



2018

Aynho Village Report

April 2018



AYNHO VILLAGE REPORT 2018

INTRODUCTION

This is your household individual copy of the 2018 Aynho Annual Village Report. We know from previous village surveys that about a third of village residents leave/join the Aynho community every 5 years. If you have come to live in Aynho in the past year you are most welcome. The Parish of Aynho comprises of some 300 households with a population of about 650 of which 550 or so are on the electoral roll. This report is prepared and distributed by the Parish Council. It summarises and gives an indication of activities that have taken place over the past 12 months. The reports from the various clubs and societies are printed as submitted.

THE PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman's Report

The Council – Membership

Aynho Parish Council is made of up of nine elected councillors and is supported by the Parish Clerk and the Responsible Finance Officer (RFO). I was elected Chair and Cllr Fi Burge as Vice Chair by the other members at the AGM in May 2017. For most of the year we had eight Councillors and we were joined in February 2018 when Cllr Rachel Moroney was co-opted to bring us up to our full complement of nine. Full details of the Council membership are published on the village website (www.aynho.org). All the councillors are volunteers and are not paid for their services.

In November 2017 the Parish Clerk, Sadie Patamia, tendered her resignation following 9 years of loyal service to the Parish Council as she had decided to return to full time employment. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her dedication and service during her time as Clerk. In February we appointed Chris Wilson to succeed her and he formally took up his appointment at the start of this month. He is new to the village and lives in School End.

The Parish Council meets on the first Monday of every month, except January & August: meetings last less than two hours! Please contact the clerk, Chris Wilson (07887 548774 or clerk@aynho.org) if you are interested in joining.

Streetlights

The Parish Council is responsible for the provision and maintenance of the 37 streetlights that are situated within the Village. We pay for their electricity and maintenance from the Aynho Precept. Most of the fittings within the village are old and utilitarian and as such not particularly in keeping with a Conservation Village. Modern street lights, using LED technology, are about 80-90% cheaper to operate. New lights could also be top down, thus reducing light pollution and have the ability to be dimmed further in the small hours. Potentially if all streetlights were replaced with LEDs we could save £1525 - £1700 per year. Given the potential savings the Parish Council is examining taking out a local government low interest loan which would allow us to replace all the lights in one programme. We expect this to be in the order of about £30K. As such it would appear that the potential savings could make this a cost neutral project over a 15-18 year period. More details will be published on the Aynho website shortly and in forthcoming newsletters. The item will also be discussed at the Annual Village Meeting on 23 April and we hope to have a sample light.

Parking

In April 2017 it was agreed with the St Michael's Parochial Church Council (PCC) that from 1 May 2017 residents would be able, subject to a few simple rules, to use their car park adjacent to the Parish Church for overnight parking as a way to help alleviate some of the Parking Issues. Full details are available on use of this facility for residents on the Aynho website. The feedback has been positive and the use of the facility has not been abused. The Parish Council has made a small contribution towards the maintenance of the car park.

Additionally we have now installed some parking bollards on the verge outside Aynho Court, not only protect the verge – but more importantly to improve visibility for residents of Aynho Court as they turn onto the main road. It is the Parish Council's intention to use similar bollards to protect the Village Green.

Aynho Active

There is a fuller report on Aynho Active activities on page 8. However I just want to confirm that, following the 2016 Auditors report which made recommendations on the management of what was known as Aynho Sports and Recreation Association (ASRA), it has now been fully incorporated into the Parish Council accounts and is now known as Aynho Active. The Sports Field and Pavilion are being managed on a day to day basis by Rachel Moroney, Valerie Taylor and Michael Johnson. As you will have seen from above Rachel Moroney is also now a Parish Councillor. Income whether from fees for usage of the facilities or from donations (eg Park Club Draw) and expenditure will have full visibility in the accounts so that this income is only used for the Sports Field and Pavilion facilities.

Broadband & Gigaclear

As most residents will know, all properties within the village have access to Ultrafast Broadband which is available from Gigaclear with speeds up to 1Gbps. The service uses Fibre to the Property (FTTP) and does not rely on the use of the copper phone lines which can severely restrict the speed and quality of the service. Gigaclear have kindly agreed to continue to provide the Village Hall with a free connection for the foreseeable future. Some 40% of households have subscribed and there is a high level of satisfaction with the service.

Speeding & Highways

We have now had the mobile Vehicle Speed Activated Sign (VSAS) for over 24 months and use it at various points in the village to deter speeding and also for collecting data and vehicle numbers and speeds as vehicle pass the sign. After a long delay NCC Highways have finally installed a post midway down Charlton Road – near the entrance to The Butts Close. We will now collect additional data in order that we can try and persuade NCC Highways to introduce speed calming measures on this road.

Defibrillator

I would like to thank Amanda Limb and her Winter Lunch Club team for the £100 donation towards the maintenance of the Defibrillator located on the outside of the Village Hall.

Maintenance

The visual appearance of our village is one of the characteristics that residents most appreciate and is one the Parish Council attempts to maintain. With the likelihood of even less resources from NCC the Parish Council decided to contract someone to undertake 5-7 hours work per week to help with the maintenance and appearance of the village. In particular one job is to keep the paths well maintained and stop the overgrowth that damages the tarmac. Peter Tustain tendered for the work and has been contracted to undertake the work since last June. I know from comments that have been made to me and other Councillors that his work is much appreciated and is making a real difference.

Whilst most dog owners are conscientious in clearing up after their dogs regrettably there is still a small minority who fail to clear up after their dogs have fouled the pavements. Dog Poo bags are available and there are 6 bins provided specifically for dog waste. In March our Dog Waste Contractor tendered his notice due to ill health - we hope to have new contractor to empty the bins appointed shortly. In the interim period

Cherwell DC have kindly agreed to empty the bins. Finally just to remind you that the normal waste bins can also be used for the disposal of dog waste provided it has been properly bagged.

I would ask that everyone, where possible, helps with the public areas near to their own homes - eg verges/weeds. The two village clean ups, one in March/April and one in October are part of this effort. My appreciation to those who have helped in the past - but we could always do a better job if there were a few more volunteers! If you are aware of areas which need attention do please either contact the Parish Clerk or, go online and google 'Streetdoctor SNC' and follow the links to report the problems directly. You will be surprised how quickly they can respond in some instances!

Planning

The full list of all planning applications is shown below this report. The Parish Council is consulted by South Northants Council (SNC) on all planning applications and is asked to give a view, based on planning considerations, as to whether an application should be supported or not supported with comments as required. Whilst the views are not binding on SNC Plans, they can have an impact.

Finance

At 31 March 2017 the Parish Council had £39232 in its bank account and assets to the value of £137165. The precept for 2018/19 is £22920 with other expected income of £7875 from donations grants and fees making a total of £30795 towards a budget of £35005. The accounts are available for inspection under the usual rules for public funds.

Thanks

I would like to conclude by thanking, firstly, the officials of the Parish Council – namely Sadie Patamia, Clerk, and Roger Wertheimer, RFO, for their hard work during the past year. Lastly I would like to thank my fellow councillors for their contribution and support during the year - which is much appreciated.

Finally, I have been Chairman now for five years and I have decided that when the election of the Chair takes place in May, (as is the formal requirement to re-elect the Chair each year), I am not intending to let my name be put forward to be Chair as has happened in the past. I have enjoyed serving the Village as Chair over the past five years and hope that we have made a difference during that time. I had intended to resign but will continue as a Councillor for the time being – particularly as we have a new clerk.

Stephen Brook
Chairman
01869 811167

PLANNING

This year Aynho Parish Council has considered the following planning applications:

Address	Outline of application	PC Decision	SNC Decision
1 Little Lane	Erection of wooden shed to rear (Retrospective)	Supported but with concerns	Approved
Aynhoe Park House	Erection of a garden structure to provide covered seating and hot tub (retrospective).	Supported	Approved
15 The Glebe	Certificate of proposed lawful development comprising of single storey side extension		Refusal
College Farm Banbury Road	Single storey rear extension	Supported but with concerns	Approved
College Farm Banbury Road	Part re-building of opening in previously blocked boundary wall (retrospective) and insertion of new gate	Supported but with concerns	Approved
Wensden Field House Charlton Road	Demolition of three existing storage units to build a three bay oak garage with storage to upper floor with office facilities.	Supported	Approved
15 The Glebe Aynho OX17 3AZ	Single storey side extension.	Supported	Approved
Swallows House Little Lane Aynho	Replacement windows with an alternative Upvc window	Supported	Withdrawn
The Malthouse 11A The Square	Replacement casement windows on rear and north west elevations	Supported	Approved
A Day In The Country Ltd The Great Barn Upper Aynho Grounds	New Entrance Porch	Supported	Approved
3 The Butts	Front extension to link to garage, conversion of garage to living accommodation and new garage to front (Amendment to planning permission S/2017/0688/FUL)	Supported	Approved
Swallows House Little Lane	Replace nine windows on front elevation	Supported	Approved
2 Charlton Road	Replacement windows to front of property	Supported but with concerns	Approved
11 The Butts Aynho	Variation of condition 2 (plans) of planning permission S/2016/1973/FUL (Conversion of garage to form living space, front and rear extensions) to change the pitched roof over the garage conversion and front extension to a flat roof	Objected	Refusal
21 Blacksmiths Hill	To change the existing kitchen window to a painted, timber framed, double glazed patio door with fixed glazed door, amended from existing permission which has granted a patio door and window	Supported	Approved
Farriers 19 Blacksmiths Hill	Replacement single storey side and rear extensions.	Supported	Approved
Swallows House Little Lane	Replace 9 existing windows, front elevation with double glazed timber flush windows.	Supported	Approved
3 The Butts	Certificate of Lawfulness for Proposed Development comprising of cladding to rear and gable ends	Noted	Consults Despatched
5 Blacksmiths Hill	Replacement UPVC windows and doors.	Objected	Site Visit Complete
3 Blacksmiths Hill	Replacement UPVC windows and doors (part retrospective)	Objected	Site Visit Complete

AYNHO COMMUNITY THEATRE (ACT)

Aynho has a dormant Community Theatre. Not so long ago this was a thriving group offering all sorts of products from Shakespeare to Panto and everything in between. There is money in the kitty, a loft full of costumes and props, lighting and a stage in the village hall. All it needs is someone with some energy and enthusiasm to breathe some life into it again. Contact Kay at kaynho178@gmail.com if you are that person! Help will be at hand for any Director who is willing to have a go.

AYNHO WRITERS

Aynho Writers have continued to meet on the second Saturday of the month during the past year. Our most recent publication is titled *The Lure of the Pen* and we shall shortly be publishing a twenty-first anniversary collection which will include contributions from members past and present.

The Lure of the Pen



Aynho Writers 2017

At our annual Workshop we had a very interesting and enjoyable presentation from Sally Strutt, a former librarian who now researches and writes about the history of country estates and historic houses.

We have welcomed three new members this year and, as always, they have added to the variety and interest of our writing. Each month we have two topics to choose from but members can present anything they have written; examples are available to view on the village website at www.aynho.org. Members continue to have their works published, either as complete books or as contributions to other publications.

New members are always welcome at our meetings in the Village Hall Committee Room from 10.00am to 12.30pm on the second Saturday of each month.

Keith McClellan 01869 810346

AYNHO GARDENING CLUB

In 2017, the Gardening Club continued with its programme of meetings on the second Wednesday of the month from January to November. The meetings are held in the Village Hall and involve a talk on some garden-related subject, or a talk about a particular garden/gardens of interest. This is followed by refreshments and time for a chat. The talks last year covered a variety of topics from 'Orchids of Thailand' to 'Water in the Garden'. We also had an enjoyable and fine evening in June where we visited Placketts, a very pretty little village garden in Adderbury.

During the summer months, two trips are organised. The first trip this year was to Mottisfont Abbey in June and although the journey there was longer than we usually take, the roses were quite wonderful, the weather was perfect and a thoroughly enjoyable day was had by all. The second trip was to Kew Gardens in September with a view to looking at the new long borders that have been established. There is, of course, plenty of interest elsewhere in the gardens. The talks and outings were all well attended and, amazingly, the weather was kind on both trips.

The Gardening Club had its usual table at Maytime-in-the-Square selling a large number of plants, the weather turned against us and packing up the stall wasn't much fun! Our thanks go to the Committee members who not only work hard on the stall but also grow the many plants which are sold.

The Flower and Vegetable show was held in August with the added excitement of Channel 4 filming the event for the 'Village of the Year' programme (sadly none of the show was shown). Carol McClellan, the Show Organiser and the Gardening Club Committee worked extremely hard to stage the show and it all ran wonderfully smoothly. It is a great village event and we would like to encourage as many people to take part as possible in the 2018 show.

We are delighted that the membership of the Club is a little up on the previous year. New members are always very welcome to this friendly club – members do not need any particular knowledge of gardening techniques or plant names. Information about the Gardening Club can be found in the Newsletter or on the village website, or ring Annabel Bellamy (810847) or other members on the Committee.

Annabel Bellamy

COMMUNITY MATTERS

It is becoming clear that local communities need to take more responsibility for their own environment, health and lifestyles. Aynho Parish Council has received a proposal to start a local initiative run by some villagers called COMMUNITY MATTERS. APC and The Village Hall Committee have agreed to support this campaign in 2018 by making available the hall and other resources for 4 community events. The first two are:

ENVIRONMENT – Saturday 28th April, Aynho Village Hall. 11am – 3pm

HOW GREEN IS OUR VILLAGE? Recent media has again highlighted how our planet needs to reduce, reuse and recycle, especially plastic products. South Northants Council are coming along to our event with offers, games and advice on how to recycle waste effectively. Some of our talented village crafters will be offering their skills on upcycling fashion for teens and junk modelling for kids. Got loads of unworn fashion items that need a new home? Bring them along to sell/swap or upcycle into something new. We would encourage anyone with unwanted items to bring them along to give away or swap and advice will be available on green energy suppliers. Our village environment is important to us and Pete our local village maintenance man is doing a great job keeping the verges tidy and clean. You can meet Pete and get supplies of dog poo bags from him to help make his job more pleasant. Everyone is welcome to come along to this day and refreshments will be available, along with a cookery demonstration after lunch. See the Aynho Community Facebook page for further information.

COMMUNITY HEALTH – Saturday 2nd June, Aynho Village Hall. 11am – 3pm.

A new health club being set up to help our community work with the NHS in new ways and be informed of health news in our area. The aim is to get a number of organisations (Local GP Practices, Age UK, Cherwell Council Health Bus and others) to start the development of a health club that will meet regularly to hear about health and wellbeing and forge links with the local and national NHS services and voluntary sector organisations. Further information will be published in the village newsletter in May and on the Aynho Community Facebook page.

If anyone wishes to be involved with either of these initiatives please contact Kay or Andy Anderson on 0330 113 6008 (landline) or kaynho178@gmail.com (environment) or andycrawf1954@gmail.com (health).

VILLAGE ALLOTMENTS

Seventeen out of the 18 allotments on the Charlton Road were utilised during the year – and a very successful growing year it was! The allotments are good value - £5 rental for a really good size plot nearly all of which are fenced and protected by bordering hedges.

2017 was the first year we had piped water at the allotments and this was of great benefit early in the growing season when it was quite dry for planting seeds and getting the vegetables and flowers established. The water cost an additional £5 per allotment holder and was deemed a great success.

The Trustees of the Poor's Piece Charity, which manages the allotments and collects the rents and charges, are very grateful to the Parish Council for its contribution towards the costs of the water pipe and its laying (by volunteers). All the rent collected for the year was as usual distributed at Christmas to the needy in the village.

Andrew Bellamy 01869 810847

AYNHO SHORT MAT BOWLS

Aynho Short Mat Bowls Club meets in the village hall every Tuesday afternoon from 2.30 pm. We have 16 members, which is about right for two mats, but are always pleased to see anyone interested in taking part or seeing what goes on. We had a splendid Christmas lunch together and we always stop for tea and coffee during the afternoon, so it isn't all business! We have an annual membership fee of £10 and members pay £1 each afternoon they play to cover the hire of the hall.

Doug Ward, Treasurer.

AYNHO ACTIVE

Aynho Active is run by Valery Taylor, Rachel Moroney and Michael Johnson. Together we run the sports field and pavilion on behalf of the Aynho Parish Council.

The pavilion and sports field are both available to hire year round. Events in the pavilion include birthday parties, family barbecues and gatherings, catering facilities for the Health Walks and even rehearsal space for bands. There is also a large marquee available to hire for use either up on the sports field, or in an Aynho resident's garden.

The pavilion and sports field are partly funded by the Aynho Park Club Draw. This is a village lottery, and 50% of the proceeds go towards the maintenance and upkeep of the facilities.

In 2018 a full redecoration of the middle room of the pavilion will be taking place to make it an even more attractive facility for the village. We have recently replaced the old insecure gate with a new timber one and are about to purchase new goals for our footballers.

Rachel Moroney (active@aynho.org)

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH, AYNHO

Aynho church functions within a group of five churches called a Benefice. This is very common across the UK and can consist of many more parishes. For the record the other parishes within our benefice are Croughton, Hinton with Steane, Farthinghoe and Evenley .

Worship and Prayer.

At Aynho normally there are at least three Sunday services per month and weekday prayers (Thursday). Within the Benefice there are services on 3rd/5th Sunday and other weekdays.

There is an open baptism policy in which children and adults are baptised as part of the main worship during the communion service in the presence of the wider church family. There is an open confirmation policy which encourages and supports children to receive communion before confirmation.

Marriage and blessing services are encouraged for all couples from either within the parish or outside. Time and support is given to them by the Rector in their lead up to this important step in their lives. A number of funerals, interment of ashes and memorial services were held during the year.

There was recognition of the importance and attraction of services which involve families and our community life. Services to celebrate the key feasts of Easter and Christmas included both a Carol Service in the church and community "Carols on the Green", the latter on Christmas Eve and thanks to the Cartwright Hotel for supplying delicious mince pies. During other periods of the year Mothering Sunday, Harvest Festival and Remembrance Sunday were particularly well supported.

St Michael's hosted the annual All Souls service which remembered those who died in the past year and others within the Benefice church group who wished to give thanks for their loved ones.

The church's role and how it responds to the needs of local and far off communities is key to being a "one stop shop" for a broad range of people's needs. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) meets regularly to oversee the governance of the church but also takes seriously its response to charities and crisis appeals across the world as they occur. Close to home support is directed to Katherine House, Banbury Young Homeless Project and nationally Crisis at Christmas. Also Diocesan and National Charities together with responding to Disaster Emergency Committee appeals all take their place.

Pastoral Care is closely related to charity needs and within our village community Rector Simon and members of the church regularly visit people during times of ill health or bereavement. This can be at home, in hospital or residential care facilities. Help can be just a listening ear, doing some shopping, collecting prescriptions and transport to hospital for appointments. Our monthly prayer meetings, held in a village home welcomes requests from anyone who needs help. Other groups meet for Bible studies during Lent and Autumn plus a monthly group meet on Monday morning with an average attendance of 8-10 people.

People

We all appreciate the help given by Rev Hugh Warwick and Rev Terry Richards in taking services in support of Rector Simon. During the first part of the year we enjoyed the ministry of Rev Shemil Mathews who was the curate who completed his training with us. Shemil and his family brought something new and different to parish life and it was a joy and sadness of course to host his farewell service and celebratory lunch. We wish him well in his new appointment and our prayers are with the family in their new parish.

Gratitude goes to Heather Dommett who organises the Benefice Youth Group called ROUTZ which meets twice monthly in the Rectory at Aynho. Currently there are 6-8 teenagers who attend.

Other events included hosting the Diocesan Youth Programme "Fire Gazers" event in October which was fun and well attended. Several Aynho teenagers helped at the Benefice Holiday Club in July at Croughton. For the much younger children a fortnightly "Open Book" initiative which shares Bible stories at our local nursery schools is ongoing.

St Michael's enjoyed both bell ringing lead by Tower Captain Peter Phillips and a choir lead by Sybil Stevens our long standing organist regularly supported by Andrew Mills and occasionally Graham Gibbs.

Communications

For many years Sybil Stephens has produced the monthly Church Newsletter which includes most of the events, reports and adverts happening in the village. This can also be found on the Aynho web site. Our thanks go to Sybil and those who help in distributing them around the village and Hamptons for the printing.

Community

A successful village is defined by the strength of community spirit managed by the Parish Council and with the village parish church being an integral part of that. The Aynho community has supported the church with various fundraising projects over the years. The annual fete at Aynhoe Park involved many people across the village the result generating £6500. Thanks should go to James Perkins again for giving access to the attractive park grounds.

The very successful Winter Luncheon club bringing people together has generated funds for the village. Thank you to Amanda Limb who gave the church a donation towards improving the lighting and the surface shingling for the Church car park.

The finances of the church are well managed and longer term costs are budgeted for. Being a Grade 1 building the maintenance is ongoing and the internal re-decoration is being planned next year. Grants are sought where appropriate but local donations and regular giving is vital to sustaining the day to day costs.

The PCC sees a future where the church and the Parish Council work together and look for local solutions. An example is the access for resident parking in the church car park when not required for services. Just recently the church was temporarily transformed to handle a successful Big band concert.

So if you thinking about what you might do to grow your faith, or help your church and village community there are many ways to do that and much to be done. Thank you one and all for all that you have done this past year.

May God bless us all in the coming year.

Revered Simon

AYNHO RECORDED MUSIC SOCIETY

This title was chosen some 16 years ago by Bernard and Doris Middleton. In those times and for the following seven years classical music was our main stay for performances. However gradually more modern trends emerged and now a full spectrum of musical choices range from the music of shows like 'Oklahoma' to Jazz performances. Contemporary singing performers now mingle with Bach, Mozart and other classical favourites.

The society has been blessed by the solid support of many long term devotees and there is always room for us to welcome new music lovers. We charge £2 per entry which includes a complimentary selection of liquid refreshment and we meet in the Village Hall on the first Wednesday of the month.

All visitors are welcome

Bob Mann

AYNHO WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



Aynho W.I. meets in the Village Hall every third Wednesday of the month with a membership of 26 this year.

We have excellent speakers who talk on a diverse number of subjects both entertaining and educational. This has included Nuclear Fusion, Chinese Medicine & Acupuncture, an insight into homicides, hedgehog rescues, the past history of Oxford in the 1800's, to name but a few.

We have a friendly and sociable atmosphere and encourage members to bring along visitors who then become members themselves. Theatre trips and lunch outings are

always very popular as is our Christmas Party that all the villagers are invited too. We help out with local events such as Maytime in the Square and the Church Fete where we provide refreshments.

There is a bursary for any member who wishes to attend Denman our local college where professional tutors offer a great range of subjects, open to not only W.I. members but everyone.

You can visit the W.I. section of the Village Website for more information.

Valerie Swann (Secretary)

AYNHO HEALTH WALKS

There are three types of health walk on Thursday mornings. All three meet at the pavilion on the sports field at 10.00 am. The Long Walk covers between five and seven miles, takes about two hours and attracts walkers from a wide area as well as from Aynho. We now regularly have sixteen or seventeen walkers on these longer walks. Current walk leaders for these walks are Keith McClellan and David Reast while Graham Archdale and Jim Tipping back up.

The medium walks usually have eleven or twelve walkers. These cover about three miles and take between one and one and a half hours depending on the ability of the participants. These walks are led by Kathy White, Ian Wilson and Trevor Pinfold with various others available to back up.

There are also weekly track walks for those who for health reasons need to be able to rest frequently and to be able to stop without being far from home. There are currently no leaders for these walks but many regulars have been coming for years and there is always someone to help newcomers. Walkers can choose whichever walk they wish to take and may change from week to week depending on how they are placed at the time.

We all look forward to arriving back at the pavilion for a cup of tea or coffee, a delicious cake and a good chat. Many of us also have lunch here, ordering our jacket potato before setting off and enjoying it greatly after our exercise. Dawn now provides all this and creates a cheerful, welcoming atmosphere. With the Winter Lunch club not available during the summer months, perhaps more people will join us at the pavilion. As a result of recent changes there is now a charge of 50P for use of the pavilion but still no charge for the walks.

We celebrated our sixth anniversary in January with a lunch for 33 walkers at the Cartwright Hotel. More details are available on the village website under health walks. There are also regular descriptions of the most recent walks.

All walks should have qualified walk leaders and back up leaders and all routes are risk assessed. However, a number of our leaders have moved away and have not been replaced so we urgently need more walkers to train as leaders. These walks are part of the Walking for Health scheme and details of walks in the scheme throughout the country are available on their website.

Keith McClellan 01869 810346, Kathy White 810418

AYNHO VILLAGE HALL

The promised sanding and re-sealing of the floor in the main hall has been completed and the result is very pleasing. Work to stabilize the roof cupola has been carried out but, unfortunately, that hasn't completely cured the leak. Steve Nicholls, our contractor, has promised to make an inspection as soon as possible. The windows have had a good clean inside and out and it is intended to do this on a regular basis.

Gigaclear have given us another two years of free internet access on the understanding that we make this facility well known. For the time being the existing password will be needed for access.

The South Northants New Home Bonus grant towards the purchase of the fifty new chairs in the main hall has now been received and this, coupled with the generous donation from the Winter Lunch Club, has softened the demands on our finances following the floor and roof work.

Eleanor King was thanked for her work on the committee following her move to Bicester and Peter Phillips has been welcomed as the representative for the Bowls Club. Douglas Ward is now the representative for ARMS.

I thank all the Committee for their work over the past year and particularly Amanda Limb for her vital work as Bookings Secretary (bookingsaynhovillagehall@gmail.com) and Jill Greener for sorting out our finances and helping with the new Data Protection regulations.

Douglas Ward

AYNHO HISTORY SOCIETY

Yet again we have had a very interesting variety of lectures during the last year. As usual we try to arrange that most of them have some connection with Aynho or nearby towns or villages. For example one talk included William Peckover, probably Aynho's most travelled person. Not only did he accompany Captain Cook on all three of his voyages of discovery, but not content with that he later only went and signed on with Captain Bligh on the Bounty, and was cast adrift with him in an open boat for 47 days.



The Aynho Mummings at Maytime in the Square 2017

Topics covered in the last year have been:-

- The History of Royal Woodstock
- The Cold War in Oxfordshire
- A Sunday afternoon with a School Logbook
- A Public Library Pioneer
- Famous Aynho People and Happenings
- A delve into our Archive
- The Life and Music of Chris Barber and his Jazz Bands
- The role of Morris Dancing and Mumming in English Folk Life

We are always on the lookout for new information about Aynho, and we have learned several things recently. We provide **free** History Tours to anyone, so even if you have lived in Aynho for many years please give us a ring if you would like to know more about our lovely old village.

Sadly we are a declining Society in that during the last few years a number of our members have died or moved away, but very few new people have joined us. We really would welcome some new and hopefully younger villagers to join our ranks. It is only £2 per meeting, so please come along on the last Wednesday of the month and give us a try.

Peter Cole (Secretary) Phone 01868-811261

WINTER LUNCH CLUB

Winter Lunch Club began back in October 2011 as there was an opportunity over that winter to start a community-based lunch offering any villager a home-cooked meal at a very reasonable price in a warm, friendly atmosphere in the back room of the village hall. All profit, after hall-hire charges and ingredients, is donated to various village assets and in some years, a charity of my choice as well, but one which has offered support to someone in the village. The village Defibrillator was funded from the profit of WLC, topped up by some generous extra donations from villagers. Although I am in the kitchen, I have been lucky enough to have the wonderful support of Amanda Leigh who is 'front of house' – WLC just would not happen without her involvement. My thanks also to Annabel Bellamy, Liz Short, Alice Limb and Harry Leigh for their help at times over the years. I am also grateful to the Parish Council who include Winter Lunch Club under their umbrella so that it can be covered by the Parish Council's indemnity insurance.

No booking is required, just turn up! If you are going to arrive with a group of 'extras' it is always helpful to have a little notice so that there will be enough food. It is a happy hour and a quarter most Thursdays over the winter months (October to end of March) and it is always good to see people enjoying the company of others with lots of chat over lunch. We have come a long way from the simple offering of a bowl of soup, cake and a hot drink in the early days – now some lovely folk eat 3 courses, and seconds of pudding have been known! On occasion, to add to the fun, birthday cakes and candles have been made to celebrate some very significant birthdays when they have fallen on a Thursday.

This year, profit has allowed £650 to be donated to both the Village Hall and St Michael's Church (specifically for the lighting and stone wall repairs in the church car park), with a further £100 to the Parish Council for the Defibrillator fund, all valuable village assets.

Amanda Limb

SOUTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

The only issue to report from the District Council is that the Governments drive for new houses has resulted in South Northants is being told that they are expected to increase the amount of houses being built across South Northants from 250 to 490 per annum. That is a vast increase. In other words it means that over a 10 year period you will need to build a new Brackley. Inevitably it seems to me that means either a new "garden village" or more houses for almost every settlement across the district.

No doubt you will have read that the County Council have properly hit the buffers. An inspector who was called in by the Secretary of State has made a report that makes for sobering reading. I am not in the blame game but I feel it does show how important it is to have Chief Executives and Leading members with a strong grip on Finance.

The Government Inspector is recommending to the Secretary of State that the whole structure of Local Government for Northamptonshire should be rebuilt with 2 Unitary Authorities. That would mean combining South Northants and Daventry District Councils with the Borough of Northampton. My personal opinion is that I think that the whole field of Local Government has changed, in particular with the use of the Internet and computers, and that it is right to move from 2 layers to one. I am less sure of what boundaries we here in Aynho, Evenley and Croughton are best for us. The difficulty with the Inspector's proposal is that Northampton with its greater population will always politically dominate the new Authority. It will now be for the Secretary of State to decide whether to accept the Inspector's recommendation. Interesting times!

John Townsend
South Northants Councillor, Little Brook Ward

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

The report will be added to the Aynho Website pdf copy of this report when available.

Rebecca Breeze
Northamptonshire County Council Councillor, Middleton Cheney Ward