

Aynho Village Report 2022



AYNHO VILLAGE REPORT 2022

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Aynho Parish Council's annual village report for the 12 months from April 2021 to March 2022. This report will tell you about the workings of your Parish Council and give an update on the many clubs, societies and groups active in the village.

As you may know, within the 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 or six years about one-third of residents change and, from anecdotal feedback, we know this rate has probably accelerated during the pandemic. All of which makes this report, keeping residents informed of the work of the Parish Council and the availability of Aynho's many societies, clubs and groups, so important.

PARISH COUNCIL'S ROLE & RESPONSIBILITIES

The aim of the Parish Council is to maintain and improve the amenities and resources of the village so making Aynho a more enjoyable and integrated community and safer village to live in.

In practical terms the Council owns and maintains the streetlamps, the sports field, the pavilion and playground facilities and equipment, the bus shelter and other amenities. It has responsibility for grass cutting and shares responsibility for general tidiness and litter clearance with West Northants Council (WNC).

The Parish Council is consulted on all planning applications but can only make observations on these. The Parish Council has no role or remit regarding any Highways issues but given the importance, impact and likely traffic increases on the B4100 and parking demands within the village generally, the Parish Council has opted to take a proactive interest and campaigning approach.

More generally, the Parish Council believes it has a role within the community to facilitate community liaison, events and initiatives that improve the village and from these, the wellbeing of its residents.

Periodically the Parish Council is asked for its views on a whole range of policy issues by regional councils and other governmental agencies.

ABOUT THE PARISH COUNCIL

- Aynho Parish Council (APC) is ordinarily comprised of nine elected members; currently we have two vacancies and will hope to co-opt two new Councillors at our June meeting.
- For the year ahead (May 2022 to April 2023) Leslie Leighton was elected as Chair and Jeremy James was elected vice-Chair at May's Parish Council meeting.
- To support the work of the Parish Council, there is a Clerk (Chris Wilson) who is responsible for the administrative side of the PC's activities. Chris works part-time 30 hours per month. The PC's finances are separate from the Clerk and the RFO (Responsible Finance Officer - Stephen Brook) works 6 hours per.
- 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.

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- The Parish Council meets on the first Monday of every month except January and August. Meetings last circa two hours and members of the public are welcome to observe.
- If you'd like to know more about attending meetings or joining the Council at some point in the future, please contact the clerk, Chris Wilson (07887 548774 or clerk@aynho.org)

On behalf of Aynho Parish Council I'd like to say a massive '**Thank You**' to David Icke and Rachel Moroney who recently retired from the Parish Council. And we'd like to continue our thanks for all Councillors and Officers that served in earlier years.

PARISH COUNCILLORS

All Councillors are residents of the village, who having variously lived in the village for many years and others being relative newcomers. Responsibilities within the PC are split, first by issue and initiatives and secondly by areas within the village.

Pending the co-opt of new Councillors, the geographical areas of responsibility will be confirmed after the June meeting with updates in subsequent newsletters.

Councillor/Officer	Areas of Responsibilities
Leslie Leighton	Chair, Grants & Online
Jonathan Clinch	Village Hall Liaison & PC Trustee
Jeremy James	Finances & Audit and Planning
Les Horley	Aynho Eco
Dawn Willis	Maintenance and Grass
David Dean	Highways, Traffic & Parking and Park Club Draw
Liz Hadley	Aynho Active and Defibrillator
Chris Wilson	Clerk to the Parish Council
Stephen Brook	RFO (Finances and Audit)

THE WORK OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

As we discussed in last year's Village Report, the Parish Council has defined part of its vision of what we hope to achieve during the years ahead, whilst continuing to deliver the usual needs of the village in terms of grass cutting, village maintenance, management of the sports and playground facilities, responding to planning requests, etc..

To remind you, the objectives we've set ourselves for the years ahead focus on several initiatives that, we hope, contribute to building village life and wellbeing informed by lockdown, the changing profile of the village and the ambition to have a fitter, more active and engaged community. In Summary

- **Connect the Community**
Bringing the community together with periodic events at the sports facilities, whether games, team sports, events or new initiatives like seasonal fetes and markets, car boot sale, quiz and curry night, WFH (work-from-home) network and support group, coffee get-togethers, social evenings, etc...
- **Get Aynho Fit and Active**
Continue to develop the village's brilliant sports facility to give everyone something to do that keeps them active, fit and enjoying the outdoor spaces!

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- **Look after Aynho's Environment**
Looking after our green spaces, that's hedgerows, verges and our own gardens enhancing the village's bio-diversity and minimising our collective impact on the environment.
- **Build Towards Aynho's Carbon Neutral**
From small ideas through to the biggest - all contribute to minimising our eco impact! For example, package-free shopping, local food pop-up event (5-miles travel max), community discussion of residents' heating and energy needs including best alternatives when replacing or installing central heating.
- **Community Matters – Get Everyone Involved**
We really hope that everyone will get involved, if not with some of the PC's initiatives, then community issues that matter to you and you're prepared to set-up your own group or club. So we're here to help, whether that's practical stuff like ideas and getting things going, publicity and/or helping with some initial costs to get the ball rolling.
- **Make Our Roads Safer**
Continue to campaign for improved Highways management of the village's roads, traffic flow and parking.

And, looking back over the past 12-months we've already started:

- To celebrate the easing of Lockdown Aynho staged its very own 'Independence Party' on 21st July with free BBQ and 'at cost' bar for all residents. Along with live music, the event was a great success bringing together residents, both those living in the village for some time and many of the 'newbies' keen to meet their neighbours.
- Last year's August bank holiday car boot was a roaring success, generating an unprecedented £2,000+ income adding to development fund for the sports and pavilion facilities. And we're hoping to continue the same success this year, albeit with improved forward planning for traffic flows and parking.
- One of our community-minded residents organised seasonal fayres at the sports field, with profits kindly donated to the facility. The Parish Council are eager to encourage such events, that bring so many people together!
- Bringing people together for the bi-annual 'Keep Aynho Beautiful' initiative, with litter picking, kerb-side tidy-ups and other public spaces maintenance tasks.
- To help Aynho celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee the Parish Council has approved a grant of £1,250 to the organising committee and made applications for road closures to help everyone have an enjoyable and safe celebratory weekend.

All of this, along with some 'business as usual' tasks for the Parish Council, such as:

- Re-new the grass cut tender, appointing a new contractor (Flint Landscaping) to a three-year contract with grass cuts delivered against a seasonal schedule, scope of work and agreement of quality levels.
- During the past 12-months the Parish Council's focus on traffic issues on both B4100 and Charlton Road has really gathered pace as traffic levels have increased, HGV movements are perceptibly greater and recent large-scale commercial planning applications at Baynard's Green threaten ever-more traffic.

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In response, the Parish Council has actively engaged with all unitary authorities, Highways and Planning and with the developers (of Baynard's Green planning application). As a result, so far, Baynard's Green developers are now required to conduct a traffic survey of the B4100, we now have regular visits from the Northants Speed Watch team and their camera van, the general signage through the village has been improved, we're hoping for funding for another speed sign and, latterly, we now have been accepted onto the Northants Community Speed Watch scheme.

- Renewal of Aynho's Park Club Draw, part funding lottery prizes for players with at least 50% of revenue being directed to the maintenance of Aynho's sports and pavilion.

Many of these ideas and initiatives are discussed in more detail on subsequent pages. We'd encourage everyone to read and contact us if you've any questions or ideas that could enhance or add anything to these ambitions.

Obviously to make all these things happen requires funding, lots of energy and commitment of time from everyone and possibly working with other organisations, such as the Village Hall Management Committee and/or specialist interest groups (e.g., on environmental, ground and air heat source, etc.).

The Parish Council has allocated budgets from the current year's precept and will do the same again next year, as affordable. We also have huge ambitions to fund many of these ideas from grants and fundraising from business and government bodies.

Reading through these notes I hope you're as excited as we are at the possibilities of what could be achieved in the next few months and years. It's important to say that whilst the Parish Councillors are all committed to the hard work needed, we really would like others to get involved, whether that's supporting some of the ideas we've detailed here or developing your own community initiatives.

If you'd like to get involved, we'd love to hear from you.

PARISH COUNCIL INITIATIVES

The following sections details some of these ideas (from above) and other roles and responsibilities of the Parish Council.

AYNHO ECO

Aynho Eco's Mission Statement includes, by its very nature, many long-term aspirations whilst hoping to achieve some small but important short-term objectives. And, despite some early issues that had to be overcome, we've made a start.

We're thankful for those that helped in Portway and Charlton Road with clearing ground, sowing seeds and planting plugs, albeit the sharp frosts at the end of March and a very dry April have made things difficult.

And despite our intentions to plant ferns and fox gloves in Skittle Alley by now, we think to opt for more native species that can better cope with our varying seasons and hope there may be better success. Though, with global warming, nothing is assured.

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If you'd like to get involved, with Skittle Alley and other areas of the village such as the Play Park, keep an eye on the newsletter or, better still, email me or Chris, the Clerk, and we'll keep you informed of plans and intended work.

Aynho Eco needs to be a community-based initiative. The success of the project will be dependent on the involvement of all those within the Aynho community. Together we will make a difference. (les.horley@aynho.org)

TRAFFIC, HIGHWAYS & PARKING

Issues of increasing traffic flows, unacceptable driving and speeds through the village and the threat of increasing traffic from near-by commercial developments continue to cause the Parish Council concerns for the future.

During the past 12-months there's been major improvements to the signage for Aynhoe Park House corner, locally known as Wembley Corner. Whilst not enhancing the Conservation area feel, the needed effect of raising awareness and reducing accidents at this point has so far been effective.

The Parish Council intend to add two new VAS (vehicle activated signs), one on the approach to Wembley Corner and the other for traffic approaching on the Banbury Road. We are seeking a grant for at least one of these.

Parking remains a problem in certain areas of the village and the Parish Council are now looking at ways to bring EV charging points to those areas where residents have little or no off-road parking.

Recently, the Parish Council has been vocal in our objections to a major commercial warehousing planning application at Baynard's Green (to Cherwell DC); our concerns being recognised and cited by Highways and the Planning Department requesting the developer to implement a B4100 traffic survey, the results of which might inform traffic restrictions as a result.

Recently most Aynho drivers will have seen the Northants Police Speed Camera van in the village on several occasions, which has resulted in several tickets being issued. We're actively encouraging on-going placement of the van.

As breaking news, Aynho has been accepted onto the Community Speed Watch scheme. This will be operating from 2nd – 30th July and the Parish Council need volunteers to operate and record details of offenders. If you'd like to be part of the team, we'd love to hear from you. It involves a few hours a week in teams of 3 people with training online. If this is to be a success Aynho needs people to get involved! To get involved please David Dean at csw@aynho.org or via Chris Wilson, the Clerk at clerk@aynho.org or on 07887 548774.

AYNHO ACTIVE

Aynho village has a number of sports facilities which are situated at the pavilion adjacent to Portway. The pavilion and sports field are accessible to all villagers and can also be used, for a small fee by local community clubs. Over the past few years we have seen the emergence of Aynho Active, which consists of groups of individuals throughout the village who come together to partake in various sporting activities.

Owned and managed by Aynho Parish Council, the facility management was recently taken over by Councillor Liz Hadley from David Icke. David worked extremely hard to set up many of the groups that are now well-established within Aynho Active – Thanks Dave!

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The sports field spans a huge seven acres and encompasses: two football pitches, a Tennis/multi games court, 580m running/walking track and a recently added cricket pitch.

The pavilion has a small function room, a kitchen, toilets and two changing rooms. The car park allows for multiple vehicles, and we also have the recent addition of the shipping container for storage of Aynho Active equipment.

Furthermore, an abundance of equipment is now available for villages to use including:

• Table football	• Table Tennis	• Mini Pool Table	• Tennis & Badminton
• Rounders	• Quick Cricket	• Basketballs	• Discs for Disc golf

Villagers and non-villagers can rent the pavilion and or the sports pitches for an extremely affordable price with concessionary rates for villagers.

Our current facility users include:

• Brackley Town FC	• Aynho Health Walking Group	• Aynho Active Social Running Group
• Aynho Community Football	• Disc Golf Club	

The Parish Council plans to hold several events this year at the pavilion including:

Placement of the marquee for the summer:

• Queen's Jubilee celebrations	• Annual Car boot sale	• Halloween and Christmas Events
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In the past year we have carried out multiple works to improve the pavilion, with the help of many local residents, which have included:

• Carpark and driveway maintenance	• Shipping container to replace sheds	• Cleaning of patio areas
• New post to front of building	• Brick BBQ	• Introduction of Disc Golf Nets

We have recently discussed longer term plans for the pavilion – which might include a significant re-modelling of the interior spaces given no real enhancements have been implemented since the pavilion was first installed in 1980. The current list of improvements is quite exhaustive, hence the review:

• Replace electrics	• Replace lights and update doors	• Improve fire, accessibility & H&S	• Decorate interior and exterior of Building
• Replace old kitchen	• Remove shower and reconfigure facilities	• Improve heating system	• Clean and maintain tennis courts

The pavilion is a space for all, and we feel it should continue to be an integral part of the community. Anyone who wishes to assist with updates or has ideas should make contact.

We want the pavilion to be used by the whole community, so we welcome any fresh ideas or groups who are interested to make contact. (liz.hadley@aynho.org)

COMMUNITY MATTERS

The Parish Council are keen to encourage all residents to get involved with community initiatives. We're especially keen to support any resident who's interested in setting up their own community or specialist interest group(s) within the community; whether that's hobby based, a support group and/or activities focused.

To help get things going we're happy to help with initial ideas and support (if that helps...) and possibly free or low-cost use of the pavilion for your first meeting or two (obviously conditions apply). If you've an idea, make contact with us. We look forward to hearing from you.

(leslie.leighton@aynho.org)

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GRANTS, FUNDING & DONATIONS

The Parish council is always looking to fund initiatives and activities around the village. One of the main ways to fund improvements and new activities and facilities throughout the village is through various available grants.

The council is currently actively seeking grants and funds to assist with: Aynho Eco – to improve village sustainability and reduce our carbon footprint and Aynho Active – to increase the number of activities available to our residents and funding to improve our green areas and spaces and, possibly, a significant upgrade to the sports field pavilion.

Whilst this list is not exhaustive, we are receiving information on a weekly basis about new funds that are becoming available. If there are any grants or available funds that you are aware of and/or that you think would be a good initiative – or would like to donate to a village initiative - please do not hesitate to contact us. (leslie.leighton@aynho.org)

MAINTENANCE

One of the Parish Councils largest costs is grass cutting, which requires several areas of the village to be cut 12-15 times a year. Every two or three years the Parish Council invites local companies to tender for the contract with decisions (of who to appoint) based on price, relevant experience and suitable references. This year we re-issued the tender, appointing Edward Flint (tree surgeons and grass cutters) to the contract.

For this year we've varied the grass cutting programmes to encourage biodiversity; cutting some areas (e.g., Portway sports field side) less frequently to encourage wildflowers to flourish and encourage the bees and butterflies.

From village surveys, we know the visual appearance of Aynho is one of the characteristics that residents most appreciate and is one the Parish Council works hard to maintain.

For many years now, local resident Peter Tustain has supported our work providing maintenance services to manage public spaces including weeding footpaths and general repair work around the village, as directed by the Parish Council. This year Peter has taken the decision to step down from this role. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Peter for his work over the past few years. Thanks Peter!

Without Peter's support, we'd like to ask all Aynho residents to step up and help by keeping the public areas around your own home tidy, maybe by keeping weeds under control, pruning back stray branches overhanging footpaths and, if you see litter, popping it in the bin. The Parish Council would be most grateful if everyone could give just a few minutes now and then to keep Aynho looking beautiful.

We know the village can do this! After all, the Keep Aynho Beautiful event in April collecting litter from the routes into and out of the village was a huge success. Thank you to all that volunteered. We collected 14 bags of litter. We aim to do this event twice a year. The second one will take place in October. We look forward to seeing you and meeting new faces in the village over tea and cake at the pavilion afterwards.

The bus shelter has had a makeover, and we think you will agree it is an improvement and is now a usable space. There are books available for all. If you have read a book you have enjoyed and would like to pass on please leave it on the shelf someone else to enjoy. Also, please use the

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notice board to advertise village events and local businesses. Let's continue to support local business.

The issue of dog fouling and associated diseases continues to concern the Parish Council. While most dog walkers are conscientious in clearing up after their dogs, regrettably there are still quite a few that don't. The Parish Council have put out five up-cycled poop bag dispensers and have provided poop bags. There are three along Black Path which is the worst area for dog fouling and further ones on Charlton Road and The Glebe. If you forget a bag or have run out, please take one. Please, if you're a dog walker, use a poop bag and clean up after your dog. The PC contracts the emptying the dog waste bins to Marcus Landscapes, weekly.

Lastly, if you see something that needs attention - such as potholes, broken paving slabs, etc – tell West Northants using their web site (http://bit.ly/wn_highways). This is a quick and easy way of getting issues noticed and fixed. And, if you do tell West Northants of something let the Councillor Willis know too – she'll keep an eye on its progress and chase if things are going too slowly. (dawn.willis@aynho.org)

AYNHO DEFIBRILLATOR

As many of you know we are lucky enough to have a village defibrillator. The defibrillator is situated on the front of the village hall, to the left of the main entrance. Our device is called an AED — Automated External Defibrillator. This portable, lightweight device can be used in the event of an emergency and is designed for ease of use.

The Parish Council ensures that the defibrillator is kept in good working order and is ready, if required. Regular checks ensure that the battery is charged, the pads are in date and the device is not damaged in any way. Over the past year the Parish Council has been considering the possibility of a second defibrillator at the pavilion site. (liz.hadley@aynho.org)

AYNHO PARK CLUB DRAW

The Aynho Park Club Draw (PCD) is the village lottery that raises funds for the maintenance of the pavilion and sports field. The draw is back up and running now with an annual fee of £18. There are a lot of members who have either not renewed their subscription or have only paid £12 as this was the fee last year. The Draw now runs from April to March.

If you have not renewed your subscription and wish to do so then please do to Account Name "Aynho Park Club" Sort code 30-11-08 Account Number 00467143. Please use your name as a reference on the payment, thank you. Please ensure this done by 1st July to be included in this year's draw. Payments after this date will be treated as donations. Any previous members who have not renewed by 1st July will not be entered into the draw.

If you have renewed paying the old £12 amount, then we would ask you to send a further £6 with your name as reference and change any standing orders for next year. If we do not receive the extra £6 then you will only be eligible for 8 draws not the full 12.

We would like to thank Rachel Moroney for efforts during COVID and wish her luck in her move from the village, Jeremy James and David Dean are the present administrators of the Draw.

You have to be in it to win it!

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AYNHO ONLINE

The Parish Council maintains the village web site (aynho.org) providing a single web resource for 'everything Aynho'. Both Parish Council information and the details and reports of the village's clubs, societies and groups featured here. Also, the village is featured on both Instagram ([@aynho.village](https://www.instagram.com/aynho.village)) and Twitter ([@aynho](https://twitter.com/aynho)). Separately there are two active Facebook pages (search 'Aynho Active' and 'Aynho Community').

If you'd like to contribute to the web site (e.g., write articles, contribute pictures, etc) please contact the Clerk. And if you regularly post pictures of the village onto Instagram please tag them #aynhovillage, so making them easier to follow. (leslie.leighton@aynho.org).

PLANNING

The Parish Council is consulted by West Northants Council on all planning applications and is asked to give a view, based on planning considerations and our own objectives of protecting the unique look and feel of the village, as to whether an application should be supported or not supported with comments as required. Whilst the views are not binding on WWNC Plans, they can help direct and influence decisions. Please use this link (http://bit.ly/wn_planning) to look at WNC's planning portal. (jeremy.james@aynho.org)

PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES

In Summary:

All accounts are available for inspection under usual rules for public funds. (rfo@aynho.org)

Box No.	Description	Year ending	
		31/03/2021 £	31/03/2022 £
1	Balances brought fwd	18818	20544
2	Annual precept	25920	26698
3	Total other receipts	14244	7537
4	Staff Costs	7650	6277
5	Loan interest/capital repayment	2080	2080
6	Total other payments	28708	18707
7	Balances carried forward	20544	27716
8	Total Cash and Short Term Inve	20544	27716
9	Total Fixed Assets and Long Term Investment	132357	138157
10	Total Borrowings	8320.00	6240.00

IN CONCLUSION

We trust that this Report has helped you better understand the work of the Parish Council and given you an insight into our ambitions for the year(s) ahead. Our hope is that the work of the PC and things we can achieve together as a community will make Aynho a better, happier, safer and more enjoyable place to live.

If you'd like to discuss anything detailed here, please contact me or one of the other Councillors. We'd be happy to hear from you.

Lastly, I'd like to say a massive **Thank You** to all my fellow Parish Councillors and Officers for all their hard work and time, which they give freely to make things happen. And, similarly, thank both Rachel Moroney and David Icke who, until very recently, were energetic members of the Parish Council.

[Leslie Leighton, Chair \(leslie.leighton@aynho.org\)](mailto:leslie.leighton@aynho.org)

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Aynho's Clubs, Societies and Groups

The following are short notes from the village's clubs, societies and groups variously telling you something about themselves, describing their past year, hopes for the next year and how to make contact. The Parish Council would like to thank everyone who provided details.

THE VILLAGE ALLOTMENTS

There are 18 village allotments on the Charlton Road between 1st and 2nd crossing. There was 100% occupancy in 2021. 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 8 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 2021 despite the varied weather; having our own water supply helps in the warm, dry periods.

At the end of 2020 there were 4 requests from the Village for allotment space – and a reallocation of plots was made for 2021. Two allotmenters moved from half plots to full plots for 2021. Rents remain £5 for a full plot and £2.50 for an half plot; costs for services are approximately £10 depending on how much water is used. Good value – good exercise – good fun – great veg and flowers. Come and join the community and give it a try!

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!

THE VILLAGE ALMSHOUSES – JOHN BAKER CHARITY

2021 started with three vacancies with two of the houses needing refurbishment. New residents arrived and settled in late March and all eight of the Almshouses have been occupied for the year and currently there are no foreseen vacancies.

The Almshouses are run by the John Baker Charity, itself made up of Trustees living within the village and being the representatives of the Parochial Church Council and the Parish Council. Between them the trustees cover the roles of welfare, administration, property management and financial management.

Villagers who might be interested in a future vacancy for themselves or for a member of their family, or who would like more information about living in an Almshouse, are requested to contact the trustees via the village website where there is background information and the financial reports for 2021 and previous years - <https://www.aynho.org/alms-houses/>.

2022 is the bicentenary year for the Almshouses – 200 years since the legacy of John Baker was brought to fruition by the first trustees and the houses built on the edge of the village by village stonemasons and craftsmen. It will be celebrated, and the founder remembered.

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CANASTA CLUB

Unfortunately, due to the Pandemic, our activities were stopped after our game on 3rd March 2020 and we have been unable to begin again. We had hoped with the gradual lifting of restrictions we could revive the club; however, many regular players fall into the vulnerable category, and we have not been able to restart. The club met on a Monday afternoon at 2.00 pm finishing around 4.30 pm. The venue was between one of our regular members houses on a rotational basis.

Currently the Group is dormant, anyone interested in re-starting the club please feel free to contact Kathy White on kathywhiteaynho@gmail.com or 01869 810418.

AYNHO GARDENING CLUB

In usual circumstances, the Aynho Gardening Club follows a programme of events for the year which is published at the AGM of the previous year. These events take place 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 with photographs on a particular garden/gardens of interest. This is followed by refreshments and time for a chat. Once a year a day trip to a particular garden is arranged when a coach is booked to take and return members to our destination. An evening visit to a local garden is also arranged in the summer when members of the Club drive themselves. The AGM takes place in November, followed by entertainments and 'bring and share' Buffet. We are a thriving and friendly Club with over 50 members and monthly events are well-attended by over 30 members. The yearly subscription for Membership to the AGC is £12.

Last year the programme was greatly curtailed due to the continuation of the pandemic; three talks took place at the beginning of the year before everything closed down. Activities re-started again in June when Members were kindly invited to an evening visit to 2 The Square, Aynho. The garden looked stunning, and Members thoroughly enjoyed the 'get-together'. A visit to Primrose Garden in Steeple Aston took place in July. A medium sized Flower and Vegetable show was staged in August. In September four village gardens were visited followed by a sumptuous tea hosted by the McClellans. A talk in the Village Hall about the Restoration of the Stowe Gardens took place in October. The AGM was held in November; considering the pandemic restrictions, the Club managed to maintain a decent programme.

The recently installed Audio/Visual equipment with a super-fast internet connection in the Village Hall has enabled the Club to have its first 'Zoom' talk in April of this year. The AGC would like to thank the Village Hall Committee, with particular thanks to Johnathan Clinch, for this marvellous facility. Speakers do not come cheaply, so the possibilities of 'Zoom' talks greatly reduces costs for the Club and allows speakers from around the country to be used. Thank you.

New members to the AGC are always very welcome – members do not need any particular knowledge of gardening techniques or plant names. Information about the Gardening Club can be found in the Newsletter or on the village website or ring Annabel Bellamy (810847) or members on the Committee.

AYNHO WELLBEING WALKS

Covid restrictions continued to affect the Health Walks during the early part of the year although, being an outdoor activity, numbers were not restricted by the regulations but by individual preferences. Some of the long walks returned in smaller numbers during March.

As all walks need to be led by a qualified Walk leader and as a number of people were still shielding or a bit wary or coming together as a group, we did not officially restart all walks until 8th April 2021.

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The pavilion was open for use of the facilities and some refreshments were available although they were consumed outside. Masks and hand sanitisers were mandatory when going inside the building. This worked well throughout the year and kept up the social side of walking.

Some of our previous walkers did not return and others came intermittently throughout the year but we also gained a few new ones. Throughout the year, the track around the sports field continued to be used regularly by many villagers and has again been a major factor in keeping many people in better health both physically and mentally based on the comments made.

During the latter part of the year our numbers increased gradually although we have lost some walkers and Walk Leaders from outside the village. Sanitisers remain available in the pavilion but masks are no longer required. When the weather is cold, walkers can gather inside but remain socially distanced as numbers can allow this.

The Walking for Health Scheme changed during the year and is now managed by The Ramblers and known as Wellbeing Walks. Although the administration has changed, the walks remain as they were and are still FREE to anyone wanting a bit of exercise and some good company (as well as a cuppa and cake)

We are short of Walk Leaders, and training sessions are restarting. If anyone is interested in either walking or becoming a Walk leader, please do contact me or any of the Walk Leaders.

Kathy White kathywhiteaynho@gmail.com 01869 810418

AYNHO HISTORY SOCIETY

The Aynho History Society meets in the village hall on the last Wednesday evening of the month, except in July, August and December. We currently average about 20 people for each presentation.

We cancelled all our meetings during lockdown and were able to rearrange most of them once rules were lifted. Sadly our secretary, Peter Cole, suffered a serious illness and has been unable to continue in his role. Jill Wightman, Douglas Ward and my wife, Carol have played a key part in keeping the society running.

Since we resumed meetings last July with The Waddesdon It Girls, we have had a series of excellent presentations on subjects such as, Tooley's Boat Yard, The Local Home Guard, The Dunsdon Brothers, who were local highwaymen, and most recently, a fascinating account in full costume of the Tudor Easter Festival. We have a programme for the rest of the year and the posters will appear in due course. We continue to charge £2 per evening.

I shall be stepping down at the end of the year so we would like to hear from anyone who would be interested in taking over. Contact: Keith McClellan, 01869 810346 keithcarolmac@gmail.com

Keith McClellan Chairman 01869 810346 and Peter Cole Secretary 01869 811261

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

St Michael's Church is open to everyone every day of the week – for peace and quiet, contemplation, prayer and support. Its churchyard is the final resting place for lots of villagers recent and long gone – we are reminded of all that history in the village just by reading the names and remembering the stories. Covid has not changed any of these aspects. We may have had the occasional closure in the last 12 months and come together under a few restrictions – but all in all, not much changed.

AYNHO VILLAGE REPORT 2022

Although we worship as a village (a parish) St Michael's is part of an overall Benefice which includes the neighbouring parishes of Croughton, Evenley, Hinton and Farthinghoe. There are services around all these churches each week but here in Aynho we have specific services on the first, second and fourth Sunday of the month. Rev. Sue Cooper has continued as Rector for the Benefice and lives in the Rectory in Aynho. Although she had to take time out due to health problems, we are fortunate that she has a good Ministry team around her in support and that she has recovered well.

In the Church we have an open baptism policy in which children and adults are baptised as part of the main worship of the family of the church; this includes a communion. We have an open confirmation policy which encourages and supports children to receive communion before confirmation. In 2021 we had 5 children and one adult baptised and 2 adult confirmations. Through young parishioners with families, we have managed to maintain a great little "Sunday Club" for the 7-year-olds and younger who have the potential for doing more things than the lovely drawings they do each Sunday, not to mention their contribution to the feeling of life in the church. All so appreciated by our relatively elderly congregation of worshippers. We will strive to give these young children more in 2022. All children are welcomed into the Church.

We had one marriage but no blessings in the year and held 2 funeral services and 3 interments of ashes. We held successful services to celebrate the key feasts of Easter and Christmas, with a Carol Service involving Christingles in the church. Mothering Sunday, Harvest Festival and Remembrance Sunday were well supported.

St Michael's Church enjoys a local bell ringing team, led by Peter Phillips, the Tower Captain; they have rung for weddings and as a touring group ring fortnightly in practice. We are looking for additional ringers if anyone is interested. We are very lucky to have our long-standing organist, Sybil Stevens, assisted by Graham Gibbs and Jonathan Clinch on big occasions. We are grateful for all who given their time and skill.

The actual Church building is in overall good condition. We are thinking that we can postpone a roof replacement for another decade – as it is only 100 years old this year! But we have decided to replace the heating system which is more than 100 years old. This is a big project costing in the region of £200,000 and our aim is for it to be completed by the autumn of 2023.

Churchwardens Andrew Bellamy and Kathy White

AYNHO VILLAGE HALL

This past year has been an exciting one for the Village Hall. All our pre-covid regular bookings have returned and the overall usage remains very healthy. Grants have enabled us to invest in the facilities.

The new kitchen is looking good, as is a new shed for storage. We've carried out electrical works updating some of the wiring and upgraded the wifi network to take full advantage of the free connection that Gigaclear kindly provide to the community. In the main hall we've installed a new projector in the ceiling and a surround sound system with subwoofer. In the backroom we've installed a large TV which has come in particularly handy for meetings. Shortly we'll go live with a new online booking system which should make it easier for people to check availability and make quick bookings.

Thanks go to Lorraine and Phil for their stints as booking secretary, and to Amanda Limb, who is currently in the role. Many thanks also to Ray Willis for his ongoing support with safety and maintenance. Lastly, I'd like to thank Leslie Leighton (chairman) and Jeremy James (treasurer) for their ongoing commitment to making the hall's activities both sustainable and attractive.

Jonathan Clinch, Parish Council Trustee (jonathan.clinch@aynho.org)

AYNHO VILLAGE REPORT 2022

AYNHO WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

As we are all aware, Covid has affected so many things since it began in 2019 but thankfully, we did manage to meet in the Village Hall in February 2020 before the first lockdown and then had two meetings on the sports field in April and May 2021 followed in June by a garden get-together as everything began to open up again. However, all is now more or less back to normal and we're happy to report that since July 2021 we have again been holding our monthly evening meetings in the Village Hall, albeit with seating arrangements more spaced, and in the early months some mask wearing being called for.

The biggest problem we have had is getting speakers, as after the lockdowns many were too busy getting their businesses back on track so unwilling to give their talks. We have come to terms with these matters however, and so far have had two Aynho residents giving very informative and entertaining talks and three charity speakers; namely 'Dementia Active' a group that meets in local villages as well as ours, 'The Macula Society' which was set up as a result of the increasing occurrence and knowledge of certain eye conditions and 'Blood, Bikes and Babies' a volunteer group delivering emergency supplies of blood and breast milk out of normal working hours. As well as these we have had our annual Christmas lunch out and a fun evening with a Beetle Drive.

We have other plans for more social meetings in the future including our usual garden meeting, lunch out and not forgetting a re-scheduled Murder Mystery evening.

All in all, it is exciting that our WI life is getting back to normal; we are full of cheer for our future events and look forward to welcoming more to our meetings.

Aynho WI Committee

WINTER LUNCH CLUB (OCTOBER TO MARCH)

Post the worst of Covid, Winter Lunch Club was able to start up again over winter 21/22 (October-March). It was great to be able to welcome regulars and a few new faces back to the village hall for a homecooked meal at very reasonable cost and to hear the chat again, even a fab green Shamrock hat was worn on St Patrick's Day! It was recommended by the Environmental Health Dept at West Northants that a few Covid restrictions be put in place to keep everyone as safe as possible, eg restrict numbers to 22 in the back room, everyone had to book their place each week, ventilation, anti-bac hand gel etc. These arrangements worked well and with only one last minute cancellation of WLC ahead of Christmas (Omicrom was raging and I did not want to spoil Christmas for anyone) we made it through the winter!

After costs (hall hire and ingredients) the profit is being distributed as follows: donations of £500 each to Macmillan Cancer Support and Marie Curie have been made, once costed a maximum of £500 will go towards purchasing some portable A-frame Car Park signs for direction to village events and the remaining balance of £500 to the 'Help for Ukrainians in Aynho' fund. This was a late addition to the list of recipients of WLC profit this year. I run WLC for the community and as a lot of lunches had been eaten to make a healthy amount of profit, everyone felt they would like to help the people of Ukraine who are suffering so terribly. Thank you to all who supported WLC and made the above possible.

I would also like to say a huge thank you to my wonderful new team of volunteers, Sheila, Ailsa, Glenwys and Shirie who helped front of house, with so many offers of help they were able to work a rota - WLC does not happen without such help!

Amanda Limb

AYNHO VILLAGE REPORT 2022

AYNHO WRITERS

Aynho Writers meet in the village hall at 10.00am on the second Saturday of the month. The meetings last between two and two and a half hours. We have three facilitators who take it in turns for four months each to set the subjects and chair the meetings. During lockdown we did not meet, but sent emails to the facilitator who sorted them into the two subjects and circulated each set. We did not meet again until February 2022 when we used the main hall and socially distanced in a circle to read our contributions. We did the writing at home to read out at the meetings. Lockdown did not put us off publishing our annual collection of stories and poems.

Our most recent book was 'A New Chapter' and is full of entertaining stories poems and articles. The new book will be produced for November. Our thanks go to Jayne Ryman who has produced the last two books, and also to Helen McKenzie for taking over the finance.

We charge £2.50 per meeting and an annual fee of £10. We currently have 14 members. New members are welcome to attend a first meeting free while they decide whether or not to join.

Contact Keith McClellan, 012869810346 Keith carolmac@gmail.com

Reports from Aynho's Recorded Music Society and Short Mat Bowls were not available at the time of the Village Meeting. Anyone interested or with enquiries should contact these Groups directly.

Other Groups and Organisations

The following provides links to documents that other third-party organisations:

Northants Police

An update from the South Northants Neighbourhood Teams: <https://bit.ly/38C5vT5>

Adderbury, Deddington & District Photography Society

<https://www.addphoto.co.uk>