

TYSOE & DISTRICT RECORD

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Photo credit: Ben Violette

Congratulations to a remarkable couple.

Paul and Heather Dowler and their team of dedicated volunteers have been awarded The King's Award for Voluntary Service - **read more on page 3.**



It's hard to think it's that time of year already!

It's been a privilege to write about the news and events which have taken place in Tysoe over the past ten months. There's been no shortage of material to fill these pages! Here's to another action-packed year in 2026.

Merry Christmas AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The Editor

Illustration by Alex Paterson

The editor would like to thank the Record Team for their support and all our distributors who pop the Tysoe & District Record through our subscribers' letterboxes without fail, come rain, snow or shine!

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ROYAL RECOGNITION FOR A REMARKABLE COUPLE



The Record is delighted to announce that Heather Dowler (previously Heather Brown) and Paul Dowler, the names behind Talkdementia, have been awarded the prestigious King's Award for Voluntary Service. The award recognises the dedication shown by volunteers who willingly give their time, patience and understanding, whilst changing their own lives to help others.

The Editor met up with the couple and heard their story first hand.

Heather shared - "we only met in 2020 – when Paul took his wife Mary to the dementia café in Wellesbourne, which I started in 2016. I cared for and lost my husband Dave to Vascular Dementia in 2018 and Paul, after caring for his wife Mary, was to lose her to Alzheimer's Dementia in 2020. Realising that there were so many other family dementia carers struggling to cope as we indeed had - we then embarked together on founding "talkdementia" during 2021".

Paul continued - "and we discovered that whilst sharing this passion to help other dementia carers, we had developed a mutual respect for each other that culminated in us falling in love - and the rest is history. Together with our amazing team of volunteers, we try to make a real difference to the lives of family carers looking after those loved ones living with dementia."

Now married, they are a formidable and experienced team, running six dementia friendly cafés, with the help of 35 volunteers, campaigning on behalf of the needs and rights of carers, whilst also working alongside NHS professionals, National Charities and local organisations within Warwickshire and North Cotswolds.

Tysoe is incredibly proud to have two such dedicated people as neighbours. We share our sincerest congratulations for the recognition bestowed upon you both by King Charles.

The Editor



To read more about the King's Award for Voluntary Service and watch a video about this year's winners go to: <https://kavs.dcms.gov.uk/>
Equivalent to an MBE, KAVS is the highest Award given to local voluntary groups in the UK, and they are awarded for life.



TALES FROM THE WILD WEST—YEE HAA!

The passport hadn't left the country for over 18 years, so when the opportunity came to visit the USA and look at a few Hereford cattle at the same time, the planning kicked into action. The bulls were put with the cows three weeks later to delay autumn calving. The chiller was emptied and no cattle killed in the month before to avoid any disasters from possible equipment/power outages. All cows and calves were weaned a month early, (sorry about the mooing neighbours!) silage and feed organised and the JCB booked in for a well-earned service/repair birthday.

First stop was Montana and the cows were a little different, not enough front-end for me. Line breeding and high tails heads were very much to the fore. The farming environment was challenging and can be brutal; the majority of cows being calved outside in sub-zero often -40F temps where their ears are often agri-taped to their heads to stop frostbite and tails are quite a bit shorter as a result - *you have it too good here in your cosy sheds Happy Herefords!*

Following a pretty hairy plane transfer to Kansas City, after which the plane was immediately decommissioned, we sat diligently through four days of networking, presentations and tasting lots of beef! A detailed insight into the Certified Hereford Beef Brand and its growing influence within the meat sector in the US left much food for thought.

Onwards to Oklahoma where we were finally treated to some decent warm weather and sunshine, a chuckwaggon supper and some much better-looking cows. There was a notable respect for the influence of the *Black Baldy* (a first cross Hereford x Angus cow) in creating superior growth rates and putting better conformation (carcass grade) back into the American Angus which have for too long been bred for easy calving over everything else. There was also less dedication to Line-breeding with ranchers actively using a pedigree Hereford out-cross bull at every third generation to put power back into the breed.





We found ourselves eating smoked BBQ beef brisket for breakfast at the Cattlemen's Congress with a briefing from the Governor of Oklahoma who had fought tooth and nail representing the state's cattle farmers culminating in a \$170m investment in a new dedicated livestock exhibition arena. It was refreshing to see such passion and positivity towards the agriculture industry from a politician.

A quick stop by at the Oklahoma Stockyards, which even made the once renowned Banbury cattle market look small, covering an area of 100 acres (approx. size of Herberts Farm) with 66 acre pens throughout; at capacity bringing in 21,000 head of cattle per day all through a sale ring the size you see in the UK. That's some back-of-house organisation!

Our final stop was to the Buck Cattle Ranch – something a little different – where they essentially breed what we would call 'nutters'! Working like the horse world every calf is born January 1st of their birth year, are DNA'd and registered much like our Pedigree Breed Associations, approx. 12k are registered per annum. These cattle are bred to buck, being scored on five traits – front kick, back kick, tenacity, spin and athleticism. We watched a good few being put through their paces and with many selling for \$20-\$24k. It appears its still big business in the US.

Back to Tysoe for a rest and planning for the 2028 World Hereford Conference in the UK!



Photo: Harrison with two Kansas City Chiefs Cheerleaders, World Cattle Conference Gala

Monica Brown

REFLECTIONS ON TYSOE BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS



Photo credits: bonfire B-P and fireworks Silvia Wigram

“No man is an island,” says John Donne from across the centuries.

“No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main.” - Rev Susan

Philip and I went to the Tysoe bonfire night and fireworks. It was lovely, we stood and watched as the fire was prepared, and lit, and caught aflame, and then burned for probably 45 minutes, maybe even an hour. We just stood there, captivated by the light and the power of fire, held by the warmth, . . . and becoming aware that there we were, a whole group of us, from the village and surrounding villages, *being together*, sharing the experience of light and warmth. I have not been to a public event where as much time was given to simply standing together, it was really good!

We must never lose sight, as Christian people, that we are a community of people. We have lost a lot of our significance when we see ourselves only as individuals.

All saints and all souls is undertaken with lights. Remembrance with a flower, the poppy- the frailest of petals with the ability to stay in the soil and burst into life in the most deprived conditions. And Thanksgiving with a meal. But all of them, and this is key today, are marked by *being together*.

We must stand and be warmed by the fire together, as humanity always has done; and we must eat and remember our blessings together. Come along as families to the Christingle on Christmas Eve, and hold candles together.

Rev Susan Bowden-Pickstock



TRICK OR TREAT AT TYSOE VILLAGE STORES

When I offered to have my three young granddaughters stayover for Halloween I was a little daunted, wondering if their experience of trick or treating in little Tysoe would be the spooky experience they would hope for. As I passed the village stores that day a notice in the window caught my eye.

How fortuitous!

So along we went, 3 Harry Potters and me, Gruesome Granny, to see what scary tricks and tasty treats were in “store”! (See what I did there?!).

Bart and his crew truly excelled themselves with this delightful initiative. Inside the creepy, cobwebbed cafe we were greeted by witches and ghouls who tricked us with weird and scary boxes of tricks (there was no way I was putting my hands in those!). The children loved it. Then there were sweetie treats galore to feast on! Best of all (for me) a glass of delicious, warm punch to keep me warm on the eerie trail.

Bart had clearly gone to a lot of effort earlier in the day, strategically placing tiles depicting Halloween favourites, ghosts, pumpkins, witches and more, around the village, providing a list of clues guiding us to them.

A good hour was spent in our search during which we called on brave villagers, who had placed invitingly lit pumpkins on their doorsteps, collecting more delicious treats and casting spells in true Hogwarts style. It was such a lovely, community time exchanging greetings with other scary participants along the way.

Thank you Tysoe Stores for the effort and imagination that went into providing this entertaining, fun and spooky event. We had a chillingly magical time!

Susan Thorndale



BOO!



THE TRAITORS - Tysoe Record can now reveal the illustrator of the Search & Find book, as featured in the last issue, is our own, Alex 'Faithful' Paterson. (Sorry your name slipped off the page!)





POWERING UP THE VILLAGE HALL

On the 11th July 2024 we embarked on our Net Zero journey. Acutely conscious of our electricity usage, both environmentally and financially, we secured grant funding for a comprehensive Energy Survey. From that baseline the team have ensured the easy wins are in place, with door draught strips and appropriate roof insulation in place. With hall lighting already using modern and efficient LED units it was time to take the next major steps. Visitors have seen the two destratification fans, which gently recirculate rising warm air, which have an impact not only on comfort, but reduce the time the fan heaters are running and consuming electricity.

Our next focus was on renewable energy, collecting energy via photovoltaic (solar) panels to be stored in batteries. We are fortunate that the roof facing Quo Vadis is at an almost ideal projection and, following acceptance of our Planning Application to Stratford-on-Avon District Council and professional due diligence on the roof structure, we progressed to fundraising. Our Treasurer has worked exceptionally hard to secure major parts of the project cost and we are indebted to all those that have enjoyed films and National Theatre, visited Food Festivals, danced to live music, supported Made In Tysoe and all of the other events the hall has run.

Your support helped make this significant project a financial reality.

As many visiting the centre of the village will have seen, over a two day period our selected contractor, D Cookman Electrical, installed 45 panels up on the roof. This has a theoretical (if the weather allows!) capacity to generate nearly 23kWp of energy. Key to the success of the solution are the batteries, which can be further expanded, but initially can also store 23kWh, ready for release for lighting and heating duties. Surplus energy, after the batteries are full, will be exported to the grid.

We look forward to reducing the financial overhead of electricity consumption over the coming years, whilst doing “our bit” towards a greener planet. Hopefully this will future proof the hall for the benefit of the good people of Tysoe for generations to come.

Ben Viollet, Chair, Tysoe Village Hall Trust.
www.tysoevillagehall.org.uk

AFTERNOON TEA DANCE

Many couples (some willing, others less so!) gathered at the Village Hall to participate in a Tea Dance in support of the Poppy Appeal. This form of entertainment, having been de rigueur in the War, is a rarity today. We were fortunate to have Geraldine Rouse's expertise to guide and channel participants' enthusiasm through the different dances.

Even on a cold afternoon the Hall's new solar powered heating system kept us beautifully warm. We are so lucky to have such a flexible venue in the village.

All participants departed with a new admiration for 'Strictly' dancers. On behalf of the Poppy Appeal, I would like to thank the Village Hall and WI committees for their kind donation and for arranging an afternoon full of laughter, good company and great food.

David Sewell
Strictly Judge in waiting!



THE HISTORY BEHIND OUR CHRISTMAS WREATHS



Photo credit: Pixaby

Although Christmas is a Christian festival, many of the trappings which make it so, well, Christmassy, have been handed down through the millennia. The winter solstice was for many pre-Christian societies a reason to celebrate as people hunkered down and

looked forward to warmer times. Homes were decorated with evergreen stalwarts such as holly, ivy and mistletoe, all of which represented life and the promise of spring when nothing else was growing. Wreaths made from these plants were hung on doors or in sacred spaces as charms of protection and fertility or as an offering to the gods.

The Romans associated wreaths in particular with divine blessings. Apollo, for example, was rarely seen out and about without a laurel wreath on his head, while the god of wine, Bacchus, wore an ivy wreath to ward off hangovers. This led the ancient Romans to believe that wreaths conferred the blessings of the gods and is why they bestowed them on their most favoured sons. At the annual festivals of Saturnalia and Kalends, which closely mirrored those of Christmas and new year, wreaths and garlands were often given as gifts.

As Christianity spread across Europe many such customs were quietly absorbed into new religious celebrations. By the Middle Ages the use of evergreens during Advent and at Christmas had become commonplace and the first Advent wreaths appeared in Germany in the 16th century. These had become a symbol of eternity and the everlasting love of God, the red berries representing the blood of Christ and the promise of redemption. But we have to wait until the 19th century before this festive decoration first appeared on our front doors. Wreaths are now not just a symbol of a shared faith and hope for the future but also a reminder of how we are linked to the past.

Janette Wolf

TYSOE RECORD REMEMBRANCE



This year our determined poppy sellers patrolled Tysoe, Oxhill, Ratley and Radway and collected an INITIAL total of £3,145. I say initial because we haven't yet seen the result of all the phone payments that get made these days. Update to follow at some point. Thanks so much to everyone for giving up their time to volunteer and thanks to everyone else for giving so generously. There was a very nice service at the memorial and the following week a special event in the village hall which collected even more money. I thought you people might appreciate a little cartoon I drew of my regiment (and me somewhere) marching at the Cenotaph in London. We all kept the step and whipped off our bowlers smartly together!



Alex Paterson



@ Hope & Glory Flower Company



Wreath Making Workshop

6th December - An Evening Wreath Making Workshop

Join Jacqui at Tysoe Post Office for a hands-on two hour workshop to learn the age-old craft of wreath making. Let her expertly guide you on how to create your own Christmas wreath to hang proudly in your home ready for Christmas.

Materials provided, 6pm start.
To book see below:

Visit www.hopeandgloryflowercompany.co.uk or see us at the Post Office

Children Society Box Collection Result



At our recent box opening event Tysoe's fantastic 20 strong box holders' team have collected £594.50 to send to the Children's Society. By keeping a box at their home and popping in the odd coin now and then it's amazing how it adds up! The Children's Society delivers vital support to young people dealing with abuse, exploitation and neglect, letting them know they are not alone. Last year they were able to help over 57,000 children and young people thanks to supporters. If you would like to have a box in your home let me know. This year our Crib service at St Mary's will also involve Christingles, the Children's Society flagship celebration. Our collection on that day will be for the Children's Society. To take part see my article on Christingle on page 19.

Gill Roache

01295 680309 gillyr@buzzinternet.co.uk

Please support our voluntary work through
buying your Christmas Cards here...

Pop into Tysoe Village Hall any Friday from 10am - 12 noon

Or by ringing Paul & Heather on 01295 688376



£4.50 per
pack of 10


talkdementia

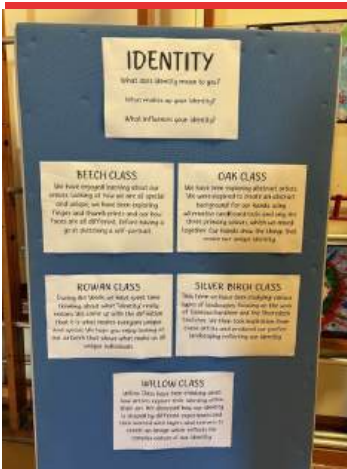

Your
Community
Hub

2ND ANNUAL ART EXHIBITION



Recently, Tysoe C of E Primary School hosted their second annual Art Exhibition. Every child produced a piece of artwork around the theme of identity.

Parents and family visited our exhibition and 'purchased' their favourite art pieces with all proceeds going toward new art resources.





FRIENDS OF SUN RISING



Autumn is always a busy time at Sun Rising, the nature reserve's beauty is transformed once more with spectacular leaf colours and hedgerows laden with berries for the birds to enjoy. The annual pond clearing task took a slightly different form this year, as we eagerly wait for the pond extension to be filled by the rain. The low water levels gave us an opportunity to tackle areas that are usually inaccessible (although they were still very muddy!).

At the last count, we are expecting 70-80 new saplings to be planted in the wooded burial areas during our tree planting weekends in December. The addition of the new trees each year is a very visual measure of our progress towards the aims and goals for the reserve and it is heartening to compare these sections with the more established ones, and envisage what they will look like in the future, once they have matured.

Our Christmas in the Longhouse event will take place on Sunday 21st December. You are warmly invited to come along and join us

between 11 am and 3 pm for mulled wine and mince pies, whilst listening to performances from the Community Choir of Oxhill, Tysoe and Shenington (CCOTS). Our memory tree will be there for you to add a message for a loved one. There will be a tombola and gift stall for that last minute shopping!

The Friends of Sun Rising are already hard at work with plans for next year's events; please look out for details in future editions of the Tysoe Record and on local noticeboards.

Dawn Short

Sun Rising
Christmas
in
The Longhouse

You are welcome to drop by, at any time
between 11:00am and 3:00pm, on
Sunday 21st December 2025

- ⊗ CCOTS (Community Choir)
- ⊗ Memory Tree
- ⊗ Mulled Wine & Mince Pie
- ⊗ Gift Stall and Tombola

For more information,
visit sunrising.co.uk/christmas
or scan this QR Code:



Sun Rising Natural Burial Ground, Lower Tysoe, CV35 0DG



Tysoe Wombles Unite: Rubbish beware!

Tis the season to be tidy! Now that all the road verges are dying back, Tysoe Wombles came out in force on Sunday 16 November for a community litter-pick. We found lots of old fizzy drink and beer cans, vapes and a couple of old broken road signs in road ditches leading into the village, as well as an old car tyre, heavy mat and a smashed Samsung mobile phone.

As a reward, litter picking was followed by a lovely hot cuppa and delicious cakes in the church.

Thanks to the Tysoe Wombles for helping to keep our wonderful village tidy.

You'll see us out and about in our high vis vests, gloves, litter picking grabbers and bags. Please give us a wide berth if you're in the car, as the roads with the heaviest litter tend to be the fast ones. If you'd like to become a Tysoe Womble contact Sophy Lynch sophyfl@gmail.com or 079897 99272.

NOTICE FROM THE TYSOE UTILITY ESTATE

The Tysoe Utility Estate provides discretionary grants to qualifying individuals living within the parish of Tysoe:

- Students embarking on a recognised course of further education, such as a degree or equivalent, having completed compulsory education
- A Christmas grant, delivered in the New Year, given to parishoners, after 7 years' residency (amended July 2022) The qualifying age is now in line with the government state pension age. Those that fall below this age, but have already been in receipt of the grant will remain unaffected.
- A death grant towards funeral costs, 7 years residency (amended July 2022)
- A discretionary grant may also be available to individuals experiencing unexpected financial hardship.

GDPR prevents the trustees gaining access to individuals' details so we have to rely on our local knowledge and on local people to inform us.

Email tueclerk@gmail.com or call 01295 680567 and leave a message so we can send an application form to you.

Yvonne Dillon, The Tysoe Utility

Holly Tree Fayre
Saturday 13th December
10am – 1pm
St Mary's Church, Tysoe



CASH ONLY

Unique gifts from local crafters
Refreshments & raffle
Rev George's pork baps
Musical entertainment
Free children's activities



Admission £1, Children Free.
Supporting Riding for the Disabled & St Mary's Church

Please come and join in one or more of the church services to celebrate the real Christmas Spirit of love and joy

TYSOE, OXHILL & WHATCOTE CAROL & CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 7th December: at 3.30pm	Christingle Service at St. Lawrence's Church, Oxhill
Tuesday 16th December at 6.30pm	Carol Service at St. Peter's Church, Oxhill
Sunday 21st December at 6:30pm	Carol Service at St. Mary's Church, Tysoe
Tuesday 23rd December at 6:30pm	Carol Service at St. Lawrence's Church, Oxhill
Wednesday 24th December – 3pm Christmas Eve	Christingle Service at St. Mary's Church, Tysoe
Wednesday 24th December – 11.30pm Christmas Eve	Midnight Holy Communion at St. Mary's, Tysoe
Thursday 25th December - 9.30am Christmas Day	United South Feldon Group Advent Sunday Carol Service at St. Lawrence's Church, Oxhill
Sunday 28th December at 11am	United South Feldon Group Holy Communion Service at St. Thomas à Becket's Church, Sutton under Brailes.

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

Christmas is coming . . . That's what Advent means in the church calendar and we have four Sundays of reflection on what 'the coming' means. This year, because of the way the date of Christmas falls, Advent began on 30 November, unlike chocolate advent calendars, which are not allowed to be opened until 1 December!

There will be an Advent Wreath in church, with five candles: four coloured ones for the Sundays in Advent and a white one which is lit at Christmas to represent the Christ-child. In Times and Seasons (the 'rule book' for celebrating Church of England festivals) each of the Sundays in Advent has a theme: 1. Patriarchs (Abraham and co.); 2. Prophets (Isaiah and co.); 3. John the Baptist; 4. Mary.

Alternative themes for the four Sundays are **HOPE, PEACE, JOY** and **LOVE**, which means that the theme for our Service on the second Sunday in Advent (7 December) would be Peace. This seems especially appropriate just now when our news media are still reporting on the conflict in Ukraine which started in 2022, and on the Israel/ Gaza situation where the precarious ceasefire is holding, as I write.

Joy is the theme for the third week of Advent. Christmas is rightly a time of rejoicing that the Saviour of the world came to live among us! Something to celebrate in a world which can seem so dark at times.

The fourth theme is **LOVE**. We reflect with awe and wonder on the loving nature of our God who was willing to be born in humble circumstances and be exposed to all the pressures and pains, sorrows and delights of being human, so that we can know at first hand what God is like. God is beside us in all the experiences of life and by his grace we can look detect, and build on, signs of hope and peace and joy amidst the death and destruction and chaos which seem to characterise our world.

How do we react to this love and share it? One small way might be to get involved in the **Reverse Advent Calendar** scheme. The idea is that we have a box, or something similar, at home and place an item of food in it every day of Advent. Or we can put these items directly in the box in church. By Christmas Eve there will be 24 items of food for the Foodbank in each box, to distribute to local people in need.

I wish peace and goodwill to you and to friends and to visitors among us.

God Bless, George Heighton

Email revgeorgeh@outlook.com Telephone 01295 680 201

COMING UP AT THE HALL



NT Live, Panto & Burns Night - busy busy!



Next in our popular National Theatre Live series

Olivier Award-winner Jack Lowden (*Slow Horses*, *Dunkirk*) is joined by Emmy and BAFTA-winner Martin Freeman (*The Hobbit*, *The Responder*) in the critically acclaimed and subversively funny new play by David Ireland.



Oh yes we did!

If it is January it **MUST** be Panto time - and this year we are showing *Rumpelstiltskin*. Come and laugh along with a miller who falsely claims his daughter can spin straw into gold to impress the King. What could **POSSIBLY** go wrong!

VERY family friendly - book early to avoid disappointment



We will once again gather the clans at the hall

Enjoy *The Selkirk Grace*, *The Procession of the Haggis*, *The Address to a Haggis*, a three course meal - featuring many Scottish elements, hear *The Immortal Memory*, witness the *Toast to the Lassies* and the *Reply from the Lassies* - followed by much dancing! Very likely to sell out - be quick!



Alas Poor Yorick - more from National Theatre

Olivier Award-winner Hiran Abeysekera (*Life of Pi*) is Hamlet in this fearless, contemporary take on Shakespeare's famous tragedy. Trapped between duty and doubt, surrounded by power and privilege, young Prince Hamlet dares to ask the ultimate question - you know the one.

Full details at www.tysoevillagehall.org.uk

Tickets online and also at Tysoe Post Office



What is Christingle?

Now in its 50th year, Christingle is a special celebration that takes place in thousands of churches and schools across the country.

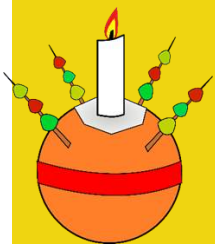
The celebration is named after the Christingles that are lit during the service. Christingles are made from an orange decorated with red tape, sweets and a candle. With your help, Christingle raises vital funds to help children who are facing Christmas alone and are unable to cope.



Christingles services may be held from the start of Advent to Candlemas, with Christmas Eve a particularly popular time for them. Our Christingle celebration is an opportunity to bring our community together, to share the Christian story and to experience the joy and wonder of this well-loved Christmas tradition.

When? Christmas Eve 3pm Where? St Mary's Church Tysoe

There will be a collection for The Children's Society whose work is highlighted on page 12 and will be displayed on posters around the Churchyard.



BOOK YOUR CHRISTINGLE!

Mums and dads, please collect your **FREE** Christingle ticket, 1 ticket for each Christingle, via Tysoe School, Tysoe Children's Group, village shop and Post Office so we know how many to make! We hope you will take part in the Christingle Advent Windows Trail around Tysoe - see the Village Facebook page for details.



Step into the sparkle of Christmas

Aesop's Fables: Tiger and the fox

14 November - 4 January,
closed 25-26 December
House open 11:30am - 3pm daily

nationaltrust.org.uk/UptonHouse
For everyone, for ever



© National Trust 2020. Registered Charity no. 205846.
Photography © National Trust Images/Helen Cable



Your local support group for family carers. We usually meet on the fourth Friday of the month

(except December) from **10:30 to 12 noon at Kineton Village Hall**. Loved ones are welcome too – they can join our Companionship Group.

Friday 12th December – Carers' Christmas Get-Together

The festive season isn't always easy — that's why our Christmas meeting is a gentle one. Join us for a relaxed meeting with refreshments, mince pies, and a few carols to lift the spirits. Whether you're feeling festive or not, you'll be warmly welcomed.

Friday 23rd January – Coping strategies for carers

Our January meeting focuses on coping strategies — ways to care for yourself while caring for others. We'll share ideas, experiences, and gentle techniques to help you navigate the ups and downs of the year ahead. Come along for a cuppa, conversation, and a little encouragement.

For further details or help with transport, Contact Gillian on 07947 893504, email kcarers4carers@gmail.com.



www.carers4carersonthefosse.org.uk



A SING-ALONG WITH KATHY



The Ladies of Tysoe W.I. were in fine form when Kathy Morris came to entertain us with a range of sing-a-long popular songs at our November meeting. Kathy has entertained us in the past and she was returning by popular demand due to her lovely voice and excellent entertaining manner.

It didn't take long for the ladies to join in with such classics as Cilla Black's "Anyone who had a heart" or a selection of other popular 60's songs, obviously including The Beatles. No words were necessary as we knew them by heart. Our voices, lubricated by wine, were in fine form and could have given any choir a run for its money.

Kathy also gave us a sensitive selection of melodies from the war years of 1914 - 1945 to mark Remembrance Day. Of course the last song was Vera Lynn's "There'll be Blue Birds over the White Cliffs of Dover".

We ended the evening on a lively note which had the ladies up and dancing, the Charleston being particularly popular. Everyone present agreed that it had been a great evening.



Our meeting in December is our members only Christmas Entertainment featuring a stupendous buffet provided by ourselves. It always starts our Christmas off with a swing.

We look forward to another great year for Tysoe W.I. in 2026.

Eileen Mann, President

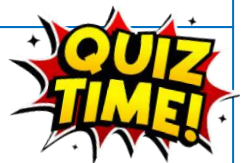


CHURCH FELLOWSHIP COFFEE MORNING

Tuesday 16th December at St Mary's Tysoe and
Tuesday 20th January 2026 from 9.30am
With Stay and Play for preschool children,
carers and parents.



BEAT THE WINTER BLUES!
Church Quiz Night - 31st January
2026 Tysoe Village Hall



NOVEMBER DIARY DATES

For details of Tysoe Clubs and Societies see the Phone Book on pages 42/43.

BINS	 Food waste <small>(food waste caddy)</small>	 Recycling <small>(blue-lidded bin)</small>	 Refuse <small>(grey bin)</small>	 Garden waste <small>(green bin)</small>
05/12/2025	✓	✓		✓
12/12/2025	✓			
19/12/2025	✓	✓	✓	✓
29/12/2025	✓			
05/01/2026	✓	✓		
10/01/2026	✓		✓	
16/01/2026	✓	✓		✓
23/01/2026	✓			
30/01/2026	✓	✓	✓	✓

What	Where	When (December)	When (January)
Coffee Morning (donations plate)	St Mary's Church	Tuesday 16 Dec 9am - 12noon	Tuesday 20 Jan 9am - 12noon
Craft & Laugh	Village Hall (McNulty Room)	No meetings	Wednesday 21, 28 Jan 1.00 - 3.00pm
Lunch Club	Village Hall	Friday 5 Dec 1.00pm	Friday 2 Jan 1.00pm
Mobile Library	Outside Village Hall	Tuesday 16 Dec 2.00pm - 2.45pm	Tuesday 20 Jan 2.00pm - 2.45pm
Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall (McNulty Room)	Monday 8 Dec 7.00pm	Monday 12 Jan 7.00pm
Tysoe WI— (members only)	Village Hall	Wednesday 3 Dec 7.30pm - 9.00pm	Wednesday 7 Jan 7.30pm - 9.00pm

Community Hub Coffee Morning, Fitness & dance exercise class, Pickle Ball , Tysoe Tots, Tysoe WI - usual times but check when restarting in NY.

www.tysoerecord.org 'What's On' for a full listing of events.

Swan Singers



CHRISTMAS Concert

Conducted by Gary Beman
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TYSOE CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING



SATURDAY 13 DECEMBER 2025

CHRISTMAS CRACKER JOKES:

What did Santa do when he went speed dating?



A: He pulled a cracker!

... MORE CRACKERS!:

How does good King Wenceslas like his pizzas?

A: Deep pan, crisp and even.



Why was the snowman looking through the carrots?

A: He was picking his nose!




Come and hear us!



Charity Christmas Fair

Shenington Village Hall,
Saturday 6th December 10:30 am - 12:30 pm
Carols, tombola, stalls, refreshments. Free entry. All welcome.

Carol Singing

Outside Oxhill Village Hall,
Wednesday 10th December 7:00 - 7:30 pm
Holly Tree Fair in Tysoe Church,
Saturday 13th December 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
Sun Rising Natural Burial Ground,
Sunday 21st December 11:00 am - 3:00 pm






Tysoe Social Club is hosting a Christmas dinner with all the trimmings and a selection of puddings. There'll be festive music, the King's Speech, games, and most importantly, wonderful company. Call Jenny on 07969259079 or Lauren on 07904461492 to register. *No one should be alone at Christmas!*

CHRISTMAS TREAT RECIPE - CHOCOLATE CANDIED PEEL

The cardamom and orange blossom water give a fragrant note to these irresistible treats. Tied into bundles and in cellophane bags makes a nice gift.

Makes approx 40.

Prep: 30 mins + 24-48 hrs drying.

Cook: 1hr 10 mins

2 large thick skinned oranges

125g dark chocolate (70% cocoa solids)

250g caster sugar 30g pistachios (finely chopped)

4-6 bruised cardamom pods, 30g cocoa powder

1 tbsp orange blossom water

Slice top and bottom from the oranges. Score the peel with a sharp knife into quarters, and remove the peel. Slice each quarter of peel into thin strips 0.5cm wide. Simmer strips in boiling water for 5 minutes. Drain and repeat using fresh boiling water. Drain and set aside.

Put sugar in a pan of 250ml of water, and stir over a low heat until dissolved.

Add orange peel, cardamom and orange blossom water and simmer over a low heat for 1 hour, adding a little more water if the pan gets too dry.

When the peel is soft and translucent remove from the pan. Place on a wire rack to cool and dry out (between 24 & 48 hours).

Lastly melt chocolate in a heatproof bowl over simmering water. Dip the peel slices in the chocolate to cover; sprinkle with pistachios, then the cocoa powder. Lay on greaseproof paper to set. ENJOY!

Helen, Ed Assistant





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DECEMBER EVENTS

6th

Christmas Market

Swalcliffe
Church
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12pm-3.30pm

6th-7th

Art in the Cotswolds

Townsend Hall
Shipston
CV36 4AE

10am-4pm

13th

Holly Tree Fayre

St Mary's
Church
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10am-1pm

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THE MAKING OF TYSOE: GRAVE TALES FROM THE CHURCHYARD (16) CHRISTMAS QUIZ

Not surprisingly gravestones do not abound with Christmas imagery or texts, so for this festive piece we will resort to Christmas games, with a quiz! The pictures are all details of memorials in the churchyard. Some are easy some are less obvious. See if you can find them all and while doing so remember the lives of the people commemorated. Take a photo of the ones you find and send to djfreke@gmail.com with your name and we'll review them in the next issue.

Hint: take a torch, and treat all memorials respectfully.



The Children's Society

Also in the Churchyard - Stories from the Children's Society. Read different stories about how the society helps young people cope with problems: "It's open and it's connected. It doesn't just follow a script. It's about values. It's about valuing each other and respecting each other."



WHAT A YEAR IT'S BEEN!



This year has been remarkable, one significant highlight has been the refurbishment of our playground area. We are very grateful for all the help with fund-raising and donations over the years which has allowed us to make these positive changes a reality for the children and our staff.

The last stage of the refurbishment is taking place, at the time of writing, with the perimeter fence being replaced.

The entire team at TCG wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy 2026. We are sincerely grateful for your on-going support.



Tysoe Walled Kitchen garden—Review of 2025

Phew, 2025 was a hot summer with many seeds hard to germinate, many plants struggling in the heat as well as no rain and either dried up or were very much shorter than they should be.

Chard mostly failed to germinate, the few that did bolted and went to seed very quickly, as did the fennel.

June July and August had temperatures in high 20s or/up to 34 degrees. But we did have some welcome rain in July most falling in one week with July 19th having 41mm.

September/ October saw lower temperatures, although still quite warm for those months and with a bit of rain and the garden loved it.

The brown lawns greened up overnight and many plants that seemed dead started to regrow. The cosmos which was very short shot up after

a few days of cooler weather and reached the 2-3ft they should be.

Apples and plums grew in abundance with record crops everywhere, it seemed established plants fared much better as the roots were low down seeking moisture.

Whatever the weather we still managed to harvest lots of produce with plenty for sale on our charity stall.

We need ideas please of local charities and good causes who would like to receive a share of the proceeds. Please email sueandmike.s@gmail.com of suggestions.

Sue and Mike Sanderson



Wassailing refers to the custom of visiting orchards in cider-producing regions of England and singing to the trees to promote a good harvest for the coming year. Our community orchard continues this tradition every year and will take place in the evening on Saturday 10th January 2026.



This will be a fun evening with a big bonfire and hopefully some warm mulled cider and apple juice from our own apples. Everyone is welcome so please put the date in your diaries now!

The orchard is next to the allotments on the Shenington Road in Tysoe. For more information about membership please email: miran-dawot2grow@gmail.com or call her on 01295 680265.

Allie Aves

Other contacts: Paul Sayer (680451), Sue and Mike Sanderson (688080)

READING - THE FOUNDATION OF EVERYTHING

Much of the development of our modern world began with the reading revolution in the mid-eighteenth century when ordinary people began to read. Now 300 years later we are seeing literacy levels decline.

Reading for pleasure has fallen dramatically. In the UK, more than a third of adults say they have given up reading. The National Literacy Trust reports “shocking and dispiriting” falls in children’s reading, which is now at its lowest level on record.

Many of our great leaders, inventors, scientists and artists were all avid readers. Winston Churchill read voraciously throughout his life, as did Thomas Edison, Charles Darwin and Albert Einstein. Singer-songwriters David Bowie wrote a list of his 100 favourite books, while Paul McCartney was inspired by Dylan Thomas and Oscar Wilde.

Reading and writing allow us to structure our thoughts more coolly and rationally, in contrast to the world of smartphones which tends to be more emotional, more angry and more chaotic. Reading has many other benefits including improved memory and attention span, better analytical thinking, improved vocabulary and lower rates of cognitive decline in later life.

The collapse of reading is linked to our smartphone use. Phones are designed to be hyper-addictive feeding users with endless notifications, video clips and social media. The average person now spends seven hours a day staring at a screen. For Gen Z the figure is nine hours. This takeover has a profound impact on our ability to think, learn and concentrate.

Stories for Christmas

It is against this alarming picture that the Tysoe Record is championing the importance of reading. We asked three local authors to write us a story for Christmas. They have come up with three wonderfully imaginative and creative stories, designed to appeal to little people, older children / teenagers and adults alike:

- A Tale of Two Mice at Christmas – by Rowena Heap
- Chocolate Snow in Brezno – by Sitala Peek
- Earthrise – by Aiden Ralph



The Gift of Reading

A booklet is being printed and copies will be handed out after the Christingle Service 3pm on Christmas Eve at St Mary's Church, Tysoe to all the children and families attending. This is our gift to you from the Tysoe Record. We hope you will enjoy reading them, or for little people who are still discovering the joy of reading, having them read to them over the festive season.

At Christmas the stories will be uploaded to www.tysoerecord.com. For anyone who will not be attending the service but would appreciate a hard copy, please contact the Record – see p2 for details.

Christingle and the Children's Society

Christingle is the Children's Society flagship celebration. In her *Collection Box Report* on page 12 Gill Roache describes how the Children's Society delivers vital support to young people dealing with abuse, exploitation and neglect, letting them know they are not alone.

Chocolate Snow in Brezno is a story about Anna-Krystyna and her brother Nyko:

"If you could have anything for Christmas, what would it be?" she said. It was a game they played to entertain themselves; the more fantastical the answer, the better. "That's easy," Nyko said. "I'd ask St Nicholas to let us come and live with him."

"And why would he do that?"

"He doesn't have kids, so he could borrow us. And we'd help him test new toys and tell him what things children like."

These two young children's experience of Christmas is very different from the sort of Christmas many Tysoe families enjoy. It is a tale that makes us grateful for what we have and reminds us that many children are less fortunate. Making a donation to the Children's Society, however small, is a way that we can help, and Christmas is traditionally a time of giving.

The Editor

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Hi Tysoe!

It is almost Christmas! Councillors have been looking at some of the changes that are being proposed for Local Authorities, and the possible impact on Parish Councils. At present consultations are still taking place, but when a decision is made this will be shared to everyone. Further information is available on both SDC and WCC websites.

Our County Councillor's report (Chris Mills) gives information on Family Support for families struggling, and also asking for parents and carers to look seriously at childhood vaccinations. Our District Councillor (Malcolm Littlewood) has spoken about privately managed public open spaces, which can be very costly. More work is being done and a consultation taking place for this.

Both reports and the latest planning report are available on the Parish website www.tysoe.org.uk

Councillors are reviewing the Parish Website which is currently under discussion.

Several projects are being considered, some of which Councillors will be contacting residents for their views before any decisions are made. Cllr Chris Bell is working closely with Highways at WCC to improve road safety around the Parish; the budget for 2026/27 will be agreed in January as some of the costs for this work are being covered by Tysoe Parish. Councillors are also looking to extend the Recreation ground car park, and are reviewing costings for this.

Recently we have received offers of free saplings and bulbs for planting around the village. Suitable locations for planting are being considered with Rosemary Collier, who is also helping to review our mowing map and strategy. The Parish also will undergo a tree audit as part of Council's responsibility.

On behalf of all Tysoe's Councillors, I wish you all a very merry and Happy Christmas and New Year.



Charmaine
Parish Clerk/RFO

Email: parish.clerk@tysoe.org.uk





A huge thank you to everyone who came to support our stall at the village bonfire.

We managed to raise an amazing £231, all of which will go back into the preschool to provide resources for the children in our care.



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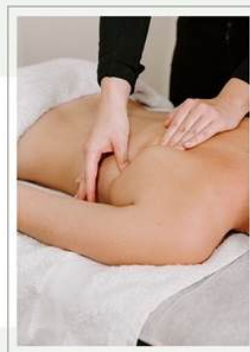
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