

MINUTES OF THE AGM and 83rd MEETING OF AYNHO HISTORY SOCIETY HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, AYNHO ON WEDNESDAY 25th NOVEMBER 2015

Present: - Rupert Clark – Chairman & Treasurer
Peter Cole - Secretary.

1. The Annual General Meeting

Rupert Clark was unanimously re-elected as Chairman and Treasurer, and Peter Cole as Secretary. Keith McClellan and Ted Sutton are committee members.

Subscription fees have revised to annual membership £20 or £3 per meeting. This is in the light of falling membership and increased speaker fees. Proposed, Rupert, seconded by Eleanor King, agreed.

There were no other amendments to the Constitution.

2. “Royalty, Religion and Relics” – 20 more things you did not know about Aynho.

Using newspaper snippets from the National Archive, County Records Offices and the National Newspaper Archive, all available online Rupert presented a glimpse into Aynho past. Over 3,000 entries are available but most are truncated so enticing you to buy the whole article. The “tasters” nonetheless open new light into what hit the “middle” pages. Aynho news was syndicated from the local papers in Banbury, Oxford, Northampton and Buckingham across Britain as far as Cornwall in the Victorian era. Many of the Journals continue today from the Bucks Advertiser to The Field.

Additional information came from the Cartwright Archive, (N.R.O.)

In the 1800’s the newspaper distribution rights for Aynho lay with Messrs Watson then Blencowe.

Highlights include Queen Mary’s visit Sept 1937 “to a family famous for its diplomatic service”.

Crime unsurprisingly featured right across the eras; William Ralph Cartwright was held up by a highwayman to the tune of £32 in 1793, the result, transportation for the criminal. Trespass, poaching, adultery and plenty of naming and shaming for drunken behaviour (men and women); non-payment of maintenance fees or debt and petty theft particularly from farms.

“DARING BURGLARY. On Saturday night, about eight o'clock, while the family were dinner, daring burglary committed Aynhoe Park, Northampton, the residence Lady ... ” 1889.

“.....for keeping two dogs without licences April 30. THIRD PARTY RISKS. Henry John Nicholls, of 60 Aynho, a plasterer was fined....” Friday 10th June 1932, Northampton Mercury.

“.— Amos Dunn, age 11, son of Edwin Dunn, Aynho, was brought up on remand, charged with stealing a silver watch and chain, the... “ Friday 14th December 1894, Northampton Mercury

“Croughton, trampling blacksmith, was charged with exposing his person with intent to insult Elizabeth Widdows, of Aynho, the parish of....”

Many entries can be found reporting on special church services, there are the Cartwright (Society) weddings, concerts in aid of funds and AYNHO FETE HELD IN PERFECT WEATHER Friday 19 August 1932.

Other village events also featured, included choral concerts and dances (held in the village school before the village hall was completed), The earliest cricket match found was dated 1845 and there were football matches and a cycling club (1901). The Odd Fellows Lodge held regular meetings from 1879. The Flower Show was not surprisingly a major event each year particularly prior to WW2.

For all the good news there were always accidents (broken limbs and burns) particularly if relating to members of the clergy. As one would expect deaths, suicides and drownings were reported, also any inquests.

"... AYNHO, Fatal Accident. – A melancholy accident has occurred at Aynho, near Banbury. A boy, named George Mander, 13 years of age, was riding on the forehorse of a wagon..." Friday 18 July 1862, Coventry Standard.

"...HANGING AT AYNHOE On Wednesday week Mr T M Percival held an inquest the Arms, on the body Elizabeth Bliss, who was found the day suspended by a cord in an..." Friday 7 June 1895, Northampton Mercury.

The Weather and its vagaries made the news regularly, well we are in Britain after all!

"...BROUGHT FOOD ON SLEDGES After the blizzard Aynho was completely cut off for several days. Dug a way through the snow, and mail, bread and milk were coming through by..." Friday 14 March 1947, Northampton Mercury

The Hunt and its outings can be followed through its advertisement, results and reports of unhorsed riders

"– The Hon. Mrs Heywood-Lonsdale, wife of the Master, when out with the Bicester hounds – Saturday, was thrown in Aynhoe Park, s dislocated her shoulder and broke..." Friday 29 March 1907, Northampton Mercury

Both Aynho schools get mentions, either advertising what they have to offer, changes of staff or events.

From time to time the Cartwrights let out their houses, these were advertised in the national press.

"AYNHO RECTORY. The whole of the excellent modern HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE. CHINA, GLASS. LINEN, a few OIL PAINTINGS, WAGONETTE. DOG CART, BLACK COB, and various out-door ..." 7/3/1812 Northampton Mercury.

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A and DEAD FARMING-STOCK, and Sundry EFFECTS,
of Mr. WM. KING, late of the New Inn, in the Parish of
DODFORD, deceased.
Particulars will appear in next Week's Paper.

To be LETT,
Furnished or unfurnished, with immediate Possession,
At the Village of **AYNHO-ON-THE-HILL**,
A Neat sashed HOUSE, Stone built, with Grass-Plat in
Front, and Shrubbery, desirably retired, and screened from
the Street; consisting of arched Cellars, raised Floors, an
Entrance-Hall, a Parlour 15 Feet six Inches by 15 Feet six
Inches, with a Side-Board Recess; Kitchen of equal Size,
and Store-Room adjoining; three good Bed-Rooms, a Dressing-
Room, and good Attics; a back Kitchen and Wash-house

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There are also examples of the apricot myth being perpetuated, even peaches growing on the cottage walls, but the 1986 report in the Banbury Cake of a UFO exploding just north of the village must be the best example of “don’t believe everything you read in the newspapers”.

Peter presented photographs of pages from the Seccull Day Book referred to in Nicholas Cooper’s book on Aynho. These illustrated the variety of jobs done by stone masons for the Cartwrights, including the extending of the Village School to include the infants in 1895.

Peter showed photographs of scenes shown recently of the interior of Aynhoe Park, by the Channel 5 programme “How the Other Half Lives”.

3. Forthcoming meetings

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| January 27th | “A History of Oxford University” |
| February 24th | “The 1948 London Olympics, its impact on society then and now” |
| March 30th | "Out of Tragedy came forth liberation" civilian and military evacuation in WW2 |
| April 27th | “The Mary Rose, a window into Tudor life at sea” |