

MAY 2022
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The Dream Team from the Children's Pudding Party

#TysoeSupportsUkraine

In our May Issue we are focusing on farming:

- **Read our editorial about 'Feeding the World' and find out why**
- **'Farming is Complicated' from our very own Farming Forum**
- **#TysoeSupportsUkraine - Pudding Party Fundraiser Results**
- **Learn what it takes to become a highly skilled Blacksmith**

WELCOME TO THE MERRY MONTH OF MAY

Hello everyone

Isn't May a wonderful time of year with birds singing, cattle grazing in the fields, lambs gamboling (*unlike the card sharps in Josh's cartoon!*) and crops gently swaying in the breeze? It seems everything is right with the world. If only that were true . . .How lucky we are to live in Tysoe!



In our editorial we look at the complexities of farming in the context of world events and the Record spoke to a forum of farmers to find out their views. We report on the various initiatives for



#TysoeSupportsUkraine - see 'proof' of the Pudding Party fundraiser on (p6-7) and read about Fred Price's recent trip to Poland (p25) where he saw the refugee crisis first-hand. Our village should look a picture in yellow this summer with all the seeds from **Tysoe's Sunflower Growing Competition**.

Included in this month's issue is a programme for **The Queen's Platinum Jubilee** - *an occasion to remember!*

Team Record

FEEDING THE WORLD

Tysoe sits at the very heart of a farming community. We are surrounded by sheep and cattle grazing and crops growing in the fields. Agricultural land covers 70% of Warwickshire. Farming faces many challenges. It has always been a case of supply and demand, but the trilogy of Brexit, Covid-19 and now the war in Ukraine has compounded that complexity. As if this wasn't enough, the requirements of climate change and the stewardship of the rural environment and its wildlife has made a challenging job even harder.

The war in Ukraine has brought the issue of food security into sharp focus. Ukraine is a massive exporter of cereal crops such as wheat, maize and barley. It is also the biggest exporter of sunflower oil, accounting for almost half the global total. Its agriculture helps to feed the world, or at least it did before Putin decided to invade.

Ukrainian farmers are now struggling to tend the crops in the fields as many have been conscripted to fight in the conflict. Previously the country could ship 30,000 tonnes of corn a day out of Odesa but now the ports are closed, consequently prices for grain are sky-rocketing. Countries such as Jordan, Egypt and Somalia depend on these imports. The threat of global malnutrition is very real and this will compound the problems in a volatile part of the world.

What is the picture in the UK? Back in the 1980s UK farmers supplied 83% of our food consumption, now that figure is 60%. Our population has grown by more than 11 million since I left school in 1979, which is more than the population of another Greater London. Like many other parts of the world we are increasingly reliant on imports to make up the difference, so global demand will push prices even higher, on top of escalating energy costs.

Our farmers produce some of the highest quality food in the world, and they take great pride in their produce. With the growing forces of change that drive up complexity as well as prices, their role in our countryside is as important as ever. As well as producing our food we are reliant on them to mitigate some of the effects of climate change. So how does Tysoe fit into this global situation? We can't solve all of the world's problems, but we can make good choices to eat local and seasonal produce and limit our carbon footprint. There is a new balance to be struck, almost turning the clock back to how our grandparents lived, now there's a thought!

The Record sat down with a panel of local farmers to hear first-hand the challenges they face – see page 4

The Editor

FARMING - NOW WITH ADDED COMPLEXITY

The Record spoke with a forum of local farmers to hear their views about the issues facing farming. It included: Mark Meadows, chair of NFU Warwickshire, and his wife Emily, Tom and Elizabeth Newbery from Highfield Farm, Honington, together with Geoff and Jane Ridgway from Downs Farm.

Mark Meadows gave this overview; “First it was Brexit, then Covid upset supply chains, which combined with weather issues led to fluctuating prices for fertiliser and fuel. In January, before the war in Ukraine, prices were already on a high, then Putin invaded in February which set them off again. A year ago, you could buy fertiliser for £250 a tonne, then it went up to £600 and now it’s at £900,” said Mark. “Those are changes that you simply can’t budget for and it is likely that farmers will have to use less inputs. On the upside, if you still have grain left to sell, the price has gone up from £230 (we thought a peak), to over £300.” What we don’t know is what the increasing prices will do to demand in the medium to long term, so yet more uncertainty.

The forum said that profit margins are likely to remain similar, but price inflation means that farms will be turning over twice as much cash i.e. bigger bank overdrafts and more interest payments. It has always been a gamble judging the right time to buy and sell, but the added costs mean higher risk and more worry for farmers.

Over and above the geo-politics and economics, there is the pressing issue of climate change when everyone is trying to get to net zero by 2040. The whole financing system for farmers is in transition with reducing payments every year until 2027 when there will be no government subsidies, instead there will be support for the environment with Sustainable Farming Incentives (SFIs) coming out in June.

It is an extraordinary and unprecedented time for farmers, added to which the war in Ukraine means there is more focus on our own food security. It is hardly surprising that farmers feel under pressure to do more with less and are beset by uncertainty. We live in increasingly uncertain times.

WARWICKSHIRE RURAL HUB

Warwickshire Rural Hub is a business support organisation led by farm and rural businesses in Warwickshire and Solihull. It was established in 2003 by a



group of farmers who wanted to take control of their own destiny and it now has a membership of over 1200 businesses. Membership is free of charge and all activities are funded by a charitable trust, business supporters and business partnerships. Members receive a monthly E-newsletter and access to Hub events on a variety of subjects such as: rural planning advice, pond creation and management, accessing biodiversity offsetting funding, managing farm woodland, new technology in farming, and funding available for farm diversification.

The Warwickshire Rural Hub also supports three sustainable farming groups in Warwickshire – the Arden Farm Wildlife Network, founded in 2018, and two new groups, one covering the Upper Avon and Leam Catchment, and the other, south Warwickshire. The three sustainable farming groups are farmer-led and

- support on-farm environmental work
- increase farmer knowledge to allow them to manage habitats to the best of their abilities
- help farmers access further funding to engage in landscape scale conservation projects e.g. hay meadow restoration.
- help farmers with the transition of phasing out of BPS and into ELMS
- support farmers with contributing to the target of achieving net zero agriculture
- offer one stop shop signposting to advice and funding available for the environment

By operating at a landscape scale, the farming groups can deliver multi-environment benefits including biodiversity net gain, healthier soils, improved water quality and profitable sustainable farming. Regular events are organised for members.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Rural Hub there are further details on the website: **About Us - Warwickshire Rural Hub** or contact Jane Hampson, Co-ordinator, on info@ruralhub.org.uk or call 07780 159291.

420 PUDDINGS!

Almost 70 children, accompanied by parents, aunts and grandparents all gathered for the recent **Children's Pudding**

Party Fund-Raiser in the Happy Herefords Barn.

And what a day it turned out to be.

Our aim was to raise money for the Animal Rescue Groups working inside Ukraine. Groups risking their lives, to help starving, frightened and abandoned animals.

Following an introduction by Beverley Cressman, each child had the experience of six puddings and were asked to vote for their favourite.

Puddings on the menu were:
Colours of Ukraine Ice Cream & Jelly (donated by Marzena and Ridgeways Ice Cream)
Dirt Pie (Jo and Erin Small)
Citrus Cheesecake (Liz Bell)
Treacle Crunch (Jackie Keyser)
Easter Mess (Lucie Wellburn)
Cake Pops (Lucy Willcock)



Beki Benjamin handing out the Easter Mess.



Liz Bell with her Citrus Cheesecake.



Happy pudding eaters!



The girls showing off their Cake Pops.

Halfway through the pudding extravaganza, we took a short break to decorate biscuits, (generously donated by Emily Pearson at Baking Memories). Most were eaten before the icing had time to set!



Throughout the afternoon, the children enjoyed tombola, teddy pairs, a lucky dip, two raffles, guess the name of the rabbit (kindly donated by Jan at the Peacock Pub), and face painting, courtesy of Jane Ellis. Music was supplied by Becky Gittus.

I would personally like to say thank you to everyone that made cakes, donated or gave their time for this fabulous event and to all the businesses - White Hyacinth Cakes, Catering Angel, Happy Herefords, St Mary's Church, Tysoe Post Office, Baking Memories, Tysoe School, The Peacock Pub, Tysoe Stores, Winchcombe Farm, Shipston Rotary....the list goes on and I apologise in advance for anyone I have forgotten to mention.



Finally, a huge well done to the team: Jo Small, Jennifer Randerson, Jackie Keyser, Beverley Cressman and Jacqui Franklin. We have now raised . . .



A WHOPPING
£1,202
MANY CONGRATULATIONS

And in case you were wonderingthe children's favourite pudding was Lucy Willcock's amazing Cake Pops!



Beki Benjamin



Radway Grange Open Gardens

Saturday 14 & Sunday 15 May 2022
2.00pm - 5.00pm each day

Proceeds to be donated to the
Radway playground project

£5 per person, free entry for under 10 years

Tickets can be pre-purchased from:
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or scan the QR code below

Limited number of tickets available
Cash only event on the day
Search for Radway Village Community
on Facebook to find out more



AMUSING PLANT NAMES

John Hunter's April Fool made me think of other amusing plant names which occur for a variety of reasons: either because the Latin or Greek by which they are known has different connotations for us, or the common name relates to the properties of the plant either in English or other languages or because the nurserymen has a similar sense of humour to John's. There is one other category whereby the common name relates to the look of the plant, as you may imagine the similarity is always in comparison to body parts so I'll leave you to research those for yourselves!

Maybe the **Lawyer's Cap mushroom** can be mentioned but probably **Mother-in-Law's tongue** is no longer PC – it's tongue shaped but with very sharp edges.

Sneezewort and **lungwort** are two relating to their old medicinal use, we get the name dandelion from the French, dent-de-lion (Lion's tooth) but they call it pissenlit (wet-the-bed) because the leaves are a diuretic. The new craze for foraging may encourage picking the young leaves which are good in salads but maybe not too many of them!

Onoropodium, the Scotch thistle, gets it's Greek name from the fact that donkeys love eating it but it gives them very smelly wind.

A plant may be considered so beautiful that it earns the Latin name superb which is fine when it follows the feminine as in **Persicaria superba** not so much following the neutral as in **Polygonum** where the suffix **superbum** is more likely to make you think of someone spending all their time at the gym. **Silybum marianum**, the milk thistle, on the other hand is from the Greek and just means tuft or tassel which describes the flower.

There is a lovely celandine which was named by the late, great gardener Christopher Lloyd, it has the normal bright yellow flowers but dark bronze almost black leaves so he decided it just had to be '**Brazen Hussy**'. Other plant finders/nurserymen have named plants after Sherlock Holmes, Darth Vader, Oscar the Grouch & Smaug the dragon.

Botanical names aren't so dry and dusty after all!

Christine Duke

Thomas Fox

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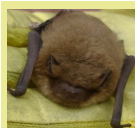
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Next Wildlife Event: BAT NIGHT in St Mary's Churchyard
Saturday, 28th May – 9.30 pm start, refreshments in the
Church from 9 pm. Join us for some thrilling bat detecting!

MAKING SPACE FOR NATURE IN TYSOE

What a difference a month makes, the trees are bursting into leaf and the first swallows were spotted in Tysoe around 11th April. The warm Easter weekend brought out several species of butterfly: small white, large white, peacock, small tortoiseshell, orange tip, brimstone and holly blue. The foodplants for these species are diverse and include plants such as nettles and garlic mustard. There are also plenty of ladybirds about and various species of wild bee.

The yellow rattle seedlings in the wildflower areas in the churchyard and School Lane are continuing to grow and the annual wildflowers sown in a small area at the end of the churchyard have germinated and will hopefully produce a colourful display of 'cornfield' flowers. 'No Mow May' is imminent and it will be interesting to see the diversity of insects which feed on the low-growing flowers that will appear.

The results of January's Big Garden Birdwatch came out in April and house sparrows were again 'top of the flocks'. However, if you look at the long-term trends shown in the RSPB's top-ten table, house sparrows, starlings, blackbirds, robins and chaffinches have all declined considerably in number since 1979.

2022 rank	Bird	Number of birds seen	2021 rank	Long term trend
1	house sparrow	1,778,764	— 1	↓ Down 57.9% since 1979
2	blue tit	1,178,156	— 2	↑ Up 14.3% since 1979
3	starling	1,162,553	— 3	↓ Down 81.7% since 1979
4	woodpigeon	1,041,709	↑ 5	↑ Up 1132.8% since 1979
5	blackbird	958,917	↓ 4	↓ Down 43.3% since 1979
6	robin	622,493	— 6	↓ Down 26.3% since 1979
7	goldfinch	591,129	↑ 8	↑ Up 18.3% over the last decade*
8	great tit	587,024	↓ 7	↑ Up 54.4% since 1979
9	magpie	527,125	— 9	↑ Up 212.0% since 1979
10	chaffinch	402,236	↑ 11	↓ Down 68.3% since 1979

Upton Tree Update - after being forced to fell many of the trees on Sunrising Hill due to ash dieback, the Upton Estate team have recently planted nearly 7,000 trees/shrubs, with more to follow. These include oak, lime, cherry and hazel, together with a mixture of woody shrubs.

Rosemary Collier

NEW BEGINNINGS

An exciting exhibition of expressive
paintings by Nigel Fletcher

SWALCLIFFE VILLAGE HALL

14th to 30th May
10am to 5pm each day

Greeting cards
Homemade cakes, Teas

www.nigelfletcher.co.uk

DAMARIS BIDS FAREWELL



"This photo is taken on my last trip to Banbury on the 11 o'clock bus on Friday with Ray Burrows and Pete Gubbins, (sandwiched between Mr Van Hegan and Dorren Randerson).....a bit like last of the "Summer wine"! They have been my bus companions for the last four years after giving up driving.

My husband Michael and I left Tysoe on 1st March after 25 years. He was Church Treasurer for 16 years and I was involved with the Church Restoration Fund. We hope the Village will welcome the new owner of Laurel House, Lucy and Hughie Miles."



Damaris Appleton



April's speaker, Jo Carter, gave us a very entertaining and informative talk about the life and work of the fashion design icon Laura Ashley. We were very pleased to learn that Laura had worked as a secretary for the Women's Institute Head Office in London in the early 1950s. Here Laura undertook some development work for the WI on quilting. Revisiting the craft she had learnt with her grandmother, she began designing headscarves, napkins, table mats and tea-towels which her husband, Bernard, printed on a machine he had designed in their attic flat. Thus, with the inspiration gained from the WI the brand, Laura Ashley was started!

Members had brought some of their Laura Ashley garments to display and much admiration and not a little envy was shown to Jane Kaye's black velvet, full length evening cloak...worn to many a ball we suspect!

Next month we welcome John and Carol Matthews speaking on Vintage Tools, to be held at an alternative venue as the Village Hall is closed for repairs, see our [Facebook page for updates](#). Email tysoew.i.1917@icloud.com. Website currently unavailable.

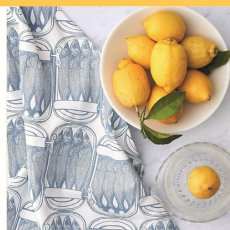
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9.00AM – 12 NOON

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WOT2Grow COMMUNITY ORCHARD

A wonderful Easter tide spell of weather made such a difference to the countryside and the orchard. The early blossom of the stone fruit, plums and damsons etc, gave way to some amazing cherry and pear displays and even some very early apple blossom.

Bright Future is a coxes apple derivative and was the first to come into full bloom along with the dandelions! Although the birds get the cherries every year the beauty of their blossom is a consolation and so long as the late frosts are not too hard there might get some to eat this year.



English Cherry Blossom

The perry pears in particular have been a cloud of pure white blossom along with the four varieties of eating pears. And the cider apples are showing wonderful buds along with the Merton Worcester apples which are also an early variety. The rest are yet to come.



Cider Apple Tom Putt

Mowing has started and the members have been busy with the soft fruit by pruning, edging the rows and clearing weeds. There are currants, raspberries, blueberries, and gooseberries which all needed attention during the busy Spring time with weather allowing.

If you would like to help then do get in touch – use the contact numbers below or message us via the web site. The Community Orchard is just behind the allotments on the Shenington Road in Tysoe. Liz Atkinson (680045), Paul Sayer (680451), Sue and Mike Sanderson (688080)

www.wot2grow.co.uk

Carers4Carers monthly meeting Friday 27th May 10.30–12 noon

Kineton Village Hall. Join us for coffee, biscuits and friendly chat. We are offering both carers and companions a short Tai Chi 'taster' session. It is a great way to relax and can be done sitting down. Your loved ones can attend our Companionship Group. Pre-booking is essential.

For help with transport or volunteering with us, phone Gillian on 07947 893504, email kcarers4carers@gmail.com



CELEBRATING CRAFT OF THE BLACKSMITH

Blacksmiths shape and join metal by heating it in a forge until it is soft and workable. They then hammer, bend and cut the metal into shape before it cools again. There used to be many blacksmiths in Tysoe making agricultural tools, furniture, shoeing horses, repairing carts, etc. Our local blacksmith, Birdy, lives in Tysoe but works in Brailes.

Becoming a blacksmith

“It takes a long time to become a blacksmith and you never ever stop learning,” says Birdy.

He started learning his trade, aged 18, working with a blacksmith in Little Kinton. He taught himself forge work, then attended Stratford College (part-time over 5 years) where he learnt about metallurgy, pattern development and welding. His efforts were rewarded when he won the ‘Best Student of the Year’ trophy.

Playing with fire

The forge burns coke. It used to be powered by hand-operated bellows, but now uses an electric air blast fan which raises the temperature in the forge to about 1100 degrees, hot enough to melt the steel. The Record was offered photos of the ‘Naked Blacksmith’ but we declined as weren’t sure if our censors would allow!



Birdy heats the steel to a workable temperature to make it easier to bend (working without gloves), then shapes it skilfully on the anvil. There was a great sound of the hammer striking the anvil.



Blacksmithing revival

TV programmes like *The Repair Shop* help people to appreciate quality craftsmanship and encourages them to restore family heirlooms and prized possessions. Birdy loves working on restoration projects which cover a vast range in size and complexity, from re-hanging the Sanctus bell at St Mary's Church, to repairing a grandfather's much loved spade.



An artist in iron

Birdy loves producing designs where he can give his imagination free-rein. He often sells his wares at craft fairs. Typical commissions include railings, fire grates, candlesticks and gates.



Training apprentices

Birdy has trained apprentices in the past. Adam Blockley from Kineton was an exceptionally good apprentice and has been commissioned by Warwick Castle and Stratford Armoury to make armour, as well as making helmets and breastplates for the Sealed Knot. Nowadays health and safety requirements and limited government grants mean taking on apprentices is no longer viable.

History of the Brailes forge

The forge dates back to at least 1650s. Records show that the then blacksmith borrowed money to build the house next door. Earlier records kept at the church were destroyed by the Cavaliers who came through Brailes in the Civil War, so the forge may even be earlier.



If you want to find out more, call Birdy on 07837 827119 or visit: www.birdyblacksmith.co.uk (Photos taken at the forge: Roland Cherry.)

RACING CAR REVIVAL



Dad in the car in 1963

In 1962, my late father commissioned a racing car for an attempt on the national hillclimb championship. Two years later, the car was burnt out in a garage fire in our garden. The remains were given to a motor trade apprentice who was helping my father with a Jaguar engined racing car, Denis Bissell.

In 2012, Denis contacted me and invited me to see the car at his home. He had been re-building it for the last 47 years and claimed it would soon be finished. In 2018, it was working, and after a short testing session, I raced the car at Prescott Hillclimb, actually winning my class. I described it as "The most dangerous car I'd ever driven" and swore I'd never race it again. I recommended some serious changes to the steering and suspension, some of which Denis made and he told me it was much better.

A few weeks ago, I discovered the car was up for sale. Denis, who is even older than me, was moving house and he had no room for the car. With two racing cars to my name, I really couldn't justify buying a third, but I liked the idea of improving that car enough for me to race again in it. My elder brother Peter thought it a plausible idea, and he bought the car on the basis that he didn't want to be involved with it, and that I could race it if I was brave enough. The deal being that we would share any profit if the car was eventually sold.

So I now have a third racing car in my garage. Thank goodness it is tiny, and I've started the work to make it less dangerous, and hope to be racing it again in October.

Jeremy Rivers-Fletcher



Me in the same car going to the start line at Prescott hillclimb over 50 years later.

THE FINAL SERVICE IN THE METHODIST CHAPEL



On Sunday 3rd April 2022 at 3pm the final service at the Methodist Chapel took place. A packed congregation of 150 attended from the local Methodist circuit, St Mary's church and local

Methodist families. Rev Dr Iain Ballard led the service, while Revd Richard Wilde gave the sermon.

Other contributions to this very special service included: a scripture reading by Revd George Heighton, memories of the chapel shared by Mrs Sue Hancox, with prayers of Intercession led by Mrs J Shepherd.

Thanks go to Sue, Beth, Catherine for decorating the church and to Mr T Pethick for his stewarding. Lastly a big thank you to all who helped with refreshments in the village hall afterwards. We were grateful to receive messages from all those unable to attend. Although this was an emotional and sad ending, it was an uplifting service of thanksgiving - TO GOD BE THE GLORY.

Chris Gibbs

THERE IS LIFE AFTER WORK!

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Tea Coffee and biscuits**

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**Also find us on Facebook
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MAY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

	Monday	2	EARLY MAY BANK HOLIDAY yippee!
	Tuesday	3, 17, 31	Black bin collection 10am
	Every Friday	6, 13, 20, 27	10am-12 TYSOE DEMENTIA CAFE at the Reading Rooms. No need to book.
	Monday	9	Parish Council Ordinary Meeting, 7.15 in the Reading Rooms
	Tuesday	10, 24	Blue & green bin collection
	Tuesday	10	Mobile library 1.45pm, parks up outside the Village Hall.
	Thursday	12	Parish Council Annual Assembly in the Reading Rooms



TIMELY ADVICE ABOUT HONEY BEE SWARMS

By Douglas Nethercleft

A honeybee colony swarming is a natural process. It is the colony reproducing by the old queen leaving with some of the bees. They leave their feral nest or beehive and find somewhere nearby to hang in a cluster until the scout bees decide on their new home.

Most swarms occur on warm sunny days in May to the end of July between 11am and 4pm. Often there is a peak on a fine day after poor weather. A honeybee swarm can be dramatic involving many thousands of bees in a large noisy cloud.

Once moved to their new home in a chimney or building the bees will be almost impossible to remove. Best advice is to leave them alone as they won't cause any damage. If you see a swarm cluster visit <https://www.bbka.org.uk/honeybee-swarms>

Shipston Beekeepers' swarm coordinator is
Mike Cherry - 07976 316063



KINETON ART GROUP PREPARES FOR THE MAY SHOW



Kineton Art
Group



Kineton Art Exhibition of new and original paintings, art browsers, giclee prints and greetings cards will open from **10am-5pm on Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th May in Kineton Village Hall**. Be entertained by piano playing while you view the art and enjoy a good tea!

If you would like to join KAG, further details of the group's activities can be found at:

www.kinetonartgroup.com

Tysoe NGS Open Gardens

Open on Saturday 16 July 2 - 6pm

Garden Cottage & Walled Kitchen Garden
Kernel Cottage 5 Avon Avenue

Combined entry £6 Children free
Homemade Teas & Plants at Garden Cottage
Pre-booking available at ngs.org.uk



A VIEW FROM THE VICARAGE - MAY 2022



The whole month of May is in the Easter season this year so I can still wish you a 'Happy Easter'. It's the season to celebrate life and new beginnings. The chocolate eggs may have been polished off and Easter Holidays in the dim and distant past but, as we learn in our schools, the Church Calendar Easter lasts for 6 weeks ending when we get to Ascension and Pentecost. I love being able to tell the children about the seasons of the year and see each festival afresh through the eyes of the youngest.

The Easter season is traditionally a time for Baptisms, and Whitsun for Confirmations. In years gone by nearly the whole village community would have celebrated the Christian festivals together at this time of year with an Ascension Service and Whitsun Festivities and Games. I wonder if you have memories of May Day processions or Sunday School Outings? If so I would love to hear about them, and, perhaps more importantly, ask what you would like to do to pass on your knowledge of faith to the next generations. I invite you to consider how you and your family will find out about Christian Faith, and the church community, to make informed decisions about being a Christian in today's world.

Whatever age you are I hope you will take up this invitation to find out more about growing your faith, 'practising it' as folk used to say. There have been scientific studies showing faith is good for you, and being a practising Christian benefits your health according to a report by a group of doctors because it makes you happier and more optimistic. Want to give it a try?

Our services are at 11.00 each Sunday at St Mary's. Do come and join us. All are welcome.

God bless

Heather

Revd Heather Parbury,
Associate Minister, Feldon Group of Churches

GRAFFITI IN ST MARY'S CHURCH

The graffiti in St Mary's has been recorded as part of The Making of Tysoe Project. Most, if not all, medieval churches in our area will have had graffiti - marks scratched or chiselled onto their stones in the medieval period. Crosses, circles, stars, grids, dots, Xs, and masons' marks are well known motifs. These will survive where they have not been scraped off by episodes of cleaning and reconstruction. Tysoe St. Mary's has over 70 inscriptions, which qualifies it as one of the most graffiti'd in the area. There are more than a dozen crosses inside the south door, more on the chancel arch piers, tallies on the pillar behind the pulpit, "witch" marks ("W") on aisle pillars, the font's lead lining, and the chancel arch piers; and multiple "9-holes" patterns on the choir-side of the chancel arch piers. There are a few circles but the only common sign missing from Tysoe is the five-point star, which predominates elsewhere, e.g. Horley. What do these signs mean? Crosses probably had many functions, protection being one, but other interpretations include ratifying contracts, conveying prayers, thanks for prayers answered, indeed anything where divine providence was being sought or acknowledged. If we put aside the post-medieval names, dates, and initials which are often of the "Kilroy was here" type, medieval marks can be understood as mainly protective – charms against the devil, bad luck, evil etc. Grids for instance are found on door and window openings to trap the devil. Unlike most modern graffiti these medieval marks appear to have been accepted by the church authorities as authentic and appropriate expressions of the laity in church. There are, however, examples of deliberate erasure of particular signs; one elaborate cross inside the south door has been crudely attacked, but it is impossible to know whether this destruction was motivated by religious, personal or other motives.



David Freke

TYSOE JUMBLE TRAIL

to support the **Friends of Tysoe School**
Saturday 21 May 2022
11h00-14h00

To sign up: vlangstone@icloud.com

Residents of Tysoe are invited to join our **Spring Jumble Trail** to raise vital funds for the village Primary school. Simply set out your stall outside your home and for a **£5 donation**, we will include your pitch in our map and you can keep the profits from your sales!

The trail starts at the **Primary School**. Visitors will receive a map and refreshments will be on offer.

Parents whose children attend the school and are not residents of Tysoe will be able to have a stall outside the school at a cost of £5.



A Friends of Tysoe School Event

Registered Charity Number 1071836

VISIT TO POLAND'S UKRAINE BORDER by Fred Price



Refugees line the corridor at Przemysl station on the Polish Ukraine border.

I have just returned from Przemysl on the Polish border with Ukraine. Refugees from the Lviv corridor arrive at Przemysl's railway station either by bus or train from the frontier settlement of Medyka. The waiting room in the station serves as a holding area for people to be processed. Women and children line the adjacent corridors, holding bags and clutching soft toys. There are hints of their plight: a

hollowness in their eyes, and a wariness in their look. Emotion is not far from the surface. On more than one occasion I heard arguments between parents and children, something routine to any family, but given an extra edge if fleeing from a war zone.

Volunteers form the majority of those helping refugees. Young men and women in high viz jackets are constantly in motion across the station, helping explain the options, providing translation services, and offering sandwiches. Arrivals such as Anastasia are grateful for the efforts they make. Anastasia has arrived with her cat Bonya from a bombed out part of southern Ukraine. They cling to each other for reassurance. Policemen with guns stand guard. In one corner a woman sits on a suitcase, hoping to be reunited with relatives. This is Ludmilla, who left Krematorsk by train for the safety of Poland. A day later a Russian cluster bomb hit the very platform on which she had stood. But for some the act of leaving is too much. Oxana and her family are returning to Dnipro in southern Ukraine even though missiles continue to hit. 'The children miss home', Oxana says.

In the neighbouring town of Rzeszow I meet some junior Foreign Office diplomats. They are guarded. This is a rare encounter with officialdom. In the waiting room at Przemysl station, volunteers, not governments, provide the main source of hope for those in need.



Kosta, Oxzana, Nikita and Anya are returning to Dnipro in Ukraine from Przemysl on the Polish border. 'The children miss home'.



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Chocolate sponge, filled with black cherry preserve, topped with chocolate buttercream and flake or mars

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Box of 6 was £12 **now £9.60**

Box of 12 was £24 **now £19.20**



Offer Two: Semi Naked cake

A succulent 4 layer sponge, any flavour, your choice of filling, coated in a thin layer of vanilla buttercream and topped with a halo of fresh berries.

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Hire the Burger Barn Out!

Contact us to have your party, meeting or gathering hot and cold drinks and of course hot food.



Thank you for your support.

Call **Monica** on **07770 770976** **Fb@happycowfoundation**

TYSOE PARISH CLERK'S UPDATE



Another busy month for the Parish Council. There is some wonderful work going on in the parish looking to help people in the Ukraine. Fred Price and team at **#TysoeSupports Ukraine** are organising various activities.

There's a group of people in the community looking to widen our use of recycling and caring for the environment. Lots of work behind the scenes trying to link up with other villages doing the same. But it must be said that the projects over the last year looking at wild areas have been a great success, thanks to all of you who have helped and supported!

The Parish Council is working hard with other community groups to make the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations memorable over the June Bank Holiday weekend – I hope you are all planning to attend it should be marvellous. Put on your glad rags, dress up and celebrate.

On a more serious note, **May 9th is The Parish Council's AGM** which is NOW IN THE READING ROOM followed by an Ordinary meeting, and on **Thursday 12th is The Annual Parish Meeting** at which groups in the village can make their annual reports and tell us of the work they have done over the past year. Please come along to either or both, you are very welcome.

Let's hope the warmer weather continues so that we can all celebrate and enjoy all the upcoming events.

Charmaine Swift,
parishclerk@tysoe.org.uk



WELCOMING BABY ALISHA EMILIANA

This little bundle arrived on Monday 21st March. The happy parents, Bee and Oliver Crammond, Would like to thank their Saddledon St neighbours for all the well wishes and cards, plus a special thanks to the Marcuse-Harris's for the lovely outfit she's wearing in this photo.

Many congratulations from the Record Team!

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A tranquil, calming, room with soothing sounds, luminous shapes and a star filled sky. These are the scenes from the new sensory room at Tysoe Children's Group.

After lots of hard work from our staff and volunteers, and the amazing support from the community, our children have a wonderful new sensory room to enjoy.



The children love their new room, the bubble tubes, the mirrors, the light sticks, the luminous pebbles, and sequined panels, there is so much to discover. We have been exploring texture, light and dark, shape and colour, practicing turn-taking in groups and working one-to-one with our practitioners. The room helps our children improve their visual, auditory, and tactile processing, as well as fine and gross motor skills, it is a calm and comfortable space, and invaluable in supporting children with different learning styles and requirements.

As we are a charity, we rely on raising money to enhance the setting for our nursery children, and children attending our before and after school, and holiday clubs. We are incredibly grateful for all the support we receive including playing the school lottery, donating to our clothing collections, buying raffle tickets, and the generous financial donations.

We are currently working on exciting plans to refurbish the interior of the nursery including repainting the walls, installing energy saving lighting, and new room equipment and resources. Over the Jubilee Weekend we hope to launch an ambitious fundraising project to transform the outside space creating a fun all year-round multi-age learning environment. We will be selling tea, coffee, and cakes for the Windmill Run to raise funds for The Children's Group, so please come along, have a coffee and a cake, and have a look at our exciting plans.

Thank You from our Children, Staff and Trustees.



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2022

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5km fun run £6

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www.tysoewindmill10k.com

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TYSOE TENNIS CLUB NEWS

Tysoe Mixed A

On Saturday 24 April Tysoe A played their final Mixed match of the Banbury Winter League against Priors Marston A. It was a good game on a gusty day with Tysoe A winning all 4 rubbers and so ending a successful season. In fact Tysoe A won all their matches and they will be champions of Division 3. The team this year was not only greatly strengthened by the injection of young talent in the form of Louisa Kramer and Pete Stubbs but also supported by some excellent efforts from Julie Smart and Jo Clarke.

Next Winter we will, of course, be in a higher division and so we shall have to see how it goes. In the meantime, well done to everyone who played this season for Tysoe Mixed A; there are too many to list here but you know who you are!

Junior Coaching Update

Green coaching (age 9 -10) is full, but there are spaces for Orange (age 8-9) 5.30 pm and Red (age 4-8) 4.30pm on Friday afternoons.

Rusty Racquets

Fancy getting back on the tennis court? If so, then please let our Club Secretary know and she will try and get a group together.

Adult Tuesday Evenings

Our summer sessions have begun again, starting at 7.00pm.

Sunday Mornings Sessions

Members mix-in starts at 10.30am - contact Carol if interested.

For more details visit the website or contact Carol Spencer Club Secretary on 07708 412767
carol.spencer234@hotmail.co.uk

PRACTICE
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FOR
RETURNERS
& LEARNERS

TYSOE TENNIS RUSTY RACQUETS



This will be a 6 session offering with Tennisolutions running on a Wednesday evening, 7pm-8pm, cost £7 per session.

We need a minimum of 5 people for each session to make this viable. To book contact Carol Spencer Club Secretary:



Tysoe Tennis Club
www.tysoetennisclub.co.uk

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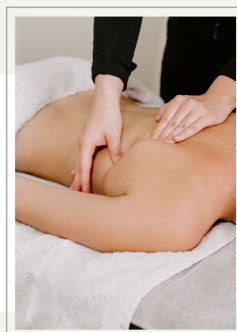
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