



AYNHO VILLAGE REPORT 2019

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Aynho Parish Council's annual village report for the 12-months from April 2018 to March 2019. This report will tell you about the workings of your Parish Council and give an update of the many clubs, societies and groups active in the village.

Within the village and Parish of Aynho we have circa 300 households with a population of about 650 of which 550 or so are on the electoral roll. From past Village Surveys we know that every five years or so about one-third of residents change, hence the importance of this report helping to keep residents – whether long standing or relatively new – informed of what goes on in Aynho.

ABOUT THE PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman's Report

The Council – Membership

Currently Aynho Parish Council (APC) is comprised of eight elected Councillors supported by the Parish Clerk and the Responsible Finance Officer (RFO). I was elected Chair and Cllr Fi Burge was elected as Vice Chair by fellow Councillors at APC's May 2019 meeting.

During the past 12-months there's been a few changes to the Council, with Chris Wilson joining us as Clerk in April 2018, Rachel Moroney joining as co-opted Councillors in February 2018 and Bob Mann retiring in March 2019.

We currently have a vacancy for one other Councillors, which would bring our numbers up-to a full complement of nine Councillors.

Full details of the Council membership are published on the village website (www.aynho.org). All Councillors are volunteers and are not paid for their services.

The Parish Council meets on the first Monday of every month except January & August. Meetings last less than two hours and members of the public are welcome to observe.

Contact the clerk, Chris Wilson (07887 548774 or clerk@aynho.org) if you'd like to know more about attending meetings or joining the Council.

Parish Council's Role & Responsibilities

The aim of the Parish Council is to maintain and improve the quality of life for those who live or work in the Parish of Aynho. In practical terms the Council owns and maintains street lamps, playground equipment, the bus shelter and other amenities. It has responsibility for grass cutting and shares responsibility for general tidiness and litter clearance with District and County Councils. It is consulted on all planning applications but can only make observations on these. Its views are frequently sought on a whole range of policy issues by District and County Councils and others.

The following are some of the key areas the Parish Council have focused on during the past 12-months:

Streetlights

For several years the Parish Council's ambition has been to upgrade Aynho's street lights to improve the look of lighting installations, to use improved design to light areas more efficiently and use latest technologies to reduce our carbon footprint by using energy efficient LED bulbs.

The Parish Council is responsible for the 36 streetlights around the village. We pay for their electricity and maintenance from the Aynho Precept. Using LED technology ongoing costs are circa 80-90% cheaper to operate.

Mindful of the opportunity the Parish Council has allocated monies from previous years' Precepts to part fund new lighting which, with a low-cost loan repaid from energy savings, will enable us to replace all lights so achieving our objectives and improving the aesthetics of the village with new lights in keeping with differing areas of the village.

After research consultation (within the village, other Parish Councils and County/District Councils) we're very nearly ready to go to tender. Our ambition is to get lights installed by the end of September/October this year.

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In the meantime, the first example of the new lighting can be seen in Skittle Alley, where we have been able to get a new light fulfilling all criteria above and funded by Aynho's new homes bonus grant from South Northants Council (SNC).

To follow progress, keep an eye on the village's web site for updates.

Aynho Active

The past 12-months has been a busy time for everyone involved with Aynho Active and the management and development of the sports field and Pavilion. This is likely to continue at the same pace during the next 12-months as we strive to fulfil the Parish Council's ambitions to develop further the facilities and resources available for residents wishing to stay fit and active.

Income from sports field and tennis court fees, donations from Aynho's Park Club Draw and other funds from the Parish Council's Precept help pay for maintenance and essential work. Whilst donations and other income from grants, events such as Aynho's Car Boot sale (last August) and future fund-raising events will help generate income to develop the resources.

The Sports Field and Pavilion are being managed on a day to day basis by Rachel Moroney, Valery Taylor and Michael Johnson.

For more details of Aynho Active's past 12-months read Cllr. Moroney's section on page-8.

Parking

The issue of parking in several areas of the village continues to be occasionally challenging, sometimes requiring residents to park away from their own front door. To help alleviate this issue St Michael's Parochial Church Council (PCC) have kindly agreed the Church's car park can be used as an overnight 'overspill' car park for residents unable to park elsewhere. This permission was granted with the obvious condition that events at the Church might restrict this facility and cars need to be removed by 9.00am daily. To date this arrangement appears to be working to everyone's satisfaction.

And, as you'll have seen, we've now installed further parking bollards with safety reflectors around the village green continuing those installed outside Aynho Court helping protect verges from traffic and parking.

Speeding & Highways

The Parish Council continues to monitor traffic volumes and speeds through the village. To do this we purchased a mobile Vehicle Activated Sign (mVAS) three years ago, which is routinely rotated between Banbury Road, Croughton Road and Charlton Road. The sign provides a visual 'Slow Down 30mph' message to approaching cars going above 35mph whilst collecting traffic movement data that helps inform.

To date traffic numbers through the village suggest circa 10% increase over the past three years, whilst speeds remain within the tolerances quoted by Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) Highways as being acceptable. At our request NCC Highways have also installed their own monitoring equipment periodically, which supports our own data.

Currently we're in discussion with NCC Highways regarding updates and/or improvements to signage when entering the village. And, if funding can be found externally, the possibility of acquiring another mobile or permanent speed sign.

Bus Service

As many will remember South Northants District Council's (SNC) subsidy for the #499 bus service running through Aynho ended in July last year. This issue similarly affected Kings Sutton, Croughton and Evenly. From conversations amongst residents it became apparent to the Parish Council that a number would be affected with limited opportunities for alternative transport.

In partnership with Kings Sutton PC we've been able to organise a weekly bus service (on Thursday) from Aynho via Kings Sutton to Banbury costing passengers £5 return fare. As long as four or more passengers use the service it costs Aynho Parish Council no monies. However, in the event of fewer passengers using the service for a sustained period or APC being unable to share costs with Kings Sutton PC, the service may be withdrawn. So, please use and encourage others to use the bus service!

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Village Hall Broadband & Gigaclear

With Ultrafast broadband from Gigaclear now connecting at least 40% of villages homes, we'd like to thank Gigaclear for their continued support providing free broadband to the Village Hall. And, we're hoping this same service might be extended to the sports field Pavilion, facilitating a wider range of leisure and community events.

Defibrillator

The Council would like thank Amanda Limb and her Winter Lunch Club team for the £250 donation towards the maintenance of the Defibrillator located outside the Village Hall.

Maintenance

One of the Parish Council's largest costs is grass cutting; this requires several areas of the village being cut 12-15 times each year, weather dependent. After several years of managing this for us Mr Dempsey opted not to tender for the next contract (2019/2020 and on) which was subsequently awarded to Continental Landscapes of Bicester. Three others tendered. As a Parish Council we'll continue to monitor their progress, giving feedback to improve cuts and coverage where needed.

The visual appearance of Aynho is one of the characteristics that residents most appreciate and is one the Parish Council works hard to maintain. Back in 2017/2018 the Parish Council opted to contract out maintenance to help manage the footpaths, communal areas and general repair work needed around the village. This contract involves 5-7 hours weekly, as directed by Councillors and managed by the Clerk.

After tender, Peter Tustain (a villager) was appointed and continues with this task today. From feedback we know Peter's work is valued and appreciated by both Parish Council and many residents alike.

To help Peter we'd ask everyone to keep their 'spaces' tidy, so it would really help if you could look after the areas outside your home by weeding, litter picking, etc.

And get involved with the Parish Council's 'Keep Aynho Beautiful' litter picking event held twice a year in March and October. This helps us keep the verges and public spaces in, around and approaching the village clear of litter. Plus, meet your fellow helpers over tea and cake at the Pavilion afterwards.

The issue of dog fouling continues to concern the Parish Council. Whilst most dog owners are conscientious in clearing up after their dogs regrettably there are still a handful of dog owners who don't! Please, could we ask everyone to carry and use poo bags when walking their dogs and use the numerous dog waste bins around the village, emptying of which is now by Marcus Landscapes.

Lastly, if you see something that needs attention - such as pot holes, broken paving slabs, etc – tell NCC using their web site (fixmystreet.northamptonshire.gov.uk). This is a quick and easy way of getting issues noticed and fixed by NCC. And, if you do tell NCC of something let the Clerk know too – he'll keep an eye on its progress and chase if things are going too slowly.

Good Neighbour Scheme

It's inevitable that with the demise of NCC and SNC in the next couple of years and the emergence of a cash-strapped unitary authority instead coupled with an increasing demand of social care services with tighter budgets, there's going to be more of a focus for communities to help themselves when it comes to supporting the elderly and less able.

The Good Neighbour Scheme is an initiative that Aynho Parish Council both supports and would like to help establish in the village. The scheme is explained as: "Good Neighbour Schemes are run by local volunteers who provide day to day support for other residents who may need help on an occasional or regular basis. For older people, this support may enable them to live independently in their own homes and communities for longer and reduce feelings of isolation and loneliness".

If this something you'd like to get involved with or may benefit from – please contact the Clerk. Otherwise, look out for future notices from APC in the weeks and months ahead.

www.aynho.org

The Parish Council maintains the village web site providing a single web resource for 'everything Aynho'. Parish Council information can be found there along with details of the many clubs, societies and groups featured here. If you'd like to contribute to the web site (e.g. write articles, contribute pictures, etc) please contact the Clerk.

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Planning

The full list of all planning applications is shown below in 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 help direct and influence decisions.

Finance

At 31 March 2019 the Parish Council had £40,722 in its bank account and assets to the value of £137,737. The Precept for 2019/2020 is £24,720 with other expected income of £42,700 from street lighting loan, donations grants and fees making a total of £67,420 towards a budget of £88,832. Income and expenditure figures include the planned street lighting project costs. All accounts are available for inspection under usual rules for public funds.

Thanks

In conclusion, I'd like to say a big 'Thank You' to all Councillors on the Parish Council for their time, efforts, energy and enthusiasm during the past 12-months. Additionally, I'd like to thank Chris Wilson, our new Clerk, for the energy and contribution he's made supporting Councillors and becoming the everyday contact point between the Parish Council and residents. And, I'd like to say thanks to Roger Wertheimer, our RFO, for his hard work during the past year.

Also, many thanks to Bob Mann for his contribution as a Councillor over many years. Thanks Bob.

Lastly, perhaps the biggest 'Thank You' goes to Stephen Brook who resigned in May 2018 as Chair of Aynho Parish Council after six years in the role. Under Stephen's guidance and direction the Parish Council has delivered several significant enhancements for the village with others planned and funded to be delivered in the next 12-months. He has helped broaden the scope of the Parish Council role in the community for now and future years. Stephen continues as Councillor with specific responsibility for finance and the street lighting project.

Leslie Leighton
Chairman
07811 201888

PLANNING

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

Address	Outline of application	PC Decision	SNC Decision
Devon Cottage, 2 Skittle Alley	Fell Yew Tree (T1)	Not yet taken	Consults Despatched
Aynhoe Park House, Aynho Park	Installation of LPG tank within grounds of house, including supply pipe and penetrations to bring gas supply pipe into building.	Not yet taken	Consults Despatched
Aynhoe Park House, Aynho Park	Variation of conditions: To allow a revised house layout with attached garage block and an alteration to access gates to plots 1 & 3 to construct basement garaging and rooftop shelter. To alter basement access, omit roof shelter, add Solar panels, changes to fenestration and remove external cladding (plot 3)	Supported	Consults Despatched
6 The Butts	Replacing the flat roofs with tiled pitched roofs to match existing and small side extension.	Supported	Consults Despatched
Aynhoe Park House, Aynho Park	Variation of conditions: Change the cladding material to black stained timber cladding, minor amendments to fenestration positions, addition of external metal balustrades to several window openings for safety and removal of rooftop garden and staircase.	Supported	Approved

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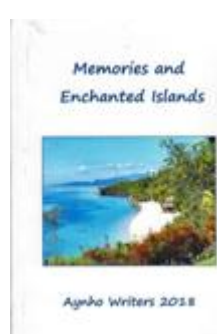
Address	Outline of application	PC Decision	SNC Decision
3 Skittle Alley	Tree works on Cooking Apple Tree and Yew Tree.	No Objection	No Objections
2 Railway Cottage, Station Road	Proposed first floor rear extension to accommodate bedroom with en-suite.	Supported	Approved
College Farm, Charlton Road	Determination as to whether prior approval is required for the change of use of an agricultural building to flexible use.	No Objection	Prior Approval Not Reqr
5 College Fields	Replacement of existing windows and doors	Objected	Approved
Rose Cottage, 11 Croughton Road	Make loft hatch to provide access to roof for inspection of timbers. Remove plaster on stairwell wall. Plasterboard/plaster removed on chimney breast wall.	No Objection	Approved
Upper Grounds House, Upper Aynho Grounds, Bicester Road	Conversion of existing farm buildings to office accommodation, a new unit and associated parking area.	Supported	Consults Despatched
Nellbridge Farm, Aynho Road , Kings Sutton	New fishing lake	No Objection	Approved
Aynhoe Park House, Aynho Park	Variation of condition: To allow a revised house layout with attached garage block and an alteration to access gates to plots 1 & 3 to construct basement garaging and rooftop shelter.	Supported	Approved
1 Blacksmiths Hill	T1 & T2, goat willow - removal	No Comment	No Objections
Oak Gates, Millers Lane	Lawful Development Certificate to remove agricultural occupancy.	No Comment	Approved

Aynho's Clubs, Societies and Groups Reports

AYNHO COMMUNITY THEATRE (ACT)

Aynho has a dormant Community Theatre. Not so long ago this was a thriving group offering all sorts of productions 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 on number 0330 113 6008 or 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 continue to meet on the second Saturday of the month and last year published a collection of pieces from everyone who had ever been a member to celebrate our twenty-one years of creative writing. Our annual publication for the year, Memories and Enchanted Islands, included work by all our current members.

At our annual Workshop we had a very entertaining presentation by Derek Blunt who spoke about Northamptonshire's Saints, Sinners, Stars and Scandals. Several of our members had their work published and favourably reviewed whilst others continue to have poems and short stories published on a regular basis. One member attended a Reader's Favorite Book Award ceremony in Miami as her novel had been highly commended in the Young Adult Fiction Category. Others have given talks and held classes or book signings. Membership increased by twenty percent during 2018. and we now total seventeen.

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

Keith McClellan 01869 810346

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AYNHO GARDENING CLUB

In 2018, 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 particular garden/gardens of interest. This is followed by refreshments and time for a chat. The talks last year covered a variety of topics. Anthea Cowley, the ex-Chair, talked about developing her hillside garden. There was a talk about a lovely local garden, Pettifers, which we visited later in the summer. Due to a speaker being unwell, we were lucky enough to have a superb talk by Tom Duncan about Helen Dillon's garden in Dublin. We had an interesting talk about Delphiniums and also the Library Garden at Avondale; a good and varied selection.

The first trip of the year was a return visit to John's Garden and Ashwood Nurseries, where there are a wonderful selection of spring bulbs and an excellent collection of hellebores. A visit to Sudeley Castle year was another trip and for a select few, a visit to the Cowleys' garden near Ross-on-Wye.

The talks were all well attended. The Committee decided fewer trips would take place in 2019 due to the large cost of the coaches and the importance of getting enough people to participate in the trips.

The Gardening Club had its usual table at Maytime-in-the-Square where it sold a large number of plants. This helps with Club funds generally. 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. Although entries were slightly down on the previous year (no Channel 4 to encourage people to join in) the show went very well. Carol McClellan, the Show Organiser and the Gardening Club Committee work extraordinarily hard to stage this show. It is a great village event and we would like to encourage as many people to take part as possible in the 2019 show.

Membership numbers continue to be well over 50. 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, alternatively ring Annabel Bellamy (810847) or other members on the Committee.

Annabel Bellamy

VILLAGE ALLOTMENTS

There are 18 village allotments on the Charlton Road between 1st and 2nd crossing. There was 100% occupancy in 2018. Allotmenters are from Aynho or have connections with Aynho and live in nearby villages (Charlton (1) and Bloxham (2)). The allotments are contained within a hedge, have a central path dividing the whole into two halves; there is an access gate off the Charlton Road and parking for about 6 cars on the verge. The plots are a very good size – about 5mx12m – each with their own access path and mostly fenced in to protect from rabbits. It is a little haven as a nature reserve! Excellent vegetables and flowers were grown in 2018 despite the very hot weather; having our own water supply has been a great enhancement (2017).

History and Charitable Status. The allotments are part of Aynho's history. An historic charity runs the allotments on what was described as Poor's Land "an allotment, of about one acre.....which appear, by a conveyance to trustees in the reign of Charles 1, to have been purchased with some ancient benefactions to the poor of Aynhoe". Nowadays the rents, as arranged by the Trustees, for each plot (currently £5) are distributed annually to the poor of Aynho up to a total of about £90. There is no other income. The charity is called Poor's Piece Charity and "excepted from the requirement to register" with the Charity Commission (since 2008) in view of the very low annual income and no expenditure!

At the end of 2018 there were 5 requests from the Village for allotment space – and each person received half an allotment for 2019. Two allotmenters, who had been with us for decades "called it a day" and one allotmenteer gave up half a plot. The demand was satisfied and the allotment coordinator (810847) is ready to start building a new list – at the time of writing there has become two vacancies. Rents remain £5 for a full plot and £2.50 for a half plot; costs for services are approximately £10 depending on how much water is

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used. Good value – good exercise – good fun – great veg and flowers – and no threat of BREXIT interfering. Come and join us and give it a try!

Andrew Bellamy 01869 810847

AYNHO SHORT MAT BOWLS

We play every Tuesday afternoon from 2.30 to 4.30 in the village hall. New members, or those wishing to sample this activity, will be most welcome. We have some spare sets of `woods` to lend. The woods for short-mat are the same as for other kinds of the game.

Doug Ward.

AYNHO ACTIVE

Aynho Active has had a very successful 2018/19. The refurbishment of the middle room of the pavilion was completed in the summer and has given the space a fresh new look which has resulted in an increase in bookings as hoped. We also installed a boot scraper for the benefit of the health walkers and footballers, and purchased 2 portable football goals for anyone to use.

We held a car boot sale in August which was very popular and raised just under £600 which was donated entirely to Aynho Active. We'll be running it again this year and hope for it to become bigger and better.

In November we polled the village to see what the residents wanted to see up at the sports field. The number one wish was for outdoor exercise equipment. After an assessment of what is currently up there and the site itself, it has been decided to install a fitness trail around the exterior of the amenity track. We have applied for grants from both South Northants and Sports England to see if we can get full or partial funding for 5 new pieces of equipment we want to put up there. Once installed, Aynho Active will fund 6 sessions with a personal trainer to train the village in how to use the new equipment. The trainer then plans to run a weekly bootcamp workout up at the field.

Finally, the Park Club Draw which helps support the maintenance of the pavilion and sports field had a bumper January which means that our village lottery now pays out £82 per month to the lucky winner, an increase of £20 per month from 2018.

Rachel Moroney (active@aynho.org)

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH, AYNHO

This has been a year of change for Aynho's church and the other four parishes in the Group. Rector Simon Dommett and his wife Heather moved to Goldington near Bedford in October to take up a new parish. Although sorry to see them go of course we wished them well with over 100 people attending Simon's last service in October.

We now welcome the Revd Sue Cooper and her Husband Nick who will reside in the Rectory at Aynho. Sue was a Curate in the nearby Grand Union Benefice close to Towcester and will be installed as Rector at St Michael's Aynho on the 30th March. Being a priest responsible for several parishes, is a big commitment, often the case with rural parishes, but thankfully is made easier by the help and support of the Aynho team.

You would have not noticed from the outside but the complete re-decoration of the inside of the church has been carried out since early January. Do go in and have a look, the church is usually open during daylight hours. Due to its somewhat unique history visitors from across the world are often seen signing the Visitors book. Our church benefits from support of the village with fund raising events. In particular the Annual Church Fete in recent years has been held in the grounds of Aynhoe Park House. Our thanks go to James Perkins for allowing the fete to be held there and Andrew Bellamy in organising this and an excellent Big Band Concert earlier in the year. As a token of thanks for her marriage in the church Claudia Myles a professional Opera singer provided a concert of outstanding performance. It was a warm summer evening and the audience enjoyed "drinks on the lawn" during the interval in the churchyard.

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We must not forget the church importantly provides a place for prayer, peace, fellowship, marriage and baptism and seeing our loved ones laid to rest. It is there for us all and at the centre of our community.

God Bless. Graham Gibbs (Churchwarden)

WW1 1914-1918 – ONE HUNDRED YEARS ON

“Let Those who Come after see to it that his Name be not Forgotten”

On the first Armistice Day in 1919, people gathered in cities, towns and villages to remember all those who had fought in the Great War – as has been done ever since. Since World War Two the Day has been called Remembrance Day. The community gathered in Aynho – as it does each year. It is as important in Aynho as it is in every other village in the land. Fourteen village men of all ages, but most of them young, were killed. They are listed on our Memorial. We will remember them - along with others not listed. We will hold them dear, remember their families, mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, sons, daughters, neighbours, friends and work mates – just as we will remember all those who gave such sacrifice in these years and then went on to achieve so much – for us and our future.

In Aynho, based on the work in previous years by the History Society, we refreshed our knowledge about each of the 14 men of the village who are on our First World War memorial at St Michael's Church. The Parish Council and the Church each contributed funds towards creating individual memory blocks to each man, and silhouettes in remembrance of “there but not there”, which helped get the names off the memorial walls and back into the community. Each evening for 14 days prior to Remembrance Sunday members of the community gathered in the Church to remember each man on an individual evening, hear about his story, and the context of his life in the village. A booklet bringing all the stories together was produced. On the 11th November, Remembrance Sunday, the Remembrance Day service was very well attended and altogether in the village this year the large sum of £1158 was raised for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal – thank you to everyone who contributed and was involved in the project.

Andrew Bellamy

AYNHO RECORDED MUSIC SOCIETY

An altogether varied and interesting year with all our programme presenters giving excellent selections and comments. Our finances are in good shape and we are blessed with a strong base of long-standing members.

Anyone wishing to see how we operate will be very welcome on the first Wednesday of the month in the Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm.

Bob Mann

AYNHO WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



The Aynho WI first met in 1922 with Lady Cartwright as our President, just a few years after its beginnings in 1915. There were initially a few breaks, but since 1963, we have been meeting on the third Wednesday of each month in the Village Hall. The attitude of our current day ladies is a little different now from the needs and intentions of those in earlier days but we still have an important say in public life, are a part of our community and we definitely respect our independence; that Jam and Jerusalem 'label' is never forgotten; 'Jam', relevant especially for Aynho at Apricot time, and 'Jerusalem', always sung at special WI functions – with many even knowing all the words! And of course, not forgetting the WI's presence, with their noted tea and cake, at our local events.

Our monthly meetings are relaxed and sociable evenings, with talks that are a mixture of fun, interest and importance and we always have a different charity talk each year, which we try and support during that year. Last year our charity talk was on the Rescue of Hedgehogs and our other talks were on Whychwood

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Gallery's Art; Art Conservation; Chinese Medicine; Auction Houses; Morris Dancing and the Meaning of Christmas. We also annually discuss WI Resolutions, which are then further discussed by a National WI Conference (remember "Keep Britain Tidy"); a garden meeting in a Member's garden; our AGM followed by a Ploughman's Supper and, of course, our Christmas Party, when all are invited to join us. We also have quiz evenings, theatre trips, meals out and country walks and do attempt to comply with members' wishes if they come up with an idea.

There is also Denman, WI's very own college where a variety of conferences, events and courses are held and run by professional tutors for which there is a bursary for any member wanting to attend. Should you wish to know more about us there is further information on the Aynho Village website and we will always happily welcome new members.

Anne Woodley (WI Committee Member)

CANASTA CLUB

Despite ceasing our afternoon sessions in the Pavilion due to reduced numbers and not always being able to cover the rental we have kept the group going throughout the past year.

We still meet on a Monday afternoon at 2.00 pm and usually finish around 4.30 pm. The venue changes as one of our members will host for a week or two and then it rotates around the village. We have a total of 7 members in the village and one or two that come over from nearby villages.

The Group is open to anyone who has ever played and to anyone who would like to learn. It is not as serious as Bridge and tea and biscuits are always available. Most of us have played for a long time now and are happy to show newcomers the ropes.

In December we all enjoyed a Christmas meal at the Cartwright.

There have only been a few weeks that we have not been able to play due to lack of availability and we would encourage anyone who may be interested to come along and give it a go.

Please feel free to contact Kathy White on kathywhiteaynho@gmail.com or 01869 810418

AYNHO HEALTH WALKS

We continue to run the weekly Health Walks which are part of the Walking for Health scheme around the country and they start from the pavilion on the sports field at 10.00am each Thursday.

There are three types of walk beginning with the Track around the playing field. This is ideal for those people who are not as mobile as some through reasons of health, age or general ability. There are seats to rest around the track and the pavilion is always open for a seat out of the rain or the sun, with a refreshing cuppa on hand when you need it. There can be up to nine or ten people some weeks so plenty of opportunity for a chat or catch up.

The "Strollers" or medium walk covers between three and four miles and takes in routes along the footpaths outside of the village across the fields with stunning views on a clear day. There are stiles on most of the walks but a helping hand is always available if you have any difficulty with any of these. Timing is between one and one and a half hours depending on the route and the ability of those participating. The numbers vary but are usually between ten and fourteen people, with some from nearby towns and villages.

The Long walk stretches further afield and covers between five and seven miles, attracting a number of walkers from a wide area and usually averages between twelve and seventeen walkers. These routes are more demanding with stiles and steeper inclines and the pace is faster but again the scenery can be amazing.

We are very glad to have Dawn providing tea, coffee, cakes and bacon rolls with the addition of soup and jacket potatoes when the weather dictates it. She is also a trained walk leader and is there to support the

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track walkers if required. As she leads the Long walk on the first Thursday of each month there is a self-service set up for refreshments. Many walkers stay for a drink and something to eat when they return from the walk and this makes it a great social event as well as keeping you healthy.

Due to various reasons of health and location, we have lost some regular walkers over the year and there is a need for more people to come forward. The walks should be led by a qualified Walk Leader and we are grateful that several more people have qualified in 2018 although we could do with a few more from Aynho. With the weather improving it is the right time to put into action all those thoughts that were around in January – New year, new you – fresh air and exercise. All walks are interchangeable so if you do the long one this week but don't feel so good the next week, don't give up, just join the "Strollers" instead. Recovering from a stay in hospital or just feeling a bit down, don't keep looking at the four walls – come out onto the track and meet people, have a walk followed by a drink and a chat.

For further details please contact Kathy White on 810418 or kathywhiteaynho@gmail.com

AYNHO VILLAGE HALL

We often receive complimentary comments about this excellent Village Hall in Aynho and the Committee are pleased to be able to maintain the building to justify these remarks. A healthy reserve balance is needed to keep the hall in good condition and to anticipate problems. The heating system and the roof seem to be likely candidates soon. Our treasurer and bookings officer have worked hard to ensure that we can meet these emergencies, for which I am very grateful. The generous donations from the Lunch Club have been very helpful.

The Hall Committee have recently reviewed the hire charges and some minor adjustments will be introduced for the rest of 2019. Our regular users will not see any increases. We need a reliable income which is provided fairly from all the activities that contribute.

During the past year we have had to comply with the Data Protection regulations. We have agreed to display the recently acquired Aynho Junction Railway sign for six months each year in the Hall. This will add nicely to the other historical items already on show. There is still another year of free Internet provision from Gigaclear so please make use of it.

I thank the members of the management committee for their work and advice during the last twelve months and especially Carol, our secretary, Jill, our treasurer and Amanda our booking officer (bookingsaynhovillagehall@gmail.com). Unfortunately, Jill may not be able to continue the treasurer's work after Easter, so I take this opportunity to advertise the job for anyone willing to help.

Douglas Ward (Committee Chairman)

AYNHO HISTORY SOCIETY

Once more we have had an interesting variety of lectures during the last year. We usually try to ensure that many of them have a connection with either Aynho or nearby towns or villages. The best example this year was our discovery that the Portway that runs through Aynho village is a very old trading roadway that existed in many places from at least 2,000 BC. Later it was used as a main road northwards by the Romans, with many finds being made nearby. It ran from Southampton Water (Old Botley on the Hamble River) along The Ridgeway from Avebury to Burcot, then to Toot Balden (near Cowley – "Toot" means "Look out point") Kidlington, Kirtlington, Souldern, Aynho, Warkworth (Roman coins were found here), Preston Capes (a Roman Villa), Daventry, Rugby, close to Nottingham and Doncaster, ending just north of York.



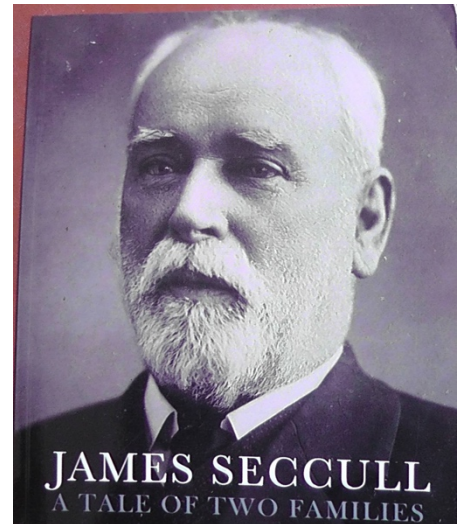
Topics covered in the last year: -

The Hidden (Dutch) Village
The Portway

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The Rothschild's and Waddesdon Manor
The Life of Simon Smith's great grandfather – James
Seccull - from Aynho to Melbourne, Australia
Mrs Cartwright-Hignett & family – the Gardens of Aynho
& Iford Manor
Hitler's Retirement Plans
Further discoveries at Farnborough Hall
The History of the Privy

We are always on the lookout for new information about Aynho. We provide free History tours of the village to anyone, so even if you have lived here for many years please feel free to give us a ring if you would like to know more about the 900 years of history of this lovely village of ours.



We have recently joined The Northamptonshire Heritage Forum, an organisation which will help us promote Aynho throughout the whole of Northamptonshire, and we are planning to join Bicester Museum & Heritage Trust, which is a similar organisation for the Bicester area.

Our members are getting older, so we really would welcome new visitors. It is still only £2 per month, on the last Wednesday except for July, August and December, so please come along and give us a try.

Keith McClellan (Chairman) Phone - 01869-810346 & Peter Cole (Secretary) 01869-811261

WINTER LUNCH CLUB

Winter Lunch Club ran from the beginning of October 2018-end of March 2019 on Thursdays in the Village Hall. WLC has been very busy this year with an increase in the number of villagers coming along. Lots of chat and laughter in the warmth of the village hall as hopefully those attending enjoyed a homecooked meal at very reasonable cost. After hall hire costs (the Parish Council contributed 50% of the hire charge this year) and the cost of ingredients, all profit made is donated to a number of village amenities along with a charity which is relevant to a villager or a member of their family:

Donations:

Village Hall: £1,000 (a small amount from this donation to cover insurance/installation costs when the Aynho Railway Junction sign which was purchased in 2018 for the village is in the village hall 6 months of the year).

St Michael's Church: £1,000 (to be put towards the cleaning/restoration of the velvet curtains/stained glass windows).

Defibrillator: £250 (to help towards replacement parts and Defibrillator training/awareness for villagers).

It is expected that a donation of approximately £400 will go to Alzheimer's Research UK (it was only the start of March when this was written!).

Without 'front of house' help WLC would not happen and huge thanks go to Amanda Leigh who, week in and week out, is there to support while I am in the kitchen. On occasion other kind people have also helped: Sue, Hazel, Annabel, Alice and Angus. Thank you all.

Amanda Limb

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SOUTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

The shape of Local Government for Aynho is going to change over the next year. The Government has determined that both Northamptonshire County Council and South Northamptonshire District Council will be abolished and that a new authority, West Northamptonshire Council, will be created to take responsibility for Local Government services across the area at present covered by South Northamptonshire, Daventry and Northampton Borough. A shadow authority will come into being later this year and elections to the new authority will be held in May 2020. Parish Councils will continue as before.

How and why these proposals have come about is a long story. What is important is that this new authority should be set up in such a way that it is able to cater for the needs of both Northampton, which makes up the majority of the population of the new authority, as well as the rather different needs of the large but less populated rural towns, villages and countryside. At the present time details of how many Councillors, offices and working arrangements are sketchy. One thing I am sure will be important is the role of the Parish Council. Inevitably with less Councillors and long distance from Northampton there is going to be a need for the Parish Council to have a powerful voice to ensure that our needs are properly dealt with

For myself I will not be seeking to be a member of this new authority. I will have represented Aynho for 32 years and have had much pleasure and satisfaction in being allowed to do so. It is now time for others to take on what will be an important challenge in what is a fast-changing world for both local and national government.

John Townsend
South Northants Councillors, Little Brook Ward

POLICE – SOUTH NORTHANTS NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM

The last 12 months has seen some changes to the teams based between Brackley and Towcester. PC Francesca SMITH has joined the Brackley team whilst PCSO Matthew TAYLOR has joined the Towcester team in a sponsored position for the Bugbrooke Parish. A sponsored PCSO is paid for by the parish and their sole responsibility is for that parish area. If you would like more information regarding sponsoring a PCSO please contact the team.

Nationally there have been increases in burglaries and thefts from vehicles. South Northants has experienced this also. Neighbourhood officers spend a considerable amount of time looking into these offences, reviewing CCTV, analysing trends and using local knowledge to build a picture of who may be committing these offences. We are pleased to report that a man, from Northampton, has been charged with a number of residential burglaries that took place on Christmas Day in Towcester. Another man, also from Northampton, has been charged with burglary following a series of offences committed in the Potterspury area.

Over recent weeks there have been some significant spikes in thefts from vehicles. These have been recorded across the area and clustered to a specific community over a particular night. Brackley, Milton Malsor & Blisworth saw a cluster of vehicles targeted between 5th and 7th March. Towcester and Syresham experienced similar between 8th and 9th March. It would appear that offenders have taken the opportunities provided by vehicles being left unlocked or with valuable property on display. Items reported to be stolen range from sunglasses to wallets and laptops. We cannot emphasize enough the importance of removing property and locking your vehicle. CCTV has shown us that offenders will try the door to a locked and empty vehicle and then move on. Unlocked vehicles are entered and searched and those with visible property are broken into. Officers have now identified two potential suspects for the recent thefts from vehicles as mentioned above. Work is being undertaken to collate all evidence sufficient for a charge to be laid once arrests have been made.

We often see comments on social media regarding a lack of Police in an area or that a crime would have been prevented if there were more Police about. Firstly, access to social media is widespread and often local sites cannot prevent intrusion from people living outside of the area. Is it wise to suggest that our community is vulnerable to crime or is it better to stand united with the Police to fight this threat? Crime will always happen due to many social and economic factors but we can be better prepared to fight it as a cohesive

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community. Please support those people that work within your Community as emergency services, volunteers, clubs and organisations and help us make the area less attractive to criminals.

Your Neighbourhood Teams are based within the Community at Brackley and Towcester and are often the first port of call for an emergency as the closest Police resource. We also take on a plethora of other responsibilities in respect of safeguarding vulnerable people, working with educational establishments from an early intervention perspective, crime investigation and intelligence gathering. We use social media (Twitter) and Neighbourhood Alert in order to inform you about crime and incidents relevant to your area and some of the work that the team undertake. Unfortunately, there are a lot of aspects of our work that we cannot report on due to the vulnerabilities of the persons involved.

Neighbourhood Alert is an email messaging system that all Schools, Parish Councils, Neighbourhood Watch and community members can sign up to. Register your email address to receive up to date information. Sign up to Neighbourhood Alert Messaging System at www.northamptonshireneighbourhoodalert.co.uk

Towcester & Brackley currently have Street Watch schemes. Street Watch is the equivalent of a mobile Neighbourhood Watch. In addition, it can cover the entire Community and tackle issues such as; vandalism, anti-social behaviour, drug abuse and dog fouling. If you are interested in helping your community and joining your Street Watch Scheme please contact a member of the team.

If you wish to have up-to-date crime statistics for your area then we recommend that you visit www.police.uk. Should you wish to discuss a particular issue or wish to meet a member of the team and discuss local trends then please contact either team via:

NT-SouthNorthantsBrackley@pnn.police.uk or NT-SouthNorthantsTowcester@pnn.police.uk

Reporting an issue or crime to the Police can be made in many ways. This includes ringing 101 or online. Northants Police's new website also offers a reporting system for:

- A road traffic incident
- Missing person – no immediate harm
- Terrorist activity
- Fingerprints appointments – this could be asked for when travelling abroad
- Hate Crime/ Incident

So that your report can be managed as quickly as possible, it's important to consider the following information and have it ready to provide:

- the date and time the crime happened
- the location, such as address or road name along with the town or village
- a description of any people involved
- the details of any witnesses or suspects
- if you think there's any other evidence such as forensic evidence or mobile phone footage
- if there is clear CCTV footage of the offence being committed

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

It has been a challenging time to be a Councillors at NCC. Being elected just as the whole organisation was being pilloried by parliament, press and public and the subsequent fallout has been quite an experience. It was pretty obvious to many for some time that things were not right and so it has proved to be.

Over the course of the year the aim of the members has been to work with the Commissioners, Improvement Board and others to help place NCC's finances and its services in the best possible position ahead of the expected transition to a two unitary local government structure in Northamptonshire.

A year after the shockwaves went through the Council and a tremendous amount of work the Improvement Board, noted in a report to cabinet on the 9th April 2019

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'The capitalisation dispensation approved by the Secretary of State has provided a means to fund the deficit (still subject to audit) which is expected to carry forward from 2017/18. It has also provided the means to establish a general reserve to support the Council's 2019/20 budget, a critical factor in relation to the robustness and viability of that budget. In parallel the Council has been able to improve its way of working, in particular by introducing more effective financial controls and disciplines. As a consequence, there is now a good prospect that the financial outturn for 2018/19 will be close to breakeven, and cautious optimism that the approved budget for 2019/20 represents a realistic and well tested plan which can be delivered on target.'

This is a dramatic turnaround for a Council that was subject to two Sec 114 notices that severely limited its ability to spend money and now reports a potential underspend against budget!

The restoration of the Council's finances has been the primary focus over the past year, while maintaining more than just statutory services, and working with the 7 District and Borough Councils as we head towards two new Unitary Councils.

Pressure on demand for services is unrelenting, particularly in adult social care and children's services. Being demand led services it is not a choice whether NCC spends money in those areas, but what became apparent last year was the cost of the services that NCC provided.

Childrens services work out at an average of £160,000 per child to deliver, against an average cost in other County areas of rather more like £120,000 - the number of agency staff and interims causing costs to soar as well as the need to place children out of County because of a shortage of appropriate foster carers. Focus on the employment and retention of permanent staff as well as a foster parent recruitment drive have started to show rewards. In adult social care a key indicator in performance has been Delayed Transfer of Care (bed blocking) out of the acute hospital environment to community care. This has been unsatisfactorily high in Northamptonshire for a number of years and was a reflection of the inability of a Council to either assess residents for care packages quickly enough or to fund a satisfactory package. The knock-on effects are serious to both the operation of an acute hospital, the local authority and the individual. It is pleasing to note that rates of DTOC have halved in the last few months per head of population, and in the last couple of months have fallen to just a handful of days rather than weeks. An additional focus now is on prevention work as in Northamptonshire 55% of additional Adult Social Care demand is through admission and then discharge from the acute hospital system compared to a national figure of 25%. This costs NCC £25m per annum and could be drastically reduced.

Across all areas of Council activities, a detailed study of contracts has identified areas where considerable savings could be made or performance enhanced within the same envelope and some areas where appalling contracts have been drafted in the past without sufficient attention to detail and the Council is suffering financially or in delivery or often, both.

While the commissioners and members have been concentrating on living within the budget and are now doing so, attention is being turned to service improvement and every department is being studied in detail. There has been much attention on Adults and Children but service delivery in other areas like Trading Standards, Environment Health and Highways needs to improve.

Finance

Body	2018/19	Increase	Amount	2019/20
NCC	£1,146.63	4.99%	-£0.25	£1,146.38
NCC Adult Social Care	£89.72	0.00%	£0.00	£89.72
PCC	£221.04	11.00%	£24.00	£245.04
Fire Service			£60.76	£60.76
SNC	£185.78	2.99%	£5.55	£191.33
Total	£1,643.17	5.60%	£87.17	£1,733.23

In addition, individual Parish Precepts will be levied and charged for.

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In order to balance its budget NCC was given specific permission by central government to use the capital receipts from the sale of One Angel Square to fund its revenue deficit in the last financial year. There was also an exceptional decision to allow NCC to charge an additional 2% on top of the maximum Council tax increase of 2.9% without triggering a referendum and these have enabled the Council to propose a balanced budget. Although the figure above shows NCC as having increased its Precept by 4.99 and still showing a negative increase, the Fire Service has been removed from that figure and given its own row. Despite the increase NCC's Band D is still very low. In 2019-20 60% of authorities in England will have a Band D Council tax that is between £1700 and £1900.

NCC did not increase the Adult Social Care element as it took full advantage of the limit available last year.

Unitary Preparation

As we wait for the final decision of the Secretary of State (at the moment James Brokenshire) at MHCLG on whether he is minded to accept the August proposals of the 7 authorities, work continues on the presumption and clear guidance given by senior civil servants that it is a given.

A Joint Committee has been set up incorporating representatives of each of the 4 authorities in what will become West Northamptonshire. I sit as a representative of South Northants Council on this committee but am very mindful that I have a shared responsibility at the County Council. This committee is making decisions on how the 'Shadow Authority' will operate prior to the establishment of the new Unitary. The Shadow Authority is a Statutory requirement pre-Unitary and will agree such things as the new constitution of the Unitary, oversee the appointment of the Chief Executive and other senior officers and start to make decisions on harmonisation of policies across the existing authorities.

The County Council is working with Daventry, South Northants and Northampton Borough Council providing data / existing policies / information on assets and contracts / HR information / legal and financial information - a vast piece of work that will require the disaggregation and then recreation of service areas. The default presumption is that all services will be split into two, to reflect the belief of Max Caller, the author of the Best Value report last year, that only a completely new way of working will provide the transformation and fresh start that Northamptonshire needs.

My Work

I deal with case work for my division which generally covers the usual range of issues - schools, special needs, concerns by individuals over the funding of care packages, lack of public transport and particularly in the last year the closure of the A422 and repair of potholes.

I sit on the Adoption Panel which recommends adoption and long-term fostering matches and is a very life affirming role. I am consistently amazed at the wonderful people who are taking on children from very difficult backgrounds and offering them a home and environment in which they can thrive.

Rebecca Breese

Northamptonshire County Council Councillors, Middleton Cheney Ward