

TYSOE & DISTRICT RECORD

FEBRUARY 2026

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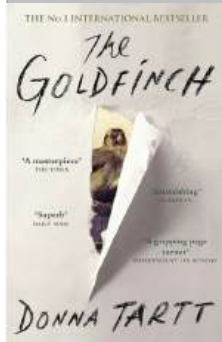
Price £1



Goldfinch in Winter. Photograph by Mark Hunter

In this issue read about 'Our Story with David Attenborough' and his message of hope and plans to make 2026 Tysoe's Wildlife Year!

WELCOME TO OUR FIRST ISSUE OF 2026



The Goldfinch, on our front cover, sets the scene for this, our wildlife issue. Did you know the collective noun for Goldfinches is 'a charm'? How delightful is that? Also, have you read 'The Goldfinch' the best seller by Donna Tartt? It features the theft of an exquisite picture of a goldfinch, painted by Carel Fabritius in 1654, from the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. It is a stunning and gripping read. Recommended by The Record.

Talking about stories, we hope you enjoyed our gift of Christmas Stories, distributed after the Christingle Service on Christmas Eve. If you missed seeing a copy you can read the stories online at <https://www.tysoerecord.org/page/stories>.

Special mention for 'Earthrise', a story by Aiden Ralph, which takes its name from the photograph of planet earth from space. Sir David makes reference to this spectacle in the current show at the Natural History Museum - see opposite. Well worth a visit!



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Next issue: March 2026 Copy deadline: Tuesday 17th Feb.

OUR STORY WITH DAVID ATTENBOROUGH



What better way to begin our first issue of the New Year than with the great man himself, Sir David Attenborough. 2026 is his hundredth year! We went to see 'Our Story' at the Natural History Museum. A fully immersive experience with film projected 360 degrees all around you. It tells the story of the very beginnings of our planet to the present day and our place in it. It is seriously weird at times as images hurtle past as you journey through the millennia, or when you are propelled upwards as if in a lift on steroids, passing through the different strata of the earth. The whole space bursts into life when the first living creatures appear. I looked to the floor to see crisscrossing chains of mitochondria connecting all the fungi. Amazing!

At 66 million years on the evolutionary timeline we got to the great apes and not long after homo sapiens entered the story, from the earliest cave paintings to Apollo 8. The point of showing the first manned mission into space was the moment when the astronauts looked out of their window to see the earth and took the famous photograph called 'Earthrise' (the subject of one of our Christmas Stories). "An incredible blue, green and white jewel rising into the lunar sky" writes Aidan Ralph "The spectacular sight of earth sparkling in a sea of black." But here's the rub, as humans our actions are destroying the planet we live on. The very essence of our existence.

The whole subject of climate change can grip us with a vice-like fear but Sir David reassures us there is still HOPE. "The recovery of the great whales gives me hope," he says. "It's tempting to focus on the faults of humankind, to blame ourselves and regard ourselves as a parasite on this beautiful planet. But after a long life exploring our world, that's not the way I see it. Instead, I see us as the ultimate problem solvers. Smart enough to achieve anything we put our dastardly minds to. That indeed is our 'superpower' so let's use it for good."

He urges us to "put our minds to solving the greatest problem we face and build our human world to work with the planet, rather than against it." He goes on to give examples of how this work is already well underway. "People around the world are coming up with the solutions we need. A sustainable future is within reach. Of the 100 billions of humans that have ever existed it is only the humans that are alive today that can build this future. Now is the most exciting time in history to be alive, so in the vastness of space and the unimaginable expanse of time, *your life is truly significant*. You have the opportunity to write the next chapter in our story." What a rallying call to start the year!

The Editor



REPORT ON THE 'GATHERING'

Tysoe Wildlife issued an invitation to 'JOIN OUR TYSOE MURMURATION' on Wednesday January 14th at St Mary's church. A meeting which brought together the various nature and wildlife interests in the parish under one big roof to discuss plans for the year ahead. Our aim to make space for nature and encourage more people to get involved. To celebrate and value the wildlife that surrounds us. Simple, everyday wildlife.

There was a wonderful line-up of speakers:

- **Rosemary Collier** explained the national drive to support wildlife and how every area has to produce a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS); how Tysoe Wildlife has joined the SWAN network for like-minded nature groups across South Warwickshire (website being built).
- **Amanda Venables**, Tysoe Parish Council said she is writing a Local Nature Action Plan. She stated how Tysoe district is really important for biodiversity.
- **David Orr** from Sun Rising Natural Burial Ground described how he and Emma have transformed a compacted hayfield into a thriving nature reserve. His team have some exciting wildlife projects planned for 2026.
- **Mike Sanderson** reported how he has agreed a 10 year extension for the Community Orchard which comprises c.200 fruit trees: apples, pears, plums, cherries, apricots and nuts - a wildlife haven for birds, bees and butterflies.
- **Rosemary** talked about the wildflower areas in the churchyard and School Lane. She outlined some ideas for future work, while Gill Roache told everyone that St Mary's now has a silver Eco Church award.
- **Roland Cherry** gave an update on the Tysoe Curlews after November's fundraiser. There are now only 5 breeding pairs in South Warwickshire, down from 25 in 2004. He's also Tysoe Wildlife's Swift champion for 2026.
- **Jennifer Cawood**, also from Tysoe Wildlife, explained how individuals can get involved in helping local wildlife. She listed the project areas for the year: hedgehogs, swifts, bats and hedgerows - see page 6 for more details.

Everyone was encouraged to read the information boards and look at the wildlife timeline/calendar for the year ahead (see opposite). The boards are still on display in the church, so do come and see them if you didn't make the meeting.

The Editor





Wildlife 2026 PLANNER

TYSOE WILDLIFE - TALKS, WALKS, EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS

Sun Rising Nature Reserve, St Mary's Church and the Community Orchard

Key: Sun Rising Nature Reserve, St Mary's Church, Community Orchard Tysoe Wildlife TBA

JANUARY

- The Big Tysoe
Wildlife Gathering
23-25 - Big Garden
Birdwatch

FEBRUARY

- Volunteer Days:
Mulching Saplings
- Making Swift nest
boxes.

MARCH

- Workshops:
 - Bird nesting
material hangers
 - Composting

APRIL

- Easter pop up craft
activities
- Birdsong, Spring
Migrants and the
Pond's Wildlife

MAY

- Wildlife Gardens
Safari
- Hedgehog
Awareness Week

JUNE

- Let it bloom in
June
- Bees, Butterflies,
Dragons and More

JULY

- Swift Awareness
Week /Swift walks
- Grasses and
Wildflowers walk

AUGUST

- Children's
Wildlife Workshop
- Tysoe Flower Show
Wildlife theme

SEPTEMBER

- Making Bat Boxes
 - Collecting
wildflower seeds
- 

OCTOBER

- Apple Day at the
Orchard
- Bat Appreciation
Week / Bat night

NOVEMBER

- Dark skies and star
gazing
- Collecting native
seeds and berries

DECEMBER

- Making bird feeder
wreaths
- Christmas Wildlife
display

To volunteer, get involved or if you are simply interested to learn more email:
tysoewildlife@gmail.com. If you use Facebook follow us @ Tysoe Wildlife.



FRIENDS OF SUN RISING



2025 ended on a high at Sun Rising, with record numbers attending our Christmas event, enjoying the fabulous festive entertainment provided by CCOTS. Thank you to everyone who came along to support us.

Looking forward, 2026 promises to be a momentous year for the Nature Reserve as it marks 20 years since Emma's vision started to become a reality and the first burial took place at the site. Over the intervening years, many more have chosen to lay their loved ones to rest in the beautiful surroundings of Sun Rising and our 2000th burial took place early this year.

We are keen to mark both milestones and have recently launched our 2026 Daffodil Appeal. The idea is a simple yet striking one; we are looking to plant a living memorial of 2000 native daffodil bulbs on the incline above our newly extended pond – a daffodil in honour of each person laid to rest at Sun Rising. In the process, we are aiming to raise money towards our appeal target of £20,000 through sponsorship of £10 per bulb. Full details of the appeal and how you can get involved are on the dedicated 2026 Daffodil Appeal page on our website <https://sunrising.co.uk/>

Our events page has been updated with details of our upcoming plans for the year. These will include spring wildlife sessions, mindfulness, our Open Day and our 20th Anniversary Commemoration event on July 18th (more details to follow). More events will be added as the year progresses; many appear on the Wildlife calendar - see page 5.

Finally, we were thrilled to support the recent Big Tysoe Wildlife Gathering which provided an excellent forum for local wildlife groups to provide more details of their invaluable work. We look forward to building on existing relationships with these groups and forging new links so that we can work together for the benefit of our beautiful village and its surrounding countryside.

Dawn Short
Trustee, Friends of Sun Rising



TYSOE WILDLIFE PROJECTS 2026

Our aim is to make 2026 Tysoe's Wildlife Year. With that in mind we've selected four key projects for Tysoe Wildlife volunteers to focus on - see the stickers below. Two of them are to help Red List species - Hedgehogs and Swifts; Bats and dark skies are also on our radar; lastly Hedgerows as these are essential for providing corridors of connectivity for wildlife as well as food and shelter.



HEDGEHOG HEROES

- ✓ Phase out pesticides
- ✓ Make hedgehog highways
- ✓ Build hedgehog houses
- ✓ Monitor their locations
- ✓ Love hedgehogs!



BATTY ABOUT BATS

- ✓ Need dark skies
- ✓ Make bat boxes
- ✓ Provide water
- ✓ Planting for insects
- ✓ Love bats!



HELPING SWIFTS SOAR

- ✓ Put up specialist nest boxes
- ✓ Create ponds
- ✓ Encourage insect life
- ✓ Record sightings
- ✓ Love swifts!



LIVING HEDGEROWS

- ✓ Filling in gaps
- ✓ Collecting seeds & berries to grow
- ✓ Sourcing new stock
- ✓ Planting transplants
- ✓ Loving the humble hedgerow!



WILDLIFE FRIENDLY GARDENS

- ✓ Add a pond
- ✓ Avoid pesticides
- ✓ Grow wildlife friendly trees, shrubs and flowers
- ✓ Make compost
- ✓ Include a wild area and mow less

Adopting **Wildlife Friendly** practices is the way everyone can help wildlife in their own gardens. When added together our gardens represent a significant area. So join with us to take these simple steps to make a difference. All of these initiatives are to help bring about nature's recovery in our parish.



February Almanac

A SEASONAL ROUND-UP OF WILDLIFE & NATURE FOR THE MONTH

EARLY SIGNS OF SPRING



Snowdrops are amongst the first to appear. Lengthening hazel catkins and, late in the month, clouds of cherry blossom attract early bumblebees out flying.

CHOP AND DROP

At the end of February, cut back grasses and other perennials in your garden. Chop the stems up and scatter as a mulch to rot down in situ. Provides habitat for wildlife, helps suppress weeds and keeps moisture in the soil.

MAKE HOMES FOR SWIFTS



Help our handy team as they assemble Swift nest

boxes from pre-cut kits and choose suitable locations for them for when these masters of the air return. Call Roland (680793) for details.

JOBS IN THE ORCHARD

Need to finish pruning the top fruit (apples/pears). Cutback the autumn raspberries and prune the white currants, red currants, gooseberries and blueberries. Lots to do!



MULCHING AT SUN RISING NATURE RESERVE

Volunteer your services to help mulching the saplings to stop grass/weeds from competing with tree roots so they can hold moisture when the dry summer comes.



PLANT A WINTER- FLOWERING SHRUB

Like Mahonia 'Winter Sun'. It provides food for bees and other insects emerging on a sunny winter's day. Plus it will increase diversity within your garden as well as adding colour and scent.

SNARE ALERT!

Remove any potential hazards that can snare hedgehogs and other wildlife. Tidy up loose plastic netting, old compost bags and bailer twine.



TO VOLUNTEER: Call Rosemary Tysoe Wildlife (680127), Miranda, Tysoe Orchard (680265), David and Emma, Sun Rising (688488), or email: tysoewildlife@gmail.com.

BRAILES GARDENING CLUB – PROGRAMME 2026

19 Jan	AGM	With fish and chip supper
12 Feb	Garden visit Own cars, shared transport	Woolscott Barn Near Rugby
19 Mar	'Across the Roof of the World' Silk Roads across Central Asia	Roger Butler Fellow of the Royal Geographic Society
16 Apr	'Springing into Summer' demonstration	Gill Hawtin Flower Thyme Florists
21 May	'Crayfish on the Lawn' and other gardening stories	Joff Elphick, Professional Gardener and Podcaster
18 Jun	Garden visit Own cars, shared transport	Ridgeway Barn, Cookhill, near Alcester
16 Jul	'Not Just My Garden' nurturing a shared ecosystem	Lucy Hartley Garden Designer
17 Sep	Garden visit Own cars, shared transport	Brokamin, Near Worcester The Hill Cottage, Snitterfield
15 Oct	'Keeping the Buzz in your Garden'	David Blower Master Beekeeper
19 Nov	Containers for Christmas demonstration	Lottie Newitt Garden Designer

CONTACTS

Chair	Vic Lee victorlee777@btinternet.com	01608 686852
Secretary	Margery Blower gardeningclub.brailles@gmail.com	01608 685918
Treasurer	Lucy Locke lockela@icloud.com	07976 070436
Visits	Sue Sanderson	01295 688080



Meetings are usually 7.30pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month at Brailes Village Hall. Annual subscription £15. Visitors are welcome £5 charge.



Modern Muse exhibition by Arpita Shah

14 February - 19 July 2026 - Upton House & Gardens
10:00am-4.30pm

A series of photographic portraits celebrating the identities and experiences of young South Asian women

nationaltrust.org.uk/uptonhouse



© National Trust 2020. Registered Charity no. 205846. Nilupa, Modern Muse © Arpita Shah - Loaned through the Centre for British Photography and commissioned by @grain_projects

Carers4Carers

Finding support through supporting each other

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 27th February – Act on Energy

We know energy costs can be tough, particularly with no gas supply across local areas. Sian Orchard, Act on Energy's Community Outreach Officer for Stratford District, understands these challenges and is here to help. She can offer clear guidance, explore ways to reduce bills, and support applications for available grants.

For further details or help with transport arrangements to/from our meetings, please contact Gillian on 07947 893504, send an email: kcarers4carers@gmail.com, or explore our website:

www.carers4carersonthefosse.org.uk



SUN RISING TALK



Our January speaker was Emma Restall Orr who came to give us a wonderfully illustrated talk on the Sun Rising Natural Burial ground and Nature Reserve. The Nature Reserve will serve as a lasting memorial once the Burial Ground is at full capacity.

Emma showed us photos of Sun Rising throughout the seasons illustrating the progress of the planting of both trees and wildflowers. Also pictured were the many varieties of butterflies and insects which enjoy the planting in the wildflower meadow.

All the trees, shrubs and wildflowers are native species that would be found growing naturally in this area. At the moment there are plans to plant 2000 native daffodils. Why 2000? The 2000th burial has just taken place at Sun Rising and each daffodil becomes a permanent memorial while also adding to the beauty of the nature reserve.

Emma's dedication to the environment and the desire for burials to be as close to nature with little or no impact on the environment, was admirable. As much as possible, all that is needed for a funeral is sourced locally.

Over time Sun Rising will develop into a tranquil, peaceful nature reserve where butterflies, bees, newts, hares, and birds, to name but a few species, will make their home.

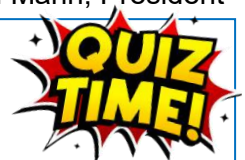
If you have never visited Sun Rising do go on a sunny day and take in the view over to Ilmington and, like I have, you may see hares and other wild life also enjoying the peaceful surroundings.

February's meeting is a members-only event celebrating all things Valentine related - think Prosecco and chocolate, whilst also enjoying getting our feet around some dance routines.

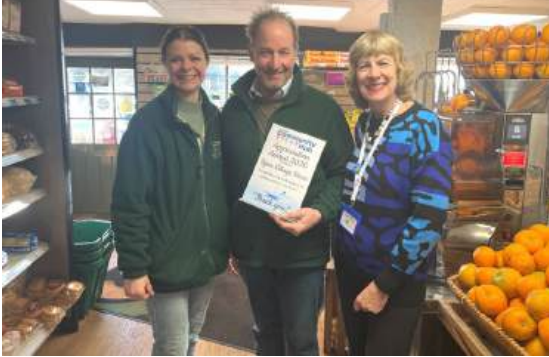
Eileen Mann, President



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



A WELL EARNED THANK YOU!



Heather Dowler presented Bart and the lovely staff at Tysoe Village Stores with a Certificate of Appreciation to say thank you for their continued support by supplying Tysoe Community Hub and Dementia Cafe with free tea and coffee refreshments since 2021.

We would also like to say a very big thank you to all those people in the village who supported us this year through purchasing our Christmas Cards - and a HUGE thank you to all of our lovely volunteers - who give up their time to make sure your Community Hub is open every Friday morning.

Paul and Heather



**Your
Community
Hub**
Dementia friendly

Village Hall Every Friday Morning 10am - 12 noon



**Tea, coffee, biscuits, chat, laughter, advice & support
are all available here...**

Paul & Heather Dowler
Tysoe 688376

talkdementia

ALKERTON RECYCLING CENTRE NEW RULES



Advice for Tysoe parish residents who regularly use Alkerton Recycling Centre.

From 14 January 2026 Oxfordshire County Council has introduced a mandatory booking system for recycling centres as well as reducing opening days and daily hours. It

will also require proof of residence in Oxfordshire to bring waste there. For Warwickshire residents a charge of £15.00 per visit has been introduced, even with a booking.

Oxfordshire County Council said the aim is to "modernise the service and drive efficiency" but the new rule has led to criticism from Oxfordshire police and crime commissioner Matthew Barber who warned it would "inevitably lead to more fly-tipping and waste crime". For bookings:

www.selfservice-oxfordshire.servicebuilder.co.uk/renderform

Our nearest Warwickshire recycling centres are at Shipston or Wellesbourne. Ironically, since November, Warwickshire have abolished the booking requirement to visit their household waste recycling centres for a six month trial. "The trial aims to make the service more accessible while maintaining efficiency and safety" say WCC.



CHURCH FELLOWSHIP COFFEE MORNING

Tuesday 17th February at St Mary's Church,
Tysoe from 9.30am

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

T'ai Chi Chih - a Moving Meditation, Shenington Village Hall on Wednesdays 9.30-10.30am and Mondays 6-7pm.

Newcomers welcome. Learn at your own pace. It is different from T'ai Chi but both come from Qigong. The mind-body connection balances the heart, builds muscle density and enhances the para-sympathetic system so calms, repairs and heals the body. To join, text to 07760 450697 or email vanessapetterson524@gmail.com.

THE IMPORTANCE OF CHURCHES

I belong to “The National Churches Trust” which helps communities across the UK maintain their church buildings of all denominations. At a recent conference in London, TV’s Rob (Judge) Rinder made an impassioned plea for their preservation “as a Jewish boy who has a deep love of churches”, what he calls “architectural passion and appreciation”. He said:

“These buildings are the heartbeat of Britain. They’re where we still do the things that don’t just make us human, but are the very ingredients of what being a human being is. We feed the hungry, hear the lonely, teach children to sing, often in my church off key, and remind one another that kindness is not an optional extra.

Churches are the last truly public spaces left in many towns across our country. The one place you can walk into without having to buy anything, and above all else, without having to prove anything. And what makes them so uniquely British is their mixture of grandeur and understatement.

They do something more than community activities. They lift us. You can feel it the moment you step into one. The invitation to look up. Even the smallest churches seem to whisper that there’s something greater than you – and you belong to it. And you don’t have to be religious to feel it.

Every one of these buildings tells a story about us. About a people who for centuries, gradually, slowly, painfully sometimes, believe in the idea of our shared dignity. The village church, the nonconformist chapel, the Quaker meeting house, each different but built out of the same human instinct to gather, to lift, to remember, perhaps above all else, that we’re not alone.

And yet so many are under threat with many closing. When a church shuts its doors for the last time, it’s not just the stone and the glass that we lose. It’s memory, it’s service. We need to remind ourselves that these are gifts. They are the infrastructure of kindness.”

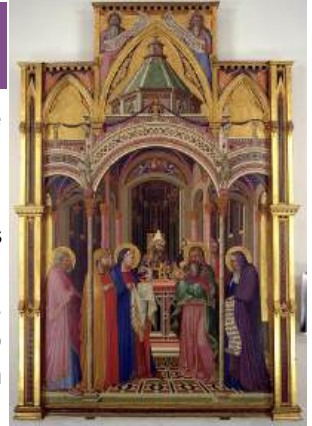
In Tysoe, St. Mary’s is in good repair thanks to extensive restoration work in 2021/22, funded largely by generous legacies in 2009 and our Church Restoration Committee. We benefitted from *The Listed Places of Worship Grants Scheme*, 20% VAT reclaim on total repair costs - (now capped at £25,000 by the current Government and ends April 2026). Unlike in other countries, notably France, the UK state pays little towards the upkeep of our churches and cathedrals. For more information visit: <https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/>

Roland Cherry

NOTES FROM ST MARY'S

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple will be celebrated at St Mary's on Sunday 1st February.

We find an account of this event in Luke's Gospel (chapter 2 verses 22-40). Luke's writings (his gospel and the Acts of the Apostles) are dedicated to someone called Theophilus – a Greek name. This suggests that his audience are people who probably don't know much about Jesus' Jewish background.



In his gospel Luke presents an attractive picture of Judaism and Jewish life and customs. In this story we see Jesus' parents following the conventions of their time, taking Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem, offering the poor -people's sacrifice for Mary's ritual purification after childbirth, and dedicating Jesus to God.

In the Temple Mary and Joseph meet Simeon and Anna, two people characterised by their devotion to God, sharing a recognition that Jesus will be the fulfilment of Jewish hopes for a Messiah. Simeon's song, known as the Nunc Dimittis, gives voice to his belief that Jesus will be important not just for Jews, but for the whole world.

'A light to reveal you to the nations,' Simeon says of Jesus, which is why the old name for this festival is Candlemas. Historically this was the day when people brought their candles to church to be blessed, symbolising the light of Christ shining in their homes throughout the year. The light of Jesus Christ can never be extinguished by any gloom, it shines out as our hope for the future.

May His light shine upon you now and always.

God Bless,

George Heighton

Email revgeorgeh@outlook.com Telephone 01295 680 201

Painting by Ambrogio Lorenzetti, 1342 (Galleria degli Uffizi, Florence)

In addition to the normal services Lent actually begins on 18th February, Ash Wednesday, and there will be a service in the evening at 7:30 with the imposition of ashes.

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

FROM THE SUBLIME TO THE RIDICULOUS!

ON SATURDAY I went to see Hamnet at the cinema. Having previously read Maggie O'Farrell's book and seen the RSC's theatre production of Hamnet in Stratford on Avon, I wondered whether I should bother to see the film.

But, I'm so glad that I did. It was an emotionally draining experience, as the actors portrayed family life in the 16th Century with its harsh conditions, the dirt, and lack of medical knowledge. The heartbreak of losing a child was laid bare and we the audience agonised with the Shakespeare family as they watched Hamnet suffer a tormented death from the plague and the devastating effect it had on the whole family, but particularly on his mother Agnes.

All of the cast gave sterling performances, but Jessie Buckley, who played Shakespeare's wife Agnes (or Anne as she is also known) and the young lad Jacobi Jupe, who played Hamnet were particularly strong. I highly recommend this film, even if you think the bard is not for you. Maybe it will come to the Village Hall, and if so, I will definitely see it again.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE HALL



We are delighted to share the next releases from the National Theatre. Enjoy world class performances - without the travel!



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. National Theatre Deputy Artistic Director, Robert Hastie (Standing at the Sky's Edge, Operation Mincemeat) directs this sharp, stylish and darkly funny reimagining.



Returning to cinemas for the first time in over a decade, Helen Mirren plays Queen Elizabeth II in the Olivier and Tony Award winning hit production, directed by Stephen Daldry. For 60 years, Queen Elizabeth II met with each of her 12 prime ministers in a private weekly meeting. Peter Morgan's Netflix phenomenon The Crown was based on this hit play which was captured live from London's West End in 2013 and went on to become one of the most watched NT Live productions.

Full details at www.tysoevillagehall.org.uk

Tickets online and also at Tysoe Post Office



ON SUNDAY I went to see a slightly lighter production, the pantomime ‘Rumplestiltskin’ in Tysoe Village Hall. Having seen the Caramba Players in pantomime last year, I knew what I was in for, and I wasn’t disappointed! The hall was full of expectant children and their parents.

Just three talented actors played all the characters in this year’s panto, Dame Darnit and her daughter Bella who were seamstresses. The wicked King who kept increasing the taxes. A magical goblin who smelled of glitter glue and a magic mangle which turned rags into sparkly clothes. The plot was about the goblin who helped Bella turn straw into gold but wanted her to live with him for ever in Fairyland unless she could find out his name (Rumplestiltskin)!

As usual there was fun, laughter, old jokes, innuendo, costume changes, large knickers, lots of noise, plenty of audience participation “Oh yes there was” and even a twist in the plot when the King turned out to be Bella’s father (after a ‘fling’ between him and Dame Darnit many years before)! The cast acted their socks off and everyone enjoyed the afternoon and ice-creams.

Can’t wait for next year!!

Helen Keayes, Ed Assistant

(Photo credits—Ben Viollet and Christine Tuffin)



SECRET STUDIO SALE

GRAB AN ARTY BARGAIN!

Wren Hall

School Lane, Wroxall, Warwick, CV35 7NF

21st February

10:30am - 4:00pm

Seconds and old stock - a car boot sale for artists!

www.pennyvarleyceramics.co.uk

5 Avon Avenue, Tysoe, Warwickshire, CV35 0SP

t: 01295 680700 m: 07468 452099 e: pennyvarleyceramics@hotmail.com

PVC

Penny Varley Ceramics
Original Creations In Clay

Dogtastic PORTRAITS



Toby, the
cockapoo. A
picture
commissioned as
a present for
Christmas - now
revealed



Call Shirley on 07900 221120

Facebook@dogtasticportraits

www.dogtasticportraits.co.uk

Miscellany

Poems, pottery and storytelling

Spring

By Jo McGinn

Skylarks singing high in a sky of cerulean blue,
Pigeons cooing softly, fat chested, perched up high,
Robins, beady eyed, worm hunting, thin from harsh winters,
Intricate spiderwebs adorn the budded hedgerows,
Noises all around: birdsong, children's chatter, hope
Grows as, once again, Mother Nature awakens from her
slumber deep.



SILK WORM

This stained glass silk worm appears in the Renee So exhibition at Compton Verney, on until 8th March. Silk was first discovered in ancient China by Empress Xi Ling Shi.



HAPPY HENS

Jennifer's hens having a pecking good time!



H is for Hawk

This new film is out soon. It is based on Helen Macdonald's memoir of training a goshawk as a way of navigating grief. Claire Foy plays the author.



New jugs

HARE JUGS

New year and a new design of a hare by Tysoe potter, Penny Varley. One of her favourite animals - "majestic, curious and magical all in one."

FEBRUARY DIARY DATES

For details of Tysoe Clubs and Societies see the Phone Book on pages 38/39.

BINS	 Food waste (food waste caddy)	 Recycling (blue-lidded bin)	 Refuse (grey bin)	 Garden waste (green bin)
06/02/2026	✓			
13/02/2026	✓	✓		✓
20/02/2026	✓		✓	
27/02/2026	✓	✓		✓

What	Where	When
Coffee Morning (donations plate)	St Mary's Church	Tuesday 17 Feb 9am - 12noon
Craft & Laugh	Village Hall - McNulty Rm	Wednesday 11, 18, 25 Feb 13:00-15:00
Fitness & dance exercise class	Village Hall	Every Thursday 10.30am -11.30am
Lunch Club	Village Hall	Friday 6 Feb 1.00pm
Mobile Library	Outside Village Hall	Tuesday 17 Feb 2.00pm - 2.45pm
Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall - McNulty Rm	Monday 9 Feb 7.00pm
Pickleball	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 4 Feb 7.30pm - 9.00pm

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

TYSOE SOCIAL CLUB

Upcoming Events

FEB 07	Live Music - Riff Raff
FEB 14	Music Quiz - £10 per team of Four
FEB 21	Live Music - Uninvited
FEB 27	Skittles Night - Pie & Pint
MARCH 07	Live Music - Lynne & The Encore
MARCH 21	Live Music - Pete Watkins

EVERYONE WELCOME. FREE ENTRY TO ALL EVENTS.

PIZZA NIGHT EVERY SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

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FRIDAY 27TH FEBRUARY 2026

SHOW STARTS: 8:00 PM



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WHAT'S ON DIARY DATES

SAVE THE DATE LAURA'S TRACTOR RUN RETURNS



17 MAY
2026

LAURA'S CHARITY TRACTOR RUN



TYSOE WINDMILL RUN Sat 6th June 2026

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2025 RECAP / 2026 HAVING A SORT OUT?



Back in December, we had our annual raffle. We would like to extend a massive thank you to everyone who donated and sourced some amazing raffle prizes, as well as to all who purchased a ticket. Together, you have helped raise a fantastic sum of **£523!** All the money will be used to purchase resources for the children to enhance their learning environment.

The Flames children put on a fantastic nativity performance. We want to thank the staff for their dedication and for all the parents and grandparents who attended - it was lovely to see so many of you there!

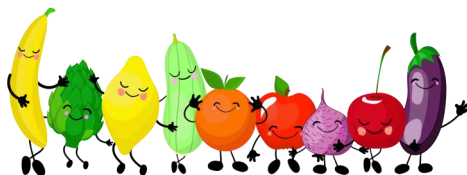
Collection Reminder



Thursday 5th March 2026

Please note that the next collection for our Bag2School will be on **Thursday, 5th March 2026, at 9.00am**. We are happy to accept your bags of unwanted clothing, bags, shoes, curtains, etc before this date so please arrange with us.

Sorry, we cannot accept duvets, blankets, pillows and cushions, school uniforms (with and without logos), corporate clothing and workwear, carpets, rugs and mats, bric-à-brac, or toys.



Tysoe Walled Kitchen Garden

In 2025 we raised **£700** from the sale of the excess fruit, vegetables and flowers that we grow in our walled kitchen garden.

We give the money raised to local charities and good causes. This time we have given to:

National Garden Scheme (NGS), Sun Rising burial ground and nature reserve pond extension, Garden Organic Heritage seed library, Tysoe Curlews, Age Concern Shipston, The Myton Hospice and Carers4 Carers.

Thank you for your support
Sue and Mike Sanderson

WE'RE EXPECTING – CALL THE MIDWIFE!

Well, that's not altogether true. My daughter Tara is expecting and she's due mid-April which will make us grandparents for the first time. It's over 30 years since my children were born. How things have changed since then! We never had gender



Tara and Alex parents -to-be!

reveal parties or baby showers or babymoos. This is all new to us, but Tara and her hubby Alex have embraced them whole heartedly. Their gender reveal party involved hooking ducks from a paddling pool. There were pink and blue dots beneath each one and the final tally showed a disproportion of pink ones!

Another thing that has changed is maternity clothing. Now clothes are much more close-fitting. Helen Keayes recalled: "When I was pregnant, we wore tents! Probably because stretchy fabrics hadn't really been invented then, but also because clothing generally was much more modest than the youngsters wear these days. Back in my day there were no over the counter pregnancy tests, so we had to wonder and wait until, after missing two periods, the doctor would confirm using a urine sample and hands on examination. There were no ultra-sound scans, just the district nurse with her ear-trumpet and no supportive ante-natal classes with other women."

I asked Eileen Mann for any tips for a soon-to-be grandma. She replied: "Firstly congratulations! My one daughter is a midwife so obviously required no advice. Well, at least at the baby stage. I found that the way I had done things with a new baby was considered almost archaic by my two daughters." Her best advice was to "just be there to give cuddles to the baby and support, as in tea making and meal preparation for the new parents. Oh, and only give guidance if asked!" Best present: a pack of muslin squares for shoulder protection while winding. "Whatever, you'll fall in love with he or she at first sight."

The soon-to-be-grandma Editor

THE STREET LAYOUT OF UPPER TYSOE IN 1796

Tysoe History Research Group (THRG) have been examining the original 1796 Inclosures map held in Warwick Archives. This map was drawn up by surveyor Stephen Godson to accompany the Tysoe Inclosures Award finalised in 1798 to indicate exactly the new field boundaries, road layouts and footpaths that were being designated at the time. One question arose: can it be directly compared with a modern map to observe precise changes in Tysoe's streets and field boundaries?

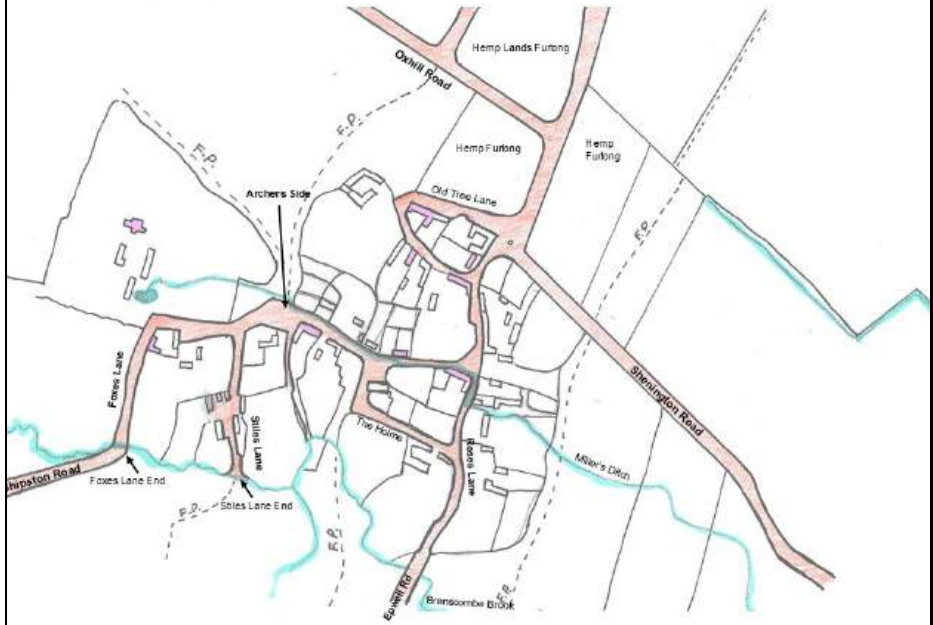
Using a mixture of the original map information and the 1885 OS 25in map it was possible to align field boundaries and known listed buildings to produce a 'corrected' version of the older map showing a completely accurate picture of the exact layout in 1796, comparable with a modern map.

1796 Inclosures map findings – Upper Tysoe

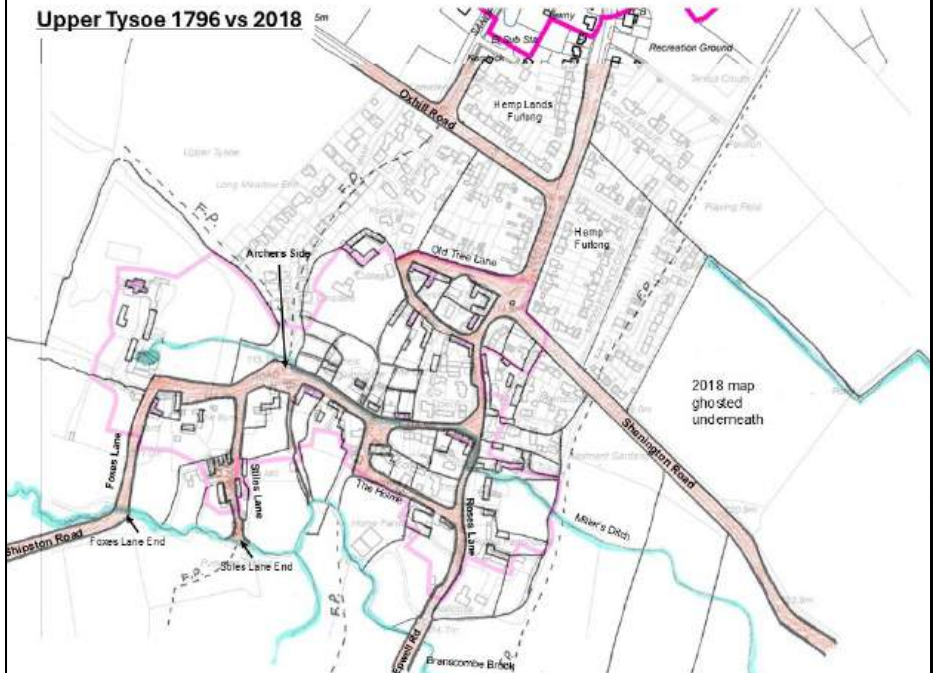
- Details of building footprints and garden boundaries appear largely pictorial, the true position seems not so accurate due to limited surveying methods
- Oxhill Road and Shenington Road were new roads that are notably straighter and wider than the inner village lanes
- The C20th boundaries of Avon Avenue and Middleton Close follow the original 1796 field hedgerows
- Several lanes have now disappeared: a loop lane running from Roses Farm ('The Holme'), also an alley parallel to Smarts Lane down to Branscombe Brook. Smarts Lane was called 'Stiles Lane'
- The start of today's Epwell Road was called 'Roses Lane', the section of today's Shipston Road by Tysoe Manor was called 'Foxes Lane', with the 'new' Shipston Road only starting where it crosses Branscombe Brook
- An old stream ('Millers Ditch') ran down through the current allotments and then flowed openly down Shipston Road to the pond at Tysoe Manor (this was culverted in Victorian times)
- The main street near the Tysoe old tree and Baldwins Lane was much narrower and bendier than today. This street was only straightened out in the 1970s
- Several footpaths first established in 1796 still exist today, largely unchanged

Nick Hull

Redrawn Map of Upper Tysoe 1796



Upper Tysoe 1796 vs 2018





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YOUR BODY CLOCK: HOW DAILY RHYTHMS SUPPORT HEALTH AND WELL- BEING

Our bodies have a natural 24-hour clock called the circadian rhythm which is guided mainly by light and

daily routines. It signals your hormones to feel alert or sleepy, to aid food digestion, to stabilise your mood, and even to support your body to repair itself. Over time, a misaligned circadian rhythm can contribute to fatigue, poor digestion, weight gain, weakened immunity, and emotional burnout.

When your circadian rhythm is working well, sleep comes more easily and feels more restorative. This is because your body releases a hormone called melatonin, an amazing antioxidant that supports rest and recovery. During the day, another hormone called cortisol rises to help you feel awake and focused. Irregular sleep times, late nights, or too much screen time at night can confuse this rhythm, making it harder to fall asleep, remain asleep and wake up refreshed.

Your gut also follows a daily schedule. Digestion, metabolism, and even gut bacteria work best during daylight hours. Eating late at night or skipping regular meals can lead to bloating, low energy, blood sugar swings, and long-term metabolic issues. Mood is closely tied in as well. Stable routines support healthy levels of serotonin and dopamine, while disrupted rhythms are linked to anxiety, low mood, and irritability.

Supporting your circadian rhythm doesn't require perfection. Simple habits make a big difference: get natural light soon after waking, keep consistent sleep and meal times, move your body during the day, dim lights in the evening, and avoid heavy meals late at night.

Living in sync with your internal clock helps your body do what it's designed to do naturally.



Hayley Tucker

www.hayleytuckerhealth.co.uk Instagram @hayleytuckerhealth

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TYSOE PARISH COUNCIL PRECEPT 2026/27

The Parish Council Precept is the amount of money included in your total Council Tax charge specifically to fund the costs of the Parish Council.

Each year the Parish Council prepares a budget for the year starting on 1st April and the amount of money required to fund our expenditure, and to leave the Council adequately funded at all times, is included in every household's Council Tax charge as the Parish Council Precept.

Our calculation of the Precept for the year starting on 1st April 2026 is £46,476. This covers the cost of mowing the grass, verges and playing field, maintaining the trees and hedges belonging to the Council, maintaining and repairing the playground equipment, the cost of electricity for street lighting and the cost of repairing and replacing street lights, providing grants for a number of village institutions, and, in addition to other costs, the cost of running the Parish Council including the Clerk's remuneration. All of these costs are subject to inflationary pressures.

The budgeted Precept has increased from an amount of £38,203 for the year to 31st March 2026. This increase is driven very largely by the cost of replacing street lights which, in previous years has been charged against specific reserves which the Council had provided for this purpose, but which have now been exhausted. Also, the cost of maintaining the playground equipment has, in previous years, been funded by specific reserves generated by funds earmarked by the District Council from new developments in Tysoe. Again, these specific reserves are now exhausted.

The Parish Council does everything within its powers to control costs to an absolute minimum, conscious that households are finding the cost of living challenging enough. We believe that the increase in Precept for the coming year will give rise to an increase for a Band D property of approximately £14 per year, or 27p per week. Unwelcome though any increase is, this should still leave Tysoe's Parish Precept well below the average for all of the parishes within Stratford District. The Parish Council will continue to control costs closely in order to provide value for money services for Tysoe residents.

David Roache
Chair, Tysoe Parish Council

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Hi Tysoe,

Wishing you all a very Happy New Year.

Another year and another budget has been planned. Councillors agreed this year's budget at the January meeting.

- The project to replace the streetlighting is almost complete and we are hoping to begin work on other projects in the next financial year that will have a positive effect on life in Tysoe.
- There has been another outbreak of Avian Flu in Stratford-upon-Avon as reported by CC Mills.
- Both County and District Councillors reported the need for anyone who is eligible to get their Chicken Pox vaccination.
- The monthly Planning Report can be found on the Parish Website, www.tysoe.org.uk along with County and District Councillors' reports and all finance papers. Please note: work is being done to make a new Parish Website and change the clerk and parish councillors' email addresses. We will advise you when it goes LIVE. The old email addresses will still work for some time to come.
- Councillors are also looking at several public footpaths and bridleways which are causing concern to some residents. Additional work has been authorised on fencing close to the Pavilion.

Finally, I must report that I shall be leaving my post in the coming months, and therefore the Parish Council will be looking to fill the vacancy – please see below. Let's hope the cold and wet weather doesn't hang around for too long!

Charmaine, Parish Clerk/RFO

Email: parish.clerk@tysoe.org.uk

VACANCY

Due to retirement, Tysoe Parish Council is looking to recruit a Parish Clerk for 10 hours per week. If you are interested to find out more please contact the current clerk on parish.clerk@tysoe.org.uk or email david.roache@tysoe.org.uk, Chairperson Parish Council. Previous applicants may apply.

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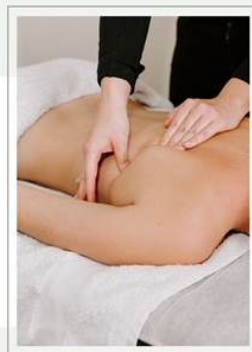
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