



THE PARISH COUNCIL

Councillors

Councillor Roger Bradford resigned in November and Councillor Marlene Phillips retired in October.

Councillor Ian Parkes has been co-opted and Colin Macklin is now the Chair. Sadie Patamia has continued as Clerk and this year gained a formal qualification after studying for the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA). Amby Hitchcox has continued as Responsible Finance Officer.

Finance

At 31st March 2011 the Council had £14,304.53 in its bank accounts, and assets to the value of £129,324. The 2011-2012 precept is £18,558.54 towards an expenditure budget of £26,172.03.

Rightracks

As outlined in last year's Village Report, the sections of the B4100 and B4031 that run through Aynho, are 2 of 8 routes in South Northamptonshire, that were chosen by the Northamptonshire County Council Causality Reduction Team for inclusion in a Department of Transport-financed Road Traffic Calming programme. Speeding Traffic throughout the village had been identified in the last Parish Plan as a major area of concern by 80% of village residents who responded. Aynho Parish Council had actively campaigned for a Traffic Calming Scheme for the village and therefore actively engaged with the Northants CC team to understand and assess their plans.

Government policy dictated that new and novel ideas had to be incorporated in any adopted scheme. In the view of the experts involved, the Aynho Scheme as designed constituted a very high probability of helping to control the speed of traffic through the village. Because the design scheme was "radical" Aynho Parish Council insisted upon, and Northants CC agreed to deliver, a series of public consultations prior to implementation where villagers could see the proposed scheme and make comments upon it. Consultation visits were made to the village in May 2009 and again in December 2009, when 94 villagers visited the mobile exhibition. All observations were noted and Aynho PC ensured that they were acted upon and incorporated where practical.

The extensive engineering scheme and new signage were implemented from January 2010 to May 2010 and included the full resurfacing of the roadway of the B4100/B4031 within the village confines. Since the scheme was completed Aynho PC has maintained an open, listening approach to any resident who has come forward to express views or opinions about the scheme and has then forcefully fed these issues back to the Northants CC team to ensure that improvements could be incorporated into the scheme. Aynho PC insisted upon, and Northants CC agreed to implement, a full safety audit of the scheme. This identified a number of design

issues and villagers will have noticed that over the last 6 months, a series of engineering, road marking and signage changes have been made.

As at March 2011, the Rightracks budget has been expended and there are no funds available to fund additional work. The initial speed checks conducted in the village since the scheme have shown a drop in speeding traffic of over 10% in the village. New speed checks are currently being conducted and the results will be announced at the village meeting, if they are available. Despite the improvement we still have a large problem with the speed of traffic and the bullying behaviour of drivers travelling through the village. Aynho PC has therefore exerted pressure on the Police Casualty Reduction team to increase the incidence of speed checks in the village and a new poster campaign to ask drivers to “slowdown” has been put up through the village. Aynho PC will continue to listen to and within the available budgets, act upon resident’s observations on the Road Scheme. We will maintain the pressure on Northants CC casualty reduction team.

Aynho Sports and Recreation Association

During the year the Parish Council has been involved in 3 strategic projects with ASRA – the playing field committee:

- Firstly, the accounts and financial controls for ASRA have been fully aligned with those of the Parish Council and the financial budgeting, cash management and investment business case processes share common controls with those utilised by the Parish Council. This has allowed the Parish Council and the ASRA Committee to adopt a more detailed and timely financial management regime. The Parish Council would like to thank Kay Anderson, the Chair of the ASRA Committee and Amby Hitchcox, the Parish RFO for the huge amount of dedicated work that they have expended to achieve this state of affairs.
- Secondly, the Parish Council has made a significant investment in the creation of improved facilities on the Sports Field to fulfil a major need identified in last year’s village plan. Using agreed Parish Council resources and monies that have been accumulated from the ASRA fund raising, an investment programme has been implemented by a volunteer group to provide residents with a 600 metre amenity track, the creation of a new car park and the development of a Boules pitch. Kay Anderson, Roger Bradford, Robin Cox and their band of willing helpers are to be highly commended for their untiring efforts that have provided the village with superb new facilities.
- Thirdly, the Parish Council has been delighted to give full endorsement and support to Kay Anderson for her work to upgrade and open the Cafe. Her achievement in creating a new ambience in the café and an opportunity for villagers to network with each other is much appreciated by the growing clientele using the facility.

Communications

Aynho Parish Council has made a concerted effort this year to improve communications within the village.

For the past few months we have utilised the front page of the newsletter to encourage people interested in becoming a councillor to come forward which resulted in several enquiries. We also organised a ‘Meet the Council’ clinic where parishioners were invited to meet at the Pavilion for a cup of tea and a chat where they could express their views and ideas.

In the future we are considering starting an e mail mailing list so we can contact people directly, should they wish, with news and happenings. If you'd like to be contacted in this way please email Sadie Patamia at aynhopc@gmail.com with your e mail address. You can also visit www.aynho.net for information.

Planning

The following applications were received during the year: -

Address	Outline of Application	Parish Council Decision	SNC Decision
Aynho Court Croughton Road	Replacement fence	Supported	Approval
Aynho Court Croughton Road	Removal of fence	Supported	Approval
The Grammar Croughton Road House	Felling of Sycamore	No objections	No Objections
Ardley Waste Management Facility	The construction and operation of an energy from waste and combined heat and power facility together with associated office, visitor centre and bottom ash recycling facilities, new access road and weighbridge facilities and the continuation of landfill operations	Objections raised	Objections raised
The Grammar Croughton Road House	Replace existing side hung single leaf door with a set of double doors formed to the same pattern and details as existing.	Supported	Approval
1 Charlton Road	Two storey and single storey side extensions. Replace flat roof over existing garage with pitched roof	Supported (with conditions)	Appeal Allowed (Against Refusal)
27 Butts Close	Fell 2 no. Maple & 1 no. Apricot trees	Supported	No Objections
17 Portway Gardens	Rear conservatory	Supported	Refusal
17 Portway Gardens	Rear conservatory	Supported	Approval
6 Cartwright Gardens	Replacement of flat roof with pitched roof over existing garage/bedroom	Supported	Approval
Lower Aynho Grounds	Demolition and/or re-siting of modern agricultural buildings and conversion of remaining agricultural buildings to provide offices and holiday lets.	Supported (with conditions)	Approval
2 The Square Aynho	Proposed refurbishment of listed dwelling	Supported	Approval
2 The Square Aynho	Proposed installation of en suite bathroom within master bedroom	Supported	Approval
1 Charlton Road	Single storey front extension, single storey side extension and pitched roof over existing garage	Supported	Refusal
Friars Well Roundtown Aynho	Conversion of outbuildings to three dwellings (resubmission of S/2009/1051/FUL and S/2009/1052/LBC)	Supported	Approval
Friars Well Roundtown Aynho	Conversion of summerhouse to dwelling (Resubmission of S/2009/1051/FUL and S/2009/1052/LBC)	Supported	Approval
12 Old Posting House	Restoration of original window apertures and replica window frames on ground floor (2 in number) replacing shop windows.	Supported	Approval
1 Charlton Road	Variation of conditions 2 and 5 of S/2010/0402/FUL to allow for driveway to be constructed of compacted hardcore covered by stone chippings	Supported	Refusal
St Michaels Church	Re-pollard four lime trees. 20% crown reduction, crown raise to 6 metres and reduce branch of one lime tree.	For information only	No Objections
14 The Square	Replace existing garage roof, convert garage into habitable room	Supported	Approval

Maintenance Work



The Parish Council organised 2 Village clean ups this year. One in November and one 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 if a little dated.

Councillor Parkes has taken over responsibility for maintenance and has worked hard to ensure the village is maintained to a high standard.

Farm Walk

Another successful farm walk took place in June 2010. This year, however, a history walk is being organised instead. It is envisaged that this will take place towards the end of August.

Thanks

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

Colin Macklin - Chairman.

AYNHO WRITERS

Our membership at present numbers 17, our full capacity being 20. We continue to hold our monthly meetings on the second Saturday of each month, under the expert guidance of Sue Hunter.

During the year several of our members have had their work published and there are always opportunities to enter writing competitions, both within the County and beyond.

Early in the summer several members took part in a walk organized from Lark Rise to Candleford. In August we were joined by members of The History Society on a coach trip to Winchester, where we enjoyed an excellent guided tour of the Cathedral as well as the Jane Austen Exhibition.

Our annual 'workshop' in September was run by Felix Francis, son of the famous author and jockey, Dick Francis. We felt both inspired and stimulated listening to his experiences as a writer. Felix said he was impressed by the high standard of our members' work.

Following our December meeting, we 'tucked in' to an excellent pre- Christmas Lunch at the Cartwright Hotel. This is an occasion when one can enjoy the conviviality of the group as there is plenty of time for a good 'natter'!

At the end of the year we published our annual book which this year was called 'Reflections' and included poetry, prose and articles, all within a beautiful cover showing a photograph of the Oxford Canal at Aynho.

Sadly, two of our members have recently died; Marjorie Tolchard who inspired us with her knowledge of the written word and Rosemary Walker whose work was both humorous and serious. It seems appropriate to end this report with some lines quoted from an article written by Rosemary. 'To read and share thoughts as we do in Aynho Writers raises us out of isolation into a warm community of like minded people.'

AYNHO VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

The committee's industry over the past year has ensured that the village hall maintains its reputation as an attractive and comfortable venue for varied activities. The outside has been painted, gutters replaced and drains covered. The inside now displays the old Cartwright Arms sign and we have a portable amplifier with microphones for the use of speakers, the former courtesy of the History Society and the latter paid for from funds donated by the Arts Club, sadly no longer running. We have a 'patch' cable, paid for by South Northants Volunteer Bureau, which will enable the hall to use the internet if needed. The hall is very well used and remarkably, the hire charges have not yet been increased.

We welcome Sadie Patamia onto our committee as the Parish Council representative and Marlene Phillips as the village representative. I thank all the committee for their work and advice and especially Valerie and Ted Sutton for keeping our five star rating standard. It is a privilege to be involved in looking after this valued village asset.

Douglas Ward

AYNHO GARDENING CLUB



The Gardening Club had a successful year despite extreme weather conditions – from heavy snow in January, via drought conditions in June to heavy rains in August. These extremes affected garden plants, but members and the village as a whole rose to the challenge and made the annual Flower and Produce Show in September a very colourful display. Before the show, some children attended a hands-on art morning, run by Lis Mann. This proved popular and we hope it will encourage further participation by young Aynho residents in future shows, which is something we are very keen to promote.

None of the trips we made this year was rained off, which was a definite improvement on 2009. We had a combined trip in May to the recently restored Elizabethan Garden in Kenilworth Castle and nearby Avondale nursery, which has a fantastic quarry garden, at that time ablaze with azaleas and rhododendrons. Our second day out was to RHS Wisley in Surrey. This is a fascinating place to visit, which is why we go frequently. As the club is affiliated to the RHS, we get free entrance, which makes the trip very reasonable. It is worth pointing out here that non-members are welcome to join our day trips. For information about this please contact Barbara Williams on 810797. Then, as a change to our normal routine, we had three evening trips over the summer: Tile House Nursery near Fimere, Chivel Farm near Chipping Norton and the Grammar House here in Aynho. They are all beautiful gardens with different styles. This year we are visiting two Cotswold Gardens in May and Arley Arboretum in Worcestershire in September. There will be two evening visits to Brook Cottage in Alkerton and Tom Duncan's garden here in Aynho.

We had seven different speakers during the year, talking on topics ranging from *The Cottage Garden* to *Bamboos and Grasses*. Highlights included a visit from Tim Walker, the Director of the Oxford Botanical Gardens. He is a knowledgeable and amusing speaker and we have invited him to make a return visit in 2012. Another highlight was a speaker who comes from closer to home – Tony Robinson. He gave us a very informative talk on his childhood in Tusmore Park, where he grew up as a son of the Head Gardener there. He concluded his talk by showing us part of his collection of old farming and horticultural tools from this area. It was good to be able to have a local context to the evening.

This year's programme will include talks on *Summer Bulbs*, *Plant Folklore* and *Japan's Four Seasons*. We had planned to have a talk on 'Bees and pollination' last year, but unfortunately

the speaker had to cancel. However, this has been rescheduled for October this year. It should tie in well with the aims of the new Biodiversity group in the village. Please see the newsletter for details.

If any of these talks and visits 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 8pm. Do come and join us.

WIGGLE & 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!

2010's highlights included a pre-Christmas Pottery Painting session with the help of "Pottering About". Many feet and hands (as well as lots of Mums) were covered in a myriad of colours, but I think the end results were well worth the efforts. In addition, we had stalls selling Phoenix Cards, Bella and Oscar Original Children's Art, Sock Monkeys, Art packs for Children and Neals Yard gorgeous potions and lotions.

We had a fantastic Christmas Party which included the amazing and very funny Dizzy Dean, who not only entertained the children, but who had also being charged by Father Christmas to hand out some early presents on his behalf. 43 children the party which included a picnic lunch and games.

We are pleased to report that after a lull in numbers towards the end of 2010, we are seeing a small resurgence and even more pleasing is that many of the new Mums are from Aynho. We would always love to see more children and carers each week so please spread the word.

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. Be warned these photographs are difficult to resist! We also intend to run similar events to previous years which could include parties, painting, arts and crafts, outings etc.

Each session is £1 per child and 50p for subsequent children. We enjoy frequent arts & crafts sessions, a music session every week – and usually fresh tea, coffee and home-made goodies on offer for children and the adults. Mums, Dads, Carers and Grandparents are all welcome. Dates and upcoming events for Wiggles and Giggles are detailed on Facebook under "Wiggles and Giggles Baby and Toddler Group Aynho".

AYNHO SPORTS FIELD AND PAVILION (ASRA)

This has been a busy year at the Pavilion and on the Sports Field. The much-requested amenity track is now in place thanks to a bunch of willing volunteers under the direction of Robin Cox and Roger Bradford. I'd like to take the opportunity to express my personal thanks to these two gentlemen for their hard work and dedication to the cause who have given hours of unpaid work for the benefit of the village. A special mention must also go to Neil Garvey from Milcombe for his valuable contribution to the project. The track has had much use from joggers, cyclists and walkers to date and we hope in the future to raise enough funds to give it a final tarmac topping.

The Pavilion Cafe opened last April and continued opening weekly through to October, with a monthly event over the winter. The Cafe has been visited by many villagers and has become a regular meeting place for lunch. It will open for lunch every Tuesday from 26th April this year and on occasional Sundays for events. Full details of times and dates are always in the village newsletter, in the Banbury Guardian Aynho village column and on the Portway noticeboard. Anyone wanting to be added to the e mail circulation list for opening times and events can contact me on kaynho@lineone.net. Villagers and friends are invited to come along and sample our reasonably priced lunches and homemade cakes. There are books and greetings cards for sale as well with profits from the books going towards the Amenity Track surfacing. Anyone wanting to donate adult fiction books for us to sell can bring them to me at 11 Portway or directly to the Cafe.

Sadly our picnic benches were stolen last autumn but we are hoping to replace them by asking people to sponsor them at £120 a time (perhaps in memory of a loved one or to celebrate a birth, event etc.) We have sponsors for four already – many thanks to those kind people – but we would like to add some more to cement in next to our new boules pitch. Anyone willing to help us can contact me directly.

The Park Club Draw has helped raise valuable funds again this year and a big thank you to those who have taken part and to our collectors. If you want to take part for the rest of the year (perhaps you are using and appreciating the amenity track and wonder how you can contribute to its upkeep) then please contact Valery on 810118 for a draw number at £1 a month.

What started out as the CAFE club (Creating Aynho's Future Environment) has become a re-formed ASRA (Aynho Sports & Recreation Association) with a group of members meeting to suggest and organise projects and events for the village. So far this has heralded the newly completed boules pitch, Christmas crafts in the Pavilion, Saturday charity coffee mornings, bulb planting on the field and us joining forces with the bio-diversity group on projects which we hope will include a stumpery, a wildlife walk for children and The Big Plant this Autumn. If anyone reading this has ideas for how they could use our facilities with some help from others then please get in touch and come along to one of our meetings.

The Sports Field and Pavilion look forward to hosting some of our annual village events this year with the Fun Run on 22 May, the Church Fete on 11 June and a history walk in late summer. Our mens village football team, Aynho Athletic, continue to play throughout the football season as well.

Please remember that the Pavilion is available to hire for private parties, at a very reasonable rate, and can be made available free for village groups to use. The Sports Field now has a tennis court, cycle and running track, boules pitch, ariel runway and play equipment, a cafe and two football pitches. Please use them, enjoy them and take care of them.

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH, AYNHO

2010 was another busy year in the life of St Michael's Church, and I thank all who kept things going during my illness. At the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in April we were delighted to re-elect our Church Wardens Anthea Bazin and Graham Gibbs, who, along with our Parochial Church Council (PCC) serve us with continual dedication and enthusiasm.

Revd Eddie Smith, our curate, was ordained to the priesthood in Peterborough Cathedral on Saturday 26th June, followed by Eddie's first celebration of Holy Communion in Aynho Church the following morning. Eddie is a self-supporting minister (SSM) working in a secular job during the week and ministering within our Benefice mostly at weekends.



In our wider Diocese of Peterborough, we welcomed Bishop Donald Allister who was installed in the Cathedral on April 17th, and in October we said good-bye to our Suffragan Bishop, Bishop Frank and his wife Canon Alison White, as they moved to Newcastle.

Our worship continued our usual pattern across Astwick Vale Benefice with services in Aynho, Croughton, Evenley, Farthinghoe, Hinton-in-the-Hedges and Steane Churches. There was one wedding and one wedding blessing in Aynho Church during 2010, and two baptisms. On a sadder note, we said our final good-byes to loyal

members of our church and village family with ten funerals during the year.

The Church fete in June was once again a happy and successful occasion and we thank James Perkins for hosting the event in the grounds of Aynhoe Park. *(In 2011 our fete moves to a new location on the Sports Field on Saturday June 11th).*

Our work with children and young families flourishes across the Benefice with Aynho Church the focal point for Sunday School on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month at 9.30am during term time, and Praise and Play on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month from 10am – 11.30am throughout the year. 2010's Holiday Club entitled 'BodyBuilders' was held in All Saints School, Croughton on the mornings of 9th to 13th August attracting some 80 children. Shrove Tuesday celebrations included our 'Pancake Praise' in Croughton Village Hall. We are indebted to Helen Boswell, Carrie O'Regan and our dedicated team of Sunday School helpers, and our adult and teenage Holiday Club helpers. We couldn't do it without you all – thank you!

The Children's Society box collection raised £375, our thanks to all who keep boxes and to Deborah Gibbs and Sybil Stevens. Alongwith all the Churches in our Benefice we supported BYHP (Banbury Young Homeless Project) with our annual toiletries collection, and as a church family made charitable donations.

In Aynho a group met weekly during Lent to follow our Lent Course, our monthly Bible Study, and our Prayer Group flourishes, alongwith our Visitors Group.

We began and ended 2010 with snow! The beginning of the year the melting snow penetrated the church roof causing damage to the church organ, which was repaired under insurance. The end of the year we sadly made, what was the right decision, to cancel our Carol Service due to the exceptional snowy and icy conditions. Our building withstood the exceptional weather conditions at the end of the year, but, as with any church building, maintenance of the fabric and grounds of the building takes a lot of energy and finance. During 2010 our PCC have been addressing, amongst other things, crumbling stonework and window repairs. These repairs are extensive and expensive and to help fund this we look forward to future fundraising events, not only our annual fete, but one of what we hope will be many concerts is planned for April 2nd 2011 and a Flower Festival in Church the weekend of 24th/26th June.

Details of the worship and activities of our Church are printed in the monthly village Newsletter *(delivered to each home)*, and in the weekly Pew Leaflet. The Pew leaflet is available in Church or by email, requests to barkergill@hotmail.com please. To arrange a wedding or baptism, or for any pastoral needs, do contact the Rector, Revd Gill Barker, on 01869 810903.

The Rector, Revd Gill Barker MA

AYNHO WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Aynho Women's Institute has been well supported and maintained its numbers. During the year there have been a variety of speakers covering subjects from the 'History of Pantomime' to the 'Language of Colour'. Two open meetings heard Andrew Fairbairn talk of his charity journey from the Scilly Isles to the Shetlands and the headmaster of Swalcliffe School speak about autism and how they helped their boys.

The resolution meeting discussed the labelling of meat, poultry and fish with the country of origin. Members then provided a fascinating spread of histories relating to articles in their possession.

Outside events have included a tour of the refurbished Asmolean in Oxford, visits to the Banbury college for lunch and to Solihull for Christmas shopping. Members have also attended evenings arranged by other institutes in our area as well as courses at Moulton the headquarters of our county Federation. With the NFWI college at Denman in Oxford being within easy reach a small number of members have taken courses during the year. Our walking group continues each month and this year five joined with the rest of Northamptonshire in a promotional walk at Stoke Breurne. As has been the custom Aynho WI members have provided refreshments at the Church Fete, May in the Square and Open Gardens events.

As part of a National Federation we are kept in touch with what is happening elsewhere by the WI magazine and through the website where members can access WI Moodle. This site has recently won a national award for e-learning.

We are proud to say there is a new noticeboard outside the village hall, displaying information of our next meeting while details of the whole 2011 programme can be found on the village website www.aynho.net Do come along to a meeting if you are interested in joining to find out more about the opportunities the WI can offer

BIODIVERSITY GROUP

The group has been in existence since Summer 2010. All our members have a concern for the natural environment and the plants and wildlife found in Aynho parish. Who has heard a cuckoo in Aynho over the past few years? Where are all the swifts, swallows, bats, butterflies, bees, newts, water voles and wild flowers we used to see?

The group now has a fledgling website which is being developed to provide links and information on wildlife issues. We have begun to survey the natural environments and wildlife in the parish. Our members have a variety of interests and expertise, including trees, wild flowers, reptiles, mammals and birds but we would love to have more members and advisers. Enthusiasm is just as important as expertise!

We believe that by linking with existing village groups and individuals we can all become more aware of our natural environment and the threats facing it. Hopefully we can move on to protect and enhance it before it is too late. Often small changes can result in big improvements.

AYNHO RECORDED MUSIC SOCIETY

Since we reported to the Parish Council at this time last year the Society has had nine monthly meetings, has played extracts from some 85 compact discs, one DVD, and one live performance.

We have continued to play a broad range of all types of classical music as we have done ever since our formation in the year 2002. The programme for each meeting is designed to be a balance to appeal to as wide an audience as possible and, hopefully, to introduce a few works which may not be quite so familiar to them

Each record is introduced in a light hearted manner with the minimum of musicological jargon and designed to enhance the listeners' appreciation and enjoyment.

We have an interval each evening for refreshments (wine or soft drinks) which helps to create a pleasant convivial atmosphere

We meet in the village hall from October until June at 7:30 pm on the first Wednesday of each month. There is always a reminder of the date in the Parish Newsletter each month

There is no formality, no joining, no commitment, no annual fees. So, if you like any kind of classical music, why not drop in the village hall one evening to see and hear for yourself why some people in this village have enjoyed coming regularly for the last nine years

For further information, please call: 01869 810167

AYNHO SHORT MAT BOWLS

Sadly, we lost a well-loved member recently, but another enthusiast has joined to bring our numbers up to the maximum of 16.

We meet every Tuesday afternoon from 2.30 to 4.30 in the village Hall , with a tea break. There is an annual fee of £10 plus £1 per session. The club is fully equipped and new members, who at present have to be placed on a waiting list, are able to borrow the woods. Contact Jean Darby 01869 810373 or Doug Ward 01869 810723.

AYNHO HISTORY SOCIETY

After three busy years our membership now totals over seventy. The average attendance at meetings has been around 50% of that figure.

The following presentations were made during this year: The Role of the Country Carrier, Memories of Aynho School, after which David Morgan gave us a painting by Lili of Aynhoe, and a school log book, the Cartwrights at Edgcote House, and Those Coaching Days.



This was followed by a "Lark Rise to Candleford" conducted tour, which included Juniper Hill (Lark Rise), Cottisford (Fordlow) Church and Fringford (Candleford), followed a week later by a question and answer session in the Apricot Room of the Cartwright Hotel, where members of the television programme production team and Olivia Hallinan (Laura in the T/V series) spoke to History Society members.

"Queenie's" house & the white End House where Flora Thompson spent most of her childhood



This was followed by Place Names, Landscape and Early Settlements in the Banbury Area, Aynho Scenes by the Land Family, the Nonconformists of Banburyshire in the Nineteenth Century, the Aynho Viaduct, Musical Instruments Through History, and Photographs of Old Aynho.



Richard York and some of his old musical instruments

We have had another visit by John Fulcher, who served in Aynho during the War, when he elaborated on his duties guarding one of the largest petrol depots in the country in Aynhoe Park. Petrol arrived in cans by rail in large quantities, at least one full train load a day, and often two or more, and was stored in the Park grounds close to Aynho Lodge corner. As and when needed by the Army, it was then sent by rail to the nearest town.

The old Cartwright Arms pub sign has been renovated and mounted on the western wall of the Village Hall.

During the year we received no fewer than fourteen requests for information about former Aynho residents who were ancestors of family members. In every case information was supplied either from the Census records available from 1841 to 1911, or from elderly residents who recalled the people concerned.

At our AGM Brian Reynolds stood down as Chairman, but continued as Treasurer. He was replaced by Rupert Clark.

Meetings are held on the last Wednesday of most months at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall. New members and guests are always welcome. For further information please contact:

Rupert Clark Chairman 01869 810603

Peter Cole Secretary 01869 811261

AYNHO COMMUNITY THEATRE

In September we staged the play 'Blithe Spirit' by Noel Coward. This is quite a demanding play from an acting point of view and all the cast showed great ability leading to a highly successful performance due, in no small part, to director Bob Mann's determination and perseverance.

Our next activity was the production of Jack and the Beanstalk which was staged in January this year. From comments received from the people who attended the performances this was obviously a great success. There is an enormous amount of work involved in producing a pantomime and we are grateful for the commitment and dedication shown by Andy and Kay Anderson without which it could not have happened. The pantomime also highlighted the talent we have in the village, especially among young people, and it was particularly rewarding to see several families involved together with their young children. Hopefully these young children, as their confidence increases, will take leading roles in the future. Every child and young person who took part, either acting or in support, was given a certificate to celebrate their involvement.

Members of ACT meet on the last Monday of the month in the Village Hall in order to read extracts from plays, poetry, and other readings, and to plan for the future. We are always ready to welcome new members, aspiring or experienced actors, and people who would like to be involved in other ways. ACT presents a valuable opportunity for family involvement and also provides a medium to enhance the confidence of children and young people. If you are interested please contact any committee member - you can be assured of a warm welcome!

Ron Sawbridge, Chairman.

AYNHO CRIME REPORT FOR YEAR FEBRUARY 2010 – MARCH 2011

I would like to apologise for not being able to attend your annual meeting as I am sure you can appreciate we get invited to a large number of AGM's this time of the year and we sadly cannot attend everyone.

Firstly I wish to inform you about the changes to the way Northamptonshire Police record crimes. We recently moved from Beats to Wards and because of this the figures for next year will be Ward related rather than Village figures. However this change does not affect the officers and staff that cover your area or the amount of crimes recorded in your village it is purely to allow villages to be aligned to the wards that they share within the election procedure.

During the previous 12 months we have continued to hold Community Panel Meetings, however this as in line with the Ward changes no longer exists and we will be conducting 'Street Briefings' and Interaction Sweeps in all our villages over the next few months, we will advise you in plenty of time when we will visit Aynho. If you require any further information about Street Briefings or Interaction sweeps please contact myself or any member of staff at Brackley Police Station. Contact details can be found on www.northants.police.uk and follow the links to your Safer Community Team page, or alternatively call 03000 111 222 and ask for any member of the team at Brackley.

Below is a list of crimes that have been reported within the village and outlying area between March 2010 and February 2011

Violence Offences – TWO (domestic related)
Dwelling Burglaries – FIVE

Theft from Motor Vehicles – FIVE

Thefts – FIVE

Criminal Damage – THREE

A total of 20 crimes for this year, compared to 21 last year.

Gez Shillito

PC 105 Safer Community Officer

Brackley Safer Community Team

NEWBOTTLE AND CHARLTON CEVA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newbottle and Charlton CEVA Primary School is located in the village of Charlton. It is the local school for the village of Aynho and a bus is provided to take our Aynho pupils to and from school each day. We are a small school with mixed age classes and our high expectations combined with a supportive and nurturing environment ensures that not only do our pupils achieve well, they also feel safe and happy at school.

Children joining us in Reception receive a fantastic start to their education! This is a result of our excellent Early Years environment and the skills and expertise of the staff (rated as outstanding by Ofsted). We understand that children need lots of time and attention so we endeavour to make sure our class sizes are small (no more than 30 for Years 3-6 and no more than 24 in YR-2). We provide a wide range of clubs, sports and musical opportunities for our children as well as teaching French from Year 3. I.T. is a key part of our school's curriculum and we currently have 17 computers in a specialised ICT suite; 6 Apple I-Pads and we are currently looking to invest in 15 MacBooks on a laptop trolley for September 2011 as well as more I-Pads so that we have even more portable IT resources available in school.

Our school has an excellent record for providing outstanding pastoral care and our most recent Ofsted inspection verifies this, rating us as outstanding in the area of "Personal Development and Well-Being." We also have exceptionally high standards. This year we were 3rd in the country for attainment in English and Maths and 11th for progress.

The school has recently undergone some significant changes to enhance its buildings and hence children's learning. This has included a purpose-built library and a room which is used specifically for group work such as gifted and talented and children requiring intervention to achieve their targets. We also have an outdoor classroom which is frequently used to support our children's outdoor learning.

The school recognises that a key factor in our pupils' success is good communication between home and school. We therefore work hard to ensure that parents feel welcome in school and included in their child's education. We actively encourage parents to come into school and each week they join us on a Friday for our end-of-week "Achievers Assembly".

If you would like more information about our school, please visit our website at www.newbottleandcharlton.uk.org or contact the school office (tel: 01295 811480 or bursar@newbottle.northants-ecl.gov.uk). I would more than happy to meet you and show you around our school.

Diannah Dean

Head Teacher

SOUTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

In December an agreement was reached with Cherwell District Council to have a Joint Management and to work to share services where this was deemed beneficial to both Councils. A new Joint Chief Executive, Sue Smith has been appointed and will be taking up her post in May. Her first task will be to appoint a new top team of managers who should be selected from the existing teams at Cherwell and South Northants. My principal concern has, and will be, to ensure that the needs of South Northants are not submerged by the needs of Banbury and Bicester. This is particularly relevant to Planning where South Northants has a very strong and good record in conserving the character of our villages and countryside.

Indeed there has never been a time where our countryside is more under threat. The announcement of the route of the new High Speed Rail from London to Birmingham to run across the middle of South Northants has been a huge concern to many people. The debate on the Economic case for this £32 billion project has yet to be decided but if it is to be built it will have a deep impact on South Northants.

We also have Planning Applications for 3 very large Wind Farms in different parts of our district. Again whatever you think of Wind farms they will have a big impact on those who live near to them and they will impact onto the wider views we currently enjoy of unspoilt countryside.

John Townsend
District Councillor

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

The Budget for 2011/12 was passed at the Council meeting on the 24th February. Setting this budget has been the most demanding and challenging in recent memory. It had been recognised for some time that this coming year would be tough but it was even worse than we had anticipated. You may remember from the information I have given to you in the past that the County Council has an annual Revenue Budget of about £1b and that about half of this relates to Education, leaving a similar amount to cover all the other services. As a direct result of the nation's financial deficit we have to reduce our costs on every service except Education by 12½%, a total of £69m. But it doesn't end there, in the following two years we have to reduce costs by a further £68m. Incidentally, £68m represents a reduction of £100 for every person living in the county. These budget requirements reflect locally the impact of our national financial problem.

This County is being particularly badly hit for several reasons. First, we have the lowest County Council tax in the country. Our tax for a band 'D' property is £1,028 for the coming year. Comparative figures for other counties are: Warwickshire £1,155; Oxfordshire £1,162; Nottinghamshire (the highest) £1,193. It's much more difficult for an already efficient council to make further savings, and the government hasn't allowed for this. Secondly, we have already reduced our costs by £73m in the three years 2007/10 and in consequence we already have a very lean organisation, and the government hasn't allowed for this. Thirdly, we have the fastest growing population of any county in the country putting an increasing strain on our resources, and the government hasn't allowed for this. Representations have been made to the government for a better settlement and we and we are still pressing our case on this very strongly.

Some highlights of the budget are as follows: there is no increase in the County Council element of the tax you pay for 2011/12. By agreeing to this we have received in return an additional £6m of funding from the government. We have started a review of our management structure to save £3m a year. We are not closing any libraries but are carrying out a wide ranging review of all 36 libraries to consider new models for the delivery of this service in partnership with local communities. There will not be any cuts to Advice and Information Services and in fact an additional £100,000 will be invested instead. We are investing an additional £250,000 in the Voluntary Sector, a sector already receiving £30m through our services. Bus services currently cost the council £3.1m a year. One service actually costs the council over £100 for every passenger who uses it and many services cost £30/40 per person. Obviously this can't continue and we are investing £300,000 to explore new approaches to public transport. I have been assured that no services will be discontinued until something else is in place. The budget includes £27m of investment to meet the demographic changes that continue to put immense pressure on both Children's Services and Adult Social Care. This is a measure to protect the particularly vulnerable in our society. The roads are in an even worse state than last year as a result of the adverse weather in December and we are proposing to spend an additional £30m on road maintenance over the next three years to address this.

The challenge is of course that to offset any increase in the amount of the budget for some areas we have to take money out of others and this is the driving force to make our whole operating structure more efficient. Unfortunately this will result in another wave of redundancies throughout the Council, as many as 900 employees.

I'm not going to burden you with too much detail on how we are going to spend your money but in very broad summary it is as follows:

£624m on Services for Children and Young People - including Schools, Childcare, Special Needs Learning, Safeguarding, Sport and Health.

£100m on the Environment, Growth and Commissioning - Transport, Road Maintenance, Energy Management, Planning and Growth.

£201m on Health and Adult Social Care – Care Homes, Independent Living, Special Needs Provision, Adult Learning, and Health.

£29m on Policy and Partnerships – Libraries, the Record Office, Country Parks, etc.

£25m on Protective Services – Fire and Rescue, Trading Standards, etc,

£25m on Shared Services such as IT, Human Resources, and Financial Management.

£28m on things like Operating Costs and Investments.

Ron Sawbridge

County Councillor for Brackley West.

Aynho – Village of the Year 2012?

Aynho Parish Council is considering entering the Village of the Year competition in 2012 and it will be an agenda item at the Village Meeting on 18 April for you to give your views.

To win we need to demonstrate why Aynho is a great place to live.

To give you an indication of what would be involved the type of questions we would be asked are as follows:

- Please list the type and frequency of regular activities that go on in the village hall or any other village meeting place.
- What events or activities do the Church/Religious Groups put on for the village? Please give details.
- Does your village put on any Arts or History/Heritage activities or do you take part in them in nearby villages?
- What do you do to welcome ALL new residents into village life? E.g. a welcome pack/newsletter?
- What do you do to welcome visitors to your village?
- Is there a Community Newsletter/Parish Magazine?
- Are there Public or Parish Notice Boards?
- Does your village have, or have access to, any sports and leisure facilities?
- Has your Parish Council used its powers to introduce crime prevention measures? E.g. Village Special Constable, CCTV, Neighbourhood Watch.
- Does the village have, or have access to, any Crèches, Playgroups or Toddler groups or clubs aimed at pre-school children?
- How are older people involved in village life? E.g. reading in schools, oral history projects, parish council. Please give details.
- What environmental/conservation activities goes on in your village? Include any measures to improve the appearance of your village.
- Does the village have 'tidy up days' or regular litter pick?
- Does your village have its own web site?
- Does the Parish Council or other community groups use email or web sites for giving and receiving information?
- Tell us what makes your village an attractive and special place.

As you can see, we can already demonstrate that as a Village we have a good community and can answer these questions in a positive way!

Please get in touch if you're interested in helping to enter the competition. Email Sadie Patamia at aynhopc@gmail.com