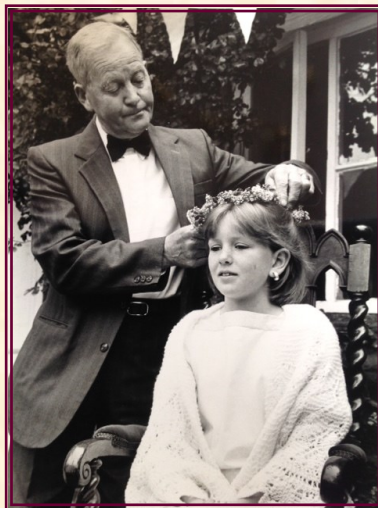




Aynho in Maytime





**Pastoral Letter May 2020:** Revd Sue writes

Dear Friends, I hope you are all bearing up under the lockdown restrictions. It's hard to write about current events as they are changing almost daily, and I am writing this a couple of weeks before it is published. However, some of the things we would traditionally be celebrating and enjoying together in May such as May Day celebrations, Maypole dancing; May Queens and Morris Men performing will be sadly missed. There is however one celebration that will go ahead in our homes and that is the VE day celebrations.

VICTORY is a wonderfully uplifting word. Although it is often used in Military terms, victory is a word that can describe even the smallest triumph. Being a 'Victor' means that you have overcome something, and we all love an 'overcomer'. In our news recently we all got behind Captain Tom Moore, a War veteran from the 2<sup>nd</sup> World war. Captain Tom undertook to walk 100 lengths of his back garden before his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in order to raise a modest amount for the NHS. As I write, the amount he has raised is in excess of £23 million pounds! This is extraordinary by anyone's standards. Captain Tom has become a symbol of Victory and triumph in our nation; he has taken the enemies of old age and frailty and withstood them, defying their hold and negative effects and he has triumphed in the face of them, and brought a good deal of good from it. His example has made us all realise that, even in adversity.....we can still overcome and triumph.

Our VE day celebrations will commemorate 75 years since the end of the 2nd World War and Victory over Adolf Hitler and his enemy forces that threatened the whole world. The battle for victory took years and was hard won. There were many sacrifices and losses along the way. But at that time the whole nation stood together and eventually, with the help of many others, victory was won.

Our threat today is Covid-19; it is a worldwide enemy and we are all having to learn to cooperate in this time of great adversity and threat. We have only had a few weeks of lockdown, but it's been enough to let us know that our freedom is a precious gift, and never again will we take even a simple thing, like sitting on a park bench, for granted again. There has been a lot of introspection and folk saying they want to change the way they live, and indeed we can all see ways in which we would like to see permanent changes in society in the future, for the betterment of us all.

Christians have recently celebrated Easter. This is when we celebrate Jesus' death and resurrection because we believe that in doing this he won a great victory for mankind over our two greatest enemies, which are sin and death. These are two powerful enemies that defeat us all, and in and of ourselves we cannot overcome these. There are habits and sins, patterns of thought and actions that no matter how hard we try we cannot defeat or overcome them. Things like, anger, gossip, judging others or worse. Added to this we may struggle with an addiction of some kind. Jesus came to set us free and at liberty from these harmful things that separate us from God and others, and the things which make us feel bad about ourselves. Jesus also came to show us that death was no match for him. He was raised back to life and his disciples saw him, and all of them staked their own lives on this truth. They were not fantasists; they saw 1<sup>st</sup> hand how Jesus won the victory over sin and death.

We can all aspire to, or like Captain Tom, achieve a level of victory in our lives, but there is only one way to defeat mankind's two greatest enemies of sin and death, and that is to put your faith and trust in Jesus, who has already won the victory for us.

Have a great VE day celebration, and let's look forward to our freedom and liberty from lockdown and covid-19; determined to put lessons learned into practice.

God bless you all with love Rev Sue. X

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**Information about the life of Aynho church** - enquiries from:

**Rev.Sue Cooper** – [revsue.cooper@gmail.com](mailto:revsue.cooper@gmail.com) Tel: 01869 – 810903 or

**Church Warden** - Graham Gibbs 01869 819727

**Items for June 2020** - before or by **May 22<sup>nd</sup>** please to:

**Sybil at No.32 Roundtown Tel:810692 Email: [syban@btinternet.com](mailto:syban@btinternet.com) (Vol.649)**

## BIODIVERSITY GROUP **WARNING**

The Blandford fly is on its way. This fly is only 2–3mm in length but its bite packs a punch and can cause a serious reaction.

During March and April the larvae have been clinging onto the riverside plants of the River Cherwell and cleaning the water by filtering out food particles. A river bank can support somewhere in the region of 10,000

larvae per square metre and as May approaches the newly emerging adults are ready to take wing. The males are harmless but the females need a blood meal (humans and dogs seem to be a favourite) so they can mate.

Unfortunately many people suffer a severe reaction to the saliva which may vary from pain to swelling, blistering, a high temperature or joint pain and medical advice may be needed. They tend to fly near to the ground and legs are a particular favourite of theirs although they can bite anywhere. Not only will they be with us through May but into June and July as well. So slap on the insect repellent and cover up. For further information please follow the link below to the Deddington Surgery Advice sheet:

<https://www.deddingtonsurgery.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/New-ajc-Blandford-Fly-Bite-Advice-Sheet.pdf>



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**HEALTH WALKS** remain suspended until 31st May. If there are changes the notice on the Pavilion noticeboard will be updated and also updated on the website. If you want to check the position later in the month contact **Kathy White: Email [kathywhiteaynho@gmail.com](mailto:kathywhiteaynho@gmail.com) or phone 810418.**

### **AYNHO GARDENING CLUB**

As you all know, we had a wonderful programme of events planned for 2020 but with the event of Coronavirus Covid 19 all this has had to change. Where possible, our Programme Organiser Amanda Limb, will endeavour to re-schedule talks and visits for 2021. Already we have a date in the diary for the **9th June 2021 to visit the Old Rectory Garden, Sudborough** – something to look forward to. The talk by **Barry Smith on the Restoration of Stowe Gardens was planned for 12th May 2021.** If any of our events can be staged later in the year we will do our utmost to do so and that hopefully will include some sort of the **Flower and Vegetable Show**. There are so many people expending endless energy on their gardens at present – what better way to show off their achievements. When all this is behind us, there will still be an Aynho Gardening Club providing talks and activities and some fun for the Club members. Our aim in this difficult time is to get us there.

For any queries regarding the Gardening Club, please contact **Annabel Bellamy (810847)**

### **AYNHO W.I.**

It is very sad that there have been no WI meetings since February but it is hoped we will get back together with our planned schedule in the not too distant future, and hopefully with some of the cancelled talks re-scheduled for next year. Meanwhile, with all the help and friendship available from our Parish Council, the NHS and members of the community plus constant contact with our friends, we will be 'up and running' again very soon. Until then our best wishes, keep doing as we're told and take good care.

**Contact: Barbara Watkins (811152)**

**AYNHO WRITERS** held a very successful exchange of work on 11th April, when we all submitted our work and circulated it to all members. There were some very enjoyable stories of favourite pets, and one or two starting with sneezes. There were a number of very pleasing poems. Nearly all members responded and we all enjoyed reading the work and sending our views. We expect the same for May 9th as it is doubtful that the hall will be open. We will be reading members' reaction to Lockdown.

**Contact: Keith McClellan: 810346**

## ARMS (Aynho Recorded Music Society)

Just to recall that our March Programme comprised a medley of selections presented by all the members of the Society in turn. There were some considerable surprises with an immense variety but very much enjoyed by all. May we soon return to more music to cheer us.

**Contact: Bob Mann 810264**

## FATE OF THE FETE THIS YEAR

Along with many famous festivals and sporting events – Glastonbury, Edinburgh Tattoo, Wimbledon, (not sure about Cornbury!) which have been cancelled or postponed very recently the Fete planners have decided to postpone Aynho's Fete in the lovely grounds of Aynhoe Park on 14th June. (We assess this is well inside the window of what is being discussed widely about the future!) BUT the good news is – just in case there is improvement and a lifting of restrictions which means we can gather and have fun together again - we have had the generous offer of a new date from Sophie and James Perkins to hold the Fete on Sunday 13th September at 2.30pm. There is a chance then that we will have the fun of a Fete in 2020 after all. Success in squashing the peak will tell.

## AYNHO PARISH COUNCIL - Let's Create an Aynho Picture Archive

Perhaps prompted by the awfulness of 2020's COVid19 pandemic it feels important to create a record of village life through the years with a picture library compiled by the people that live here. One that shares everyone's experiences – the highs, lows, community moments and humour – through pictures that gives an insight of how things were yesterday, today and tomorrow for those looking in at a later date

To do this, we're using social media and Instagram which is accessible to everyone with a camera on their phone. If you haven't already got an account go to [instagram.com](https://www.instagram.com) and sign-up (it's free) - take some photos and use the hashtag **#aynhovillage** in the picture caption. Over time this will create a fantastic library of pictures from us all. You can view what you and your village neighbours have posted by searching on Instagram using the same hashtag (**#aynhovillage**) and we'll be posting the picture library on the village web site, which you can get to quickly using the web address **[aynho.pics](http://aynho.pics)**

If you've historic pictures you'd like to add, email [admin@aynho.org](mailto:admin@aynho.org) or contact Chris Wilson (the Clerk to the Parish Council) and we'll try and help get these scanned, posted on Instagram and the originals returned to you.

Instagram is free and lots of fun. But don't forget all pictures will be in the public domain so only post photos you're comfortable others seeing.

Periodically we'll select the best ones to highlight on the web site (**[aynho.org](http://aynho.org)**) and print and display in the Village Hall and Sport Pavilion.

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