

# TYSOE & DISTRICT RECORD

## SEPTEMBER 2025

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## CYCLING NOTICE - from Andy Veale, Stratford Herald

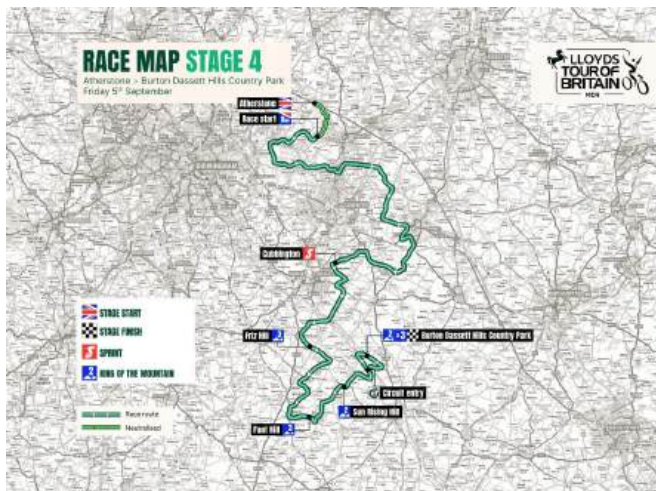
Warning... this September may see an influx of men in Lycra.

You may see this as a positive or a negative, but it really is a good thing as Warwickshire is hosting a Tour of Britain cycling stage.

The men's tour last passed through our part of the country in 2019, so it's great that Warwickshire County Council has managed to secure a return.

For us - the public - it means some top quality sport will be taking place on our streets and will be free to watch.

The cyclists are due to be coming up Sun Rising Hill on 7th September. Get ready to watch. More details on social media.



### THE RECORD TEAM

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**Next issue: October 2025**  
**Copy deadline: Wednesday**  
**17th September 2025**

[www.tysoerecord.org](http://www.tysoerecord.org)

## DELVING INTO NURSERY RHYMES



This year's Flower Show and Fete had nursery rhymes as its theme. These fables stretch back into the mists of time. Some of them have bizarre and quite sinister meanings such as 'Ring-a-ring of roses, a pocket full of posies' which refers to the Great Plague. But the one which has more local significance for us here is 'Ride a Cock-Horse to Banbury Cross.'



According to The Oxford Dictionary of Nursery Rhymes the phrase 'to ride a cock-horse' used to refer to riding a toy horse, or an adult's knee, and is found as early as 1540. It is said that the nineteenth-century Prime Minister, William Ewart Gladstone, used to sing 'Ride a cock-horse to Banbury Cross' to his children every day.

Our own Phil Walker subscribes to another meaning, namely the extra horse used to pull a cart or carriage up a hill. "When a steep incline was reached such as Tysoe, Shenington or Alkerton Hills, that third horse would be brought from the back of the cart and harnessed to the front to assist the other horses. That third horse was known as 'the cock horse'! Hence 'ride a cock horse to Banbury Cross'."

But who was the 'fine lady'? Celia Fiennes (1662-1741), wrote an early travel journal which recounted her journeys to sites of interest such as Stonehenge and the spas of Harrogate. 'Ride a cock-horse to Banbury Cross' first turns up in print in the early eighteenth century, around the time that Fiennes was getting a reputation for riding around Britain on her horse. What's more, Fiennes' brother was a viscount who lived at Broughton Castle in Banbury, so she certainly fits the bill when it comes to matching the woman in the nursery rhyme to the place it specifically mentions. For 'fine lady' should we read 'Fiennes lady'?

Like the Tysoe Red Horse, maybe having a bit of mystery is no bad thing.

Horse statue photo credit: David Ross and Britain Express  
C19 rocking horse from [www.olderfashionedholidays.com](http://www.olderfashionedholidays.com)

The Editor

## SET UP AND REGISTRATION

# TYSOE



## FLOWER SHOW & FETE

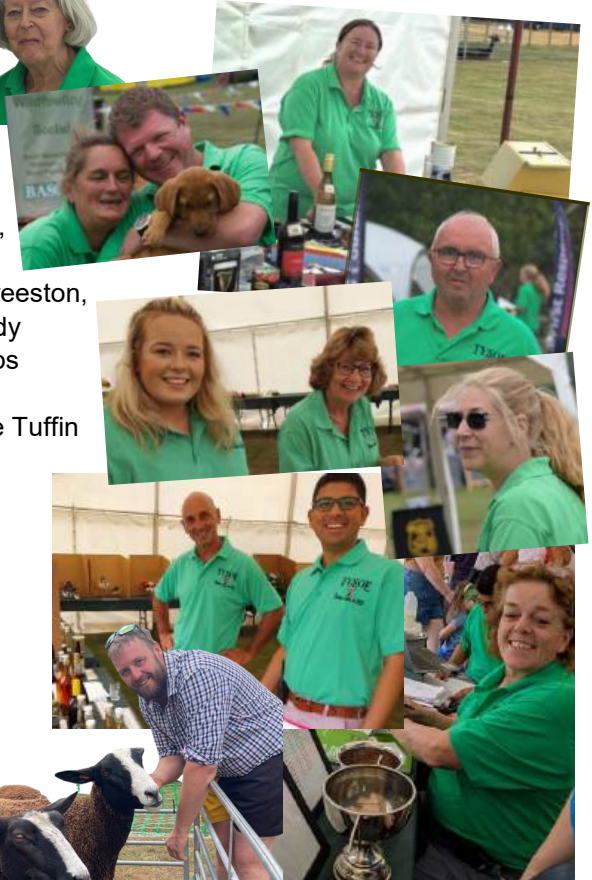


Registration was on Wednesday evening. Then the marquee and stalls were erected and the events area marked out, plus Petticoat Lane, etc, on Friday.



## MEET THE TEAM

Chairman: Steve Allen,  
Vice Chairman: Andy McGinn,  
Treasurer: Yvonne Dillon,  
Flower Show Secretary: Jo Freeston,  
Asst Secretary: Diane McHardy  
Minutes Secretary: Rob Phillips  
Bookings: Ella Harrison  
Marketing & Socials: Christine Tuffin  
Committee members: Abhi Mahajani, Bridget Norton, Ian McHardy, Becky Hancox, Matt Warmington, Shannon Ascot  
Life President: David Sewell.





## Chairman's Report

The weather was kind for the annual Tysoe Flower Show & Fete. Just perfect for both animals and humans to be comfortable and enjoy a fun packed day.

In the main ring the Suffolk Punch horse display was enjoyed by all and you could not help but be amazed by the obedience of the Gun Dog Display Team.



New for this year we welcomed a display of classic motorcycles which complemented the growing number of cherished cars, tractors and machinery.

Visitors immersed themselves in rural crafts with demonstrations from a farrier, Stratford Weavers, Spinners and Dyers and Shipston Bee Keepers.



A wide selection of food and drink stalls catering for diverse tastes were available, and a bustling Petticoat Lane with numerous shopping stalls completed the experience.





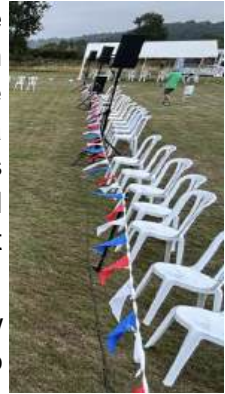
But the heart of the show is still its traditional flower and produce competition, where locals showcase their knack at growing beautiful blooms, nurturing giant vegetables (*and boy they were big*) artistic talents in the craft section and creating delicious baked goods, wines and preserves. The show-stopping pumpkin weighed a whopping 295lbs or 133.81kg!





The Tysoe Flower Show also serves a vital purpose within the community, raising significant funds each year for organisations and good causes within Tysoe and surrounding areas. These funds are raised by a

community that comes together to help and support in any way it can.



**TO THOSE THAT :**

**VISITED, ATE & DRANK, EXHIBITED,  
DONATED, SET UP, TIDIED AWAY, FED,  
SOLD, RAISED FUNDS, BAKED, WOMBLED,  
GREW, BAKED, CRAFTED, JUDGED,  
ORGANISED, HELPED & ENJOYED  
THERE IS NO SHOW  
WITHOUT YOU**

The Flower Show Committee wishes to thank Tysoe FC adult team for manning the



car park, for setting up and the taking down of gazebos and barriers and the individuals that volunteered to stand at the gates to take admissions.

We would also like to thank the newly formed Tysoe Wombles who kept the show ground spotless throughout the day.



The Flower Show would not be complete without the support of Tysoe WI who served endless cups of tea and slices of cake.

All these hardworking community-spirited people ensure we have a memorable and enjoyable day.



Photo credits: Ben, Christine, Peter and Roland

**Until 2026**  
Steve Allen



# REVIEWS

## ALL THE FUN OF THE FLOWER SHOW!



"We could barely get through the entrance before both my little ones were totally engrossed and dancing along to the jaunty tunes of the musical organ, twirling and spinning in delight. And only 2 paces further their attention was caught by the fire engine, desperate to climb the steps and try a helmet on.

After that it was hook a duck, shortly followed by watching the giant Suffolk horses parade around the main ring. This is what I love about the flower show, an opportunity for "old" and "new" to come together.

Where else than our fabulous little village show would you be able to see old steam engines, ride a spinning cup, feast on candy floss and have a talk from a friendly team of bee enthusiasts all within a stones throw of each other?

My children who are 2 and 4 had a blast, enjoying looking at the incredible home grown garden veg as much as they did taking a spin at the kiddies tombola. They were fascinated by the vintage cars and would have stayed all day searching for the queen bee.

I love that it's a safe, friendly and fun environment for little legs to explore independently and little hands to dip into purses to spend pocket money on so many reasonably priced activities.

Grandparents also had plenty to see and do, making this a fantastic afternoon for all. Thank you Flower Show, we will be back next year and hopefully more organised so we can submit our own entries into the flower and photo exhibits having been inspired by the fabulous displays.

All the way home the children chatted constantly about the things they had seen and done, making special memories in our wonderful village community."

Rowena Heap



"The Tysoe Flower Show was an amazing day filled with friendly faces and a fantastic community spirit. Stalls offered beautiful crafts, delicious food and drinks, creating a very welcoming family atmosphere.

My seven year old son Harrison had a great time trying his hand at tennis, with balls flying from the machine and with great support from the Tennis Club members.



The flower and vegetable displays were stunning, showcasing the village's gardening talent. The horses kept the children captivated and they loved watching the dog agility. The classic cars and motorbikes were interesting, and the owners very willing to talk to the children.

And now they want to own an alpaca! As ever, a wonderfully organised event that manages to evolve each year and appeal to all generations."

Emma Cooper

## FACEBOOK COMMENTS

Tysoe & District Record · 8h  
 What a terrific showreel of the 2025 Flower Show! The event was jammed packed full of wonderful activities to see and do with the whole village seemingly involved. Well done to our hard working Flower Show Committee! Brilliant 🙌

Jane Jervis · 37m  
 What a wonderful show! Huge congratulations to the organisers. So many interesting things to see and participate in. A genuine village show

Jenny Thorpe  
 Prize winning Bunny pup - best crossbreed and dog the judge would most like to take home 🐾 Thank you to the judges at Tysoe Flower Show & Fete, they had a really tough job, so many lovely dogs!

David Roache  
 Congratulations Steve on another superb Tysoe Show, well done everyone! Also, a big thank you to the bell-ringers for ringing on Friday to commemorate the 80th anniversary of VJ Day. What a wonderful community we live in.



Pat Marland · 1h  
 I think this show surpassed every other one I have been to. A beautiful sunny day and so much to see and do for everyone who came. (I was treasurer for a number of years) and know from experience all the hard work many folk put in to produce the finished product. Thank you all so much. ❤️

## TABLE OF 2025 WINNERS

Award	Winner
Trophy for most points section A	Mrs Peachey
Best Exhibit section A	Mrs Peachey
Trophy for most points section B	Jackie Warner
Best Exhibit section B	Sophie Jones
Trophy for most points section C	Mr R Peachey
Best exhibit Section C	Jennifer Cawood
Faith Hall trophy - heaviest pumpkin Class 25	Mrs Peachey
Trophy for best vase of sweet peas in show	Laura Lepeltier
Needham trophy for best vase of roses	Sharon Parton
Howard Butcher trophy for best vase of Gladioli	Jackie Warner
Rex Oliver trophy for best vase of Dahlias	Mrs Peachey
Digweed trophy - best exhibit Class 77	Henry Parton
Trophy to winner - novices flower arranging Class 80	Laura Lepeltier
Cup for the most points D	Faith Hall
Sue Russell cup for best exhibit in section D Floral Art	Laura Lepeltier
Trophy for Class 81 Tysoe Residents	Chris Paxton
Trophy for most points section E	Henry Wyatt
Cup for best exhibit section E	James Stevenson
Deborah Williams Honeypot for most points in honey classes	Mike Clarke
Shipston Beekeepers Novice award	SBKA Team 67
Dorothy Messer cup for the outstanding bottle of wine	Mr. G. Bradbeer
David Goodenough cup for the most points	Mr. G. Bradbeer
The Vicarage cup for the best liqueur Class 116	Andy Deller
Tysoe WI Lyn Hicks memorial cup for best exhibit in section H	Sylvia Hanks
David Sewell cup for the best exhibit Section I	Fred Bartlett
Best Photo Child	Evelyn Wigram
Best Photo Adult	Alison Parker
Joan and Gerald Butcher trophy for the best root vegetable	Mrs Peachey
Monica Lomas award for best effort in children's section	Henry Parton & Rory Parton
Banbury Marquee hire cup for best exhibit	Sylvia Hanks
The Littlewood cup for best exhibit in the show	Sophie Jones
Jack King trophy for the exhibitor who has made the best effort	Andy Deller



## The Annual Cricket Match Tysoe v Oxhill

**Sunday 17th August 2025**

On a glorious picture-postcard summer afternoon, the rival village teams went head-to-head for the 'Grumpies' Cup watched by an enthusiastic crowd.

Oxhill won the toss and opted to bat. Wickets fell at regular intervals in the first innings, but Matt, their opening batsman, anchored the innings with 30\* and then returned to bat the final overs with No. 10, Jonny, taking their total to 125 all out. Using the wicket to their advantage, Tysoe exhibited some impressive bowling by Coltrane and Colin, with Harry L, Jonny and Max supporting well, and Tom as leading wicket taker with three to his name. After refuelling with tea, and a target of 126, Tysoe replied with a steady start provided by Fred and Rupert. Harry S and Caleb, both debutants, took the score to the hundred mark with Harry scoring 33\*. As the overs progressed, the tension rose, tactics were discussed and it seemed as though Tysoe were in with a chance of victory. Unfortunately, for the home side the momentum slowed, runs dried up and Oxhill won by 14 runs. That the match went to the last over was testament to the determination of the teams and the competitive nature of the game. The Brian Johnstone 'Champagne moment' went to Tom who took a blinding caught-and-bowled impressively similar to one J Archer.

Congratulations to Will and his team who retain the cup. We look forward to another good match next year when Tysoe hopefully can raise the cup once again!

Thanks to all who made the day possible: Tysoe Parish Council, Tysoe Village Stores, R Locke & Sons, Banbury CC, Mark for umpiring, Steve for preparing the pitch, ground, and marquees, 'The Duke' and John for scoring and David for providing health and safety overview. Also, my thanks to Kate, Sophy and Chloe who provided tea and refreshments for the teams.



Finally, thanks to everyone involved in this match - to all family, friends and neighbours who came to watch and support the event, even if you couldn't be there.

Robert Startin

## NOTES FROM ST MARY'S CHURCH SEPTEMBER



I'm writing this in the middle of August, when we have yet another yellow warning for unseasonably hot weather: a

risk to health. Some of you may remember 1975 and particularly 1976 (when I moved down from the north east). The 1976 heatwave played a major part in the most significant period of drought since Met Office records began; it lasted from May 1975 to August 1976. It was reported at the time that London had just 90 days of water supply left!

This year although the temperatures have surpassed those of '76, there fortunately hasn't been such a protracted period of drought – but our farmers have been badly affected and yields are down. The consequence for you and me is that we probably will have to pay a little more for our food. For farmers a difficult season like this can mean the difference between financial survival and catastrophe.

We are in our main harvest season now and we will celebrate **Harvest Festival at Tysoe at 11.00am on 12th October (and 28th September at 3.30pm at Oxhill and on 5th October at 3.30pm at Whatcote)**. We hope you can join us to give thanks to God, not only for the work of our farmers, but for the richness and variety of food we are able to share. The service at St. Mary's will again be followed by a bring and share lunch – see details in church.

Alongside our celebration we should also remember those in our villages who are struggling to feed themselves and their families. They rely on the Foodbank in Shipston so please share whatever you can with them, not only at harvest-time but all year round.

God Bless,

George Heighton

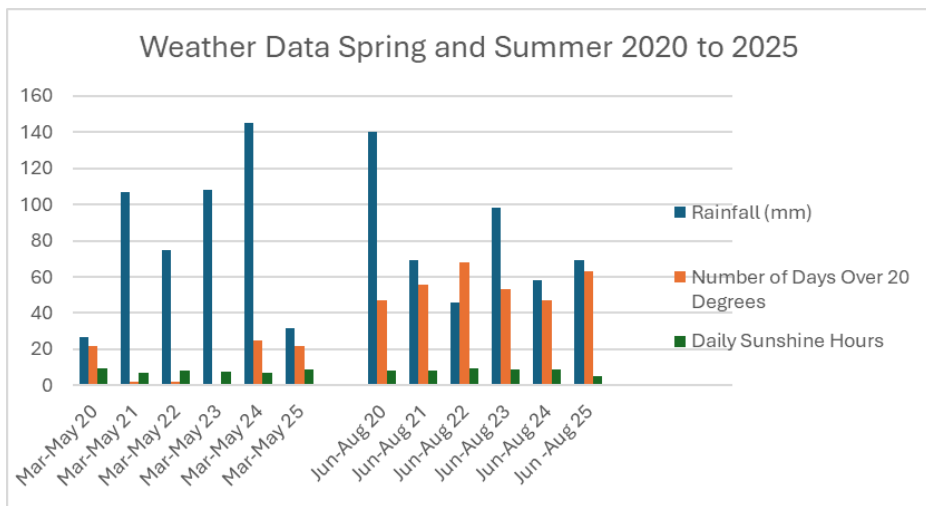
Email [revgeorgeh@outlook.com](mailto:revgeorgeh@outlook.com) Telephone 01295 680 201

See our Facebook Page "Our churches; Tysoe with Oxhill & Whatcote"

## SNOW BOMBS, WALL OF RAIN & HEAT DOMES!

You just can't escape these headlines in the tabloid press these days. So, I thought it would be good to go back over a slightly longer period to comment on this year's weather pattern. Looking at temperature, sunshine and rainfall seemed like a good starting point. The sunshine hours come from solar panel readings and the remainder from the weather station. The data is grouped into the traditional definitions of Spring and Summer.

This year's lack of rain was set up during the spring and unlike 2020 there hasn't been sufficient summer rainfall to compensate. I went back into the data to see if the number of days without rain provided any further understanding. There has been a long-held belief that rain occurs on 30% of days. Since 2021 rain free days in the summer have been over 50%. We are currently at 51 days this year and there are still 13 days to go!



But if the data doesn't support the headlines, look at the stress the trees are under. The deciduous trees in the hedgerows are shedding their leaves under stress. One of our 1930s pear trees has suffered a major trunk tear. Perhaps they are a better indicator of our weather!

Mike Sanderson



Nestled in the centre of a farming community, Tysoe bears witness to the changing seasons and the harvest. In his short story, *The Great Red Horse of Tiw's Hill*, Neil Douthwaite, a farmer's son, describes this "clockwork of the year" beautifully, with "fields alternating from fallow brown, to emerald green, ripening to reaper's gold." Neil writes how the great horse "knew their (the people's) fear of famine, when rains and hails and snows threatened all that they had worked for, and when their harvest fell to the scythe, he felt their relief and watched them collect the precious sheaves and stocks."

This is as true in the real world as it is in Neil's story. The Record asked local farmers what they have been able to gather in after the extraordinary hot temperatures we've had. It makes for grim reading:

**Michael Gibbs (Mill Farm):** "Hay crops poor, about 50 percent if you're lucky, so there's going to be a shortage of fodder in these parts. I imagine they fared better further north. I would think corn would be variable in yield and straw short due to dry spring and summer. It's been an early harvest season this year with no holdups with the weather and moisture contents low, saving on expensive drying.

**Jane Gardner (Home Farm):** "We only "harvest" grass, as in make hay/silage but we haven't been able to do any this year due to the dry weather and grass not growing. We've had to buy every bale in to cover us over the winter." She suggested we speak to Upton Estate regarding the cereal harvest.

**Dave Thornton, (Farm Manager, Upton Estate):** "All our harvesting, apart from the spring oats, was completed in July which is completely unheard of in my nearly 40 years at Upton. Yields, aside from the oilseed rape, have been dreadful. We usually achieve 10 tonnes per hectare for wheat but this year are down by 40% at 6t/ha. Peas are normally around 4.5t/ha and this year were only 2.5t/ha and beans are

normally 4.5t/ha were only 2.5t/ha this year. The OSR is normally 4.5t/ha and is thankfully unchanged and the oats are due to be cut this week but look to be poor.

I think the wet autumn and winter meant the crops were lazy and didn't need to put deep roots down and the dry spring and summer caused them to get droughted earlier and unable to take up some of the supplied fertiliser thus resulting in such poor yields. The straw yield is also at 40-50% of where it usually is.

Normally during such a poor year prices lift to help but at present they remain rock bottom as traders still believe there is a big world crop and are happy to import."

**Brian Parker (Hill Farm):** "Two of the main things which affected farming this summer have been the Government and the weather. Neither have played ball and cooperated.

The Government had promised a lot and delivered little. Environmental schemes were withdrawn at short notice and have left most farmers in a state of limbo and finding it difficult to plan day-to-day.

The weather, always topical, has been the worst grass growing season I can recall here at Hill Farm, and I can remember 1976! Cold nights in Spring coupled with drought conditions for the rest of the season has resulted in a shortage of grazing for sheep and cattle. The grass fields earmarked for either silage or hay have produced half our usual yield. This means that winter feed stocks are desperately short, having the knock on effect of buying-in extra expensive feed. We buy in straw locally from arable farmers who in turn have also suffered. Straw is principally used for bedding and can be used as feed but has little nutritional value and will need supplementing with an expensive concentrate. Straw is in high demand but in short supply equalling high prices.

Thankfully there is an upside (nothing to do with weather) lambs and cattle are commanding record high prices at market and this will go some way to offset the high inputs especially this coming winter. Food inflation is a much discussed topic and the higher prices are mainly due to high processing costs and tight supplies which are worldwide. As long as our Government keeps its word on maintaining our high food standards and doesn't allow the importation of substandard product I remain an optimist."

**Geoff, Jane and Tom Ridgway (Downs Farm):** “Tysoe Flower Show day 1989, I remember being on the playing field and watching the contractors’ combines travelling up Tysoe Hill having finished our harvest. Leap forward to 2025, we will most likely have finished combining but this year the story will be different.

Following the extreme rainfall in the autumn and winter, which meant that many crops rotted in the ground or were not drilled at all. This left us with having to drill more spring sown crops, which do not produce the quantity of grain to fill the grain stores. Then, some of these crops did not grow due to the drought.

The only plus is that we will not have any drying costs to cover, although with the intense heat we have been experiencing, the fans are being used to cool the grain in store, adding more to the electricity bills.

Production costs have risen dramatically in 2025 compared to 1989. Fertilisers have increased by 300%. In 1989 the sale of one tonne of corn (£100) would purchase 1 tonne of fertilizer. Fast forward to 2025, 2.4 tonnes of wheat @ £165 per tonne would purchase 1 tonne of fertilizer at £300+ with indications this will rise to £400+.

With continuing rises in the costs of production, winter forage being fed early to livestock due to the lack of grass, the balancing act of farming gets more precarious.”

**Monica Brown (Herberts Farm)** “My harvest centres around events and hospitality, The Government has made business almost impossible. NI changes, the ever present VAT, general overheads and rate rises year-on-year have put extra pressure on all SMEs. Many have had to cut staffing and business opening hours leaving very little spare for our customers to spend on days out, reducing turnover. Many are already worrying about winter bills and feeding themselves. A bit of drought is small fry for my bigger picture.”

**APPLE DAY AT THE ORCHARD**  
**SATURDAY 4TH OCTOBER**  
**FROM 1PM TO 4.30PM**  
-TEA, COFFEE AND CAKES, PASTEURISED JUICE FOR SALE  
**JOIN IN TO HELP TURN THE APPLES INTO**  
**JUICE – IT’S LOTS OF FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY!**



## ECONOMICS OF FARMING IN REAL TERMS

*An analysis: - from looking at the farming reports on pages 14-16 and factoring in the impact of inflation.*



If the sale price of corn at £100 in 1989, mentioned by Jane Ridgway, had kept pace with general inflation, not necessarily farm inflation (more of that below), then the sales price of corn should be about £318 in 2025 money, or more than treble (at an average inflation rate of 3.27%). Instead Jane reports the sales price in 2025 is £165/tonne, or just 52% of the £318 inflated figure, so in *real terms* corn price has virtually halved from 1989 to 2025.

Jane also reports that fertiliser is now costing over £300/tonne, so that has kept pace with inflation, with the threat of the cost rising to £400/tonne. So in 36 years fertiliser has quadrupled in cost whilst the corn price is just 65% more. The impact on farming margins is clear for all to see.

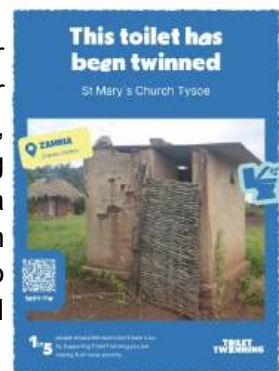
When you add in the game of chance played by the weather, it makes farming one of the most challenging of all sectors. Farmers report yields per hectare are down by 45%+ for some crops this year.

The stark reality of farming economics has been highlighted in recent years in Clarkson's Farm on TV, hence the name of his farm shop, Diddly Squat (as featured above)..... It does help to have a second career as a TV personality!

Roland Cherry

## St Mary's is flushed with success!

St Mary's has recently been awarded a Silver Eco Award by A Rocha UK in recognition of our care for God's Creation. As part of the scheme, we were encouraged to support a Toilet Twinning scheme in a country where not everyone has a loo. After successfully raising the money through our monthly coffee mornings we were able to support not 1 but 2 loos, one in Zimbabwe and one in Zambia.



Gill Roache



**INTERMEDIARY TEA BREAST CANCER NOW**

**TYSOE VILLAGE PRESENTS:**  
**Afternoon Tea in aid of Breast Cancer Now**  
 DRINK TEA, RAISE MONEY, CHANGE LIVES

**SUNDAY, 31 AUGUST 2025**  
**2-4PM**

Weather permitting this event will be held on Tysoe Playing fields. If we are unable to hold the event outdoors it will be held in the social club.

Alongside afternoon tea there will be Fun for the whole family, including tombola, raffle, games and activities for children - all in aid of Breast Cancer Now

**MOST POPULAR CAKE POLL**

According to Tysoe WI our favourite cakes are as follows (and let's face it, they should know!)

- 1st**  
**at the top:**  
**Lemon Drizzle**  
**Victoria Sponge**  
**Fruit Cake**  
**Coffee and Walnut**  
**Ginger Cake**

The WI does produce others but these are the main ones that folk ask for. *"We bake what we know will sell. All the cakes are donated."*

**.. A last crumb from the Church Fete!**



I forgot to mention Guess the Weight of the Cake, a fruit cake lovingly created and donated by Chris Locke, who handed it to Jenny Tongue before going on holiday.

The weight was 3lbs and 13 ounces/1.7 kg  
 Amazingly 2 people guessed the exact weight independently.



Even more amazing was the fact they were husband and wife, our very own Judith and Thomas Slinger.

Gill Roache



**CHURCH FELLOWSHIP COFFEE MORNING**

Tuesday 16th September at St Mary's Tysoe from 9.30am

With Stay and Play for preschool children, carers and parents.

## ANNUAL AFTERNOON TEA PARTY!



It was back-to-back entertainment for the WI ladies this month. On Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> August a small group of our members, armed with chairs, outdoor rugs and a picnic, travelled to Cropredy Wharf to watch the delightful Mikron Theatre Group perform their outdoor play 'Operation Beach Hut'. What followed was much fun and silliness in the evening sunshine as they performed and sung their way through a moral dilemma of how to sustain their much loved seaside town heritage of beach huts against the backdrop of local government cuts and corporate greed. Their interpretation of the seagulls was highly comical and spot on.

The following afternoon was our annual Summer Tea, kindly hosted in the beautiful garden of Liz and Ken Percival. The committee members (Eileen, Liz, Chris and Linda) waited hand and foot on the members, who spent two hours of sunshine nattering, but mostly eating – sandwiches, scones, cakes, strawberries and cream – washed down with some bubbles and cups of tea. Huge thanks go to the committee members.

Tysoe WI is young at heart and always welcomes new members. For more information, contact Linda Johnson on 07883 519886. Jackie Keyser



How  
LUCKY  
are we  
to have  
the  
RSC?!?



We all know Billy. We all know his plays. We all know his town. But, living so close to such a legendary place, it can often feel conventional and it is easy to forget how special Stratford really is. Especially when it is home to some of the best theatre outside of London.

Being the perpetual student that I am, and for many years when I was 18-25, I benefited tremendously from the RSC's £10 TikTok tickets that encourage young people to watch the shows (the best bit is, I don't even have TikTok!).

Bar one or two, I've watched every production the RSC has done since at least the end of Covid. What's particularly nice is that it's not just Shakespeare. There's a smorgasbord of shows to accommodate all audiences. Most of them have been phenomenal. Some slightly hairier in places, but that's what theatre is all about. Finding what you enjoy. One show is not meant to be for everybody.

Some of our favourites have included *Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Fair Maiden of the West*, *Titus Andronicus*, *My Neighbour Totoro*, *Twelfth Night*, *Wendy & Peter Pan*, and *Hamlet* (although I'm contractually obliged by Anton to say that!). Plus, we're excited to be booked into many more in the future.

One of my favourite moments is walking into the auditorium and seeing what exciting set has been installed for the production. It could be anything from an organ that fills the back wall, to rivers of running water, to a cold, barren, atmospheric, eerie silence.

You don't have to be under 25 to benefit from cheap tickets either, as the RSC has a wide selection of prices and there's the chance to buy bargain Rush tickets. But if you're young and looking for something different to do, then head to a thrilling night of theatre at the RSC. For details of all the performances and tickets visit: <https://www.rsc.org.uk/>

Ben Keyser

# TYSOE SOCIAL CLUB

## Upcoming Events

SEPTEMBER <b>06</b>	<b>Live Music - The Coopers</b>
SEPTEMBER <b>20</b>	<b>Live Music - Uninvited</b>
OCTOBER <b>04</b>	<b>Live Music - Mind the Gap</b>

EVERYONE WELCOME. FREE ENTRY TO ALL EVENTS.

🍕 PIZZA NIGHT EVERY SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH 🍕

Why not join us for a drink on one of these balmy evenings at our newly re-furnished courtyard area at the back of the Social Club?

Don't forget Catering Angel's Pizza Night freshly made - eat in or take away.



**13 September 2pm—5pm**  
**The Friends of Sun Rising AGM and Nature Talk at the nature reserve.**

Rosemary Collier OBE will be giving the Nature Talk about the pressures that development and agriculture continue to put on the natural world . Open to all subscribing Friends, just £15 to join, please tell us in advance if you want to come along email: [office@sunrising.co.uk](mailto:office@sunrising.co.uk).

  
National Trust

**Upton's Autumn Trail**

**A journey through autumn**

18 September - 2 November  
10:00 - 16:00

With three of our Greek Muses, Clio, Calliope, goddess and Urania.

[nationaltrust.org.uk/uptonhouse](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/uptonhouse)

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## SEPTEMBER DIARY DATES

For details of Tysoe Clubs and Societies see the Phone Book on pages 42/43.	<b>BINS</b>	 <b>Food waste</b> (food waste caddy)	 <b>Recycling</b> (blue-lidded bin)	 <b>Refuse</b> (grey bin)	 <b>Garden waste</b> (green bin)
	05/09/2025	✓		✓	
	12/09/2025	✓	✓		✓
	19/09/2025	✓			
	26/09/2025	✓	✓	✓	✓

What	Where	When
Coffee Morning (donations plate)	St Mary's Church	Tuesday 16 Sep 9am - 12noon
Craft & Laugh	Village Hall (McNulty Room)	Every Wednesday starting 17 Sep 1.00pm - 3.00pm
Fitness & dance exercise class	Village Hall	Every Thursday 10.30am - 11.30am
Lunch Club	Village Hall	Friday 5 Sep 1.00pm
Mobile Library	Outside Village Hall	Tuesday 23 Sep 2.00pm - 2.45pm
Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall (McNulty Room)	Monday 8 Sep 7.30pm
Pickle Ball	Village Hall	Every Thursday 7.15pm - 9.15pm
Community Hub Coffee Morning	Village Hall	Every Friday 10am - 12noon
Tysoe Tots	Tysoe Primary School	Every Wednesday 9.30am - 11.30am
Tysoe WI	Village Hall	Wednesday 3 Sep 7.30pm - 9.00pm

[www.tysoerecord.org](http://www.tysoerecord.org) 'What's On' for a full listing of events!

# COMING UP AT THE HALL



Films, charity fundraisers, NT Live & the Food Festival - busy busy!



In *Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy*, Bridget is alone once again, widowed four years ago, when Mark was killed on a humanitarian mission in the Sudan. She's now a single mother to 10-year-old Billy and 6-year-old Mabel and is stuck in a state of emotional limbo, raising her children with help from her loyal friends, including her former lover, Daniel Cleaver (Hugh Grant).

Sat 6th September



Tysoe Children's Group work in partnership with families to provide the best possible educational experiences for all the children in their care. Come support them in the hall kitchen as they fundraise to continually modernise and invest their wonderful setting, whilst also browsing the hall stalls for creations by the many talented folks here in Tysoe.



Next up from National Theatre Live is the Oscar-nominated Rosamund Pike (*Gone Girl*, *Saltburn*) as Jessica in the much-anticipated next play from the team behind *Prima Facie*. Jessica Parks is a smart Crown Court Judge at the top of her career. Behind the robe, she is a karaoke fiend, a loving wife and a supportive parent. When an event threatens to throw her life completely off balance, can she hold her family upright?



Confirmed to be serving you wonderful foodie treats from the hall stands will be Eastwood Pies, White Hyacinth Weddings, The Lost Farm, The Jam Lady, Reyousable, Team Tea, Hook Norton Brewery, Four Counties Beekeeping, The Little Orchard Company, AGM Venison, Simply Canine and Granary Oils.

With your very own hall committee serving you drinks and snacks from the kitchen!

Full details at [www.tysoevillagehall.org.uk](http://www.tysoevillagehall.org.uk)

Tickets online and also at Tysoe Post Office

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## THESE OLD EYES HAVE SEEN IT ALL!

Eighty years have passed since atomic bombs led to the ending of the second world war. I was born the day after the first bomb decimated Hiroshima in August 1945. I guess that news probably shocked my Mum into action!

Those of that vintage have probably seen more changes in technology, medicine and transport in those eighty years than any generation before. Thus one shouldn't knock old age since many don't get the privilege of achieving it.

Over the years I have seen the fall of Nazi brutality, Italian fascism, Apartheid, the Berlin Wall and the demise of Communism. I have seen men walk on the moon, I have seen the development of the computer age and I have seen a lad from Memphis change the world with rock and roll. And these old eyes have seen it all!

I have seen England win the Football World Cup. I have seen amazing advances in medicine and science. I have seen heart transplant and laser eye surgery. I have seen mankind jump higher, leap further and run faster than ever before. And these old eyes have seen it all!

In Tysoe, I have seen the loss of the fire station, the butchers, three shops, two chapels, the smithy garage, two petrol pumps, a couple of phone boxes, the police house and adjacent communal garage. I knew everyone in the village, but gradually over the years the demographic of the village fabric has changed and developed as it must. Old faces and friends gradually disappeared to be replaced by new ones. Life must go on. And these old eyes have seen it all!

These new faces and friends are no different to those of my childhood since as humans we all share the same feelings, the same fears and the same emotions. That's all part of life's rich pageant and tapestry and it's something that we can all learn to embrace. What a tragedy then that some leaders in this dangerous world we now live in cannot practice the same values of friendship and camaraderie that exist in this lovely part of South Warwickshire that we all call home.

Phil Walker

(with acknowledgement to George Jones American musician.)

## TYSOE SOCIAL CLUB GETS A NEW LEASE OF LIFE!

It's been a busy couple of months for the Village Hall and Social Club complex, with committee members and volunteers from both teams collaborating to make best use of the quieter hiring periods to carry out essential maintenance.

The Social Club courtyard has been refreshed with new paint, and the decades-old and somewhat wobbly Perspex canopy roof has been replaced with long-lasting bitumen sheeting. The outside area looks much more inviting for those who wish to sit outside on balmy evenings and for those who enjoy a Catering Angel pizza or a drink or two.

Inside the Club the lounge floor has been completely replaced, due to the nearly 100 year old timber showing signs of decay. During the project the team discovered that the original Marley thermoplastic tiles contained asbestos fibres, which had to be professionally removed.



This exposed a wonderful, yet battle-scarred tongue and groove floor, and shows a painted area where the billiard table was originally positioned. Also shown are the concrete posts that supported the weight of the slate table bed. A note from the archives, July 1929,

Vicar McNulty stated *"Nor must we forget that Miss Lea has promised £50.0.d for a Billiard Table"*. A very generous donation indeed, worth over £2,500 today!



The project team made up a time capsule before sealing the floor, with a copy of the latest Tysoe Record as a memento to be rediscovered at some future date.



A big round of applause for all the time and effort given by our volunteers (including young Bert, pictured left) to ensure that these facilities are kept open and inviting for everyone.

We hope to be welcoming you here soon.

Lauren Hancox - Secretary - Tysoe Social Club  
Ben Viollet - Chair - Tysoe Village Hall Trust

## THE MAKING OF TYSOE: GRAVE TALES FROM THE CHURCHYARD (14) CAUSE OF DEATH

In my previous Record article we examined the most commonly depicted and mentioned cause of death on gravestones – childbirth.



Gravestones rarely detail other causes of death. Epitaphs often speak of long suffering, or release from earthly woes, and emphasise the contrast between pains endured in life and the bliss of heaven and resurrection, but stop short of identifying the fatal illness or condition.

On a very few headstones the imagery hints at symptoms of disease, such as the extraordinary scene on the elaborately carved headstone of John Rimmell (d. 1805) in Weston-sub-Edge churchyard (above). A man with a swollen cheek is kneeling in an attitude of prayer in front of an open book and a blazing forge. Above him a flying angel appears, extending a pair of (heated?) blacksmith's tongs towards the man's mouth. This could be interpreted as an image of oral suffering, and on the fragmentary epitaph the word "pain" survives.



Another example is the broken headstone for Mary Snow (d. 1714) in Ilmington churchyard, showing a dated and initialled coffin under an hour-glass, and a vignette of a skull pierced by an arrow above cross-bones. Her cautionary epitaph states she was taken in her prime, presumably succumbing to a head related illness. Such graphic headstone imagery is very rare, but

parish registers can be more revealing about sudden or accidental deaths, and we will look at some local incidents in a future article.

David Freke



## HELPING HEDGEHOGS IN TYSOE

Sadly, due to their continued decline the once common hedgehog has been added to the **Red List for British Mammals** and classed as vulnerable to extinction.

I feel very lucky to have a hedgehog that regularly passes through my garden on Baldwins Lane and I know others in Tysoe have had sightings of these amazing British animals too. There is much we can all do to halt their decline and to ensure a future for hedgehogs so please do consider how you might be able to help them. Here are some pointers:

- Ensuring hedgehogs can pass freely through your garden is one of the most important things you can do to help them. They travel around a mile each night. One garden is not enough, hedgehogs need neighbourhoods of linked-up gardens to survive. A 13cm x 13cm hole in your fence allows them to pass through.
- Stop using slug pellets or pesticides in your garden. Use organic methods instead.
- Provide a shallow dish of water.
- Leave a wild corner or areas of wild spaces for shelter, food and other wildlife in your garden.
- Keep garden netting off the ground to avoid entanglement.
- Ensure they can easily exit garden ponds on rocks or ramps.
- Check bonfire stacks for hedgehogs before lighting and include an escape route tunnel. They will be hibernating from October.
- Take care to avoid killing hedgehogs on roads as they emerge during the hours of darkness.
- Remember, discarded litter can be deadly to hedgehogs and other wildlife. Join Tysoe Wombles if you can.

**Become a Hedgehog Champion!** Join the 'Hedgehog Street' campaign, share information and add sightings to the 'Big Hedgehog Map.' Further details are available on [www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk](http://www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk). If you find an injured hedgehog, contact BHPS on 01584 890801.

Jennifer Cawood



## ALL HUMMING AND FLUTTERING AT SUN RISING



With the early heat, here at the Natural Burial Ground the wildflower meadow went to seed early, which means fewer nectar-rich flowers for the insects, but there is still plenty of wild marjoram, birdsfoot trefoil, agrimony and betony, knapweeds and wild carrot. Around the pond, you'll see the most insects at this time of year, with purple loosestrife, water mint and great willowherb now drawing the gatekeepers, small coppers, large whites and other butterflies – even the beautiful mint moth. The bright red ruddy darter dragonflies do as their name suggests, darting between the reeds, while common carder bees and droneflies roll around in the sweet flowers. With our planned pond extension going head over the next few months, this habitat will be enlarged and even more valuable.

We've had some lovely nature walks over the past few months, albeit with variable weather. At our Insect Day in June, held alongside the Royal Entomological Society's National Insect Week, we had a good count of all things fluttering, buzzing, humming and crawling. A spider expert from Moreton Morrell College joined us for an official spider survey of the nature reserve – results still pending!

Our July flora walks and butterfly walks were lovely gentle meanders through the meadows, along hedgerows, and under the trees, doing our best to identify the flowers, grasses and butterflies we saw. At the beginning of August, our 24-Hour Bioblitz was great fun: starting with nothing overnight, then an early bird survey, through the day we were pond-dipping, exploring lichens, walking through the woodland, leaping after grasshoppers, photographing all we could. Into the evening There were bats, owls and more moths! Almost 300 species were seen, and we missed so many!

If you're interested in events up at the Natural Burial Ground, let us know and we can put you onto the mailing list.  
Emma Restall Orr ([office@sunrising.co.uk](mailto:office@sunrising.co.uk))



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## SEPTEMBER EVENTS

**6th**

Made In Tysoe

Tysoe Village  
Hall

CV35 0SE

10am-2pm

**13th**

Kineton  
Farmers  
Market

Market Square  
CV35 0LP

10am-12pm

**14th**

Shipston Food  
Festival

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## A WIDER PERSPECTIVE

Living as we do in our wonderful village of Tysoe, we can feel removed and powerless when we witness the troubles affecting different parts of the world as seen through our screens and radios. It takes courage and compassion to take a more proactive stance.

All credit to Sophy Forman-Lynch for highlighting her “deep worry about the current situation in Gaza” by hanging up pots on her hedge which contain thought-provoking slogans such as, *“Food’s a basic human right, not a weapon.”* Her aim is to raise awareness and promote discussion. She encourages us to write to our MP. You can see her post in full on the Tysoe Village Noticeboard.



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Likewise Rebecca Billing organised a night at the races, together with the Lions Club, to support NOXADUK - ‘a community-driven initiative providing humanitarian aid, refugee support and community resources for those affected by the war.’ The event raised an impressive £1,800.

Reverend Susan in her sermon the other Sunday referred to a memorial service she took while in her Norfolk diocese for a man who had built a magnificent house but died within a year of its completion. He had enjoyed work, music, golf and ballet, but there was no reference to how he had “gathered others beyond his family and inner circle.” There was no mention of any charitable works. It was all about this own self-sufficiency. Susan continued: “It is not things that are actually really important. It is the people around us that are important, relationships not bricks and mortar. We know that but we might not always live it.”

What we leave behind is our legacy, not in what we had but how we treated people, animals and the world around us. It is important to be open to a wider view of life.

The Editor

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Keith Bennett was one of five victims of Ian Brady and Myra Hindley

## 'THE MOORS MURDERS - A Search for Justice' shown on BBC2 July 31st

This was a harrowing documentary to watch, going over the crimes committed by Ian Brady and Myra Hindley over 60 years ago. The case was reopened by Duncan Staff, a documentary film-maker and journalist, after the original case files were rediscovered. It deserves mention in the Tysoe Record on two counts – one

as our resident forensic archaeologist Professor John Hunter was part of the documentary team. He in turn involved specialist drone pilot Tom Willcock, another Tysonian, to make a high-resolution digital map of the landscape to aid the investigation.

Duncan Staff and retired detective Martin Slevin spent hours painstakingly combing through reams of notes and voice recordings. They also scrutinised photographs taken by Brady to if see they indicated where Keith's body was buried. In their research they came across an autobiography called 'Black Light' which Brady wrote from his prison cell, but only the first 300 + pages. Crucially the section about Keith is missing. It is thought the original manuscript now resides with a solicitor in Liverpool, following Brady's death.

John and Duncan have worked together on this and other cases in the past. Both were reluctant to be drawn back, but the desire for justice to find missing Keith Bennett was a strong motivator. "Neither Duncan nor I had any real intentions of returning there," John said, "but the discovery of Brady's manuscript and photographs changed all that."

**Spoiler alert** – The two-part documentary concludes with an email transcript from the Manchester Police who despite publicly saying they would do everything in their power to assist the families are refusing to reopen the investigation. Let's hope that this documentary (also on BBC iPlayer) may result in Keith being found at last.

The Editor

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# KINETON ART GROUP



Kineton Art Group started as a small group of half a dozen friends meeting in each other's houses and has grown to over 75 members which meet every Monday (bar Bank Holidays) in Kineton Village Hall from 12.30 pm to 3.00 pm or from 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm

Most members paint in watercolours, acrylics or oils but several create using embroidery, jewelled pieces, collages and silk transfers. There is no formal instruction but several times a year we have visiting artists give workshops i.e. demonstrations on oils, seascapes in watercolour, cyanotype printing, wool art and handmade paper. Plus a range of whole day workshops.

We are a friendly group and chat over tea/coffee, discussing our art and swapping ideas. Our two weekend exhibitions each year take place in May and October in Kineton village hall for members to exhibit their work. Even if you do not buy a picture, there is tea and coffee available all day with scrumptious cakes in our café area.

New members from beginners to established artists, young and those still young at heart are all welcome. Membership is £35 per annum (from September to August). Please contact me to register for a free taster session: [kag.membership.enq@gmail.com](mailto:kag.membership.enq@gmail.com) . We look forward to welcoming you at the Kineton Art Group.

Gaynor Van Dijk, Membership Secretary

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## TYSOE PHONE BOOK

District Councillor	Malcolm Littlewood	07514 951 174
Lunch Club	Nicola Rexton	01295 680 058
NGS Open Gardens	Sue Sanderson	01295 688 080
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	01295 680632
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	Phill Short	01295 680 732
Tysoe Flower Show	Steve Allen	tysoeflowershow@gmail.com
Tysoe Heritage Research Group (THRG)		thrg.info@gmail.com
Tysoe Rainbows	Diane Gibbs	tysoerainbows@hotmail.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 Adults	Gawain Hyde	07891 858847
Tysoe United FC	Juniors Stewart Lay	07870 851475
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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