



THE PARISH COUNCIL

Keith McClellan was re-elected Chairman and Roger Bradford Vice-Chairman at the AGM in May 2008.

Peter Cole retired as Parish Clerk in November 2008 after five years of outstanding service to the village. Before he retired he trained Sadie Patamia who has taken over from him very efficiently.

Sadie Patamia – Clerk to Aynho Parish Council



Finance

At 31st March 2009 the Council had £11,003.82 in its bank accounts, and assets to the value of £120,264.46. The precept for 2009-2010 is £ 17,844.75 towards a budget of £19,974.24.

Maintenance Work

The Parish Council organised its annual clean up at the end of March. There was a good turnout and the village and approach roads look much better. Our thanks to all those who took part. The annual safety check of the Children's Playground and the Sports Field was carried out by R.O.S.P.A. and the facilities declared safe. The equipment was painted by a team from RAF Croughton and a new springy elephant has been delivered to replace the parrot. The chains on the older children's swings have been replaced. Monthly inspections are carried out by Councillors.

APC has employed Stuart Hamp as a village maintenance man. He will be ensuring the village stays looking smart and safe.

The Village Plan

The village plan for the next five years has now been written. This is as a response to the Future Needs Day and the village survey, which 75% of villagers completed and which was reported at a meeting in November 2008. A number of issues from the previous plan have continued to occupy the council, and will be taken forward in the new plan, as community support has been reinforced through the recent consultations.

Highways Issues

Rightracks, the rural road safety programme, should shortly begin to bring some benefits to the village thanks in particular to the efforts of Councillor Colin Macklin. More details in the Village Plan document.

Dog Fouling

The problem of fouling on paths still occurs from time to time, although the vast majority of dog owners make use of the bins provided. You should note that from 1 Apr 09 South Northants Council has adopted new powers which require dog owners to: Clear up when a dog has fouled; keep dogs on a lead in some areas; keep dogs out of some areas (Sports field and playground); put a dog on a lead by direction.

Communications

The Church and Village newsletter continues as the most effective means of local communication. The village website (www.aynho.net) is regularly updated, and is in the process of being made more accessible to village organisations. Our thanks to Sybil Stevens and to Lawrence Wilkinson for their hard work in providing these services.

Farm Walk

Another successful farm walk was held in June 2008, when over one hundred people took part. The walk passed through Rylands Woods where presentations were made about past and future activities in the woods. It continued through Warren Farm and Upper Aynho grounds and finished with the BBQ on the Sports Field.

Village Shop

The Steering group continues to pursue the establishment of a village shop. Although the option of using the Scout Lodge, close to The Square, has not been discounted, an option to use part of the Sports Field is also being considered. The Cartwright Hotel opened in November 2008, and provides a service enjoyed by many in the village, however it was not possible to find a site within the Hotel premises for the Shop.

Planning

The following applications were received during the year:

<i>House No/Name Street</i>	<i>Work Requested</i>	<i>Aynho PC South Northants Council Decision Decision</i>	
32 Roundtown	Replacement windows	Supported	Permitted
23 Blacksmith's Hill	Single storey extension and roof space	Supported	Permitted (with conditions)
27 Blacksmith's Hill	2 storey rear & single side ext.	Some obs	Permitted
12 Charlton Road	Garden room extension	Supported	Permitted
College Farm Banbury Road	Dormer. Roof lights & internal work	Supported	Permitted (with conditions)
27 Butts Close	Garage conversion, carport & garage	Supported	Permitted (with conditions)
Aynho Wharf	Change of use to 4 residential moorings	Supported	Withdrawn
16 Charlton Road	Log cabin in garden	Supported	Permitted
1 Blacksmith's Hill	Vehicular access	Objected	Permitted
Aynho Wharf	Change of use to 1 residential mooring	Supported	Permitted (with conditions)
Lift bridge 189	Reconstruction of bridge wall	Supported	Permitted (with conditions)
33 Blacksmith's Hill	Replacement front windows and front door	Supported	Permitted
2 The Hill	Replacement Double Garage	Supported	Permitted
Cartwright Hotel Croughton Road	Alterations to building (retrospective)	Supported	Permitted
2 Butts Close	Single Storey side extension, first floor extension, pitched roof to replace flat roof	Supported	Refused
Field View Park Charlton Road	Directional non-illuminated sign	Objected	

Thanks

I would like to thank my fellow councillors, the Parish Clerk and the R.F.O. for their commitment and hard work during the last year.

Keith McClellan - Chairman.

ST MICHAELS CHURCH, AYNHO

At our Annual Parochial Church Meeting in April 2008 we again sadly failed to elect Church Wardens. We are however, continually grateful to William Usher for all he undertakes in his role as Churchwarden Emeritus.

During the year members of our Benefice Parochial Church Councils of Aynho, Croughton, Evenley, Farthinghoe, Hinton-in-the-Hedges and Steane chose a Benefice name of 'Astwick Vale Benefice'.

In February we welcomed Bishop Frank White to a very special service of Confirmation in St Michael's Church for candidates from across our Benefice. There were more celebrations in September when Revd Ted Williams celebrated his 90th birthday and 50th anniversary of ordination on the same day; friends and family gathered for a special service of Holy Communion, followed by a scrumptious celebration tea.



*St Michael's Church
Choir and Ministry
Team celebrating Revd
Ted William's 50th
Anniversary of
Ordination September
2008*

The Church fete was, once again, a happy and successful occasion. We thank James Perkins for allowing the use of the wonderful grounds of Aynhoe Park House.

To raise funds to complete the work to our historic carillon, on the evening of May 3rd our Church was ringing with *The Sound of the Three Spires* and *Hunter's Key Ceilidh Band*. Thank you to everyone who supported the carillon's much-needed overhaul.

Sunday School (9.15am in church on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month during term time) continues to flourish under the guidance of Helen Boswell and her dedicated team of helpers; our grateful thanks to them. Praise and Play (10-11.30am 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of each month except August) is a treasured time of fellowship and worship for babies, toddlers and little folk, parents, carers and grandparents. The Benefice Holiday Club held in Croughton All Saints School for a week in August was voted a great success by children and helpers alike. Holiday Club 2009 entitled 'Body Builders' will take place 10th to 14th August. Our thanks to all who help our children grow in the love of Christ.

The Children's Society box collection raised £284.04. Our thanks to Deborah Gibbs and Sybil Stevens.

Our team of Visitors continue to visit within the village. Our monthly Bible Study and Prayer Group flourish, and a monthly mid-week service of Holy Communion is held in the Rectory lounge followed by coffee. Details of all our church activities and services are available in the Village Newsletter or the weekly Pew Leaflet available in church or on the Church notice board.

For details of our church life, or to arrange a baptism or wedding do contact me 01869 810903.
Revd Gill Barker, Rector

Revd Gill Barker, M.A. Rector

AYNHO SPORTS AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION (ASRA)

This year for a change and as there is no exciting news to update you with, I'm going to remind you what a brilliant village facility we have and how you can use it.

Football (regularly played by four teams including Aynho Athletic FC)
Basketball Tennis Golf (but pick up the balls please!)
Flying kites Rugby Cycling (but not on the tennis court please)
Running Playing on the play equipment
Jogging Rounders Cricket
Flying model planes Model cars
Climbing trees (carefully please)
Picnics Children's Parties Family parties
Barbeques (there is one in the pavilion)
Table tennis (we have a table in the pavilion)

Snooker (we have two tables in the pavilion)
Meetings (the middle room is available)
Band rehearsal in the pavilion
Sledging (in the snow of course)
Igloo Building (did you see this year's model?)

Hanging out with friends and loads and loads more.....



So, who says there's nothing to do in Aynho? I am happy to make the pavilion key available free to anyone who wants to use the facility for a village event (providing there is an over 18 in charge) and for £10 for a private hire.

As you know we are hoping to progress with our plans for a running/cycle track in the future. I already have a list of a few kind people who have offered their manual assistance when the time comes and any more names would be welcome. You can contact me on 810019 or kaynho@lineone.net.

Aynho Park Club Draw

The draw is run by ASRA and the profits, after the winnings are taken out, help to maintain the sports field, cut the grass and pay for major repairs to the pavilion and the purchase of new equipment etc. The ASRA finances are overseen and audited by the Parish Council, which owns the Pavilion and the Sports Field.

Thank you to everyone who has paid the £12 annual subscription. The winners are regularly published in the village newsletter. Thanks also to Valery Taylor and her trusty collectors for running the draw. As a thank you to everyone for their support we are asking all club members (i.e. those that have paid a subscription) along to a half-year prize draw at the Sports Pavilion on Saturday 20th June at 4.00pm. Bring a picnic tea and we'll provide a free glass of something drinkable, some teas and coffee (and maybe cake!) and the chance to win a special prize. We'll put on some games for the children and maybe have a tennis/basketball competition as well.

If you are not a member of our Park Club Draw and would like to be then come along anyway and sign yourself up and join in the fun. The last time we had a mass picnic on the field was for the Queen's Golden Jubilee. It was a fantastic afternoon to meet up with friends and neighbours. Needless to say if the weather is not kind to us we'll hold it another time. Further details will follow in the village newsletter.

Kay Anderson

AYNHO ATHLETIC FOOTBALL CLUB



First of all Aynho Athletic would like to say a massive thank you to Pete Tustain and Tom Cliffe for all of their hard work over the years. As many will know Pete set-up and ran the club while Tom managed the team for the previous two seasons. Both stepped down at the end of last season to be replaced by Felicity Dyndor and Neil O'Connell and everyone at the club would like to say a massive thank you for everything they did for the team.

On the field the club has endured a difficult season in their second year in the top division of the Banbury and

District Sunday Mornings League. They have struggled for form in the league but are through to the semi-final of the John Woods Cup after a hard fought 2-1 victory over The Bell in the quarter-final.

Off the pitch the club had to search slightly further a field for sponsorship this season with funding for a new kit coming from DLC in Brackley. They were instantly rewarded when the club enjoyed 5 minutes of fame. Aynho Athletic appeared on national television in a new show called Off the Bar when Sky Sports filmed a league match against Banbury Spurs. Although the game ended in defeat, a great day was had by all and a good laugh was had at the expense of certain players when the show was screened.

This year sees the return of the popular charity game between Aynho Athletic and Aynho Old Boys. The game will take place on Easter Sunday to raise money for the British Heart Foundation and will kick off at 11. For anyone who can spare any time or money, please come down and support this worthwhile cause on what is always a fun packed day.

Finally, if anyone is interested in joining the team for next season then please contact the club via the website at www.aynhoathletic.co.uk. New players, helpers, sponsors and supporters are always welcome.

AYNHO VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

The Hall continues to be well used and our income covers our expenditure. We have had to make some slight increases in our hiring charges, but remain very competitive with other local halls.

We are always trying to improve our facilities and we have decided to buy a microphone amplifier for the use of speakers and this will be kept available in the back room for any hirer. We have helped the History Society to purchase a digital projector, which they have twice lent to the Recorded Music Society. We have installed a pull-down projector screen at the back of the hall. ACT have installed proscenium curtains for their stage, which has improved the impact of their excellent productions. The kitchen has been completely refitted and modified to accommodate more helpers in the washing-up area. Finally, the troublesome strip light in the kitchen has been replaced with a new unit.

In June we were pleased to welcome Mark Skinner, the ACT representative, to our committee. Ted Sutton has taken over as Health and Safety Officer from Ron Rickard and we thank both of them for this essential work. South Northants Council inspected the hall, last April for Safety, Food and Hygiene standards and gave us a very high rating. Of course, much of the credit for this result is due to the thorough work of Valerie Sutton. If anyone has any suggestions for improving the Hall and it's facilities we shall be pleased to hear from them.

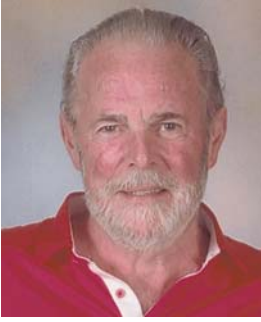
The hall roof suffered from lead thieves earlier in the year causing damage costing several hundred pounds to repair. It has sometimes been difficult to dovetail overlapping bookings and we are grateful for the tolerance shown in these circumstances. We would be much more worried if these problems didn't arise because of a dearth of bookings! We still have the Tuesday afternoon Post Office but wonder whether we provide enough custom to justify it. Please make use of this benefit. Once a month two Community Policemen come to the Tuesday Post Office so if you have any crime issues come and talk to them.

Finally, thanks are due to our Secretary, Carol McClellan, our Treasurer, Hazel Bradford, and especially to Amanda Limb for the vital and sometimes thankless task of Booking Officer. Thank you to all our Committee members who turn up on cold and wet winter evenings for our monthly meetings.

Douglas Ward, Hall Committee Chairman

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

Councillor Ron Sawbridge



As in past years I'm going to start by talking to you about the County Council budget for the financial year just started. The County Council element of local tax has increased by 3.9% matching the increase in the RPI at the time when the budget was prepared towards the end of 2008. Things have of course changed during the last few months due to the present economic turmoil. As a result of this I wish a lower increase could have been made but this would have led to unacceptable reductions in services provided. Every 1% reduction in council tax results in £2.2m of lost revenue which would have a massive impact on the services provided to the people of this county and particularly for the elderly, children, and those with disabilities. This year Northamptonshire will remain the county with the lowest council tax base in England. I remind you at this stage that the County Council element is about 71% of the council tax paid by you. The remaining 29% covers the Police Authority, District Council, and Parish Council.

During 2009/10 we shall be spending a total of £420m on services. This does not include almost £400m allocated directly to schools. The Budget planning process has been greatly improved over the last twelve months to ensure that the available money is directed towards the top priorities which are designed to create safer, freer, and stronger communities; secure and healthy independent futures for our children, young people, and adults; a cleaner, greener, and more prosperous county; and a smaller and more enabling council. £90m will be directed into services for children and young people, £140m into health and adult social services, and £67m into environmental, growth, and transport schemes. I am not proposing to detail everything but it is worth highlighting that an additional £450,000 has been allocated to help the voluntary sector provide more interesting and fulfilling opportunities for young people out of school hours through the development of a new Youth Corps. Also, there will be a further £500,000 to increase payments to foster carers, an extra £900,000 to fund residential care for the elderly, and an investment of £500,000 in a project to divert waste wood away from landfill and our continuing work with Milton Keynes to find a long term acceptable solution to using landfill to dispose of waste. As in previous years we shall be providing £500,000 for Northamptonshire Police to fund additional police staff.

As the County Councillor for Brackley West Division I also chair the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee, the Adoption Support Forum, and the Pupil Referral Units Management Committee. I'm a member of the Corporate Parenting Board, the Service Six Management Committee, the East Midlands Reserve Forces and Cadets Association, and the Standards Advisory Council for Religious Education. Locally, I am vice-chair of Governors at Magdalen College School, and of the Friends of Magdalen College School.

My main duties during the past year have continued to focus on education throughout the county. There are too many groups of under-achieving children and we need to find ways of encouraging them to reach their full potential. With this objective I initiated a project to identify the groups and recommend ways of improving their educational attainment. This project is now nearing completion and will be presented to Cabinet in the summer.

As you all know, every County Councillor has been allocated £10,000 to devote to minor schemes in their Division. In the year just ended I have used up my full allowance and a little left over from the previous year on the following projects: Brackley Guides and Brownies £960; Brackley & District Alzheimers Support Group £500; Brackley Players £1,250; Friends of Magdalen College School £1,500; Charlton Playing Fields Association £1,866; Norris Playing Fields Association £2,500; Stepping Stones Pre-School £2,523.

Nobody is more aware than me of the problem of speeding traffic through Aynho and you will know that this matter is being addressed by the 'Right Tracks' scheme and by the excellent work being done by Parish Councillor Colin Macklin. Hopefully in the end something will be done in this village to slow traffic down. The other major problem in Aynho concerns the acute lack of parking facilities, an issue also being addressed by your Parish Council.

I shall conclude by reminding everyone about the elections for the County Council on June 4th this year. Incidentally, the elections for the European Parliament will take place on the same day. The turnout for local elections when they do not coincide with a national election has not been good and I would urge all residents to vote on June 4th. This is important as the result will determine the political composition of the County Council for the next four years.

Ron Sawbridge. County Councillor for Brackley West Division.

SOUTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

John Townsend, District Councillor.



As with the rest of the Country, during the past year much thought has been given at South Northants in trying to come to terms with the worst recession most of us have ever known.. The lowering of interest rates on the Council's reserves amount to a loss of income of well over a million pounds in a financial year, and this is income that has been used to keep down Council tax. Applications for planning and building control, as well as land searches have been great with a consequent large reduction in income. Although the Council managed with the use of some reserves to produce a balanced budget for the year 2009/10 if the economy doesn't pick up it is going to be real challenge to do so for 2010/11.

Although there has been a reduction in planning applications the Government is still intent on a massive expansion of the South Midlands, with a large expansion around Northampton, Daventry and Towcester. Take this with the large amount of houses being planned for Banbury, Bicester and Aylesbury and the scene is set for a lot more people moving to this area, I predict that the issue of traffic, always an issue for Aynhoe, will become ever more pressing over the next 20 years.

There has been a reorganisation of staff to cope with the changing role of District Council. Two new directors Steven Shuttleworth and David Price have been appointed and new appointments have been made to the policy side. The challenge for any local authority nowadays is to ensure that the innumerable initiatives and directives that come out of the Government and Europe are used to the advantage of our own area. It is vital that we retain the character of our local towns, villages and countryside. To do so we need to have the right policies, and take the right initiatives.

John Townsend District Councillor for Little Brook Ward

AYNHOE PARK

2008 was a fabulous year for the Park. The external works are nearing completion with the new gates expected in late spring to finish the considerable commitment James has invested into eradicating vehicles from the front of the house. Following the restoration and improvements to the reception rooms we are now embarking on creating the required bedroom suites expected in a property of this stature.

There were numerous events staged at the house over the last twelve months; parties, photo shoots, seminars, meetings of local groups, classical music events, visits from national and international organisations and of course the fete and the jazz evening, to name but a few! James and his household really enjoy hosting these varied and interesting events and as a result we are actively promoting future uses for the house, such as a select number of weddings and parties both corporate and private. We want to work with the existing businesses in the village and provide an exceptional group of venues and facilities that allow high standard events to be staged.

The Aynho Park corner scheme is hoped to provide the village with further access to the Repton parkland and we are grateful for the positive feed back received, we will work with the entire village to design the best solution for the site.

Estate Manager 01869 811618

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



The ring master system, which gives us details of crime in South Northants, has worked well this year. Most of the crimes reported are in the Daventry area. Local people usually let me know of incidents relevant to the village. These are passed on through the newsletter or, if urgent, through the phone network. Fortunately these are still few and far between.

Linda Hoddinott co-ordinator: 01869 810059
carly@lrhoddinott.wanadoo.co.uk

AYNHO GARDENING CLUB

Despite the dreadful weather in 2008, the Gardening Club managed to complete most of its scheduled events unscathed. We had a very interesting visit to Worcestershire to see Spetchley Park and White House Gardens and even managed to eat lunch outdoors. Our evening visit to Chivel Farm, Heythrop in August was, however, spoiled by rain, which was a great shame as it was a really stunning garden – one to go back to in a more settled season. We had, with some trepidation, arranged to go to RHS Wisley in October, a later date than we normally attempt for a day trip. However, we chose wisely – it was a golden autumn day and there was still plenty to see in the borders.



The annual Flower and Produce Show took place at the end of August as usual. A few of the classes were rather depleted because of the weather conditions, but we were delighted to see more entries than usual in the flower arranging and cookery classes. We hope this trend will continue this year. What we would really like to see is more entries in the special children's classes. The show is on 5th September this year and there will be two classes – a drawing and a collage/ arrangement of flowers and or vegetables etc. It would be so good to get more children involved in a fun village event, so please encourage any young relatives or friends to take

part.

We had seven different speakers during the year talking on topics ranging from *Air Plants* to *Lilies*, *Lamas and Leeches* and including slides of the *Flowers of Greece* and *Gardening for Wildlife* and advice on how to recognise edible fungi. As a first for the Gardening Club we also invited an actor to give us his one-man show in which he impersonated E H Wilson the plant hunter on an expedition to China.

Events to look forward to this year include a trip in May to The Abbey House Gardens, Malmesbury combined with Westonbirt Arboretum and then an August trip to Hanbury Hall. There will also be talks on growing your '*Five a day*', *Late Summer Perennials*, *Pansies Violas and Sweet Violets* and *Making Christmas Decorations*. If any of these are of interest, we are always delighted to welcome new members and guests to our monthly meetings on the second Wednesday of the month in the village hall, starting at 8 p.m. Do come and join us.

Anthea Bazin, Chair.

AYNHO RECORDED MUSIC SOCIETY

In case you don't know, the Aynho Recorded Music Society, known as ARMS, meets in the village hall on the first Wednesday of the month to listen to a selection of popular but not hackneyed classical music. Not every body knows everything and sometimes we include new and different music – provided it is tuneful. Consequently we introduce each record with lighthearted commentary which is certainly not intended to be educational but, you never know, you might learn something to increase your enjoyment.

This year, courtesy of the History Society and the Village Hall Committee, we have borrowed their DVD projector and coupled it to our Hi-Fi system to show on the big screen, selections from opera and ballet as well as watching orchestras and soloists. This has proved to be very popular and we plan to do it again.

Membership has kept up remarkably well over the years and most of the good folk who came along to our first programme seven years ago are still with us. Despite the recent arctic weather conditions we had at least a score of stalwart music lovers – many no longer in the first flush of youth – attending the January and February programmes

We meet on the first Wednesdays of October until May at 7:30 pm. in the Village Hall. There is a convivial interval which is usually as popular as the music itself. We like members to bring along records of their own and tell us why they like them but this is by no means essential

So, why not drop in one evening to see what ARMS is all about. You will be most welcome

For further information, call **Bernard Middleton 01869 810167**

AYNHO APRICOTS LADIES MORRIS



At this time when youngsters are being put off morris dancing because it isn't cool and our national heritage is under threat, it is heartening to be able to report that Aynho Apricots Ladies Morris are still hanging in there. We were honoured to be invited to take part in this year's pantomime.

We now practice in Kings Sutton, still every Wednesday evening in the winter and touring the local pubs in the summer. Our biennial fund raiser and social event (the Amazing April Aynho Apricot Ale) to

which all the local morris sides are invited, is being held this coming Saturday 25th April in Croughton. Interest in St Georges Day has revived so this date is particularly apposite and allows us to maintain the tradition of the Mummings play as well.

In keeping with tradition we will be escorting the May Queen on 16th May and will be holding two open dancing sessions on Wednesday 20th May and 27th May at the Cartwright Hotel. As we currently have few dancers from Aynho, we hope to encourage some ladies (and gents!) to give morris a try. You may be surprised to find that morris dancing is fun and keeps you fit as well as keeping an element of Old England alive!

To book an event contact our Bagman: **Ren 01280 840219 email ren_thomp1@yahoo.co.uk**

To join as dancer or musician contact our Squire: **Kate: 01280 700212**

AYNHO HISTORY SOCIETY

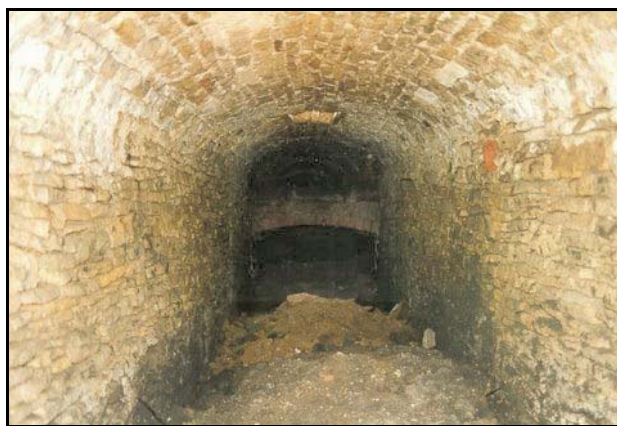
Aynho History Society was established eighteen months ago and we now have forty-seven members enrolled in the current membership year. We have researched and presented a range of local history subjects including Rainsborough Camp, Aynhoe Park, Mediaeval Paintings in Croughton Church, The Civil War in Aynho and other interesting subjects. All presentations are enhanced with digital photographs and a microphone system for ease of listening. Many of our presentations are personally researched and presented by members with an occasional guest speaker.

Many of you will know that we believe there may be a series of tunnels beneath the village. Photographs were taken inside one tunnel and an eminent Oxford archaeologist has identified it as having been built during the Civil War from Roman sandstone. The tunnels are being researched further in conjunction with Oxford University Archaeological Society and we are also in contact with Channel 4 Time Team researchers. Who knows what we may discover? Aynho and its environs is certainly an area rich in history with a lot of research opportunities. Many coins, tokens and other

artefacts, including a soldier's helmet believed to be from the Civil War, have been found around the village.



Musket Ball found locally



Inside an Aynho tunnel

Census records of the parish covering 1851 to 1901 have been compiled and we have recorded interviews with a number of long-time village residents who have been willing to share their memories for future generations; these are stored on cd. We have also compiled a list of books associated with Aynho and we have started a collection of photographs and ephemera connected with the village.

Visits have been made to Broughton Castle, which dates in part to 1300 and to the home of Elizabeth Cartwright-Hignett at Iford Manor, near Bath. In return, members of her staff have visited Aynho. It is possible that we will repeat this trip later in 2009 and view Iford Manor and the Peto Garden once again.

Meetings are held on the last Wednesday of each month at 7.30 pm in Aynho Village Hall. The meetings do not exceed two hours and new members and guests are always welcome. For further information please contact:

Brian Reynolds, Chair, 01869 811007 Peter Cole, Secretary 01869 811261

AYNHO WRITERS

This has been a productive year for Aynho Writers, with a full membership of 19 or 20. At our monthly meetings members display a wide variety of subject and style in their writing. We have all benefited from several of our members attending other writers' groups and writing classes, and freely expounding their ideas.

Our annual Writers' Workshop last November was organised in-house instead of having an outside speaker. It proved a useful activity when we had more time to listen to each other's work and explore various creative writing techniques.

The death of Derek Wadsworth was a great loss to the group and we miss him greatly. He was generous in sharing his musical expertise and brought a lot of fun and variety to our meetings. We had hoped to see some of his creative work published.

This year we were able to have our annual Christmas lunch in Aynho at *The Cartwright*, which everyone enjoyed.

At our March meeting we had the pleasure of listening to Geoff Hale in the guise of Anthony Trollope. This was very instructive as well as entertaining. It was interesting to note how much of Trollope's advice to writers still holds good today.

A good selection of the work of Aynho Writers can be found in our annual publication, which this year is called *Perceptions*; this demonstrates the wide variety of work produced by our group: prose, poetry, articles, fiction, faction and reminiscences. A few copies are still available from Brian Reynolds, and there is always a selection of the group's writing on the Aynho Village web page, or by googling **Aynho Writers**.

Sue Hunter: Facilitator

AYNHO WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



This has been another enjoyable and busy year for our WI. We have two new members and have had varied and interesting speakers giving talks on all sorts of topics - building community schools in Africa, the mother-of-pearl jewellery industry in Birmingham, Otmoor and its Nature Reserve, postal history, the Quaker Society in Banbury, and an eye-opening account of the work done by the Air Ambulance Service, as well as Mrs Helen Boswell's talk on 'Twenty Years of Change at Westminster'.

Our Northamptonshire Federation has now finished its new headquarters and WI House runs a variety of craft and skills courses, which members have been attending. We have sent members to the Annual Meeting at Northampton where the speakers were Christine and Neil Hamilton, and Ann Widdecombe has also been a speaker for Northampton Federation. Meanwhile our catering activities have continued, with teas or refreshments provided for Village Needs Day, May in the Square, the Church Fete and the extremely busy Open Gardens Day, when record numbers turned up to sample tea and cakes provided by our members, who, despite being rushed off their feet, coped admirably! In December the Christmas Party was a great success, with music provided by Geoff Cooper and over fifty people sitting down to a Christmas meal. The Group Carol Service was held at Aynho this year and was well attended, with plenty of mince pies afterwards.

We have kept up our walks, weather permitting - Blenheim, Souldern and the Deer Park at Stowe have all proved to be very do-able - and visits have included Boughton House, just the other side of Northampton, and the Bodleian Library, where we saw nearly as many floors (and books) underground as we did up above. Over the year our National Federation keeps us informed about the WI's current campaigns and public profile, enabling us to discuss and vote on topical proposals. The WI programme can be found at www.aynho.net as well as on the notice board outside the Village Hall. You are very welcome to attend a meeting and see what we offer.

Fiona Hodges

AYNHO SHORT MAT BOWLS



We have our full complement of players -16 with 1 waiting list player. The latter can play if there are fewer than 16 present. We meet on Tuesday afternoons from 2.30-4.30. Fees are £10 per annum for full members and £1 per session. Woods can be provided and refreshments are served at half time.

Jean Darby, Chairman 01869 810373

AYNHO COMMUNITY THEATRE



Our two major productions this year were both extravagant costume dramas, and both attracted big audiences.

Pygmalion, directed by Bob Mann in April 2008 was our first venture into the works of Bernard Shaw. It was an ambitious project which was well received and which the cast and team enjoyed greatly.

Pygmalion

In November we revived the tradition of Christmas readings. Jayne Ryman having recovered from carrying off Eliza Doolittle, organised, directed and performed in Ghosts of Christmas Past. A popular evening of readings and sketches associated with Christmas.



Cinderella

In January 2009 we had our first pantomime, Cinderella, chosen as the most popular at the Village Future Needs Day earlier in 2008. Directed by Keith McClellan, the production involved villagers and old hands of all ages in dance, singing, farce and slapstick and was a complete sell-out. It was very pleasing to have the Aynho Apricots involved to add to the fun. We hope to have another production in November and to have a pantomime every other year.

We always need more actors, singers, and helpers behind stage and welcome anyone who is interested in any aspect of our productions. We would love to see more young people involved. We do make them very welcome.

If interested in any aspects of our activities please contact:

Chairman, **Caroline Fordham** caroline.fordham@hotmail.com 01295 811951

Secretary, **Jayne Ryman** JayneRyman@aol.com 01295 810267

WIGGLES AND GIGGLES



Wiggles & Giggles is a baby and toddler group that meets every Thursday (term time only) from 09.30-11.30am at Aynho Village Hall. It is a very informal morning with people dropping in for 20 mins or 2 hrs – depending on how long they can stand the noise!

Last year our attendance numbers were so high we didn't need to organise any fund-raising events, which was a huge relief to our busy mothers. However, we did have a fantastic Christmas party, with lunch for all the children and Father Christmas popped in and gave every child a present. I would like to say a big thank you to the handful of mothers who helped arrange this special morning – you know who you are. Particular thanks needs to go to Mary Scarff who missed everything as she was tied to the oven and kitchen sink for the whole morning – you are a star, thank you.

This year we will again offer the hugely popular photographic session in the Spring with the extremely talented photographer Paula Jayne. These photographs can be taken inside or outside and capture your child at play, in a relaxed environment. Paula Jayne has agreed to only charge for reprints of your choice – so you can have the photographic session with no obligation to purchase prints if you don't want to. However, be warned these photographs are difficult to resist! Photographic sessions will take place on 7th & 14th May.

If you have yet to try us out, do come along. Each session is £1 per child and 50p for subsequent children. We enjoy frequent arts & crafts sessions, a structured music session every week – and usually fresh coffee and homemade goodies on offer for children and the adults. Mums, Dads, Carers and Grandparents are all welcome.

Tiggy Atkinson – organiser