

**DECEMBER 2020  
& JANUARY 2021  
No: 811**

**Annual Subscription £2.50**



Image kindly supplied by: [www.warwickshirechristmastrees.co.uk](http://www.warwickshirechristmastrees.co.uk)  
Photo credit: Kirsty Simpson

**This BUMPER issue is all about BOOKS!**  
**Read an interview with local author John Hunter,**  
**Find out the results of the Village Shop Story Competition,**  
**Enjoy Book Reviews and a Reprise of 2020 in Verse,**  
**Plus what we LOVE about Christmas!**



## SEASONS GREETINGS FROM THE RECORD OFFICE



This Christmas and New Year bumper issue of the Tysoe & District Record is all about books and stories. It just happens to coincide with the news that footballer Marcus Rashford is launching a book club so that every child can experience the 'escapism' of reading. Rashford said as a child his family had to prioritise food over books. He is hoping to reach 380,000 children across the UK today that have never owned a book. We applaud his bold initiative. What better way to counteract the boredom of lockdown and C-19 restrictions than burying yourself in a good book.

**HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY READING!**

## MEET THE RECORD TEAM

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## HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

Choose one of the following:

- Email your copy to [tysoerecord@gmail.com](mailto:tysoerecord@gmail.com)
- Message us on Facebook [@tysoerecord](https://www.facebook.com/tysoerecord)
- Post hard copy at Orchard House, Back Lane or 7 Windmill Way.
- Contact one of the team and we will write it down for you.

**The deadline for the February Issue is 17 JANUARY 2021.**

## RESILIENCE AND OVERCOMING ADVERSITY

When I was 18 I won a place on a British Schools Exploring Society (BSES) expedition to the Lyngen Alps in Arctic Norway. It proved to be a life-changing experience. It was my first trip abroad, my first flight, a huge leap into the wildness of the Arctic. I returned to the Lyngen Alps last year to celebrate the 40th anniversary of that momentous trip, re-establishing contact with former colleagues. The BSES expedition was pivotal in my personal development as I'm sure it opened many more opportunities, from going to University, joining the RAF Volunteer Reserve as a Cadet Pilot, gaining my first job with BP and so on.



I listened to a podcast recently from Marvin Rees, the new President of the BES (new name for the BSES) and now Mayor of Bristol. Brought up in inner city Bristol by a single mum, he too went on a BSES expedition straight after school before embarking on a career in broadcasting and politics. He talked fondly how the expedition pushed him out of his urban comfort zone, finding his sense of self, discovering the joy of the wildness, finding perseverance and overcoming adversity. He said sitting on a mountain top enabled him to “find significance in the insignificant”. Marvin too attributed his BSES experience as a teenager as the springboard for the rest of his life and how it taught him, above all, RESILIENCE.

When (particularly) young people are exposed to harsh environments, it teaches you many things about yourself, and the key word I keep coming back to is “resilience” – the ability to bounce back, to take the knocks, to stay on course, to display determination to achieve your goals, to forge unity through teamwork and friendship, to learn leadership qualities that bring fulfilment and success. These tough experiences, though testing at the time, can be the ones that help to forge our characters and shape our future careers.

Roland Cherry

## 2020 REVIEW - A YEAR TO REMEMBER

2020 - what a year - started hopeful, then came fear.

Boris pledged to get Brexit done,  
But countries crashed as one by one  
The virus spread and death had come.

A year defined by C-19. Anxious months. A nasty dream.  
PM announced on TV screens: "UK closed". How weird that seems.  
Work from home. Close all the schools.  
Keep your distance. Observe the rules.

We learned to live a different way - no more hugs, keep friends at bay.  
We watched aghast our hospitals fill. Exhausted staff, but working still.  
Little seemed that we could do, to tell key workers 'we love you.'  
A weekly clap outside our door, to show we cared. Could we do more?

Rainbows popped up all around, and teddies that young children found.  
VE celebrations done - at a distance, still was fun. Exercise? One hour allowed.  
But one man rose above the crowd -  
To Captain Tom the whole world bowed.

Lockdown months were warm and dry. Clear empty skies - no-one would fly.  
We did our gardens, mastered Zoom, home-schooled the kids, and lifted gloom  
By taking walks and being glad  
Of our surroundings, that aren't half bad.

People living on their own, were told they needn't feel alone,  
As armies of our volunteers, did shopping, chores and wiping tears.  
To minimise the need to shop, Bart delivered a daily drop.  
Grown up boys and girls were found - to start a welcome paper round.

The Peacock closed, Lockdown dragged on. Loo rolls vanished, our hair grew long.  
No Windmill Run, no Flower Show, no Gardens Opened, who could know  
How this will end if end it will,  
With hospital numbers rising still.

Ian's daily music picks gave many souls a comfort fix  
And ladies from the W.I. made home made masks for us to try.  
Summer came, and lockdown went.  
People's mental health was spent.

But the country then became divided  
And politicians were derided.  
Their messages confused and mixed -  
Can we meet up if we're a six?

Halloween came to our streets - a ghoulish spectre handing sweets.  
Though trick or treat could not be done, still we had a little fun.  
But lurking not so far away, Covid returned to steal the day.  
Lockdown two, as we foresaw, but now it really is a bore.

And as we draw upon December, it surely is a year to remember.  
Let's hope Santa still will come, to bring good cheer to everyone.  
We won't forget this year just done,  
But roll on twenty, twenty-one .

Anon (our shy poet!)

Thank you so much for summarising the year in Tysoe for us.



Illustrations by Alex Paterson.

... IF IT WASN'T FOR LOCKDOWN & COVID-19



There'd be dancing reindeer in Tysoe . . .



A stampede of Santa Clauses—Tysoe's Santa Run



A kitchen full of Christmas cooks



A fairy like no other!



Christmas Elvis



TADA Carols, feasting and Christmas celebrating!

## **WHAT I LOVE ABOUT CHRISTMAS . . .**

We asked our distributors for their favourite memories of Christmas. Here is a selection:

### **Turkey for breakfast!**

My favourite memory of Christmas is when Lyn and I spent our first Christmas together in our own new home. Christmas morning Lyn got up early (4am) to put the turkey on, when we got up at 8am the turkey was beautifully cooked, we had a good laugh. Graham Hicks

### **Christmas in July**

One of my favourite memories of Christmas is celebrating it with my family and friends in a snowy mountain lodge in the middle of July, around a magnificent large log fire! We were living at the time in the Southern Hemisphere, in Lesotho, where it is mid-winter in July! Mark Sinclair.

### **Delicious cooking smells**

My favourite memory of Christmas is the wonderful feeling of expectation and anticipation helped by being the youngest of nine children with lots of older sisters to spoil me and a house full of delicious cooking smells ...ummmmm! Irene Beever

### **Christmas Tree Lights**

I still have the same Christmas lights we had in the fifties; the ones with the different coloured candle bulbs in silver foil petals like flowers. And I can just remember when we had real candles in holders but not sure if we ever lit them. Jude Canning

### **Midnight Service**

Coming back from the midnight service when everyone else is tucked up in bed, especially if it's snowed. Ringing the bells on Christmas morning, turkey, Christmas pudding and scrabble by the fire. Jenny Tongue

For memories from all our distributors see [Facebook@TysoeRecord](#).



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## WHEN THE CHIMES STOP, THE MURDERS START. . .

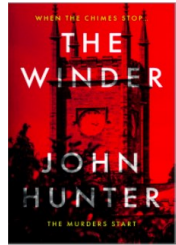


Photo: Murdo MacLeod

The Record was fortunate to interview John Hunter about his next book 'The Winder':

**How did you first get drawn into forensic archaeology?** Back in 1988 I showed police

forces how landscape analysis could help locate murder victims and archaeological techniques be used to excavate their graves. After that it never really stopped.



**Is the work disturbing?** The work involves being objective. It's about resolving problems and interrogating buried data, a destructive process so you don't get a second chance. The minute you become subjective you're useless in Court.

**What made you base this book in Middle Belford (aka Middle Tysoe)?** The inspiration was in having a church with a newly motorised winding mechanism and a redundant winder. It stems from there.

**How come the church plays such a key role?** Like so many medieval churches, St Mary's has a complex life story and holds many secrets. I keep coming back to it.

**You've changed our pub from the Peacock to the Red Horse! Isn't it strange that there isn't a Red Horse Inn anywhere? Someone should invent one in a novel.**

**It sounds as if there are more crimes for Jacko to solve, what can we expect and when?** Let's see how this one goes. The sequel is sitting here waiting to be let out of the trap. It follows on from The Winder but can also be read as stand-alone.

**Tysoe people might worry in case they find themselves depicted in your next book?** Who said they're not depicted in this one?

**Is crime writing your new career?** It's just a hobby. I enjoy writing, and if it gives people pleasure by reading, then all the better!

**How to get your copy of THE WINDER**

Release date 28/11/2020 ISBN: 9781800460584. Available through bookshops and Amazon, price £8.99. Ebook price £3.99 on Kindle. Copies are **available now** at Tysoe Post Office at a special discount.

## A CHRISTMAS CARD TO TYSOE

Decorate a window that's visible from the road or decorate a \*Christmas tree in your garden (or both).

\*It can still be a 'Christmas Card to Tysoe' providing it has a star on it.

Please have your decorations up for **12th December latest!**



## SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TYSOE!

Calling the good people of Tysoe. If you are all very, very well behaved and lockdown is lifted, then I might, just might, spring a surprise visit on you with my team on

**SATURDAY 12th DECEMBER**

I'm hoping to bring cheer and festive spirit to your lovely village.

I'll be driving my newly polished sleigh, (well, I've had plenty of time during lockdown), through the village and I'd love to see as many people as possible waving from their houses and gardens.



I'm looking forward to seeing all your festive decorations too, so get creative!

**My route and timings will be sent later via village notices and Facebook pages.**

## **TYSOE STORES STORY COMPETITION**

Thanks to all the children who entered our Story Competition. To enter, we asked you to write us a story about The Village Shop in no more than 1000 words. The story had to include one, or all of the following criteria: A runaway trolley, an invisible shopkeeper, a magical bar of chocolate, a five pound note, terrible twins or someone in trouble.

The quality of the entries was impressive and it has been a treat to read them all. The imagination of the younger children was amazing, as was the ability to put their ideas onto the page.

Creative writing is great fun and it's a brilliant way to shut off from the real world. It also allows children to organize their thoughts and helps them to become better readers and in this new modern digital world, we should encourage them to do more of it!

Anyway, back to business! Who are the winners I hear you ask?

The winner in the first category (up to 7 years old) is Guillaume Lepeltier with his story about the Magic Stick.

The winner in the next category (8-11 years) is Erin Ellis with her story about Magic Max and the Caramel Fudge, Choccy Whoccy Woof Bar!

Unfortunately there were no entries in the 12-15 years category.

The winners will both receive a £25 book voucher, a creative writers goody bag and a £20 voucher to spend in Tysoe Village Stores!

There are three runners up who each win a £15 gift voucher and a £10 voucher to spend in Tysoe Village Stores and they are:

Max Brookes and his story called the Runaway Trolley. Jasmine Fawcus and The Five Pound Note. Molly Willock and the Magic Mask.

We hope to print the two winning stories in next month's Record, along with illustrations by Tysoe Village Shop's talented illustrator, Josh Welsby.

The winner of the Open Competition for adults is still to be announced.

Beki Benjamin.

## For all your essential and not so essential purchases!

We stock a wide range of locally sourced products including fresh bread and pastries, fruit and vegetables, Mabel's milk, Fowlers cheeses, meat pies and ready meals, Gluten-free and vegetarian ranges.

Buy Borough Wines on tap! Simply – fill – enjoy – return – repeat. Be kind to the environment with our refillable eco laundry and household products.

Since the lockdown we are offering a home delivery service for groceries and newspapers, simply email us on [mytysoeshop@gmail.com](mailto:mytysoeshop@gmail.com).



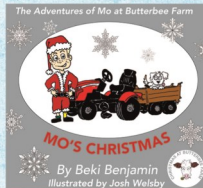
**Tysoe Village Store  
and  
Tea Room**

Opening hours:  
Shop Mon- Sat 09.00 – 19.00  
Sun 09.30 – 17.00  
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*Doing our bit to care for the planet!*

## The Adventures of Mo at Butterbee Farm

*A series of books about a mischievous boy called Mo, who loves chocolate and Massey Ferguson tractors. Written by Beki Benjamin.*

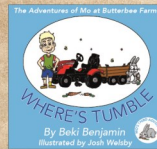
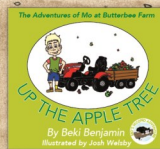
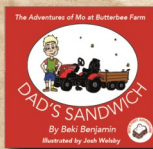


**NEW for Christmas**  
Available early December



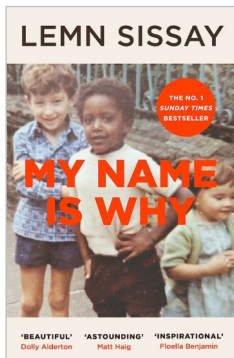
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## BOOK REVIEWS

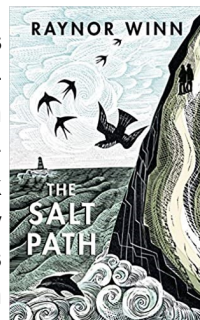
Looking for a good read to get you through the dark winter months? Here are a couple of recommendations which fit with our 'resilience' theme. They may sound tough going, but both are inspiring and life-affirming stories. Well worth getting stuck into!



The first is: **'My Name is Why' by Lemn Sissay.** Most of us grow up with a strong sense of who we are because we have a family, people who love and care for us. Imagine what it must be like not to have that. An award-winning writer, Lemn Sissay, was brought up in care, yet no-one ever cared for him. In his heart-breaking memoir, **My Name is Why**, he says he just wanted someone to give him a hug. Lemn turned to poetry to express himself. At the age of 17, he used his unemployment benefit money to self-publish his

first poetry pamphlet, which he sold to striking miners in Lancashire. Now recognised as an internationally acclaimed poet, his is a memoir with a message – about growing up in care and finding hope, determination and creativity. This *is a truly remarkable story of a remarkable man.* Reviewed by Julie Smart.

The second **'The Salt Path' by Raynor Winn** is the uplifting true story of the couple who lost everything and embarked on a journey of salvation across the windswept South West coastline carrying only essentials in their backpacks. The walk gives them purpose. As they trudge along they come to terms with loss and grief. The descriptions of the landscape and nature take you along with them. We are concerned about how they tackle problems and delight with them when the sun shines and people are kind. The book brings up all sorts of issues including our attitudes to homelessness, illness, land ownership; charity and self-help; independence and poverty. It is beautifully written, full of emotion without being at all sentimental. Reviewed by Belinda Keep.



## ST. MARY'S AND 'THE GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD'

The Christmas Story is usually told as one event with a big cast of characters; a stable full of animals, shepherds, wise men, Mary and Joseph and, in the middle, a child who is the *Saviour of the world*.

In reality the first Christmas is about a series of completely unplanned, disorganised events, a surprise pregnancy, an unexpected journey that had to be made, and a complete muddle over the hotel accommodation once you got there!



But in the complete mess of that first Christmas, God says, 'Don't worry, I'm not going to wait until you've got everything sorted out perfectly

before I get involved. I'm already there for you in the middle of it all, and if you allow me into your homes and into your lives and lean on me, instead of trying to make yourself and everything around you perfect, everyone will feel a little more of my love flowing'. Perhaps that is where we feel we are now with the current pandemic, not knowing what is going to happen next.

The Saviour of the world was born on earth in a humble stable, in the middle of a world in turmoil. The true meaning of Christmas is that **God is with us** in the midst of the hustle and bustle, the disorder we see around us, with hope, wonder and joy. There is the joy of new birth, the wonder of the response to Jesus's coming from angels, shepherds and wise men. And the joy of realising that this child brings hope for us all.

***God Bless you this Christmas and always.***

*George*

*Revd George Heighton*

*[revgeorgeh@outlook.com](mailto:revgeorgeh@outlook.com) Tel: 01295 680201*

St.Mary's is open for private prayer from 2-4pm every Wednesday.

## DECEMBER SERVICES AT ST MARY'S, TYSOE

<b>Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b>	11.00am Advent Service of the Word
<b>Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December</b> <b>3rd Sunday of Advent</b>	11.00am HC
<b>Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December</b> <b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent</b>	11.00am Crib Service
<b>Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December</b> <b>Christmas Eve</b>	11.30pm Midnight Mass NO SERVICE ON CHRISTMAS DAY

This assumes similar restrictions to pre Lockdown 2. There are some additional on-line services which will be advised. Please look out for further information.

### RESTORATION WORK ON ST. MARY'S CHURCH

Every five years the Church architects produce a Quinquennial report which highlights issues with our 900 year old Grade 1 listed church. In the most recent report (2018), the architects highlighted concerns about the condition of many of the windows and the stonework of the church tower.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) commissioned the architects to cost up the work and their estimate was nearly £400,000 for the repairs, just over half for restoring the windows, and the remainder for the tower, which split the workload into two phases of work.

In 2009 St. Mary's was very fortunate to receive two legacies from former Tysoe residents, one for £67,000 and another an amazing £259,000, the Doris Smith Fund. For a church that has traditionally only managed to scrape by, these were Godsend. The first legacy was used for a number of improvements to the church, including its new heating system. As a result of the investments made by the PCC, the value of the Doris Smith fund has now grown to more than £450,000.

The PCC has decided to use the bulk of the Doris Smith Fund (keeping back a graveyard maintenance budget and a small reserve) to help fund the restoration. The Architects will get three quotations for the work, then work should start in the Spring of 2021 on the stone windows as Phase 1. Phase 2 will start the following year (assuming we are still able to recover VAT on listed restorations).

We shall keep the village updated of news in The Record.

Roland Cherry & David Rake, Churchwardens



## TYSOE UTILITY ESTATE GRANTS AVAILABLE

Tysoe Utility Estate (or Trust) provides discretionary grants to qualifying individuals living within the parish of Tysoe.

- Students embarking on a recognised course of further education, having completed compulsory education.
- A Christmas grant, delivered in January, is given to pensioners after 3 years' residency. **Please note that, from January 1st 2020, the qualifying age will now be in line with the government state pension. Those who fall below this age, but have already been in receipt of the grant, will remain unaffected.**
- A death grant towards funeral costs. 3 years' residency.
- A discretionary grant may also be available to individuals suffering unexpected hardship.

GDPR prevents the trustees gaining access to individuals' details and we have to rely on our local knowledge. Whilst this is extensive, we cannot know about everyone who might qualify and, to this end, must rely on you to inform us.

For further details, please contact the clerk, Mrs Yvonne Dillon, on 680567 or e-mail [tueclerk@gmail.com](mailto:tueclerk@gmail.com) for an application form.



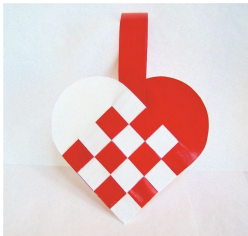
## IT'S ALL ABOUT HYGGE – A DANISH CHRISTMAS

All households have an advent wreath with four candles; the first is lit on the first Sunday in December, the second candle on the second Sunday and so on. During these weeks people enjoy a glass of GLØG (mulled wine) with ÆBLESKIVER (eh-bleh-ski-ver). They bake lots of biscuits and make decorations for the tree, especially stars and hearts. Christmas dinner is usually goose, duck or pork served with small, boiled potatoes covered in a caramel sauce, plus sweet red cabbage. Pudding is RISALAMANDE: rice cooked in milk with a split vanilla pod. When cold, it is mixed with whipped cream and lots of chopped almonds and served with a warm cherry sauce. After Christmas dinner candles are lit.



The Christmas tree is brought into the house on Christmas Eve and decorated with masses of pleated hearts. The oldest known heart was made by Hans Christian Andersen in 1860. The presents have been put under the tree by Father Christmas and his helpers, called NISSE. They are little gnomes with red hats and appear everywhere in Denmark during December. People leave rice pudding out for them instead of mince pies!

After holding hands and walking or dancing round the Christmas tree, (this is a MUST and if you cannot reach round the tree, a towel is used as a link), carols are sung and then, at last, we get to open the presents!



As Christmas evening is shared with the close family, Christmas Day is often shared with distant family and friends eating the famous Smørebrød: herrings, pate, cold meats, cheeses - all eaten with SNAPS/AQUAVIT (40% alcohol!) and beer.

This is a typical HYGGE Christmas.

Karen Baylis

## TYSOE METHODIST CHURCH

At the time of writing we are in lockdown, looking forward to Advent. Some people are wondering if their families will be able to come together for Christmas. The Christmas story reminds us of the importance of hope and love. (Image below: Chapel Nativity Play from 1964).



This year has tested families and friends more than ever. COVID 19 has affected everyone in many ways, not least in the loss of loved ones or severe illness. But in all this there have been new births and glimmers of hope. May we all stay safe and think about the miracle of Christmas and celebrate however we can. May you all have a Happy and Blessed one.

Chris Gibbs



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Original Est  
business 1866

## MAKING SPACE FOR NATURE IN TYSOE

Work continues on the wildflower areas in the churchyard and School Lane and the plants for the new wildlife hedge in the churchyard have been ordered – bird-friendly species and some buckthorn for caterpillars of the brimstone butterfly. A hedgehog bunker has been constructed under some trees in the churchyard (thank you to Jackie Keyser and Graham Hall for the materials, and to Jackie for helping to build it) and we hope it will be used! Some of you may have noticed that a badger (or several) has been digging in the churchyard and making lots of potholes in the grass. Take care if you walk across the grass. We will be starting to mark up the additional areas where we plan to sow wildflower seeds and if you're interested in being involved, or have any questions about the location of the plots, please contact Beverley Thorpe, Parish Clerk

Rosemary Collier



**WARWICKSHIRE CHRISTMAS TREE FARM**

**Tysoe Children's Group**  
The Old Fire Station

Help us fundraise for free when you buy your tree from Warwickshire Christmas Tree Farm. Just mention our name, Tysoe Children's Group and they will donate 10% of all proceeds to us.

Open 27th November - 23rd Dec 2020

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01295 688481

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

## SPOOKY GOINGS ON IN TYSOE

As Trick or Treat was limited by lockdown, the Ghoul Inspector and his cronies, based on a poem by Liz Brownlee, decided to go and visit the children instead. There were some amazing Halloween decorations to be seen around the village, from cobweb strewn lawns to spooky scarecrows, skeletons in a graveyard, creepy giant spiders, plus some wickedly carved pumpkins!



**Claire Darley**

Thank you so much, my two have not stopped talking and smiling about the tractor/inspector visitors all afternoon. Best Halloween ever. 🎃 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷

## NEW LOOKS HAIR & BEAUTY SALON

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## TYSOE W.I. CHRISTMAS SURPRISE!

This month we delivered a gift bag to our members containing an allium bulb along with card, quiz and planting info. Next year we will be asking our ladies to take photos of their allium for a competition. We will also be displaying a "Christmas surprise" somewhere in the village, keep your eyes peeled! We would like to wish all our members and our community a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.



Thank you for your support through this difficult time and we look forward to when we can meet up again, welcoming new friends and members.

Be sure to follow us on Facebook @Tysoe Women's Institute and [www.tysoewi.com](http://www.tysoewi.com)



**The Fondue Box**  
Got that Friday Fondue feeling?  
Have a fabulous Swiss Fondue evening with friends!

The Fondue Box contains traditional Swiss fondue cheese, Caquelon and burner as well as Fondue forks, plates and bread!

**All delivered to your door!**

**Gift Vouchers available!**

Call us on **07592 728 299** or email to [hello@thefonduebox.com](mailto:hello@thefonduebox.com)  
Find out more about us on [www.thefonduebox.com](http://www.thefonduebox.com)

## AMAZING FEATS OF FUNDRAISING



**Kate Wooldridge**

November 2 at 8:00 PM · 🌐

...

An absolutely amazing day. I ache. Jan aches. Halfway through I wanted to land...the cross winds were ferocious. Thank you everyone for your support and raising loads of cash for [#mind](#) and [#manytearsanimalrescue](#)

I landed and I had a few tears and then I was promptly sick...behind [Jenny](#)'s car in the hail and at the traffic lights on the way back through the beautiful Cotswolds...

Thank you to Jen Graham Mon and the two Dave's for being there...and also my wingwoman Jan 😊



Together our  
Dynamic Duo  
raised **£1,514**  
for charity.



Brilliant effort ladies!!

## POPPY MARATHON, POPPY APPEAL & PRODUCE SALES

**Benjamin Keyser**  
November 8 at 12:41 PM · 🌐

Ben raised an **impressive £586** from his Poppy Marathon. He ran 26.2 miles in just over 3.30 hours and added an extra mile for a cool down!

Congratulations go to David Sewell for his tireless efforts in raising funds for the Royal British Legion. Getting soaked outside the village hall in place of the door-to-door collections, he exemplifies the spirit of Remembrance. He's raised a **remarkable £3989**. *Well done everyone for your support.*

Jude from Cotswold Goodlife co Home of Cotswold Chickens has truly excelled with this year's Remembrance piece. It can be seen at the farm entrance until Sunday CV35 0DX Poppies kindly Provided by [David Sewell](#)



Faith Hall **raised £340.10p** by selling produce on her Air Ambulance barrow this year. Funds will go towards a flight to help save lives in our rural community.

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## WOT2Grow COMMUNITY ORCHARD



A glorious month of autumn colour is now ending with the leaves being stripped from the trees by the high winds! The plums lost their leaves some time ago, but the yellow and gold of the nut trees and



medlar in particular (see above) have been spectacular.

All the apples have been picked and the harvest has been pretty good. The early dry and hot weather did us no favours after the late frost, so a lot of the fruit was quite small and a bit misshapen, but the taste was good! The Bramley's did well and produced the largest fruits we have seen.

Pruning will continue through the winter with a lot still to do, so may the weather be kind and dry. The hedges have all been cut back and the grass. Also the wildflower strips have been strimmed ready for their first low cut next spring.

There is still plenty of evidence of wildlife in the orchard, such a difference from when the orchard was planted in 2011. The number of birds increases year on year and also the moths, butterflies and insects although this was not a great year for ladybirds.

Liz Atkinson (680045), Paul Sayer (680451), Sue and Mike Sanderson (688080) or see the website [www.wot2grow.co.uk](http://www.wot2grow.co.uk)



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**HAPPY HEREFORDS**



Friday Night is Take-Away Night @happyherefords Burger Barn

Come and see us for your Take-Away each Friday and get a raffle ticket when you buy a burger...winner will receive a Meat Box - draw will take place on New Year's Eve. Buy as many burgers as you want to be in with a chance. 😊

6-8pm during Lockdown each Friday

5-8.30pm once Lockdown has ended.



Thank you for your support.

call Kate 07904445544 or Monica 07770770976

## PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

The Parish Council last met on 9 November and were pleased to welcome 9 members of the public. You can read the minutes when posted at [www.tysoe.org.uk](http://www.tysoe.org.uk). Some of the highlights were:



- Sole suppliers have been selected for two contracts for the 2021-24 period. The awards are as follows:  
Contract One - Village Green and Verges to Thomas Fox Landscaping

Contract Two - Tysoe Playing Fields to Frank Mann Farmers. Thanks to Councillors Jane Millward, Malcolm Littlewood and David Roache for reviewing the tenders (we had four tenders for each contract). Please contact me if you would like to join our approved supplier list for ad hoc work at [parish.clerk@tysoe.org.uk](mailto:parish.clerk@tysoe.org.uk).

- Councillors voted to support *No Mow May* in 2021. The next job will be to review the mowing map to determine where NOT to mow to give wildflowers, insects and wildlife a breather.
- The Council voted to donate £150 to the Royal British Legion. A cheque has been passed to David Sewell.
- To engage Charlie Harrison to remove the now defunct basketball hoop and stand from the playing fields and make good the ground.

### And Other News

- Jeremy Rivers-Fletcher has resigned from his role as Councillor and member of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee. Chairman Jacqui Sinclair said that “Jeremy will be greatly missed as a Councillor” and thanks him for his services on behalf of the parish. The vacancy is now advertised (see website and noticeboard).
- And finally, congratulations to Tysoe Children’s Group for their successful bid for a Community Grant from WCC. They have won £400 on behalf of the village to install a *Happy to Chat* bench. Now to decide where it goes!

*That’s all for now folks.*

See you at the next meeting on 14 December 2020 at 19.15 (Christmas jumpers obligatory). Have a happy Christmas and a happy, healthy & prosperous New Year. Please stay safe everyone.

Beverley Thorpe

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## ALL ABOUT MICE

*'Twas the night before  
Christmas, when all  
through the house not a  
creature was stirring, not  
even a mouse'  
(Clement Clarke Moore).*



The sleeping mouse was American, but probably the same species as the **British house mouse**. Originally native to Asia, mice have followed humans around the world. Britain is home to three other mouse species.



**The field mouse**, also known as the wood mouse, is the most common and widespread. Field mice have an important role in woodlands, as any stored seeds that they subsequently forget will germinate into new trees. If tree seeds are scarce in a particular year, mouse numbers decline, and this affects owls, who rely on them as prey.



**The harvest mouse** is the smallest mouse and lives in areas with tall grasses. Their nests are globe-shaped, woven from grass and located above the ground. Harvest mice have prehensile tails, which means they can use them to hang on when climbing.



**The hazel dormouse**, as depicted in Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, isn't a true mouse. It has golden fur, big ears and a very fluffy tail. Dormice spend most of their lives in trees. They are uncommon in this area, being most common in southern England, and, in some places, are being closely monitored and assisted through the provision of nest

boxes for hibernation. There is some great information about dormice here: <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/blog/guest/26-wild-essays-dormouse>.

Rosemary Collier

Images: Harvest mouse– Dulcie Fairweather, Dormouse -Wildlife Trust



## Tysoe Artists Open their Studios this Christmas



Melanie Charles and Penny Varley are opening studios in the lead up to Christmas with lots of gift ideas for the season. Both artists are offering pre-booked 1 hour and 1/2 hour visits to their studios. A maximum of 2 persons per household can attend. To arrange your Covid-19 safe visit please contact:

**Melanie Charles** on Facebook or Instagram or call 07803598444  
[www.melaniecharlesartist.co.uk](http://www.melaniecharlesartist.co.uk)

**Penny Varley** on Facebook or Instagram or call 01295 680700  
[www.pennyvarleyceramics.co.uk](http://www.pennyvarleyceramics.co.uk)

If you see something you like on their websites, please contact the artist to reserve.  
**Happy Christmas everyone.**

### Animal Portrait Artist

Let me create a picture for you to keep or give away as a present. I work in acrylic, pastel and mixed media. Call Shirley Cherry on 07900 221120  
[www.dogtasticportraits.co.uk](http://www.dogtasticportraits.co.uk)

Come and visit the Studio,  
Orchard House, Back Lane,  
Tysoe (opposite Happy  
Herefords, Herbert's Farm).

**Taking orders for Christmas!**



## STEP BY STEP - FIGHTING DEPRESSION



We can all feel depressed and low at times, but some people are more prone to dark thoughts than others. Depression can strike at any time. School children, even those at a very young age, can be vulnerable. Social media can sometimes exacerbate the problem as it is there 24/7. Then, when hormones start kicking in, feelings of self-pity and despair can join the mix with lethal consequences.

The single biggest cause of death among young men in the UK is suicide. It might surprise you to learn that the bubbly and confident presenter Simon Reeve found himself, as a young man, in just this situation: “. . . I felt depressed, helpless and hopeless. My family were reaching out to me, but negative feelings and a sense of pessimism about my future were overwhelming. It felt as if a dark weight was hanging around my shoulders, physically holding me down and taunting my mind. Nothing could get through to me and convince me I had a future.”

Having been there, Simon offers this advice: “If you are suffering from depression, try to tell yourself there is hope. Try to drown the whispers in your head that are negative with the knowledge, with the stronger and louder certainty that you are wonderful, inspiring and interesting, both now and into your future. Find voices that comfort you and people who hug and help.” Why not read Simon’s book: ‘Step by Step’ for yourself?



If you are a parent or carer concerned about the mental health of your child or teenager visit: <https://www.mindedforfamilies.org.uk>. MindEd for Families is written by a team of specialists and parents, working together, or you can call **0800 616 171** – for free 24/7 confidential help, run by Mental Health Matters for Coventry and Warwickshire. Just having someone listen can be a huge support.

Shirley Cherry



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FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO: [www.whitehyacinthcakes.co.uk](http://www.whitehyacinthcakes.co.uk)

Please note - that we have nuts in our kitchen.



## SOCIAL PRESCRIBING

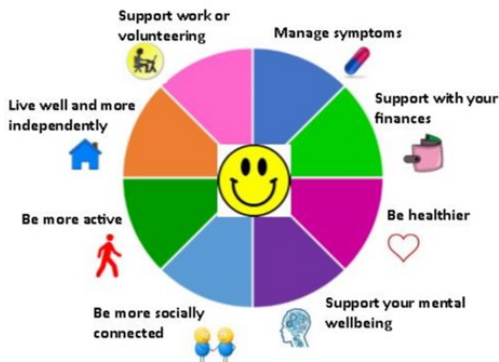
Our community needs support now more than ever, we as Social Prescribing Link Workers can help you and your family in many ways.

### What is Social Prescribing?

Many things affect patients' health and wellbeing. A lot of patients visiting GP surgeries feel isolated or lonely. They might be stressed by work, money and housing problems. Sometimes it's the stress of managing a long-term condition. That's where social prescribing comes in. The GP Practice's Social Prescribing Link Worker is there to listen to patients and put them in touch with the people and activities that might help them to feel better.

The Link Worker might introduce a patient to a community group, a new activity or local club. Or they might help a patient find legal advice or debt counselling. They can assist patients with finding relevant information and guidance. The Link Worker can even support the patient to create something new such as a gardening club, a fishing group, a "men in sheds" or knit and natter group.

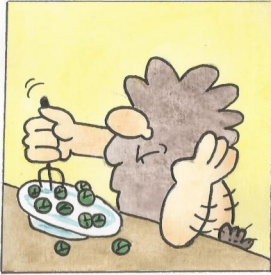
Social prescribing can help patients to have more control over their health and find ways to improve how they feel in a way that suits them. Studies show that people get better and feel better faster than those treated with medicine alone. And because it works, it's happening more and more – including at GP Practices in south Warwickshire.



If you would like to find out more about this service please get in touch with your GP Surgery who will be more than happy to help.

**Jo Hamilton**  
**Social Prescribing**  
**Link Worker**

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## TYSOE C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL - MATHS WEEK

This week we have been celebrating **Maths Week England** which is in its second year and aims to give children a positive image of maths.

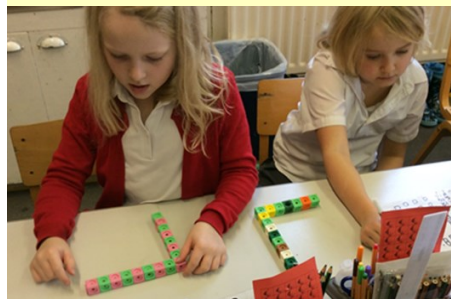
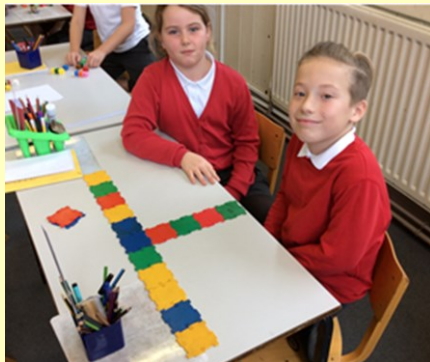
Each class has been basing their work on a mathematical story and the children have enjoyed a range of practical and written activities around their book.



Thank you to Mrs Smith for her planning and organising.



Willow class investigating the relationship between the diameter and circumference of a circle.



Silver Birch Class activities were based on the mathematical story 'Spaghetti and meatballs for all.'

### Advent

Because Christmas in school this year will be so different, we are planning an event each day in school during Advent.

Paige Neale, Head of School

## DECEMBER / JANUARY DATES

### 2020

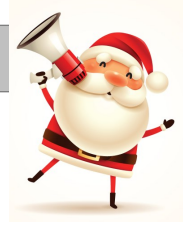
12 December Saturday **Santa visits Tysoe**

25 December Friday **Christmas Day**

28 December Monday Boxing Day (substitute day)

### 2021

1 January Friday **New Year's Day**



DECEMBER	Tu	BIN DATES	JANUARY	Tu
	1			5
8	12			
15	19			
22	26			
29				

At the time of going to press the Village Hall is closed as part of Lockdown Two. Some of the exercise classes have moved online. Contact Steve Randall on 07801 582663 for more updates.

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*Please Contact Paul & Heather Tysoe 688376*

[talkdementia@mail.com](mailto:talkdementia@mail.com) / [www.talkdementia.uk](http://www.talkdementia.uk)

## **Deanery News**

As I write this, we are in our second lockdown and worshipping together but apart as church services go online again.

This year, we are offering a Deanery Advent series thanks to Jill Tucker. We hope you will be able to join us from the comfort and warmth of your own homes as we look towards Christmas.

Advent Evening Prayer: a gentle evening prayer for four Thursdays in Advent, exploring themes of Expectation, Hope, Promise and Comfort. The fourth Thursday in Advent is Christmas Eve.

Advent Evening Prayer will be at 7.30 pm, until about 8pm, on:  
Thursday, December 3rd, Expectation  
Thursday, December 10th, Hope  
Thursday, December 17th, Promise  
Thursday, December 24th, Comfort.

Anyone is warmly invited to join these Zoom sessions: the link is  
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9121061734>

Meeting ID: 912 106 1734

Sarah Edmunds, Rural Dean

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**Wishing you all a Merry Christmas**



**and a Happy New Year**



### **JOEY'S CHRISTMAS CRACKER JOKE**

I was walking round the village and I bumped into **Father Christmas** and I said to him "why do you always wear those silly wellingtons?" He said "because of the reindeer!"



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Flower Show	David Sewell	01295 680 316
Lunch Club	Marion Ascott	01295 680 584
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NGS Open Gardens	Julia Sewell	01295 680 234
Parish Clerk	Beverley Thorpe	parish.clerk@tysoe.org.uk
Police, Safer Neighbourhood Team, Shipston		01789 444 670
Samaritans		116 123
Severn Trent Emergency		0800 783 4444
Shipston Link	David Sewell	01295 680 316
St Mary's Church	George Heighton	01295 680 201
Talk Dementia	Paul Dowler	01295 688 376
Tennis Club	Carol Spencer	01295 680 659
Tysoe Children's Group	Yvonne Dillon	01295 680 624
Tysoe C of E Primary	Paige Neale	01295 680 244
Tysoe Bowls Club	Phil Short	01295 680 732
Tysoe Methodists	Rev Jemima Strain	07969 345 389
Tysoe Social Club		01295 680 627
Tysoe Surgery		01295 680 220
Tysoe Utility Trust Grants	Yvonne Dillon	01295 680 567
Tysoe United FC	Steve Allen	07808 633 155
Village Hall Bookings	Jacqueline Franklin	01295 680 051
Women's Institute	Christine Harrop	01295 780 765
WOT2 Grow Orchard	Liz Atkinson	01295 680 045

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