



The Apricot Village

April 2010

THE PARISH COUNCIL

Keith McClellan was re-elected Chairman and Roger Bradford Vice-Chairman at the AGM in May 2009. Andrew Bellamy has resigned in March this year as the responsibilities of his current employment mean he is unable to attend the meetings and give the excellent service he has so far provided. Sadie Patamia has continued as Clerk and Amby Hitchcox as Responsible Finance Officer.

Finance

At 31st March 2010 the Council had £12149.13 in its bank accounts, and assets to the value of £119,718.71. The precept is £17844.75 towards a budget of £19,597.96.

A.S.R.A. Account has a balance of £6675.41 as of 25/03/2010. Income £9503.41 Expenditure £2828.35. Internal and External Auditors approved the accounts and The RFO was praised for the accuracy and completeness of her work. The accounts are available for inspection under the usual rules for public funds.

Maintenance Work

The Parish Council organised two Village clean ups this year: one in October and one at the end of March. There was a good turnout and the village and approach roads look much better. The council would like to thank 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. Councillors continue to carry out monthly inspections of the playground and sports field equipment.

Roads and Transport

The Major traffic calming works carried out under the Right Tracks rural road safety scheme should be completed with a complete resurfacing of the altered sections by late April 2010. This should result in slower traffic through the village, and better parking on the B4100 areas. The first stage of an independent safety audit of the scheme has been carried out. The second stage will be carried out when the scheme is completed and a final stage a year after completion.

In spite of our efforts the Charlton Road was not included in the programme. This will be the focus of our concerns once the new arrangements on the B4100 have become well established.

Community Facilities

Kay Anderson has completely redecorated and refurbished the pavilion and issued a leaflet of forthcoming events as the ASRA report describes. The Apricot Room at the Cartwright Hotel has also become a popular venue for various village events.

Aynho Business Community

This group, set up as a result of the parish plan, has had several meetings during the year.

Environment

The Council has developed a Sustainable Community Policy which will be the basis for a number of activities.

A Biodiversity Survey of the Parish is in the early stages with information being drawn together on Trees and Birds. We need further help on insects, butterflies, wild flowers and the animal population. Anyone with interest and or knowledge in these areas would be welcome to contribute.

The Council is negotiating to have Green Lane fenced and gated where the grass begins so that walkers can always get through, but only landowners' vehicles can use it during the winter months. This should protect this ancient route and prevent the churned up mud and dumping of refuse experienced during the year.

We continue to receive complaints about dog fouling in the village. The strongest complaints come from dog owners who understandably feel let down by the few who do not clear up after their pets.

Farm Walk

Another successful Farm Walk was held in June 2009. Walkers were transported to Nell Bridge farm where they were given interesting and entertaining information by David and Sheila Belcher before walking the tow path down to the wharf. Peter Cole gave some interesting information about the canal. After a chance to cool off with cold drinks the walkers continued up to Lower Aynho Grounds where the farm manager gave talk about aspects of their farming. From there the trailer returned walkers to the Sports Field for BBQ and quiz results.

Communications

The website at www.aynho.org is up and running and village organisations can update their own sections. Members can also choose to be posted when new items appear. This is very helpful for Neighbourhood Watch and local crime information generally. The SNC website has a link to planning applications in the village.

The Newsletter continues to develop now that information can be passed on through the email address. Our thanks to Sybil Stevens for an excellent service.

Also thanks to Cameron Anderson for taking on the role of Banbury Guardian Correspondent.

Affordable Housing

As a result of the recent affordable housing survey. Parish Councillors joined with housing project manager and a planner to walk round the village to see if a site was available for the four houses. Four sites were identified for evaluation by the planning team. Should any of these be found suitable the council would have to identify the local connection criteria by which such tenancies could be agreed, as well as the usual planning scrutiny.

New Councillors

There will be an election for the full parish council in May 2011. it would be very helpful if anyone interested would attend some of the meetings to see how things work. The main qualification is an interest in the village community. Training opportunities are plentiful and non threatening. Please come and see what you think.

Planning The following applications were received during the year: -

Property	Works Requested	Aynho PC Decision	SNC Decision
9 Cartwright Gardens	Extension of garage to front and change flat roof to pitched roof over garage	Supported	Granted
2 Butts Close	Single storey side extension, first floor extension to side and rear. Replace existing flat roof with pitched roof	Supported (conditions)	Granted
8 The Square	Change of use from commercial use to residential use with alterations	Supported (conditions)	Granted
11 Croughton Road	Alterations to internal serving hatch	Supported	Granted
12 The Square	Infilling of existing opening and creation of a door and window in the former stable now garage	Supported	Granted
13 The Butts	Pitched Roof over existing flat roof	Supported	Granted
6 Blacksmiths Hill	Staircase and landing to link upstairs rooms	Supported	Granted
Friars Well Roundtown	Conversion of outbuildings to three dwellings. Works to include extension of stables, roof lights, infill of existing openings, insertion of new doors and windows and alterations to existing openings. Removal and insertion of internal partitions	Supported	Refused
1 Charlton Road	Move vehicular access	Objected	Refused
33 Blacksmiths Hill	Replacement of double glazed doors to front elevation	Supported	Granted
The Grammar House	Standalone external solar powered hot water system, The Grammar House, Croughton Road	Supported	
2 Butts Close	Single storey side extension, first floor side extension with pitched roof to replace existing flat roof	Supported	
The Grammar House	Re-instatement of 2 no. 17th century windows, first floor west elevation & ground floor north elevation. Replacement of existing pantry timber window. Replacement of existing cold room timber window. Fitting recessed down lighters & traditional wall lights to front & rear sitting rooms	Supported	

Thanks

I would like to thank my fellow councillors, the Clerk and the Responsible Finance Officer for their hard work during the year and for their support during my chairmanship. After being re-elected chairman for the last ten years I feel it is time for a change. I will remain on the council for a few more months, but the council will have a new chairman from May 2010.

Keith McClellan – Chairman

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH, AYNHO



At our Annual Parochial Church Meeting in April 2009 we were pleased to elect Church Wardens, Anthea Bazin and Graham Gibbs. We are, as ever, very grateful to William Usher for all he undertakes, both as a Lay Reader and in his role as Churchwarden Emeritus, in particular for the support he is providing for the new churchwardens.

We were delighted to welcome Eddie Smith as Deacon for the benefice. His work in the different parishes is much appreciated. We look forward to his ordination in June 2010. We are also very grateful to the Reverend Hugh Warwick and Carrie O'Regan for undertaking extra pastoral duties while Revd Gill Barker recovers from illness.

We were very sad that Bishop Ian died during the summer of 2009 just before he was due to retire. His successor Donald Allister has been elected and will be installed in April.

As you can see from the above picture the year brought some delightful scenes around the Church but the subsequent thawing of the deep snow on the Church roof caused water damage to the organ. As we go to print this is in the process of being repaired.

The Church fete was a particularly successful occasion since the weather smiled on us and there was a good turn out. We thank James Perkins for allowing us the use of the wonderful grounds of Aynhoe Park House.

To raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support there was a concert of Advent music by the Brackley Jubilee Choir at the beginning of December. This most enjoyable evening raised £260.

The Children's Society box collection raised £354.08. Our thanks go to Deborah Gibbs and Sybil Stevens.

Sunday School (9.15am in church on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month during term time) continues to flourish under the guidance of Helen Boswell and her dedicated team of helpers: our grateful thanks to them. Praise and Play (10-11.30am 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of each month except August) is a treasured time of fellowship and worship for babies, toddlers and little folk, parents, carers and grandparents. It was a particular pleasure that several of the mothers were confirmed during the year.

Children and helpers voted the Benefice Holiday Club held in Croughton All Saints School for a week in August a great success alike. Holiday Club 2010 will take place 9th – 13th August. Our thanks to all who help our children grow in the love of Christ.

Our team of Visitors continue to visit within the village. Our monthly Bible Study and Prayer Group flourish. Details of all our church activities and services are available in the Village Newsletter; in Church; on the Church notice board and on the village website.

For details of our church life, or to arrange a baptism or wedding do contact **Revd Gill Barker MA, Rector**. This report was compiled by Anthea Bazin and Graham Gibbs, Church Wardens, during the temporary absence of Gill Barker.

AYNHO SPORTS AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION

The pavilion and sports field has continued to be a useful facility for the village, hosting a few children's and family parties, the annual village Farm Walk, a Park Club Draw picnic, regular rehearsals for bands, two village clean up refreshments, a couple of charity coffee mornings, the Veteran Cycle Club meeting, the Leukaemia Research Fun Run, a fantastic Halloween Party for the village, village panto rehearsals and the regular football matches by Aynho Athletic and Brackley Ladies Football Clubs. Sadly AFC St Johns folded this year but I'd like to thank George and John Glover for their commitment to the running of the club and their co-operation and help over the last few seasons.

Likewise, my thanks go to Neil, Felicity and Andy from the current teams for their continued respect for the premises. Aynho play on the pitch closest the pavilion on Sunday mornings and Brackley the furthest pitch on Sunday afternoons. Home fixture dates can be found on the leagues websites if you want to come and watch.

After 10 years in the village I have decided to spend some time this year improving the facilities at the pavilion in the hope that more people will make use of it. With your help it could become a useful social facility giving us many of the things that villagers requested in the Parish Plan of 2008. The Pavilion Cafe opens officially on 20th April 2010 twice a week with occasional events planned on Saturdays. Before this everyone is invited to an

Kay Anderson kaynho@lineone.net 01869 810019

AYNHO ATHLETIC FOOTBALL CLUB



Aynho Athletic Football Club has enjoyed a mixed season so far. The team won the Charlton Sevens competition for the second time in three years back in August but then went on to lose their opening six games of the season. The team pressed on though and only lost one game between October and February with a little help from the weather, which saw several games cancelled. As the season comes to a close Aynho currently sit in third

place in division 2 of the Banbury and District Sunday Morning league and have just qualified for their first ever cup final after beating Bretch Hill 2-1 in a tightly fought contest. Aynho will go into the final as massive underdogs as their opponents are likely to be the unbeaten Highfield, who possess a number of semi-professional players. The final will be at Easington Sports and the date has been pencilled in for April 18th so come on down and support your village.

Easter Sunday once again saw the team take on the 'Aynho Old Boys' in the annual charity match. The game kicked off at 11am and moved onto the pub afterwards to celebrate their 2-0 victory. You can keep up to date with any changes on the final or get the latest information on the charity match from the teams website at www.aynhoathletic.co.uk

AYNHO VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

The main improvement this year has been the fitting of a new kitchen, which has resulted in the County giving the Hall the highest five star rating. I wish to thank the Committee members who managed this project.



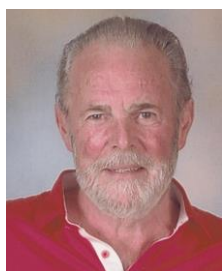
We now have a modern piano, which is available to all Hall users, and we hope it will enhance existing activities and, perhaps, generate new ones. The cost of this has been entirely covered by donations from village groups and individuals. Half the amount was given by John Fulcher as a thank you to Aynho for the enjoyable times he spent in the Hall when stationed here during the last war. The History Society made the arrangements for this so thank you to them also.

Last year I reported that we were buying a portable PA system for the use of people giving talks in the Hall. Unfortunately the equipment we ordered became unavailable and only recently have we been able to purchase a substitute. This is for the use of any Hall hirer. There are wireless microphones, lapel or hand held, and it will play tapes or record.

The Committee and Valerie Sutton continue to work hard to keep this village facility up to scratch and I thank them all for their devotion.

Douglas Ward. - Hall Committee Chairman.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT – BRACKLEY WEST



For the financial year just started the County Council element of local tax has increased by 3.5%. This percentage increase is slightly higher than for most local authorities and there are several reasons for this. We also have to bear in mind that Northamptonshire still has the lowest County Council tax in England. For a band 'D' property the council tax is £1,028 compared for example with Nottinghamshire at £1,250 and Buckinghamshire at £1,110. One of the main reasons why our tax has had to increase by 3.5% is that the increase in the formula grant settlement from the Government was below the average for all County Councils in England and actually lower than all other councils in the East

Midlands. The shortfall in funding from the Government has to be made up from the tax paid by residents. Then we have to add the fact that Northampton has the fastest growing population of any county leading to increased pressure on services. Also, the present economic situation has had an impact on the collection of council tax – the number of new properties built is less than anticipated and the collection rate on existing properties has reduced due to some people having difficulty in paying the tax.

The preparation of the budget for this year has been subject to more consultation and scrutiny than ever before. The main problem areas in setting the budget were on services for Children, Young People, and Families, and on Health and Social Care. Scrutiny were not confident that the proposed base budgets for both services were adequate and it was felt that they represented a high risk to the delivery of the budget. The main influencing factor with children is the increase in the number in care up to 700 when an assumption had been made that there would be a reduction. With adult health and social care the main driving force is the fact that people are living longer and receiving more support to live at home. As a result of the scrutiny process £1.5m was added to the Children, Young People, and Families budget, and £2.0m to Health and Social Care. In addition another £2m of capital has been allocated for road repair work.

During the budget consultation process with the public all but four of the comments received were in connection with the proposal to reduce the subsidy on the Schools' Music Service. As a result this proposal was subjected to scrutiny and eventually a recommendation was made to Cabinet to reduce the grant for 2010/11 by £50k instead of £238k. The director of the service was satisfied

he could accept this without any reduction in service. During the year members and officers of the Council will work with the Music Service in the preparation of a robust business plan designed to place the service on a more sustainable footing.

Just to finish the information about the budget, the amount allowed for services to Children, Young People, and Families is £96m. This doesn't include the Dedicated Schools Grant for education amounting to about £550m. On Health and Social Care the budgeted amount is £148m, on Customer and Community Service £59m, on Environment, Growth, and Commissioning £91m, and on Capital Financing £26m.

Turning now to local issues: the new fire station in Brackley is now open at a cost of about £850k. The Right Tracks scheme in Aynho is progressing at the time of writing this report and I am aware that there has already been some criticism but I do remind everyone that its purpose is to encourage drivers to drive slower and more carefully. Only time will demonstrate if this has been achieved. The main immediate problem throughout the county is the state of the roads. The recent cold weather exacerbated an existing problem and there are now thousands of potholes all over the county. The County Council and its contractors are doing their best to address this problem but it will take time to bring the roads up to a reasonable state.

In conclusion, my Empowering Councillors' allowance of £10,000 for 2009/10 was allocated to the following: Charlton Memorial Hall £2,500; Friends of Magdalen College School £2,500; Greatworth Parish Council £2,128; Evenley Parish Council £1,196; Brackley Players £1,000; Brackley Alzheimer's Society £430; and Farthinghoe Community Primary School £170.

Ron Sawbridge,
County Councillor for Brackley West.

22nd March 2010.

SOUTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCILLOR – LITTLE BROOK WARD



Although we have to expect change, and indeed many changes are for the better, there seem to be more plans for developments which, unless handled carefully, could change South Northamptonshire forever.

A route has been announced for the High Speed Rail that is to run from London to Birmingham, which goes through the middle of South Northamptonshire. Although we may support the principle of such a project, the route as planned at the moment is going to seriously affect Brackley and several villages as well as some of our most beautiful unspoilt countryside. I feel there is much debate, and indeed questioning, to be had on the approach that has been adopted in this draft plan.

Another issue that is facing the Council is what South Northants's stance should be on Wind Farms. So far proposals have been announced for three across the District, one above Marston St Lawrence, another between Sulgrave, Weston and Helmdon, and a third above the Tove Valley at Alderton. All of these sites are in sensitive areas and have aroused considerable concern from local residents.

An ongoing issue is the expansion of Northampton, being part of the Government imposed South Midland expansion plan. This has to be delivered by a Joint Planning Committee, of which I am a member, from South Northants, Daventry and Northampton Councils. An initial Plan was introduced in July 2009 which made local people realise the scale of possible development over the next 30 years, and which raised many objections.

We also have to be concerned on developments across our border in North Oxfordshire. The expansion of Banbury and Bicester where a new eco town is planned will inevitably mean an increasing amount of traffic crossing our district. There is a Public Enquiry into a large Wind Farm at Ardley where there are also plans for a possible Waste incinerator

On the positive side of this Government's drive for growth the plans to double the size of Towcester, has bought a lot of money into the development of derelict land between Towcester

High Street and Easton Neston Park. The Council with West Northamptonshire Development Corporation are purchasing all the properties on the site, including 30 acres of Water meadows, which was part of Easton Neston Park. This major project will, when completed, go a long way to ensuring that an expanded Towcester has a Town Centre large enough for both the old and new inhabitants.

On a different subject it is pleasing that the Council's recycling efforts are so successful. Over 50% of all waste is now recycled and South Northants is in the top 10% of Councils across the country. This impressive figure is very dependent on the support of the residents of the District.

John Townsend South Northants Councillor, Little Brook Ward

March 2010

AYNHOE PARK

2009 was a busy year for the Park with the completion of the external works, finished off with the magnificent new entrance gates. They took longer than expected but were well worth the wait and justified the considerable commitment James has invested into the infrastructure of this busy Stately home.

We have continued hosting varied and interesting events, which have encouraged us to promote the house as a dream venue for a select number of weddings and parties both corporate and private. We were delighted to work with the existing businesses in the village at the recent corporate day and wedding fair, which we hope will help build on the exceptional group of venues and companies in the village and surrounding areas.

The house was entered for a Georgian award in the category 'Restoration of a Georgian Country house'. We were highly commended for the transformation of the house after so many years of institutional use, and being short listed from sixteen entrants down to two was very impressive considering the competition. It was nice to receive the acknowledgment.



We had a sculpture sited at the front of the Park by the world renown artist Sophie Ryder which has inspired a collaboration with the Arts which we feel will strengthen the already popular tours of the house and grounds. Aynhoe Park is currently planning an exhibition of Sophie's work that will commence in May 2010.

The Aynhoe Park corner scheme has progressed well and after listening to public opinion concerning our first scheme, coupled with the waning retail market we now wish to propose a small housing scheme together with a more

community based retail offering (village shop, country store and tea room restaurant etc) This will directly benefit and allow the full restoration of Aynhoe Park corner and assist with the program of works needed for the main house and grounds.

For further information please look at our new website www.aynhoePark.co.uk

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



Although there has been a slight rise in crime over the last year we have fared well compared with some other parishes in the district. Details are given in the police report below. Messages about crimes and incidents of note to the village come to neighbourhood watch via the **ringmaster** system. If you have access to the Internet you can have these messages posted directly to you from the village website. Use the following link and sign up for postings at no charge; www.aynho.org.uk/neighbourhood_watch The Neighbourhood Watch Site has lots more useful information for crime prevention and emergency contacts.

Linda Hodinott

Neighbourhood Watch

810059

AYNHO CRIME REPORT - MARCH 2009 – FEBRUARY 2010

Over the past 12 months we held several Community Panel Meetings across the area, and dealt with issues that members of your community have raised, some of these have included speeding, improved communications and more visible policing.

We have visited village surgeries and coffee mornings in most of our villages, and completed 370 interactions with members of our community, we have also, when requested, submitted items for village newsletters. We have also visited many of our local schools and patrolled at key times, and we hope that this has not gone un-noticed in our attempts to improve our communication and visibility within our villages.

At our most recent Community Panel Meeting, villagers wished us to prioritise speeding and road safety issues within the beat as a whole, to arrange for the Community Panel a presentation about Smartwater, and to target parking issues in the village of Croughton. We have been working with our partners for the last three months on these priorities.

Inspector Terry and myself will be attending your Annual Parish Meeting, and we will be giving a presentation on Smartwater as requested by members of your Parish Council.

We regularly advertise surgeries, meetings and events on the Northamptonshire Police Website, which can be accessed at www.northants.police.uk. You can also apply via this website to receive community messages, just follow the links for community messaging.

Our next community Panel Meeting will be held at Syresham Village Hall on 23rd March at 7.30pm.

Of course if you have any questions or queries please contact me at Brackley Police Station and I will do my best to help. I can be contacted via e-mail on either gez.shillito@northants.police.uk or brackleypolicestation@northants.police.uk or you can phone 03000 111 222 and ask for me at Brackley on ext.3124.

Below is a list of crimes that have been reported within the village and outlying area over the past 12 months.

Violence Offences (Domestic Related) – ONE, Dwelling Burglaries – ONE, Burglary other – ONE,

Theft from Motor Vehicles – SEVEN, Theft of Motor Vehicles – ONE, Vehicle Interference - TWO

Thefts – THREE, Criminal Damage – FIVE

A total of 21 crimes for this year compared to 17 crimes in the previous year. You can see from these figures that your crime numbers have risen slightly from last year.

Thank you.

Gez Shillito, PC 105 Safer Community Officer, Brackley Rural SCT

AYNHO GARDENING CLUB

The Gardening Club's legendary ability to avoid bad weather on trips out seemed finally to have deserted it in 2009. We made three interesting trips during the year. The first was to Abbey House Gardens, Malmesbury and Westonbirt Arboretum in May. The plants and trees were wonderful, but the day became increasingly gloomy and damp. Our evening visit to Swalcliffe Lea House fared a little better but there was no sunshine to illuminate the flowers. Then in August the heavens opened just as we arrived at Stone House nurseries in Worcestershire, which was a great shame as it was a lovely garden with unusual plants for sale. Fortunately things improved considerably in the afternoon and we managed to have tea outside in the grounds of Hanbury Hall.

However, we are hoping for much better conditions in 2010, so much so that we have got three evening visits arranged for June, July and September to local gardens and a nursery, as well as a day trip to Kenilworth Castle and the nearby Avondale Gardens and nursery in May. The Elizabethan gardens in the castle have been restored and are apparently a 'must-see' venue. We will also be making a return visit to RHS Wisley in September. Wisley is well worth visiting at any season and in September the borders should be full of colour and butterflies. Non-members are always welcome to join our trips. For information about this please contact Barbara Williams on 810797.



The annual Flower and Produce Show took place at the beginning of September. The weather had affected a few of the categories, such as the gladioli, but entries were up in other areas. Refreshments in the afternoon included an array of homemade cakes, which were an attraction. Possibly as a result of these improved refreshments, people seemed to linger longer and it was good to see the show fulfilling one of its main functions as a meeting point for village residents. We would still like to see more people, especially children taking part in this village event. Any Aynho resident is entitled to enter the show. It is not necessary to be a Gardening Club member.

So please do give it a go. We are hoping to include sunflower growing on the list this year and that should add height and a talking point to some village gardens. The show is on 4th September this year and there will be specific children's categories, apart from the sunflowers.

We had seven different speakers during the year talking on topics ranging from *Flowers of Kazakhstan* to *Christmas Decorations* and including tips on 'How to grow your '5 a day' and 'How to make the most of your plants'. This year there will be talks on *the Cottage Garden*, *Lilies*, *bamboos and Grasses*. We will end the season with another one-man show in which Geoff Hales will make a return visit to take on the persona of Reginald Farrer.

In order to support the Parish Council's drive for sustainability we are including a talk on 'Bees and pollination'. We will also have a stand at Maytime in the Square as usual where you can get good quality flower and vegetable plants that have not been imported from Holland. We will also be supporting the plant and produce swaps in the Pavilion and offering fruit, vegetables, flowers and cooked items in the auction at the end of our September show.

If any of these ideas are of interest, we are always delighted to welcome new members and guests to our monthly meetings on the second Wednesday of the month in the village hall, starting at 8.00 p.m. Do come and join us.

Anthea Bazin, Chair. Chris Tomlin, Secretary

AYNHO RECORDED MUSIC SOCIETY



Since our last report to the annual Village Meeting at this time last year we have continued to enjoy listening to records of classical music as we have for the last eight years. For the first time, however, we had to cancel a meeting in January because of the heavy snowfalls but we were able to warn members beforehand.

We did not make as much use of the DVD projector and big screen (borrowed with many thanks from the History Society) as we expected at this time last year but we did enjoy the very slick Australian

production of "H.M.S. Pinafore" that Douglas Ward included in his presentation in February. Members are still undecided about purchasing our own projector and its potential use – some feel just listening has a charm of its own.

In our recent March meeting we were treated to a polished presentation from Bob Mann with much humour and reminiscence that was very well received by everyone there.

Attendance at meetings has kept up remarkably well over the years and members have been incredibly loyal despite bad weather and competing international football matches on TV on Wednesday evenings. The committee tries to arrange lifts for members who find driving after dark difficult these days. With the passing of the years, inevitably some elderly members are not able to come anymore so we would welcome any one who would enjoy an evening of pleasant classical music in a warm convivial atmosphere.

ARMS meet at 7:30 in the village hall on the first Wednesday of the month from October till May.
Contact: Bernard Middleton, telephone: 01869 810167

AYNHO APRICOTS

Who we are and what we do.



Formed in Aynho in 1987, we are a ladies Morris side dancing traditional English dances from the Cotswolds and Welsh borders. Our name derives from the local tradition of growing apricots up the cottage walls. We perform both stick and hanky dances, and sing the odd song or two. On May Day we dance a traditional longsword dance, the circle of swords representing the unbroken cycle of life, death and rebirth. On St George's Day we perform a traditional mummers play about St George and

the Dragon. We wear white blouses and skirts with a blue cummerbund and blue and yellow baldrick. When performing dances from the Welsh borders we wear blue and yellow raggy jackets or tatters.

Why do we do it?

It's FUN!! We keep fit, have a laugh, meet up with other morris sides and are part living, evolving tradition. This is not historical re-enactment – this is the REAL THING!

Where do we do it?

From September to June we practice every Wednesday night from 8pm at the Baptist Church hall in Kings Sutton, and from there we usually go on to the Butchers Arms for some much needed refreshment. In June and July we swap the church hall for dancing out at local pubs where we are joined by other morris sides. Throughout the year we dance out at many events, village fetes, folk festivals etc although we always take August off as we really need a rest by then!!!

Contacts

Would you like to book us for an event? School fete? Music festival? Wedding? Etc If so, please contact our Bagman: **Polly : popply.kempson@talk21.com**

We are always looking for new members - dancers (female) and musicians (we're not fussy!!). If you would like to join us please contact our Squire: **Kate: 01280 700212**

AYNHO HISTORY SOCIETY

Aynho History Society was established in September 2007 and now has nearly seventy members. We have continued to research and present a range of local history subjects including Artefacts Found In and Around Aynho, Extracts from The Cartwright Papers, Lark Rise to Candleford, England's Canals and The History of Middleton Cheney Church with its wonderful Burne-Jones and William Morris artworks. All presentations are enhanced with digital photographs and a PA system for ease of listening. Many of our presentations are personally researched and presented by members with guest speakers.



Tunnel Entrance or Vent



Asger (Zetica Ltd.) in Tunnel

Pursuing our research into a series of tunnels that may run beneath the village, in November 2009 we opened and entered the tunnel that was discovered in 1995. The quality of the stonework in this tunnel is very high and it is clear that whoever built it was a skilled stonemason. Unfortunately we found that it was blocked at each end with loose infilling of stone and we were unable to explore further. The tunnel section we entered is 2.2 metres high, 1.3 metres wide and 20.2 metres long. We had extensive discussions with Channel 4 Time Team producers in the hope that they would include research into Aynho in their current series. However, they eventually decided that *'Aynho just doesn't deliver the needs of the programme.'* We will resume tunnel research in Spring in collaboration with geophysical specialists Zetica Ltd.



Peter receiving the award from Lord Saye & Sele

Aynho History Society was awarded joint First Prize in a competition for local history societies

run by Banbury Historical Society. The award was for research into the history of ironstone mining at Sydenham Quarry, between Aynho and Adderbury. Peter Brookfield completed the research and accepted the award from Lord Saye and Sele in a ceremony at Edgcote House in July 2009. The judges commented: *"We had a very strong field of candidates, with some excellent research being done. The finished article on Sydenham Quarry we liked very much."* It was published in the Summer edition of 'Cake & Cockhorse', the magazine of the Banbury Historical Society. Peter kindly donated the prize to AHS funds.

The society received a donation of £450 from John Fulcher, a former soldier who was based in Aynho during WW2. John's donation was 'in memory of his association with Aynho and to commemorate the older folk who experienced difficult times in WW2.' It was put towards the purchase of a piano for the Village Hall.

Visits were made to the home of Elizabeth Cartwright-Hignett at Iford Manor, near Bath and to Croughton Church, where Revd. Terry Richards described the mediaeval wall paintings. In July, Nick Allen presented a History of the Quakers in Adderbury in the Adderbury Quaker House, which was atmospherically illuminated by candles.

During the year AHS has been contacted by a number of people around the world seeking information about ancestors from Aynho. In every case we have been able to supply them with useful information. The society has extensive Census Records covering 1851 – 1901 inclusive, which are available to village residents for inspection and we have begun archiving the range of documents we hold.

Meetings are held on the last Wednesday of each month at 7.30 pm in Aynho Village Hall. New members and guests are always welcome. For further information please contact:

Brian Reynolds Chair 01869 811007 Peter Cole Secretary 01869 811261

AYNHO WRITERS

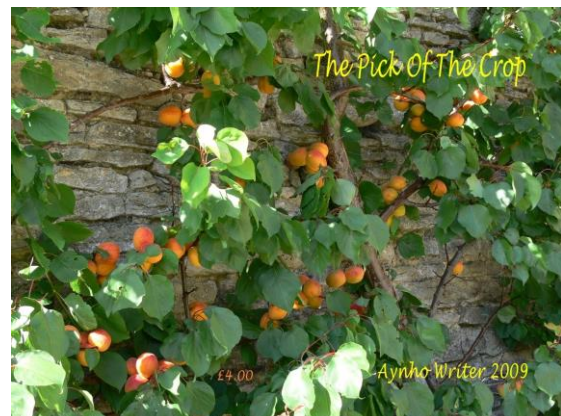
During the last year we have continued our successful format of meeting on the second Saturday of every month from 10.00am - 12.30pm, when we listen to and discuss each other's writing and consider various outlets for our work.

Some of our members left during the year but their places were quickly filled, so that our membership remains at 20. We are pleased that we have been able to keep in touch with various members who have moved away from the area.

This year's Writers' Workshop was led by Patrick Collins from Thame. He devised various exercises which kept us busy all day, writing poetry, prose and drama. He introduced us to many new ideas which we were able to try out and discuss at later meetings.

Our annual publication, ***The Pick of the Crop***, (see picture) was particularly successful this year. It contained a varied selection of stories, poems, features, and reminiscences and the cover, featuring apricots on an Aynho wall, was especially attractive. The book was in such demand that it went to a second edition. Some copies are still available from Brian Reynolds at £4.

We have enjoyed the hospitality of the Cartwright Hotel when the Village Hall has been unavailable for our meetings, and also for our very enjoyable annual Christmas lunch.



We are unable to welcome new members at the moment, as our membership list is full, but many interesting examples of our work can be read on the Aynho Village website under *Aynho Writers*.

Sue Hunter, Facilitator

AYNHO COMMUNITY THEATRE

Our actors and helpers eventually recovered from the 2009 pantomime, and held a most enjoyable young people's event in June, organised by Cameron Anderson and Angus Leigh. For the end of the year we put on the Ray Cooney farce, ***Funny Money***, which we thoroughly enjoyed and which seemed to please our audiences. The play depended on very fast interactions, and we were very pleased with the outcome. We were also delighted by the increasing maturity and enthusiasm of the two young men, Cameron and Angus and look forward to seeing them in many more productions, examinations allowing.



We meet on the last Monday of the month for play readings, comedy extracts and planning for the future. For the first time recently we tried an extra performance on the Saturday afternoon. This was less well attended than the other performances, but those who did come enjoyed it.

For the future we hope to present ***Blithe Spirit*** by Noel Coward, followed in early 2011 by our next Pantomime.

We are always looking out for new members to bring any skills they have. The last Monday of the month in the Village Hall is always very welcoming. We would love to see you.

Contact Jayne Ryman, secretary

AYNHO WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



We have continued to combine established interests and activities with new ventures this year; our programme of local walks continues (weather permitting...), and we have also had a meeting devoted to a book review, which provided lots of discussion. Our meetings have had speakers on topics ranging from charity fundraising - in this case, by kayaking and cycling from Land's End to John O'Groats - to using today's gadgets (Mr Blinkhorn's talk on 'Using Your Digital Camera'), while we have also heard about 'The Science of Humour' and, at the beginning of the year, the history of that most seasonal of entertainments, The Pantomime.

Members have been able to attend courses at the WI college, Denman, near Abingdon, where subjects available cover a remarkably wide spectrum, from skills traditionally associated with the WI (like jam!) through music, crafts, outdoor activities and different aspects of history. We are also supporting (through the local WI Federation) a small brick making project run by women in rural Africa, which we hope will enable them to create some income of their own. As ever, National Federation has kept us informed on topics of current interest, particularly the closure of village facilities.

In late November we took ourselves on our Christmas outing to the warmth and bright lights of the Touchwood Centre in Solihull and rounded off our year with a very well-attended Christmas party

where the WI catering was much enjoyed (the puddings were spectacular) and the Call My Bluff panel, represented with complete conviction by Deborah Gibbs, Ann Rickard and Keith McClellan, provided plenty of amusement. Although the WI has a new national logo, and a redesigned magazine, our programme can still be found on the website, www.aynho.org, where it is regularly updated, and our meetings are still on the 3rd Wednesday of each month in the Village Hall..

AYNHO SHORT MAT BOWLS



We have our maximum number of players - 16. We meet every Tuesday afternoon from 2.30-4.30 in the Village Hall with a tea break. There is an annual fee of £10 plus £1 per session. The club is fully equipped and new members, who at present have to be placed on a waiting list, are able to borrow the woods.

**Contact Jean Darby 01869 810373
or Doug Ward 01869 81072**

WIGGLES AND GIGGLES



Wiggles & Giggles is a baby and toddler group that meets every Thursday (term time only) from 09.30-11.30am at Aynho Village Hall. It is a very informal morning with people dropping in for 20 mins or 2 hrs – depending on how long they can stand the noise!

2009's highlights included a 'not-too-spooky' Halloween party and a very festive Christmas party. Our Halloween party was enjoyed by 45 children all of which played traditional games of apple bobbing, marshmallows on a string, pin the wart on the witch's nose and a few new ones – gunky boxes, lucky dips and the Mummy-Wrap with a fabulous fancy dress competition and musical games. A BIG thank you to Kirsty Burnham and Louise Norton for their tireless efforts and enthusiasm organising this event – we were totally shattered by the end of the afternoon but the children had a wonderful Halloween.



We had another fantastic Christmas party with lunch for all the children and a special visit from Father Christmas who gave every child an early Christmas present. Another BIG thank you to Santa's Little Helpers – Becca Macfarlane, Kirsty Burnham, Belinda Morrison, Ruth Tuthill, Katy Thorne and Lucy Covell.

This year we will again offer the hugely popular photographic session in the Spring, with the extremely talented photographer Paula Jayne. These photographs can be taken inside or outside and capture your child at play, in a relaxed environment. Paula Jayne has agreed to only charge for reprints of your choice – so you can have the photographic session with no obligation to purchase prints if you don't want to. However, be warned these photographs are difficult to resist! Photographic sessions will take place on 20th May.

Each session is £1 per child and 50p for subsequent children. We enjoy frequent arts & crafts sessions, a structured music session every

week – and usually fresh coffee and homemade goodies on offer for children and the adults. Mums, Dads, Carers and Grandparents are all welcome.

Tiggy Atkinson

ADDERBURY, DEDDINGTON AND DISTRICT PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

The Society was formed in 2006 by a group of people who were seeking a new kind of camera club. They wanted a club where the focus was not on photographic competition but on providing a forum for like-minded photographers to meet in a non-competitive environment, regardless of their technical ability or equipment, where experience and knowledge may be shared and developed through the activities of the Society. Since its inception, the Society has grown steadily and currently has over 40 members who live in Adderbury, Deddington, Kings Sutton, Aynho, Banbury and the surrounding villages.

The Society meets regularly at 7.30pm on the first Wednesday of each month in the Apricot Room of The Cartwright Hotel, and its activities include photographic presentations by outside speakers, workshops by its own members, photographic visits to outside locations, annual photographic exhibitions and social events for members. Further information on all the Society's activities can be found in the Aynho Newsletter, on the Aynho village web site, or the Society's own web site www.adandd.co.uk. If you are interested in joining the Society, then please call Philip Rigby on 01295 812481, or just come to one of our meetings. Everyone is welcome. Some examples of our pictures follow.

John Branton 01295 811071



The photographic society has been included because it meets regularly in the village. Several people asked in the village survey in 2008 about the possibility of such a society. The pictures above demonstrate the sort of work they do.

And Finally:-

This report is compiled annually and distributed to every household to represent the varied activities within the village as well as the official report of the council's work during the past year. The council would like to thank all those who help to provide these activities and encourage anyone who wants to broaden their appeal.

On the final page is a copy of the council's Environmental Policy. We hope that everyone will find it a helpful contribution to the sustainability of our community.

Environment Policy – Aynho Parish Council

Aynho Parish Council is a third tier local authority that works to maintain and develop the village effectively and efficiently in line with the needs of its residents and is located within the area of South Northamptonshire. In all the spheres of its operation the Council is committed to reducing its impact on the environment by every sustainable means and to comply with all applicable legislation.

In particular it will use its powers and influence to:

- Protect the natural environment, flora, fauna, wildlife and landscapes.
- Respect local traditions, and built heritage.
- Conserve natural resources.
- Minimise pollution through noise, waste disposal and congestion.

The Policy will cover activity in relation to:

1. The delivery of Council services
2. The conduct of Council business
3. The conduct of business by its officers and those that undertake Council operations
4. The considerate use of resources, transport, energy and recycling facilities.

This Policy is subject to annual review to ensure the completion of the Objectives and targets and to promote continual improvements throughout the Council's operations.

The following objectives have been agreed for the period 2010 to 2011, as part of the Council's commitment to reduce its impact on the environment.

1. To ensure procurement of office stationary in a responsible and sustainable manner.
2. To review the use of stationery in Council business to reduce wasteful or unnecessary practice.
3. To induct officers on how to reduce and recycle office waste.
4. To reduce the Council's environmental impact through use of transport on council business.
5. To ensure the Council uses appropriate energy efficiency measures as part of its activities
6. To consider other environmental issues during the two years and be prepared to incorporate them into future plans.

The Aynho Parish Council's Environmental Policy has the support of its Councillors. It has been communicated to officers and is publicly available in its communication materials.

The Chair is responsible for implementing this Policy and in communicating it.

This Policy has been ratified and signed in hard copy by:

Chairman:	Keith H McClellan	Date 8th December 2009
Clerk:	Sadie Patamia	Date 8th December 2009