all as usual during this event.

## THINK POSITIVE

Tysoe W.I. had the bright idea to invite Jo Small from the Emporium of Positivity to kickstart the New Year. Her talk was about creating a positive mindset. She started by sharing some statistics about NY resolutions. An average of 66% of people make them but only 6% succeed in keeping them for 12 months.

Jo has had a varied career which has seen her deliver life coaching and training from prisons to Executive Boardrooms. Her approach to positivity is not about 'jazz hands' but keeping us steady and anchored. She shared some of her Mindfulness techniques. We are all creatures of habit she told us, but we need to stop relying on auto-pilot and be more aware of what's around us, an example would be to simply wear our watch on the other wrist or put our coat on using the other arm to our usual one.

Jo guided us in an exercise called 3-2-1 where we had to actively listen to 3 sounds, 2 sights and 1 feeling. We followed Jo's lead and listened to our surroundings trying to identify three separate sounds. Most of us heard the hall heating, the chatter from the Social Club and the church bells ringing - all unnoticed before. It was a way of pressing the pause button and checking-in on ourselves.

Another tip was to decide what to put in your suitcase for the year ahead and what to leave behind i.e. regrets. Then decide what to put into your hand luggage so it is always with you. She recommended injecting scent into our lives to bring us joy and not to be too hard on ourselves but speak gently.

Mindfulness and having a positive mindset go a long way to support our enjoyment of life. We all left ready to put Jo's advice into action. As W.I. President Eileen Mann said, "There will be no bananas becoming over ripe in our kitchens...if you want to know the significance of this you must ask Jo!"

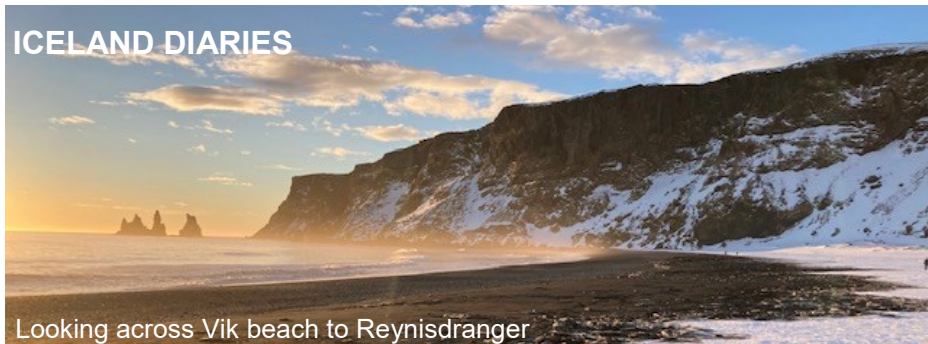
Eileen and The Editor



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Mobile: 7946 440158 [www.positivityemporium.com](http://www.positivityemporium.com)

## ICELAND DIARIES



Looking across Vik beach to Reynisdranger

Whilst most normal people dream of escaping this dreary, wet winter to warmer climates, overlooking azure beaches and golden sands, we got to head north to the appropriately named country of Iceland, where the seas are grey and the 'sand' is a black volcanic ash. Three weeks of house- and kitty-sitting for my step daughter, while she does indeed escape for some much needed R and R somewhere hot and exotic. At this time of year, it is still pitch black at 10am. In fact, we noticed during our early flight to Iceland that as we left Heathrow and admired the sunrise, the further north we travelled, the darker it became, as the sun struggled to keep up with us.

But even in winter, this bleak country is still beautiful. The mountains are smothered in snow, the glaciers frozen in time. In the small town of Vik, which nestles below rugged cliffs on the south coast, snow buntings busy about, squadrons of grey-lagged geese fly overhead, and fulmars perch on cliff ledges, constantly chattering to each other, awaiting the spring arrival of the puffins.

Here, the tap water is pure, mineral-rich, unfiltered glacier spring water. The country is 100% green energy, from hydro or geothermal power sources (not that it is any cheaper. Nothing is cheap in Iceland!). Bizarrely, Iceland is Europe's largest banana producer, and they are self-sufficient in tomatoes.

But most challenging is pronouncing the names of the volcanoes! In 2010 the Eyjafjallajökull grounded flights around Europe. Just before Christmas, the much awaited Fagradalsfjall finally popped, and now we are anticipating Sundhnúkagígaröð, which could be massive, and any time soon. A prize if you can pronounce any of them!

Jackie Keyser

## CHURCH MESSAGE

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (also known as Candlemas) is traditionally celebrated on 2nd February. Luke's Gospel describes two people, Simeon and Anna. Simeon is convinced that he will not die until he has seen the Messiah. Anna is very old, a prophet, who spends all her time in the Temple. They both recognise someone very special in the baby Jesus and Simeon puts it into the words which we know as the Nunc Dimittis, often spoken at funerals: *Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace: your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people; a light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel.*

On **Saturday 3rd February** If you love to sing you are warmly invited to sing and share the Candlemas Eucharist. **Rehearsal starts at 3:30 pm: all are welcome to join us for the service at 6:00 pm.** This year Ash Wednesday is on **14th February**, probably better known as St Valentine's Day. There will be a **service at 7:30pm** to mark the beginning of Lent.

But before we begin the disciplines of Lent, there is Shrove Tuesday - or Pancake Day - an opportunity to use up all the luxuries which will not be needed. Lent is an important time of year for Christians. It reminds us of when Jesus was in the desert for 40 days without food. It was His time of preparation, getting ready for his work of healing and teaching and sharing the Good News; today we use Lent as a time to focus especially upon the presence of God in our own lives.

During Lent we are encouraged to deepen our lives in faith, to hear God's word more frequently and devote more time to prayer. This year Shipston Deanery is again running Tuesday sessions at 2:30pm entitled "Perspectives on the Cross". Our first session will be led by Bishop Ruth on **20th February at St Mary's Church,**

I invite you to be part of our shared Lenten journey towards Easter.

*Revd George Heighton*

Email: [revgeorgeh@outlook.com](mailto:revgeorgeh@outlook.com)

Telephone 01295 680 201



## **BEWARE! ASIAN HORNET - VESPA VELUTINA**



The Asian Hornet is an invasive non-native species from Asia. It arrived in France 12 years ago and has now spread across Europe. As a highly effective predator of insects, including honey bees and other beneficial species, it can cause significant losses to bee colonies, other native species and potentially ecosystems. It has been found and destroyed in Tetbury but it is only a matter of time before it is found in other parts of the UK.

**We must be vigilant!**

### **What to look out for**

Vespa velutina queens are up to 3 cm in length; workers up to 25 mm (slightly smaller than the native European hornet *Vespa crabro*):

- Entirely dark brown or black velvety body, bordered with a fine yellow band
- Only one band on the abdomen: 4th abdominal segment almost entirely yellow/orange
- Legs brown with yellow ends
- Head black with an orange-yellow face
- Vespa velutina is a day flying species which, unlike the European hornet, ceases activity at dusk

The best way to check if you have seen an Asian Hornet is by using the **Asian Hornet Watch**, a specially designed FREE App, which you can download to your phone. It will help you identify and detect this invasive species by recording suspected sightings.

Do not under any circumstances disturb or provoke an active hornets' nest. The British Beekeepers website has instructions on making traps to catch hornets and now is the time to make and hang them outside in sunny, sheltered locations. Visit <https://www.bbka.org.uk/asian-yellow-legged-hornet> for more information.

Irene Beever ( Beekeeper)



## WOT2GROW COMMUNITY ORCHARD

Despite the winter weather the work at the orchard goes on! There is a new team of volunteers who are responsible for looking after the fruit trees. They have already had some training on pruning and have started thinning out old and dead branches in the apple trees.

One unusual tree fruit in the orchard is medlars. These look a bit like big rosehips, as my dad put it when we saw them at Upton House! This unlikely looking fruit can be turned into a beautiful, burgundy-coloured jelly which goes perfectly with cheeses and cold meats. The medlars do not ripen on the tree so have to be left to 'blet' first - which basically means 'turned soft and almost rotten'. Then they are cooked, and the juice strained out before being boiled with sugar until it sets.

Membership is open to all for a small fee, and members get fruit every week during the summer and autumn. Some of the apple varieties also keep well over the winter in a cool shed.

The orchard is next to the allotments on the Shenington Road in Tysoe. Find out more from the contacts below or message us via the website: [www.wot2grow.co.uk](http://www.wot2grow.co.uk) Liz Atkinson (680045), Paul Sayer (680451), Sue and Mike Sanderson (688080)



## WILD BIRDS

The cold weather, lack of insects, and vanishing seeds and berries, mean that wild birds are getting hungry. These may be residents like the blue tits, great tits, goldfinches, house sparrows and green finches feeding in the garden,



Waxwing . Richard Ellis Photography

or more exotic winter visitors such as waxwings, which move southwards when their berry supply runs out.

It's also time for the Big Garden Birdwatch (26-28th January) and you can sign up for more information on the RSPB web site. Over half a million people took part in the Big Garden Birdwatch in 2023, counting 9.1 million birds! House sparrows took first place, but their numbers are down by 57% compared with the first Birdwatch in 1979. In fact, we've lost 38 million birds from UK skies in the last 60 years.

There are several reasons for the overall decline in birds, most of them to do with the way we've been using and developing our land. Certain species have also been affected by specific problems. Indeed it's very pleasing to see that greenfinches appear to be making a come-back after a number of years of high mortality due to a parasite-induced disease. It's not clear why greenfinch numbers have increased, and whether this is part of a positive trend. However, to help stop the disease spreading (it won't have gone away completely), please make sure your bird feeders are kept clean.

Outbreaks of bird flu over the last few years have also been catastrophic for certain species of birds and, for example, the Avon swans were badly affected. More recently, certain colonies of sea birds such as kittiwakes, terns and guillemots have been devastated. In contrast to the past few winters, there is no statutory lockdown of poultry at present, although bird flu outbreaks are still being monitored by Defra. Where an outbreak occurs, disease surveillance and control zones are set up, and poultry keepers are required to take certain precautions.

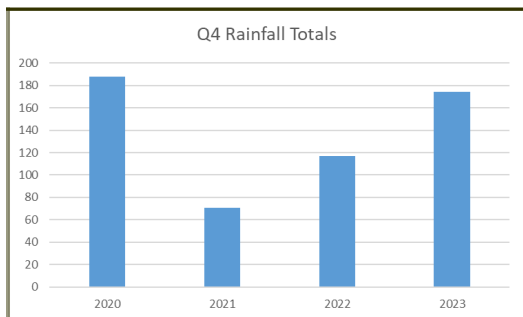
Rosemary Collier

## RAIN, RAIN, EVERYWHERE?

Well we've seen a lot of rain in the last quarter of 2023 and the first few days of 2024. The Avon was at levels last recorded in the 1990s. The RSC cancelled the pantomime performance on January 1st as the Avon burst its banks by the theatre. It seems appropriate (for a number of reasons) to start with a quotation from Twelfth Night:

*'When that I was and a little tiny boy, With hey, ho, the wind and the rain, A foolish thing was but a toy, For the rain it raineth every day ...'*

Climate change and all that, but let's look at some data before we seek explanations. Our own rainfall records go back only to 2020. The graph shows the final quarter rainfall amounts for each of the last 4 years. Interestingly in the 2020 record a higher 3 monthly rainfall occurred.



It is natural to associate high rainfall and flooding. The news and weather forecasts reinforce this relationship. Nature is more complex than this and the relationship is not linear. Flooding occurs when the groundwater or in our

region the soil moisture reaches saturation. The Environment Agency produces Monthly Water Situation reports. When I look at December 2020, the soil saturation as measured by Soil Moisture Deficit in central England was 2mm. In 2023, from October onwards there was no deficit in our region, the fields were saturated. The Avon at Evesham reached its peak flow in 2023 around 31st October. That bellwether indicator of wetness, the Worcester County Cricket Ground flooded again!

Flooding apart what other effects are noted? As the soil is saturated, nutrients (and large quantities of top soil from winter planted crops) are washed out from the fields surrounding rivers. But that is a topic for another day!

Mike Sanderson

## DULUX DECORATOR OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Steph Howles, owner of SHOW HOMES who won the prestigious Dulux decorator of the Year award before Christmas. She triumphed over stiff competition, winning the 'Use of Colour' and 'Exterior Project under £2,499' categories. Her award-winning submissions demonstrated exemplary skill across all aspects of decorating and customer care. From initial colour consultations where she advised on complementary schemes, to flawless prep work, surface repairs and expert final paint and wallpaper finishes, Steph's keen eye for design and dedication to first-class service was evident, producing professional results that left her customers delighted.



"This is my proudest moment of my twenty year decorating career yet," said Steph. "I'm so thankful to the Dulux Select scheme, my team, and clients for helping make this possible."



WHITE HYACINTH CAKE DESIGN

# FEBRUARY OFFERS!



## VALENTINE CUPCAKES



Cupcakes in any flavour (one flavour per 4 cups minimum) with a choice of fresh fruit, heart topper or sprinklers. Box of 4: was £9.60 now **£8**, Box of 6 : was £14.40 now **£12**, Box of 12: was £28.80 now **£24** Offers available for all orders delivered or collected during February.



### New for 2024

I now have a stall at Southam Indoor Market (The Grange Hall) every 3rd Saturday of the month, from 10am-12.30pm. I will be selling cupcakes and brownies. Please do pop along and say hello.

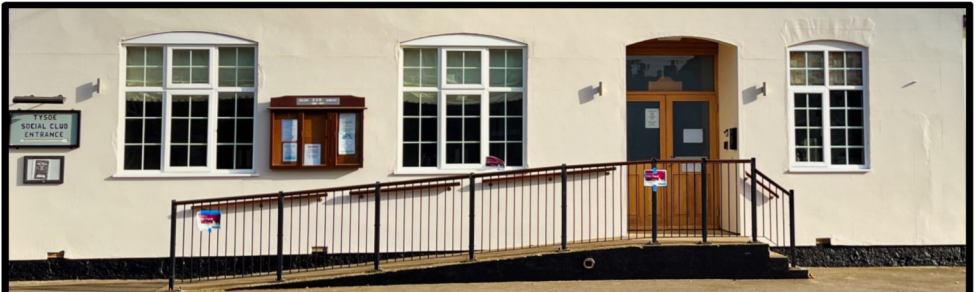


To order Call/email/text: Debra - 07964 339739 /01295  
596583 - [debra@whitehyacinthcakes.co.uk](mailto:debra@whitehyacinthcakes.co.uk)  
Collection from Church Lane, Whatcote CV36 5EF

[www.letterboxbrownies.co.uk](http://www.letterboxbrownies.co.uk)







# TYSOE VILLAGE HALL FILM CLUB



**Tickets - £6.00**

**Available from:**

- The Post Office
- Village Store
- Village Hall website
- At the door on the night

**Come & enjoy:**

- A great film
- Drinks
- Bee & Ridgway's ice cream

**Wednesday 28th February 2024**

**Doors open 7.00pm**

**Screening starts 7.30pm**

**[www.tysoevillagehall.org.uk](http://www.tysoevillagehall.org.uk)**

## **You responded - we listened**

The Village Hall shared a survey for six weeks between 17th November and 5th January to gain feedback, ideas and opinions from users and potential users of the hall.

Conscious to be inclusive in the survey approach and be accessible to all age groups we placed 140 paper copies of the survey across the hall, Post Office, Village Store & Cafe and The Peacock Inn.

To provide digital participation, multiple posts on Tysoe Village Noticeboard and on Oxhill Village Community Facebook pages provided the ability for online completion. We are grateful to Tysoe Primary School and Tysoe Children's Group for sharing details in their parent e-newsletters.

We feel that all village adult age groups were given an opportunity to have their voice. Some feedback from the survey:

- 75 responses were received - approximately 6% of Tysoe adult villagers
- 80% responded online
- Responses varied from highly complementary to borderline offensive
- 73% of responses came from those aged 46+ - even following extensive social media and school advertising
- A wish to see Film Club return - the first film has already shown in the hall
- A wish to see more live music - of a very wide range of genres - more to come here
- A wide range of requests for new clubs and groups - for which the hall actively seeks owners to take forwards
- Over 60% of respondents wanted an option to book and pay for event tickets online - this is now in place
- Many wished for a single location to understand what is on at the hall - hopefully between physical noticeboards, Facebook, the new website and email list we cover 95%+ of the village








To those that took the two minutes to respond and help shape the future of the hall, the committee is grateful. We look forward to welcoming visitors old and new to events, clubs and meetings held at this important village amenity.

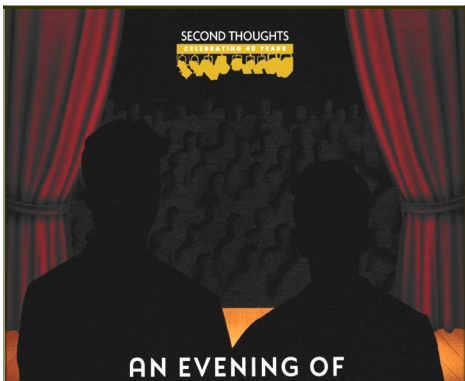
Ben Viollet

**[www.tysoevillagehall.org.uk](http://www.tysoevillagehall.org.uk)**

## FEBRUARY DATES - WHAT'S ON

 	<b>Every Friday</b>	Food caddies waste collection
 	<b>2, 16</b>	<b>Blue &amp; Green</b> bin collection
	<b>16</b>	<b>Black</b> bin collection

	2, 9, 16, 23	<b>Friday</b> <b>10am-12 noon</b>	Tysoe <b>Dementia Café</b> , Village Hall. Please book. Tel: 688376
	<b>2</b>	<b>Friday</b>	Friday Lunch Club, Tysoe Village Hall
	<b>6</b>	<b>Tuesday</b> <b>1.45pm</b>	Mobile library parks up outside the Village Hall.
	<b>12</b>	<b>Monday</b>	Tysoe Parish Council Ordinary Meeting, 7.15 Tysoe Village Hall
	<b>13</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	Pancake day
	<b>14</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	Ash Wednesday / Valentine's Day
	<b>15</b>	<b>Thursday</b> <b>9-12 noon</b>	Coffee morning at St Mary's Church, Stay and Play for mums and tots



SECOND THOUGHTS  
CELEBRATING 40 YEARS


**AN EVENING OF**

# TOM STOPPARD

## The Real Inspector Hound A Separate Peace

21-24 February 2024 at 7.30 pm (Matinee Saturday at 2.30 pm)  
The Bear Pit Theatre, Rother Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6LU

Tickets: **£14 (£12 concession)**  
Tickets from: [www.secondthoughts.org.uk](http://www.secondthoughts.org.uk)



The production of 'The Real Inspector Hound' and 'A Separate Peace' are permitted by arrangement with Corgi Toys Ltd. All other rights reserved. © www.secondthoughts.org.uk

[secondthoughts.org.uk](http://www.secondthoughts.org.uk)

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## NEWS FROM TYSOE CHILDREN'S GROUP



December was a busy month here at Tysoe Children's Group. Firstly we had our annual raffle. We would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who donated and sourced some amazing raffle prizes and also to everyone who purchased a ticket. Together you have helped raise a fantastic £541. All monies will be used to purchase resources for the children who attend the setting to enhance their learning environment.

enhance their learning environment.

The Flames children put on a fantastic nativity performance. The children and staff worked so hard in the weeks leading up to nativity and we want to thank them for all their hard work. A big thank you to all the parents, grandparents who attended and waited patiently outside in the rain. It was lovely to see so many of you there!

### Fundraising

Our fundraising at the Tesco Express in Shipston has now finished and we should hear the results in March. In the meantime thank you so much to everyone who voted for us with their blue tokens.

Please Note that the next collection for our Bag2School will be on Monday 15th April. We are happy to take your bags of unwanted clothing, bags, shoes, curtains, etc, (sorry no bric-a-brac toys or books) this all gets weighed and we are paid according to this weight. Money raised will go into our charity fundraising account to support the children's group with the current fundraising project which is the outdoor environment.

As always we appreciate your support.

Team TCG







Photo taken last December

### Puppy love

Tysoe School has a new arrival, school dog called Sadie, a golden Labrador puppy. We still love Rex and he will still be in school - we hope he can encourage Sadie to behave just as well as he does! Sadie lives with Ms Allister and her family and, much the same as Rex, she will always be supervised and on a lead around the children. The children have welcomed Sadie with much excitement and we hope they enjoy spending time with her.



### Tysoe School had a Pantomime - Oh yes we did!

The children enjoyed a fantastic production of 'Sinbad the Sailor', performed by West Midlands Children's Travelling Theatre during the last week of Autumn Term. There were lots of opportunities for the children to interact with the cast.

## TYSOE'S WASTE TREATMENT WORKS UP-GRADE



Vital upgrades to Severn Trent's Tysoe Waste Treatment Works are on track to help secure the network for years to come. Over time we need to carry out improvements on our treatment sites to protect our assets, and this is what is happening at our waste water treatment site in Tysoe. We are investing to make vital upgrades that will see benefits to the local environment and river. Work has been taking place since July last year and is scheduled to go ahead until summer 2024.

Janine Billington, Severn Trent Community Communications said: "This is a great investment for the local community, as this project will improve the quality of water that leaves the waste treatment work, bringing huge benefits to the local environment and rivers. It's really important that we continue to invest and improve our network and services and this project has the added environmental benefits that we know our customers care about.

"We would like to thank everyone for their patience while this work has been taking place, as we know that this work has meant an increase in traffic, which can be an inconvenience. Our contractors, Galliford Try, are doing all they can to minimise disruption where possible and we will continue to keep residents updated with everything that is going on."

For further information or any questions about the works, visit the Severn Trent 'Planned Improvements' webpage at [www.stw.works](http://www.stw.works) or contact 07766 510 983. If you have a query out of office hours, please contact our 24 hr Customer Contact Centre on 0800 783 44 44.

Severn Trent

## A Heartfelt Thank you from the Lymbery Family

The family of Marc Lymbery would like to extend our most sincere gratitude to all who joined us in celebrating Marc's life and bidding him farewell. The funeral, held on 22nd December, was not just a day of mourning, but also a testament to the wonderful impact Marc had on so many lives.

To those who helped in arranging the services, organising the wake or simply were there to hold a hand, your contributions were invaluable. Your acts of kindness and solidarity have not gone unnoticed and have been a source of great comfort.

Carroll Lymbery

### TYSOE WALLED KITCHEN GARDEN



Many thanks for all the support you gave this year, buying our fruit, vegetables and plants from the trolley at Tysoe Walled Kitchen Garden. This year we have been able to donate the money to Shipston Food Bank, Fosse Food Bank, Carers4carers and Tysoe Children's Group. [www.twkg.co.uk](http://www.twkg.co.uk)



### Carers4Carers monthly meeting at Kineton Village Hall Friday 23rd February 10:30 - 12 noon

Come along for refreshments and the chance to meet with other local carers. Find out about the role of a Social Prescriber and meet the carer champions from Hastings House surgery. Your loved one will be welcome to join our Companionship Group while you attend the meetings.

For more information about our support group for carers, including help with transport, phone Gillian on **07947 893504**, email us at [kcarers4carers@gmail.com](mailto:kcarers4carers@gmail.com) or [carers4carersonthefosse.org.uk](http://carers4carersonthefosse.org.uk)



## **TYSOE POST OFFICE AND THE HORIZON SCANDAL**

The nation has been rocked by the ITV drama “Mr Bates vs the Post Office” in early January. Although this sorry saga has been going on for over 20 years, since the introduction of the faulty Horizon accounting system, the drama has

galvanised the authorities to do something about accelerating justice for the hundreds of sub-postmasters affected. The Tysoe Record met Jacqueline Franklin who took over as sub-postmistress when her mother Lilian Hopkins died in September 2019, to discover how the scandal had affected her.

Horizon arrived in Tysoe in 2000. The problems revolved around reconciling the monthly balances. Three options were given: 1) To make good any shortfall, 2) To settle centrally, 3) To dispute. Jacqui recalls that Lilian used to look back through the cash and stock to check the figures. There were often discrepancies but rather than dispute, Lilian used to make good the shortfall herself. It seems Lillian didn't keep a record of what she “spent” of her own money making good the alleged shortfalls. Jacqui only has figures from November 2017 to September 2019, in just under 2 years Lilian paid thousands to the Post Office, so heaven knows how much money she paid-in before! You would like to think the Horizon system could answer that question, but nobody is holding their breath.

“She used to get upset,” said Jacqui. “She was always supplementing the business from her own pocket.” It is sad that Lilian, who served as our sub-postmistress for 42 years, had to endure such injustice. It is evident that her story has been replicated up and down the country, hence the outpouring of public anger. Now that the Government is rushing through new legislation to accelerate the claims process. Jacqui went on to say that they are still having to use Horizon and discrepancies are still occurring, so the saga continues.

The Editor

## *Help us keep Tysoe special!*



Hi Tysoe,

At our last meeting the Parish Council were discussing next year's budget and from that the Precept. This money is paid to the Parish Council and covers the costs of repairs to street lighting, the electricity charges for street lighting, the upkeep of the play equipment and the mowing and upkeep of all Parish Council owned verges and green areas, which in some cases means hedges and trees. It also pays the Clerk's salary, who is the only employee of the Parish Council. All Councillors are volunteers. know from my viewpoint they do a lot for the village and its residents, by way of taking care of things, which brings me to my point – would anyone, who lives within the parish, like to become a Parish Councillor? Do you have a desire to help ensure that Tysoe continues to be the beautiful village that we all know? If you do, or you would like to know more, please contact David Roache, the Chair of Tysoe Parish Council, on 01295 680309 or email: [david.roache@tysoe.org.uk](mailto:david.roache@tysoe.org.uk). We are currently looking to co-opt another member.

Councillors also looked at planning applications. Recommendations are given in the minutes and planning report which can be found on the parish website [www.tysoe.org.uk](http://www.tysoe.org.uk)

Discussions took place concerning the November village walkabout. It is hoped that someone from WCC Highways will visit the village to speak with some of the Councillors and look at the issues causing concern on our roads and pathways. This will be reported on in February.

Work will also be carried out on the Children's Playground shortly; some repairs are needed to keep it in good condition for the coming Spring!

Best wishes for 2024 to you all!

Charmaine

Tysoe Parish Clerk/RFO

Email: [parish.clerk@tysoe.org.uk](mailto:parish.clerk@tysoe.org.uk)



## THE MAKING OF TYSOE: GRAVE TALES FROM THE CHURCHYARD

This month we shall look at a specifically Christian image on our gravestones, the Cross. This sign would seem to be an obvious

image for Christian burial markers but it was absent from protestant headstones in our area for more than two centuries. The reason was the anathema against “idolatry” and “popish” expressions which accompanied the 16th-century reformation in England, resulting in the wholesale destruction of medieval religious artefacts. Catholics were banned from many walks of life and risked persecution during the period, and the open display of signs of catholic sympathies could be dangerous. This relaxed gradually towards the end of the 18th century, culminating in the passing of the Roman Catholic Relief Act in 1829. This new tolerance coincided with an Anglican religious revival and a renewed enthusiasm for medieval art and architecture which began to value the environment of the “traditional” celebration of Christian rituals. After centuries of being a virtually invisible sign, within a few decades the cross became an almost ubiquitous grave marker. Our earliest dated churchyard crosses are two on Memorial 407 to Edmund Walker d. 1847, a headstone situated just north west of the tower. The crosses are very discreet, being confined to small decorative roundels as part of the border of the text panel. More prominent are thistles signifying sorrows on earth, and a half-draped urn, which symbolises the promise of eternal life.



Detail from the gravestone below



There is an earlier memorial displaying a cross inside the church on the wall of the south aisle. It commemorates the Ward family and dates from early 18th century (Memorial 505). The Wards were a prominent catholic family and their interments are marked with a cross, even within the parish church.

David Freke

## A WARWICKSHIRE LIFE BY FRANK LOMAS

James Francis (Frank) Lomas was born in Tredington in 1890, and moved to the house now known as Chamfered End in Tysoe with his family at about the age of two years.

In later life, he wrote down recollections of his life for his grandson, Alan. Alan says “It is, of course, something that I treasure. His writing offers a glimpse of life in rural Warwickshire during the latter part of

the 19th Century and much of the 20th Century. He was of the generation who fought during World War One and some of his experiences of that time are also included.”

Frank’s notebooks have now been transcribed and the resulting document, with some additional illustrations, uploaded to the THRG website (<https://tysoehistory.org.uk/>) – it can be found beneath the Village History menu option. Our thanks must go to Alan for sharing this valuable village resource with us all.

Carol Clark



## BRIAN’S BIZARRE GADGETS

**NEW for 2024** - We are going to feature some weird and wonderful gadgets, courtesy of Brian Temple-Brown (B-T-B), who has an amazing collection from yesteryear.

**Item number one** - what is it?

1. A bird scarer
2. A primitive torch
3. A toaster



Answer on page 41.

# Pet Portraits

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## IN PRAISE OF PETS

*Dogs are our link to Paradise  
They don't know evil or jealousy or discontent  
To sit with a dog on a hillside on a glorious afternoon is to be  
back in Eden  
Where doing nothing was not boring – it was peace.*

The words of the late Milan Kundera a Czech novelist exiled in France, best known for the novel and film 'The unbearable lightness of being' – about two women, two men and a dog in 1968 Prague.

From the bird man of Alcatraz (Robert Stroud) with his feathered friends to little old ladies with their cats or canaries, people with guide dogs, people with helping dogs, children with rabbits and hamsters, enthusiasts with racing pigeons, keepers of fish and reptiles, lovers of horses and those who just obtain pleasure from their ownership, pets have been a source of solace, enjoyment and happiness for generations.

Research has revealed that pets and caring for them can reduce stress, anxiety and depression, ease loneliness, encourage exercise and playfulness and even improve cardiovascular health. Caring for a pet can help children grow up more secure and active. Pets also provide valuable companionship for older adults and those who live alone.

Pleasure can also be gained from determining what type of pet it would be most rewarding to care for. Research into feeding and suitable habitation is essential and also thought must be given to expenditure on food and possible veterinary treatment..

The decision to give any type of pet a home is a responsible one not to be taken lightly, but the enjoyment and satisfaction to be gained from their successful care is a rewarding and deeply satisfying one.

Phil Walker

Editor's note: The Record would like to hear from any Readers who wish to celebrate their pet ownership, email: [tysoerecord@gmail.com](mailto:tysoerecord@gmail.com)



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**UP TO  
DATE**

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**THE CHALLENGES OF WINTER TENNIS!**

If the very mention of “tennis” produces images of players in pristine white, enjoying rallies under a cloudless sky with the clink of glasses as spectators enjoy a Pimms and Lemonade, then think again! Our hardy members of Tysoe Tennis Club have embarked upon the winter season with enthusiasm and determination, despite the awful weather, in two separate league campaigns.

The ladies play in the Stratford and District Leagues, with the A team in Division 5 and the B team in Division 7. Arranging matches has been a challenge with fixtures being called off thanks to the efforts of storms Babet and Henk, the latter proving very challenging! Indeed, one of our opponents, the prestigious Warwick Boat Club is still not back playing on their courts after the damage to their riverside club.

Team	Won	Lost	Draw
Ladies A	1	2	
Ladies B	1	1	3
Mixed A	1		1
Mixed B	1		

Players have had to contend with very high winds in some matches, which makes throwing the ball up to serve a skill in itself; while in the last few weeks beautiful, cold, crisp sunny winter days have replaced the gales

but brought their own challenge of very low winter sun. If anyone has watched any of the action and thought they saw players swatting imaginary flies, it was attempts to guess where the ball was whilst squinting in the sun!

Our last few matches have also included league match debuts for two of our student members, Max Lloyd Thomas and Joel Wyatt. They both put in very credible performances and hopefully they can make many more future appearances as part of the team.

We have a vibrant junior and student membership, and hopefully more of those members, like Joel and Max can play for the teams going forward. As always all matches are played in a very good spirit, and everyone is enjoying the post Christmas cardio!

Colin Wilson

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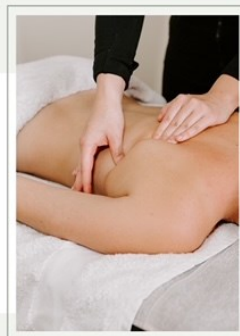
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### **Mondays**

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- 10.15 - 11.00 - Mobility & Core Pilates at Oxhill Barns, Oxhill
- 18.15-19.15 - Mobility & Deep Stretch at Tysoe Village Hall

### **Wednesdays**

- 9.15-10.10 - Pilates for Improvers
- 10.20-11.15 - The Pilates Practice at Oxhill Barns, Oxhill

### **Thursdays**

- 9.15-10.15 - The Pilates Practice at Sherington Village Hall

**Saturdays**  
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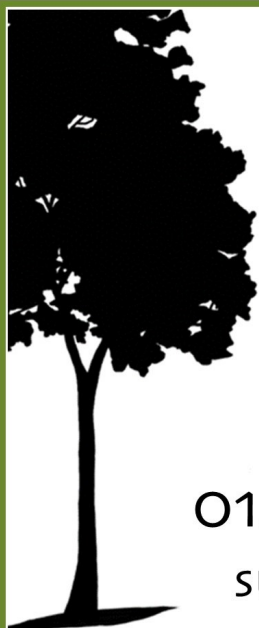
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For more information about our services, to view our funeral announcements and online donations, please visit

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<b>TYSOE PHONE BOOK</b>		
District Councillor	Malcolm Littlewood	07514 951 174
Lunch Club	Marion 680 584	Nicola 680 058
NGS Open Gardens	Julia Sewell	01295 680 234
Parish Clerk	Charmaine Swift	parish.clerk@tysoe.org.uk
Police, Safer Neighbourhood Team, Shipston		01789 444 670
Poppy Appeal	David Sewell	01295 680316
Post Office	Jacqui Franklin	07816 403798
Shipston Link	David Sewell	01295 680 316
St Mary's Church	Rev'd George Heighton	01295 680 201
Talk Dementia	Paul Dowler	01295 688 376
Tennis Club	Carol Spencer	01295 680 659
Tysoe CofE Primary School	Paige Allister	01295 680 244
Tysoe Children's Group	Yvonne Dillon	01295 680 624
Tysoe Bowls Club	Phil Short	01295 680 732
Tysoe Flower Show	Steve Allen	07808 633 155
Tysoe History Research Group (THRG)		thrginfo@gmail.com
Tysoe Social Club		01295 680 627
Tysoe Surgery	Dr Raj Kanwar	01295 680 220
Tysoe Utility Trust Grants	Yvonne Dillon	01295 680 567
Tysoe United FC	Steve Allen	07808 633 155
Tysoe Wildlife	Rosemary 01295 680 127	Shirley 680 793
Village Hall Bookings	Jacqueline Franklin	07816 403798
Warwickshire County Cllor	Chris Mills	07966 133607
Women's Institute	Christine Harrop	01295 780 765
WOT2 Grow Orchard	Miranda Forrester	01295 680 265

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