



## The Apricot Village

April 2008

### THE PARISH COUNCIL

2007 was election year for the Parish Council. Glyn Handley had resigned in January 2007, and Graham Gibbs and Sally Iannacci stood down in May.

The following were elected in May: Roger Bradford, Jeremy James, Keith McClellan, Colin Macklin, Nigel Oakey and Marlene Phillips; Andy Anderson, Andrew Bellamy and Stephen Brook were co-opted to make up the 9 councillors.

Keith McClellan was elected Chairman, and Roger Bradford Vice-Chairman.

Steve Jones continued as Responsible Financial Officer until December. The post has now been taken over by Mrs Amby Hitchcox.

Peter Cole has continued as Parish Clerk.



Andrew Bellamy



Stephen Brook



Amby Hitchcox

### Finance

At 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008 the Council had £3,235.80 in its bank accounts, and assets to the value of £114,608.21. The precept is £17,325 towards a budget of £18,635.

### Planning

The following applications were received during the year: -

25 Blacksmiths Hill	Lewis D	Loft conversion incl. 3 roof lights	Supported	Permitted
3 Little Lane	Franklin P	Replacement windows	Supported	Permitted
16 Croughton Road	Phillips A P	Raise loft space & dormer	Object	Permit (Condits)
College Farm Banbury Road	Bellamy A	Replace french doors	Supported	Permitted
Wensden Building Charlton Road	Oakey P, E & N	Change of use - block building	Object	Permit (Condits)
Land adjoining Aynho Wharf	Welford & Sons	4 two storey detached houses	Object	Refused
3 Portway	Denley S	Replace windows & doors with PVC	Supported	Permitted
Nell Bridge Farm Banbury Road	Belcher F G	New agricultural livestock bldg.	Supported	Permitted
11 Portway	Anderson A	1.5 metre closeboard fencing	Supported	Permitted
Cartwright Arms Croughton Road	Perkins J	Retro.replace lintel windows & ceilings	Supported	Permit (Condits)
Former RAF base Upper Heyford	N. Ox. Consort.	Major development	Noted	
Cartwright Arms Croughton Road	Perkins J	Conservatory clock tower porch	Supported	Permit (Condits)
Cartwright Arms Croughton Road	Perkins J	Ext door windows roof, int changes	Supported	Permit (Condits)
Aynhoe Corner Aynhoe Corner	Perkins J	New building (Heritage Centre)	Supported	Permit (Condits)
Grammar House 19 Croughton Road	Hodges C	Dem. Outbuilding & replace	Supported	Permitted
Grammar House 19 Croughton Road	Hodges C	Dem. Garage for dbl garage & studio	Supported	Permitted

## Maintenance Work

The Parish Council organised its annual clean up at the end of March. There was a good turnout and the village and approach roads look much better. Our thanks to all those who took part. The annual safety check of the Children's Playground and the Sports Field was carried out by R.O.S.P.A. and the facilities declared safe. Monthly inspections are carried out by Councillors. Further new Neighbourhood Watch signs have been purchased for the village.

## The Village Plan

A review of the Plan, which runs from 2003 to 2008, indicated that in those aspects where the Parish Council had some influence, most things had been resolved. Items that were outside the Parish Council's control had been less successful. Work has already started on setting up a new Village Plan to cover the period from 2008 to 2013. Progress on the old Plan has been made in the following areas: -

1. **Traffic Calming.** We have again been largely frustrated in our attempts to achieve much here, despite a petition signed by over 460 people presented to Northamptonshire County Council in June. However there has recently been a development, as the County has been successful in a bid to obtain Government funding to assist with road problems, and we are expecting to share in this. Trained volunteers were able to participate in Speedwatch exercises again this year.
2. **Parking** (or lack of it) is still a major problem being examined as part of the Village Development Project. Again we are faced with the problem of lack of funds to do anything. "No parking" signs have been placed on the two small greens.
3. **Waste Recycling Scheme.** At last we have been included in this system, which seems to be working reasonably well so far.
4. **Dog Fouling.** Due to the two dog bins this problem has decreased, although there are still one or two inconsiderate dog owners. There is a possibility that recent legislation could result in on-the-spot fines for not clearing up dog mess.
5. **Communication About the Council.** The village web site, [www.aynho.net](http://www.aynho.net), is regularly updated with the Minutes of Parish Council meetings, a farming column, details of several country walks and news of other village societies and activities. Thanks are due to Lawrence Wilkinson for running the website.
6. **Contacts with Local Farmers.** A fourth annual Farm Walk was held on the afternoon of 17<sup>th</sup> June 2007. Several local farms were visited and farmers were on hand to give talks and demonstrations and answer questions. At least 75 residents participated and enjoyed a tractor ride back to the Sports Field for a barbecue. The Farm Walk, again following a different route, will be repeated this year.
7. **Footpath Maintenance.** Gill Phillips has continued as Footpath Warden and regularly checks all the village footpaths. Local farmers continue to maintain the paths over their land and the Parish Council would like to thank them for their efforts. Details of five circular walks centred on the village are available on the website.
8. **Sports Field Facilities.** Action has been taken to get the necessary repairs done to the pipework and septic tank at the sports field pavilion, to ensure that there should be no problems there in the future.
9. **History Society.** A History Society under the Chairmanship of Brian Reynolds was established in June, and has been successful with at least 35 members.
10. **Village Shop.** At last there may be an opportunity to have a shop once more in Aynho. In July an informal group was set up consisting of Winifred Robinson, Stephen Brook, Colin Maklin, Amanda Limb and Peter Cole to look into the feasibility of renting part of the Cartwright Arms for a shop. A survey of villagers, with almost an 80% response rate, was followed by a Village Meeting in November. A presentation was made, showing that a shop could be viable, and a formal Steering

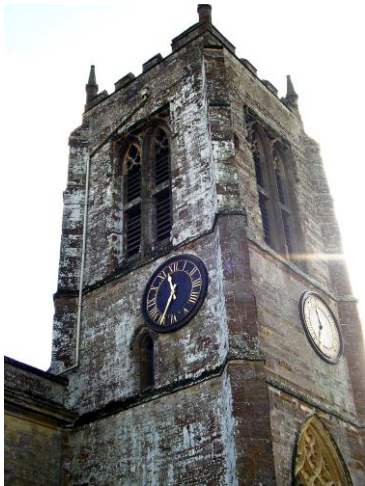
Group of Winifred, Stephen, Peter and Mark Krajewski was authorised to proceed with negotiations to try to secure a satisfactory outcome.

### Thanks

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

**Keith McClellan - Chairman.**

## ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH



At our Annual Parochial Church Meeting in April 2007 we failed to elect Churchwardens. We thank Graham Gibbs and Richard Sermon, our retiring Churchwardens, for the dedication they have shown in carrying out their duties over past years. We are continually grateful for all William Usher undertakes in his role as Churchwarden Emeritus.

In September slight changes were made to our Benefice pattern of worship resulting in an additional 9.30am service of Holy Communion on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in the month.

Sunday School continues to flourish, meeting in church at 9.30am on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays in the month. We thank Helen Boswell and her dedicated team of helpers, and also the children for the occasions they have led our worship in church, and especially for their delightful nativity play during our Carol Service complete with well-behaved baby Jesus (baby Megan).

'Praise and Play' started in September which meets at 10am in church on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of the month for babies, toddlers and little folk and parents, grandparents and carers, where we share fellowship over coffee while the children play followed by a short time of (noisy!) worship with songs, story and prayers.

The Benefice Holiday Club held in Croughton All Saints School in August was a great success drawing approximately 90 children, and numerous adult and teenage helpers. This year's Holiday Club entitled 'Champion's Challenge' takes place on the mornings of 18<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> August.

The Church fete was a happy, successful occasion held in the delightful grounds of Aynhoe Park House. Our grateful thanks once again to James Perkins. The fete this year will be held on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June.

The Children's Society box collection raised £269.30, plus an additional £75 from a very enjoyable coffee morning. Our thanks to Deborah Gibbs and Sybil Stevens.

The Bell Ringers continue to practice in Aynho on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month, other practices being shared between Croughton, Evenley and Kings Sutton. Our thanks to the team of ringers.



One of our greatest achievements this year was to hear the carillon operational once again after its much-needed overhaul. The total repair cost was over £6,000. A 'Spring Music Event' in aid of this project will take place in Church on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May at 7.30pm. Following storm damage, repairs have been undertaken to the West window of the Church Tower.

Our team of Visitors continue to visit within the Village – if you would like a visit, do let me know. Our Bible Study and Prayer Group meet monthly, and details of our worship and activities throughout the Benefice are printed on the weekly Pew Leaflet (available from church or on the church notice board) and in the Village News Letter. Our thanks to Sybil Stevens who this year produced her 500<sup>th</sup> edition of the Village Newsletter!

If you would like to arrange a baptism or wedding, to discuss church events or find out more about the life of our church do contact me at the Rectory.

**Revd Gill Barker, Rector**

## AYNHO SPORTS & RECREATION ASSOCIATION

2007 saw some major work on the pavilion with the completion of the outdoor drainage to meet safety standards and the refurbishment of the changing rooms. A new disabled toilet was added off the central room and the electrical system completely overhauled to meet the new safety regulations. The funds for this work, totalling over £8000, were contributed by the Parish Council, a grant and ASRA monies accrued from the park club draw, rentals and donations. Huge thanks go to the football team managers and those players who helped redecorate the changing rooms at the pavilion maintenance day last summer. Thanks also to the only people from the village Pete McCorkell and Elaine Austin (and children) who painted and the lovely Marlene who kept us all fed and watered.

AFC St John and Aynho Athletic continue to be respectful users of the football facilities and the tennis court and play equipment is in regular use. Please remind your children not to take anything with wheels onto the court though. There is a sign up but some children (and parents) can't seem to read!

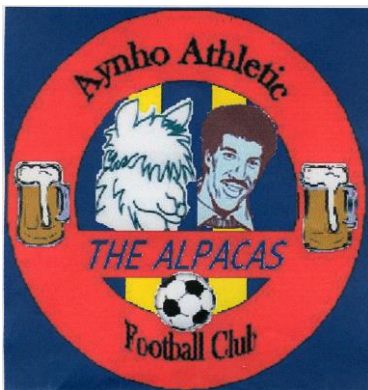
Thanks to everyone who signed up to the Park Club Draw this year. We have a great number of newcomers which gives us a monthly draw of £78. Valery Taylor West from Blacksmiths Hill (810118) looks after the draw and can be contacted if anyone wants to join. We now collect subscriptions in January with the draw being held at the end of every month, usually at the Mums & Tots group or anywhere there is a large gathering of people. The winners are always published in the newsletter. Half the money received from the draw is given out in prizes and the other half maintains the pavilion and field, paying for water, electricity etc. and contributing to the grass cutting.

Finally, don't forget, the pavilion is available to hire for a very nominal rate and I always welcome anyone who wants to help with the running of the pavilion or who has further ideas for its use – form an orderly queue!

*P.S. A note for all the lads who play football on the field every day if any of you live in the village. We are more than happy for you to use the field but please put your plastic bottles in the bin so I don't have to pick them up.*

**Kay Anderson 01869 810019**

## AYNHO ATHLETIC FOOTBALL CLUB



Following our gaining promotion at the end of last season, 07/08 saw Aynho competing in Division one of the Banbury and District Sunday morning league. Playing in the top division was always going to be tough for such a small club as Aynho, and the main aim was to avoid relegation. However, things worked out far better than we could have expected and some excellent performances saw us proudly sitting in second position over the Christmas/ New Year period. Finishing the season in a mid table position is more than anyone could have hoped for, and proves just how far the club has come in the last six years. A couple of outstanding displays this season were, a three all draw with potential champions Banbury Spurs, and a four one victory over the very experienced Rovers(Banbury). All in all it has been a season of great success on the pitch, with the team comfortably keeping its place in the top division.

Sadly off the pitch things have been a constant struggle for the club. The continued closure of the Cartwright Arms meant that the club did not have a venue for its various fund raisers. The pub had also been our sponsors in the past, and this year our funds were down by approximately £400, a lot of money to a small club like Aynho. The lack of a village pub also left us in the embarrassing position of not having a venue to invite our visitors back to after home games.

Next season will see some changes in personnel at the club. Peter Tustain is resigning as secretary/treasurer and his replacement will be Miss Fizz Dyndor. Team manager Tom Cliffe has also decided to step down, a new manager will be appointed during the summer.

**Peter Tustain.**



## **2007/08 pen pictures.**

**Jason Tustain** (goal keeper) 20 year old Jason is now in his fifth year at the club, a former player of the year, he also plays for Deddington Town on a Saturday.

**Terry Benbow** (goalkeeper) Local lad Terry has been with the club for five seasons. A popular member of the squad.

**Ben Harper** (defender) Yet another village lad, 18 year old Ben has established himself as a regular in the side, a great prospect for the future.

**Ian Skuce** (defender) Vastly experienced player. Ian has also played for Barford Utd and Deddington. A former player of the year.

**Gareth Lewis** (defender) Painter and decorator Gareth has been with the club for five seasons, also plays for Charlton on a Saturday.

**Ricci Campbell** (defender) Joined the club last season. Has quickly established himself in the team.

**Keith Wilks** (defender) Charlton post master Keith is a vastly experienced defender, very strong in the tackle. Also plays for Charlton on a Saturday.

**Adam Tustain** (defender) Natural left footer Adam has been with the club for five seasons.

**Darren Atkins** (midfield) Darren is an experienced player whose former teams have seen him play at a high standard.

**Dave Butler** (midfield) Dave has been with Aynho for three years a former winner of players' player of the year.

**Neil O'Connell** (midfield) Club captain. Has been with the club for four years. Very quick, with an excellent first touch.

**Jack O'Connell** (midfield) Jack has been with Aynho for two seasons. A very popular member of the team

**Kevin Tustain** (midfield) 22 year old who has been with the club for five seasons. Plays for Deddington Town on Saturdays.

## **AYNHO VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE**

We have this wonderful system whereby all our regular Hall users nominate a Hall Committee representative, ensuring that we always have a full committee and that our users views and needs are heeded. In October we co-opted Ted Sutton to the Committee as he was already involved with our work. We welcome the new History Society to the Hall and hope that it will prosper.

We carry out continual maintenance of the building but our major improvement this year has been the new curtains, which we hope everyone will like. We had trouble with the hearing, loop system but this is now repaired. However, the function of the switch for Hall or Back Room is in doubt and it is suggested that the A + B option is selected. We had to replace the hot water urn when the second Lincat broke down and could not be repaired. The new urn is basic and hopefully trouble free.

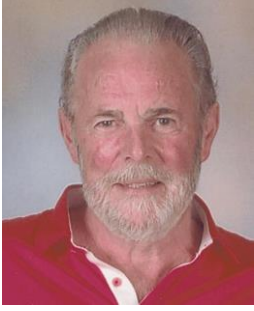
The Post Office appears to have weathered the recent bout of closures but it does need to be used on Tuesday afternoons to justify its continuance.

We have an excellent village facility in the Hall which is well used and solvent at very reasonable hire charges. For bookings contact the booking secretary on 01869810341

**Douglas Ward, Committee Chairman.**

## NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

### Councillor Ron Sawbridge



I'm going to start by talking to you about the county council budget for the year which has just started. In our manifesto prepared for the election in 2005 we undertook to keep any increases in council tax in line with inflation. There was a proviso that this assumed we would be treated fairly by central government. Despite the fact that we have not been treated fairly over the last two years we have kept to our pledge in the budget for 2008/9. The council tax for this year shows the county council element increasing by 4.2% in line with the current rate of inflation measured by the RPI. For information, the county council part of you tax is 71% of the total, the police authority is 13%, the district council 12%, and the parish council 4%.

The county council receives income from three main sources, a direct ring fenced schools grant from central government only to be used for education, a formula grant also from central government, and finally the amount you pay in council tax. If the formula grant from the government does not increase by the same percentage as cost increases then the difference has to be made up from the tax you pay. The reason I don't consider that we are being fairly treated by central government is because they are not giving sufficient allowance for the fact that we have the fastest increase in population of any county, and yet we are to receive the lowest percentage increase of any county in the East Midland Region. Against this background we are also facing an increase in the numbers of the elderly and this presents a significant challenge for health and care services, including mental health services. Then there is the growing problem of how to cater for the large numbers of children and young people coming into the county from Eastern Europe who do not have English as their first language. This is placing a strain on our schools particularly in Northampton and Wellingborough. The government is now treating us financially as if this county is a unitary authority, an authority with only two levels of local government rather than the three we have now. This is reflected in the fact that our district councils have received an even lower increase in the money they receive from the government than the county council. This means that we urgently need to increase our partnership working not only with our district and borough colleagues but also with the private, voluntary, and community sector to find imaginative ways around the problems of service delivery against a problem of tight financial restraints.

In order to keep council tax increases at an acceptable level without drastically affecting service levels the council needs to become much more efficient. We have a new and excellent chief executive in Katherine Kerswell and an equally good new head of services for children and young people, Paul Burnett. The whole management structure is in the process of being revised cutting out a layer of management, a new more efficient and reliable I.T. system is to be introduced, and very importantly training is to be given to change the staff culture. Nobody is more aware than me of the poor level of communication in some certain parts of the council. Officers of the council need to start treating members of the public as customers rather than nuisances, because that's the impression that is often given!

So, back to the financial scene for this year, very much a 'no change situation' from the year which ended three weeks ago. We shall be spending: £72m on services for children and young people. This does not include money going straight to schools, part of this is the ring fenced grant from government but also a top-up from the council. £132m will be spent on community services including adult social care, a small increase on the past year. £92m on the environment, transport, highways, and protective services. In this connection you will have heard that the contract with Atkins for road maintenance is coming to an end and we have awarded the new contract to MGWSP (May Gurney Ltd). Hopefully they will work more efficiently and effectively than Atkins and improve the maintenance service on roads and footpaths. Having said this there is an awful lot of catching up to do and this will take quite a long time. It looks as if Brackley will at last have a new fire station and hopefully work will start on this in a few months time.

To finalise the budget part of my presentation, the amount to be raised through council tax is £219m equating to a council tax of £956.05 for a band 'd' property (last year £917.55).

As the county councillor for the Brackley West division I also chair the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee. This includes the scrutiny of the services provided for education and all the children in the care of the county council. I am a member of the Corporate Parenting Board, a member of one of the two Adoption Panels, the county council's representative on SACRE (the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education), and also the representative on the East Midlands Reserve Forces and Cadets Association, and finally vice-chair of governors at Magdalen College School.

Over the last few months I have been spending a great deal of time talking to schools about the problems they are facing in educating children who don't have English as their first language. Some schools have to cope with as many as fifty languages and this is placing a great deal of strain on their finances. The amount allowed by central government to cover the cost of what is called personalised learning is £601,000 a year but this is not sufficient to cater for children with special educational needs plus the immigrant children who need additional English lessons. The county top up the £601,000 to £900,000 but this is still not enough to adequately address a growing problem.

Turning now to the local scene, every one of the 73 county councillors has an annual sum of £10,000 at their disposal for minor schemes in their division. In the year just ended I have used up my full allowance on the following projects: Aynho: £350 contribution to the cost of updating the village plan, Croughton: £2,115 renovation of the war memorial, and £2,300 for two additional street lights and supports, Evenley £1,267 replacement of two very old street lights, Farthinghoe £1,937 payment for two additional street lights and supports, Brackley community association £1,032 contribution to one year's operating costs, Time2talk £1,000 contribution towards operating costs in Brackley.

The scheme is to continue for 2008/9 and I would very much like to include something of a substantial nature for this village.

Nobody is more aware than me of the problem of speeding traffic through Aynho and I am continually pressing the council for action to mitigate this problem. An action group has been formed to address this issue and I have joined this. Many villages have similar problems and the county have to prioritise and concentrate expenditure where it will have the most effect. Some villages have a much greater problem than Aynho particularly with the amount of traffic. I have raised this as I don't think we should expect a very expensive traffic calming scheme.

**Ron Sawbridge - County Councillor, West Brackley Ward.**

## **SOUTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCILLOR REPORT**

### **Councillor John Townsend**



Many changes continue to affect Local Government. Looking back at previous reports I have made, some seem to have been issues for a number of years. One such has been the transfer of the ownership of the Council's 2,700 houses to a Housing Association. This is now happening as I write and, as of March 17<sup>th</sup>, the houses will be owned by a new Housing Association, South Northants Homes. Tenants should not experience too many immediate changes since most of the staff responsible for maintenance and management are being transferred to South Northants Homes. The management board of 15 will be divided between members of South Northants Council, Tenants and independently nominated members.

For myself, as Cabinet Member responsible for the Built Environment, I have spent a considerable time in discussions on the planning issues involved with the Governments proposed expansion of Northampton, Daventry and Towcester. One of the main issues has been that the new Local Development Framework, which is to replace the South Northants Local Plan, is to be a joint plan for Northampton Borough Council, Daventry District Council and South Northants Council. With all the emphasis on the growth of the towns it is important that the needs of the very large rural areas are not forgotten. I regularly emphasise that a village such as Aynho, nearly 30 miles from Northampton, has very little real affinity with Northampton.

However important future plans are for the District, Individual Planning applications can still generate heated debate. It is worth pointing out, as you will see from the Parish Council report, that most applications pass smoothly through the system. One application that did not was the application for a workshop and storage building at Aynho Park Corner. Without opening up the debate I followed the discussions at the Parish Council open meeting with great interest. With an issue like that a decision has to be made. Inevitably some are not going to agree but I think that the meeting was well handled by the parish Council and I certainly felt that I was aware of all points that were raised.

I note that I have reported on the old Burgess site in Brackley for the last 4 years. Happily work is now well advanced and hopefully should be substantially completed by the end of the year. I hope that the development with its mixture of shops and flats will make a real improvement to the Town Centre.

**John Townsend, District Councillor for Little Brook Ward**



### NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

There is very little to report this year as the police ringmaster system has not been working for some months. It is now up and running again. Our neighbourhood police Officer Jez Shillito has been in attendance in the village hall most Tuesdays during post office hours. The fire at Cartwright Arms early in March was reported by the police, otherwise only incidents reported by residents were circulated.

**Linda Hoddinott**

### AYNHO GARDENING CLUB



2007 marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Gardening Club. We celebrated the event with a garden tea party, which fortunately took place on one of the rather rare sunny afternoons in July. We combined this celebration with a farewell to Pat Tanner, who contributed a great deal to the success of the club over the years. It is thanks to her and other members who give of their time so willingly that the club continues to flourish twenty-five years on.

The club year followed its usual format of monthly meetings from January to November, consisting of a talk by a speaker on a topic of horticultural interest, followed by refreshments and a chance to chat to the speaker and the other members.

Speakers came to talk on a range of topics: *Winter Gardening*, *Houseplants*, *Spring Perennials*, *British wildflowers*, *Preparing for a Show* and *Healthy Plants*. We also had a practical demonstration on how to create hanging baskets. A new feature for us was a morning workshop on pruning. This was given by a very experienced horticulturalist, who patiently went round a selection of members' gardens, advising on problem shrubs and trees and showing us how to prune effectively.

As usual, there were two full-day visits during the season, one to Kew Gardens in May and the other to two gardens in Bedfordshire in July. Despite the general damp conditions, the Gardening Club's luck held and both days were dry. Our evening visit in August was to a private garden in Avon Dassett. Once again the sun shone and we had a delightful tour of a beautifully tended hillside garden.

The annual Flower and Produce Show was held at the beginning of September and it was good to see entries from so many Aynho residents. We always fear that the difficult growing conditions will mean depleted tables, but once again the hall was full of colour and fragrance. This year there was a new award, a Homecraft plate, for the competitor who had won the most prizes in the cookery and flower arranging categories.

We ended the year in November with our AGM, combined with an excellent talk on Jordan, given by Keith McClellan. This was followed by a buffet supper provided by the committee and members.

Events to look forward to this year include trips to gardens in Worcestershire in June and to RHS Wisley in October. There will also be talks on a range of topics from *Cherries* (with samples to taste!) via *The flowers of Greece*, to *Lilies*, *Lamas* and *Leeches*. If any of these takes your fancy, we are always delighted to welcome new members and guests at our monthly meetings on the second Wednesday of the month in the village hall starting at 8 p.m. So please come and join us.

**Anthea Bazin - Chair**



## AYNHO RECORDED MUSIC SOCIETY

I suppose the most remarkable thing about ARMS, now approaching the end of its sixth season, is its continuity. We still have most of the membership who came along in 2002 and the format today is much the same as it was on the first night. We listen to a selection of tuneful records, interspersed with not too serious commentary and enjoy a glass of wine and each other's company in the interval.

Some wag once said that 'ARMS was just a wine club with a little music at either end'. There is an element of truth in that – it is certainly difficult enough to get them to sit down again for the second half of the evening. But, seriously, if we emerge later from the hall intoxicated; it is not the wine but the joy and the delight of music that has raised our spirits.

Do come. We meet in the Village Hall on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm from October until May.

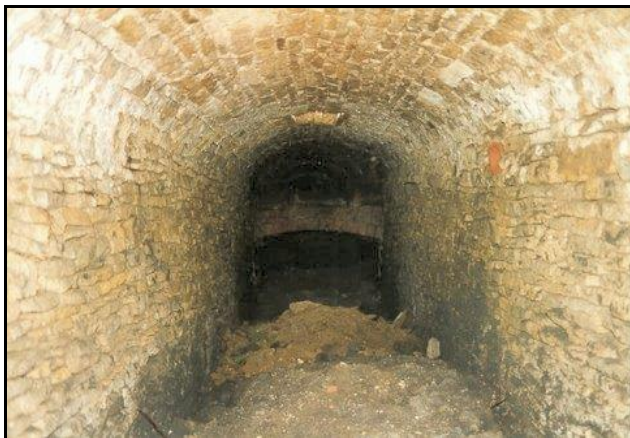
**Bernard Middleton**

## AYNHO HISTORY SOCIETY

In 2007 Aynho History Society was formed at a meeting in Aynhoe Park. The initiative for this arose from the Village Survey 2002 and AHS now has thirty-five members. To date we have concentrated our activity on researching local, village history.

The projects have included research into the extensive network of tunnels that lie beneath the village; the ancient turnpike roads and stagecoach routes that passed through Aynho; the War Memorials and Aynho's first hospital. We also had a visit from a former soldier who was based in Aynhoe Park during WW2. In a discussion with some of the older residents, he was able to tell us many interesting things about Aynho's role in the storage and distribution of fuel. As well as continuing and extending our local research, our future agendas will include occasional presentations and visits to places of local interest.

We believe it is very important to record the memories of the older residents in the village. This programme has started and we have secured a number of photographic and oral records. In addition, we have started to collect items of local memorabilia and books associated with Aynho – of which there are a surprisingly large number. We have also had a collection of Aynho Park Rangers Football Club memorabilia donated. Information about these items is available to all.



*One of Aynho's tunnels*



*Coronation of King George V 1937*

One of our members has compiled Aynho Census Records from 1841 – 1901 inc. These are a wonderful source of reference and show who lived where and when. Some of them also include the type of work done by individuals, e.g. teacher, scholar, stationmaster, domestic, etc. These records are available to residents of the village for research purposes. For further information please contact **Peter Cole – 01869 811261**

Aynho History Society meets at 7.30 pm on the last Wednesday of each month in Aynho Village Hall. New members and guests are always welcome.

For further information please contact **Brian Reynolds – 01869 811007.**

## AYNHO WRITERS

After several years of wondering how we can squeeze any more people round the table in the committee room, 2007 was the year we finally decided to cap our membership at 20. Quite apart from the seating arrangements, allowing everyone time to read aloud each month is an important aspect of each meeting. So, we now have a full house.



Meetings continue to be exciting with a very varied input from our very varied members. The poets among us continue to have their poems published in national anthologies, and group members encourage each other to submit their work for publication and to enter competitions. There has been much local interest in the two books which Dawn Griffis has written: *Aynhoe: Village Life The Way It Was* and *Nursing at the Horton: The Way it Was When Care to the Local People Really Mattered*. Both are available from Banbury Museum as well as from the web.

A full day Writers' Workshop with in-put from a visiting speaker has become an annual fixture for the group, and in September 07 we were fortunate to have local author Linda Newbery share some aspects of her writing success, followed by a successful workshop organised by group members, Keith McClellan and Brian Reynolds.

Our Christmas meeting was particularly hilarious this year as we read out each other's anonymous scripts and tried to guess who wrote them. Our literary efforts were amply rewarded by Christmas lunch at the Rose and Crown.

Once again the group enthusiastically supported the King's Sutton Literary Festival in March.

Our annual publication, which this year was called *Inspirations*, was of a very high standard and much appreciated by all who read it. A few copies are still available from Brian Reynolds.

**Sue Hunter – Facilitator**

## AYNHO WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



Aynho W.I continues to flourish with 25 members. Talks at our monthly meetings have varied from Sulgrave Manor & the Washington family to Shepherding & the Wool trade as well as life on a Royal Estate. We have learned about Tai Chi and even tried out a few moves while the illustrated talk on Fungi was followed up with a field trip. Local speakers are especially welcome and we were pleased to welcome Winifred Robinson who spoke of her work in *You & Yours* and other BBC experiences.

There has also been the opportunity to take part in events organised by our Northamptonshire Federation. We have supported the refurbishment of the new headquarters for the NFWI by purchasing both a footprint and bricks. Members who attended the AGM heard reports on the closing of the Post Offices, the Home Energy Efficiency Partnership and a report from Yorkshire Tea on their tree scheme, with the final speaker, James Wight, the son of James Herriot giving a very amusing speech about his father and the life of a vet.

Members have received a wealth of information on current campaigns led by our National Federation & discussed & voted on current proposals.

Our local group of 8 WI's has entertained us with a talk on the Great Train Robbery and the House of Lords by Sir Paul Hayter and Fiona Hodges read one of the lessons at the group Carol Service in Syresham.

Village activities have been supported with a stall at May Day in the Square and serving cakes at the Church fete. The Christmas party was yet again an enjoyable one with husbands and many friends.

There has only been one outing this year. A coach trip was arranged for Christmas shopping to Cheltenham. However we have continued to enjoy lunch at the college in Banbury as well as beauty treatment.

Our walks were hit badly by the wet weather but whenever possible they were continued and we have enjoyed walking in Blenheim Park, and the Deer park at Stowe as well as more local walks—followed occasionally by a well earned lunch

If you are interested in joining the W.I you are welcome to come along to any meeting to hear at first hand what opportunities are open to members. Our programme for 2008 can be found on [www.aynho.net](http://www.aynho.net) or see the notice board outside the Village hall.

**Barbara Watkins, President, Aynho W.I.**

### **AYNHO COMMUNITY THEATRE**



Despite a fluctuating number of members A.C.T continues to thrive in Aynho. In June 2007 our production of Midsummer Night's Dream was enjoyed by all involved although we had to relocate two of our "outdoor" performances from Aynho Park to the shelter of the Village Hall due to the inclement weather.

In November a light comedy, "I Thought I Heard a Rustling," by Alan Plater was well received, and our usual format of a bar and cheese supper on two of the three evenings helped to sell tickets.

By the time you read this I hope many of you will have seen our current production of Pygmalion being directed by Bob Mann on 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> April.

As always we would welcome new members for both on and off the stage. We are especially hoping to attract more young people and to this end we propose to put on a pantomime in the run up to Christmas.

**Ann Rickard – chairman**

### **AYNHO SHORT MAT BOWLS**



17 loyal and supportive members meet Tuesdays 2.30-4.30pm in the Village Hall with refreshments!

Annual fee £10 plus £1 per session.

**For further details ring  
Jean Darby 810373 or  
Doug Ward 810723**

### **AYNHO ARTS CLUB**

We continue to have a faithful following and our theatre trips have been well supported.

April 2007 Derngate 'High Society'

March 2008 Oxford Playhouse 'The Clean House'.

**To be placed on our mailing list please contact one of the following:-**

**Jennie Pusey 810377  
Eleanor King 810130  
Jean Darby 810373**



## WIGGLES AND GIGGLES



Wiggles & Giggles Baby & Toddler Group continues to meet on Thursday mornings between 9.30-11.30am in the term time. 2007 was a great year for the group with a lot of new faces joining us regularly, particularly baby faces – we must be enjoying a local baby boom!

We had a great day out last July to Hatton Farm Park, where us Mums were very British and soldiered on through a rainy picnic lunch to be rewarded with a beautiful sunny afternoon. By the end of the day the children (and most of the mothers) were exhausted, dirty, sticky and very happy – it was a great day out, enjoyed by all.

We had a pottery party before Christmas, which was a huge hit. Again there were a lot of messy children and mums by the end of the session but all had great fun - and a lot of Grandparents Christmas presents were ticked off the list!

Also, we were lucky enough to be visited by Father Christmas during our annual Christmas party. He had a tough job on his hands to keep 33 children enthralled but he managed brilliantly.

If you have yet to try us out, do come along. We have a separate baby zone, where under 1's can enjoy some tranquil play away from the toddlers. Each session is £1 per child and 50p for subsequent children which includes 2hrs free play, snack time and a structured music session – and there is usually fresh coffee and home-made goodies on offer for you! Mums, Dads, Carers and Grandparents are all welcome.

If you would like further information, please contact Tiggy Atkinson on 01869 811065.

### Forthcoming Village Events

<b>21<sup>st</sup> April</b>	<b>Annual Village Meeting</b>
<b>11<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Village Future Needs Day</b>
<b>17<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Maytime in The Square</b>
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> June</b>	<b>Farm Walk</b>



*Visit of John Fitcher (2<sup>nd</sup> from right), stationed in Aynho during World War II*