



Aynho Annual Village Report, 2024

Chairman's Report to the Annual Parish Meeting, 2024

Produced on behalf of the Chairman, Aynho Parish Council

Introduction and Welcome

Welcome everyone to the Aynho Annual Parish Meeting.

2023-2024 has been a particularly challenging year for Aynho Parish Council (APC) and we have seen a number of changes as a result. The year has seen resignations from the Clerk and five Councillors including the Chairman and by the start of 2024 only four Councillors and a Responsible Finance Officer (RFO) remained. However, APC is a cog in the wheels of local government and as such is able to receive support and advice from, amongst others, Northamptonshire County Association of Local Councils (NCALC), and in particular, from Danny Moody, who is their CEO. Following a series of communications, Danny identified our priorities: to appoint new councillors and a suitable Clerk at the earliest opportunity, as APC had been operating without a Clerk for approximately seven months. Danny attended the first APC meeting of 2024, held in March and was happy to convey the following synopsis:

"Many parish councils go through difficult periods from time to time. A good council has a good clerk, a good chair, and a good team of councillors all working together for the good of the village. When one or more legs of the stool are wobbly it destabilises the council and it takes a while to right itself. If the parish council can appoint a great clerk and recruit some enthusiastic new councillors from the village then it will soon find its feet again. It is important that the council operates with full openness and transparency, and I hope that members of the public will engage with and support the council as it moves forward."
Danny Moody, Chief Executive, Northants CALC (the membership organisation for parish and town councils in Northamptonshire)

APC is now rebuilding and is almost up to full strength again. Three new councillors have joined the council and there are just two places left to fill. Being a councillor is a great opportunity to give back to the community, so if you might be interested in taking one of the remaining places, please contact the Clerk at clerk@aynho-pc.gov.uk. I would now like to take this opportunity to welcome Alan Beaumont, Helen Mackenzie and Simon Wormald to their positions of Parish Councillors where their collective experiences are greatly valued. I am sure they will become much appreciated assets of our community.

In March, we moved quickly to appoint Alan Youel to the position of Clerk. I can reassure everyone that this was not an appointment made in haste, but rather a sound and considered appointment made following guidance and support from Danny Moody. Alan has greatly impressed us with his vast knowledge of parish council proceedings and we welcome him warmly to his position on APC.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all those who served on the Council during 2023-2024. Chris Wilson was the Clerk for many years and offered sound advice to many councillors during his tenure. The five councillors who resigned: Leslie Leighton, David Dean, Liz Hadley, Alex Ryan-Pont and Lesley Grant all served the parish enthusiastically and voluntarily and we thank them for that. As a consequence of their hard work and commitment, Aynho has benefited from initiatives such as road safety measures, defibrillator installation and greatly improved street lighting. The former Chairman, Leslie Leighton, served the Council, initially as Councillor and then as Chairman, during which time he understood and asserted that the Council should not only be a 'talking shop', but rather a force for change within the village. He also worked hard on developing and maintaining the website for the community, thus ensuring that the parish enjoyed an online presence. We will strive to ensure that the good intentions and efforts of those that have previously served the community are continued and built upon in an open and transparent manner, so that all residents may have the opportunity to shape our village for the years to come.

Current APC Members and Staff: Alan Youel, Clerk; Stephen Brook, RFO; and councillors Helen Mackenzie, Simon Wormald, Alan Beaumont, Leslie Horley, Jeremy James, Dawn Willis and Ray Willis.

Planning

APC made comment on a range of planning applications throughout the year 2023-2024. Whilst many applications moved forward to a successful conclusion, at the time of writing, amongst others, three long-running planning applications remain outstanding: WNS/2022/1391/OUT, a self-build development on land to the east side of the village which is currently under appeal and 2023/7526/FULL, an application by RH to construct a car park on the south side of the village which is under consideration. Users of our website will know that all planning applications which are presented to APC by West Northants Council (WNC) are placed on our website. Scroll down the home page and click on the Planning Applications link. Applications are also accessible from the Meetings page. When using the hyperlink from the planning application on our website to WNC planning page, scroll down to the bottom of the WNC page and click "Agree", if appropriate, and it will take you to the relevant planning application page. Select "Supporting Docs" to view all related documents to the application. One of the supporting documents will be comments made by APC regarding the planning application.

Website – www.aynho-pc.gov.uk



Aynho Parish Council

The aim of the Parish Council is to maintain and improve the quality of life for those who live or work in the Parish of Aynho.

Aynho Parish Council (APC) w
with West Northamptonshire
Council, the Northamptonshire

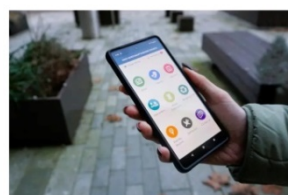
Contact Us

☎ [01869 934164](tel:01869934164)

✉ clerk@aynho-pc.gov.uk

🏠 Aynho Village Hall,
Aynho,
Banbury,
OX17 3BD

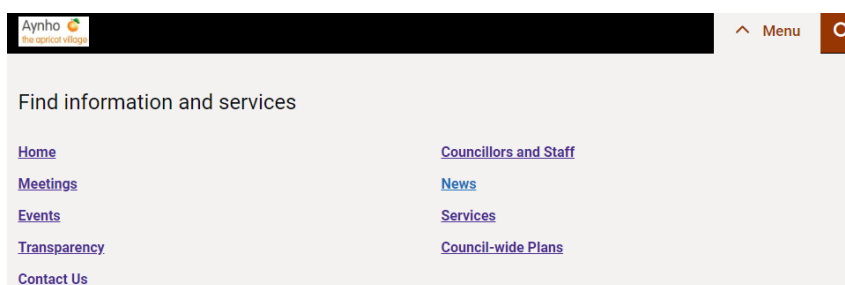
News



April 12, 2024 - [Newsletter](#)
[West Northants Council App](#)
Which bin collection is it? How

In line with government initiatives, APC resolved to use the recommended gov.uk domain as opposed to the .org domain. The site launched in March 2024. The new site, www.aynho-pc.gov.uk, is a dedicated Parish Council website and will run separately from an Aynho parish community website. Being an important part of local government, APC must abide by various government orders and requirements. Within the leeway available to us, we have included a Frequently Asked Questions page and a Contact Us page. This includes a form which will send comments directly to the Clerk. I hope that residents will enjoy using the new site and it meets everyone's needs. If not, please Contact Us to let us know and we will endeavour to meet your requirements.

Navigation around the site is from the [Menu](#):



or from [Quick Links](#) at the bottom of the [Home](#) Page:

Quick Links

Upcoming Council Meetings

See dates and agendas for upcoming council meetings

Planning Applications

Planning applications from WNC.

Frequently Asked Questions

Find the answer to frequently asked questions about your Parish Council.

Transparency

Find documents published by Aynho Parish Council, including financial accounts, data policies, statutory documents and more.

Services

Discover the services that Aynho Parish Council provide to residents, as well as signposting to local groups, societies and local events.

Report an Issue (West Northamptonshire District Council)

Submit issues to the relevant local authority, such as potholes, missed bin collections and more.

Maintenance of Village and Facilities

Cllr Ray Willis continued with maintenance around the village throughout the year.

This included for the Pavilion: replaced new flooring and new door to disabled toilet, provided a baby change unit, replaced kitchen and toilet lights to LED fittings, fitted smoke detectors, supplied paint for redecorating internally, general maintenance of pavilion, provided cleaning and toiletry products.

For the Sports field: Repaired the fencing around the tennis court, regularly filled potholes on access road, cut back bushes/trees clear of the track, repairs to fitness equipment, repairs to gates.



For the Play Park, replaced the timber to the wooden bridge, cleaned equipment and added bird spikes to prevent bird fouling, supplied new picnic bench, cut back overgrown bushes and trees.

To assist with general garden maintenance items around the village we have employed David Icke of Mindful Gardening.

Village Clean-up Days

Cllr Dawn Willis organised community litter pick days, and in addition, reduced the canopy of trees in Hollow Way; cut back branches of overhanging trees in the Glebe, near the garages; cut back branches of trees in School End; swept and cleared debris from Hollow Way and Blacksmith Hill; weeded the bank at the bottom of Blacksmith's Hill; planted wildflowers and cleared weeds from the bank on Charlton Road; cleaned and tidied the bus shelter and maintained the stock of books. We hope that you can all join us on Sunday 12 May for our next clean-up day.

Coronation Day Celebrations

APC felt that a worthwhile way of marking the Coronation of King Charles III was to purchase a Coronation Bench, particularly as some of our benches required replacing. However, sometimes it takes far too long for resolutions to reach fruition, but I am pleased to say that the bench has now been ordered and will take pride of place on the Green, in front of the Cartwright Hotel. We have also taken receipt of a portrait of King Charles III for the Committee Room at the Village Hall.

Speed Checks

Speed Indicator checks were organised by Cllr David Dean and supported by various members of APC. Whilst the vast majority of motorists obeyed the speed limit, there were those that transgressed and paid little heed to the speed restrictions. This is an ongoing problem and we shall be continuing David's hard work in order to ensure a safe environment for everyone in the village.

Aynho Active

Aynho Active, formerly known as ASRA, has now been clearly defined as an Advisory Sub-Committee to APC. Its role and purpose has been defined in a vision statement which can be viewed on our website, along with meeting minutes and financial balance sheets produced by Aynho Active.

Going Forward

As with any future planning, we will be mindful of the short, medium and long-term. Of the resources that are in our care, the Sports Field and Pavilion are the most valuable asset we have and these continue to be our focus.

The short-term requirement has been the maintenance on a monthly and annual basis. This has been undertaken, for the most part, by volunteers; and a particular couple, Ray and Dawn Willis have been outstanding in this regard, going well above and beyond the call of duty. However, we must be aware that their services, cannot be relied upon for ever, therefore I would ask everyone in the village to consider what they might be able to do to help the cause of maintaining our precious resources; perhaps by simply keeping the public space in front of your property in good order.

What was identified a couple of years ago as a medium-term requirement, replacing the kitchen at the Pavilion, is now upon us. This year we plan to replace the kitchen and conduct much-needed updates to the toilet and shower areas. This will result in a facility that will be fit for purpose for some years to come. Nevertheless, nothing lasts for ever, therefore we must consider the long-term.

There will be a time when the much-loved Pavilion, opened by one of the greatest cricketers of all time and Arsenal footballer, Denis Compton, will be sadly retired and a new, young upstart will take its place. In order for the new building to become a highly regarded and cherished asset, we will need to ensure that the replacement building will be what the residents need and want. The more people who have an input in to the vision and concept of any future scheme and a hand in its construction, will, I am sure, have a vested interest in the building and over time it will become as valued and as a part of Aynho as the Pavilion is today.

2024 is shaping up to be a good year for the residents of our lovely village. All of us at APC will endeavour to work on your behalf in an open and transparent manner so that every resident can share in our aims to make Aynho an even better place to live.

Finance

Aynho Parish Council Annual Return

Accounts for Year from 01/04/2023 to 31/03/2024

All accounts are available for inspection under usual rules for public funds. (rfo@aynho-pc.gov.uk).

Box No.	Description	Year ending	
		31/03/2023 £	31/03/2024 £
1	Balances brought fwd	27,716.18	28,850.81
2	Annual precept	27,765.00	28,875.00
3	Total other receipts	8,723.72	7,339.74
4	Staff Costs	6,517.80	2,135.30
5	Loan interest/capital repayment	2,080.00	2,080.00
6	Total other payments	26,756.29	19,419.58
7	Balances carried forward	28,850.81	41,430.67
8	Total Cash and Short Term Inve	28,850.81	41,430.67
9	Total Fixed Assets and Long Ter	146,123.23	146,123.23
10	Total Borrowings	4,160.00	2,080.00

Not having a Clerk for much of the year resulted in a saving on staff costs for this year.

On behalf of the Chairman, Aynho Parish Council

All comments regarding the Report can be made to:

The Clerk, email: clerk@aynho-pc.gov.uk, Tel: 01869 934164 or by using the online form on the Contact Us page, www.aynho-pc.gov.uk website.

Aynho Gardening Club

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 garden related talk 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. A 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 entertainment and 'bring and share' Buffet. We are a friendly Club with around 40 members. The yearly subscription for Membership to the AGC remains at £12.

The 2023 programme was carried out in full. We had a number of good talks, an afternoon visit to Broughton Grange – sadly not very well attended but enjoyed by those who went. An enjoyable evening visit to Friars Well, Aynho took place in June. Anne and Nick Attenborough kindly hosted the evening which was very well-attended. In September we enjoyed a visit to Bourton House, Bourton-on-the-Hill. A glorious garden but we struggled to fill the coach which is now extremely costly. We will re-asses this for future trips. The Flower and Vegetable Show took place in August and went well with a good number of entries considering the inclement weather during the run-up to the Show. This is a village event – anyone can enter the classes – the Aynho Gardening Club Committee work very hard to put on this event and we greatly appreciate and encourage the participation of those living in the village. The 2024 Show will see us



celebrating the 40th Anniversary Show – quite a milestone.

New members to the AGC are always very welcome – members do not require any particular knowledge of gardening techniques or plant names, just an interest in gardening matters. 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 Ladies Group

For the last few years we have been through troubled times – not only due to the restrictions of Covid but also finding it difficult to make ends meet as a WI group. So in March 2023 we had a vote on whether to stay part of the WI or become a village group having discussed this with our members over the previous month. The final count was an overwhelming majority for leaving the WI and so we became an independent group calling ourselves the Aynho Ladies Group, which we officially celebrated in April 2023 with a lunch at the Blue Diamond Garden Centre, Bicester.

Since then, and in the absence of any restrictions, we have held our usual meetings in the Village Hall. For the first time this year our January and February meetings were in the afternoon so that members did not have to come out on

cold, dark winter evenings. This proved very popular. During 2023/2024 we have been lucky enough to be entertained and informed by many of our very talented village residents including a taster session on Tai Chi by Kate Angell, a talk by Dr Jonathan Clinch on life as a musician at the Royal Academy of Music, Liz Hadley talking about her job running the Covid trials at Oxford University, Carol McClellan describing living and working in Kenya and Andrew Bellamy on his 'soldiering life'. A huge thank you to all of you. As well as these we had an evening of 'Musical Memories' by Peter Scrivenor and talks from several local historians. A fun meeting was our delayed Murder Mystery, and definitely a good taster for more in the future. There was also, of course, our usual garden party and Christmas lunch, plus, with thanks to the Cartwright Hotel, our very popular twice monthly coffee mornings, where any ladies, not just members, are welcome to join us. We had a lovely surprise at one of these when we were able to sample some delicious traditional Ukrainian cake sent by our Ukrainian family as a thank you gesture for welcoming them into our community. We also run a men's coffee morning (MCC – Men's Coffee Club) on the 3rd Wednesday in the month and 3 times a year we have special get togethers for everyone – Mulled Wine and Mince Pies at Christmas, Hot Cross Buns at Easter and Coffee and Cake in August.

We usually meet on the 3rd Wednesday in the month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. New members are always welcome or, if you are not sure, why not come along as a guest to begin with.

Contact: Jill Wightman 01869 811206
Email: jayrw10@gmail.com.

Winter Lunch Club October 2023-March 2024

Winter Lunch Club was held on most Thursdays from October 2023 until the end of March 2024 in the Mary Cartwright Room in the Village Hall, 12.15pm-1.30pm. It is an opportunity for villagers to come together and enjoy a homecooked meal at very reasonable cost once a week. This year many 'regulars' returned and we welcomed some new faces. There is no membership required, all I ask is that you sign up by midday on the Monday of the relevant week (maximum number of places available is 22) so that I have time to buy ingredients and then prepare them! I run WLC for the community and after costs (hall hire and ingredients) this year all profit was donated to the village hall. This year an average of 14 villagers attended each week which adds up to a lot of lunches eaten. Even with fluctuating ingredient costs I was able to hold the cost of lunch over the winter (a reduction in hall hire costs in January 2024 helped). The total amount of profit made was £1,937 which will help with various small village hall improvement projects.

My wonderful team of volunteers who help front of house, Sheila, Glenwys, Shirie and Ailsa all returned to help over this past winter so a huge thank you to them. Without their time and cheerfulness WLC would not happen.

Thank you to all who supported WLC this past winter.

Amanda Limb

Aynho Writers

Aynho Writers meet in the village hall at 10.00 am 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. Two new members have joined in the last year. We currently have 18 members. At each meeting we read our contributions for the group to comment on. We have a limit of 700 words. In addition we produce an annual publication. We are now in our 28th year and our publication this year was, 'Telling Tales'. This year we have invited writers to speak to us about the source of their writing and their publications. Imogen Matthews is a member of our group and has had a series of novels published on the German occupation of Holland, and Kevin O'Regan who has had three novels published. He also entertained us with his guitar at the end of the meeting. Several other members have had work published. Particular thanks to Helen MacKenzie who manages our finances and Jayne Ryman who has produced our last three publications. New members may come to a meeting free of charge to see if it suits them. To join costs £5 membership fee and £3.00 a meeting.

Contact: Keith McClellan
 keithcarolmac@gmail.com, 07512437291

The Village Allotments

There are 18 village allotments on the Charlton Road between 1st and 2nd crossing. There was 100% occupancy in 2023. Allotmenters are from Aynho and Aynho Wharf (2) or have connections with Aynho and live in nearby villages (Charlton (3) 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 5m x 12m – each with their own access path and mostly fenced in to protect from rabbits. It is a little haven as a nature reserve! 2023 was a difficult year to grow – temperature variations and the challenge of heavy storms interrupting the growing season. Beans and brassicas enjoyed it and have then had a strong year in the very wet autumn. The challenge of nature is the same on the allotments as it is in your garden.....but the efforts always realise some lovely produce. Here's to another year.



Rents remain £5 for a full plot and £2.50 for an half plot; costs for services were £10 in 2023 reflecting the need for the water in dry periods, the hedge and grass cutting . Good value – good exercise – good fun – great veg and flowers. DO join the community and give it a try there will be part plots available in 2025!

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!

A N Bellamy, Tel: 07795087874

Aynho Bridge Club

The Aynho Bridge Club (ABC) was established during December 2022 and the first bridge games commenced during January 2023. During the second half of 2022, initial soundings were taken and there were expressions of interest from 3 or 4 villagers who had played bridge before and surprisingly there was also interest from some younger players who had never played before but wanted to learn. A bridge coaching evening was arranged in late 2022 using an outside tutor and it was very well attended and this led to the first bridge games being played during January 2023 at the Apricot Room generously facilitated by the Cartwright Arms Hotel.



We play one Monday evening every month starting at 7.00pm and we try to accommodate 8, 12 or 16 players on the night. We play Contract Bridge only and not the Duplicate method. Bridge play

requires four players per table. The 2023 bridge year was an outstanding success.

We have persuaded both experienced and new players to join the club and enjoy themselves. It is a very social game and at the half time break during the evening the Cartwright Arms serves a sandwich supper as well as serving drinks from the bar throughout the evening.

Bridge playing in 2024 has started strongly at Aynho. We now have a small contingent of bridge players who join us regularly from neighbouring Evenley Bridge Club. We recently have introduced a second bridge night within the month. It is on one Wednesday night each month and it is played within the bar area at the Cartwright Arms.

A very good measure of the success of the new bridge club was the attendance at the annual Club dinner which was held in January 2024. Bridge members and their partners were invited and we had 26 who attended the club dinner hosted by the Cartwright Arms Hotel who provided a splendid 3 course meal together with some excellent wine from their cellars. In addition to the usual toasts, fellow villager Faraz Shibli read out an extraordinary poem he had written to reflect the spirit and enthusiasm he felt the Bridge Club had brought to the villagers of Aynho. This poem is listed below:

Bridge by Faraz Shibli

*Dogs howl and children wail,
Paws scratch, limbs flail.
Exhausted father, burnt out wife,
Another day of family life.*

*With supper burning in the Aga,
I turn my back on this whole saga
And deftly creep towards the door,
Whereupon the wife starts to implore:*

*'Where the fig d'you think you're going?
I pause and turn, and can't help showing
Upon my face my pure delight!
'Sorry, love, it's Monday night.'*

*Young and old, we all assemble,
A glass of wine most fundamental,
Experiencing this transcendental
Modern form of whist.
Except on the beginners' table,
Where most of us are quite unable
And just get pissed.*

*'Pass', 'no bid', I toil and blunder,
My partner's face resembling thunder,
Oblivious, I stare in wonder
Up to the gods in Heaven:
The great and good of contract bridge,
Josey, Kim and Kevin.*

*Geoff and Carol's poise and grace,
Roger holding every ace,
They're masters from an alien race -
Each trick they make is art.
Contrast the fear on Berry's face
When bidding starts.*

*But who could blame him?
We need this bloody sheet
To tell us how to play and speak!
What's slam bidding? Are twos weak?
I can't recall.
Tom explains it every month
But I remember buggar all.*

*Unperturbed, I persevere
And draw the trumps,
Although I fear
It's now becoming crystal clear
I fudged the bidding.
7 spades? With just 5 points,
Who *was* I kidding?*

*But, in between the bridge and boozing,
Here's the thing I've learnt from losing:
Crash and burn - but keep exuding style.
In love and bridge, if you're unable
To win a trick at any table,*

At least say 'thank you partner' with a smile.

Contacts: The ABC is managed jointly by Faraz Shibli and Kevin D'Silva
Email: kevinds@salusinvest.com

Aynho Apricots Running Club

We are a social running club that caters for runners of all ages and abilities. We usually meet on Sunday mornings at 9am on Portway for local runs, although we occasionally drive to a run beginning in a nearby village. Organisation takes place via WhatsApp. Routes and distances vary, but we tend to run around 5-10km on roads and sometimes trails at a pace that is comfortable for all. We often begin by running a few laps of the track at the pavilion together, before splitting off into those who wish to remain on the track and those who wish to run on more challenging terrain.

We currently have 22 members. Outside of our Sunday runs, some members have run together in official races, such as the Oxford Half Marathon. A number of us are due to run together as part of the Deddington Four Farms Challenge on Sunday 19th May. We also organise an annual Half Marathon Pub Run, which involves running 13.1 miles via six local pubs, starting and finishing at the Cartwright Hotel. The other pubs are The Fox at Souldern, the Duke at Clifton, the Red Lion at Adderbury, the White Horse at Kings Sutton and the Rose and Crown at Charlton. Runner numbers vary across the year from just a few in the winter months to around half a dozen or more in warmer weather.

There was a dip in interest in the running club in 2023, but we have made extra

efforts to revitalise interest in 2024. We arrange an annual end of year dinner and are looking to do so again in late 2024/early 2025.

Contact: Faraz Shibli

Email: faraz.shibli@oxon.org,

Tel: 07742 906 780

Aynho Apricots Cycling Club

We are a social cycling club that caters for cyclists of all ages and abilities. We meet at the Cartwright Hotel on Saturday or Sunday mornings once a month for group rides, with a stop for a hot drink and breakfast. We usually plan a short ride and a long ride on the same day, with all cyclists riding together and taking a break together at a cafe, before some head home and others continue on an extended ride. This enables cyclists of all abilities to get a good workout and allows us all to socialise together.

We ride on roads, but riders use a range of bikes, including road bikes, mountain bikes, hybrids and electric bikes. We currently have 25 members and are slowly growing by a rider or two every month. We have also begun to attract some riders from outside the village. Cyclist numbers on rides vary across the year from just a few in the winter months to around 10 in warmer weather. Organisation takes place via WhatsApp, with members voting in a poll to find the most popular date. A smaller number of members also ride together virtually using a stationary bike and an online platform called Zwift. These virtual rides are usually weekly and are also organised via WhatsApp.

We recently designed and ordered our own kit, which members often wear on group rides. These jerseys and caps feature the Aynho Apricots name and are black with distinctive orange spots and

writing. We are also looking to arrange an end of year dinner in late 2024/early 2025. In the coming months, we would particularly like to encourage more ladies from the village to join our group rides.

Contact: Faraz Shibli,

Email: faraz.shibli@oxon.org

Tel: 07742 906 780

Social Dog Walking

The dog walking club meets on weekdays around lunchtime, but occasionally at other times and on weekends. Organisation takes place via WhatsApp, and we usually arrange a time and place to meet on the morning of the walk itself. Walks tend to take place either in the village or a short drive away, in places such as Clifton, Deddington and Stoke Woods, to name a few.

We currently have 9 members, but various other villagers have expressed an interest in joining. Numbers attending any particular walk vary from a couple to half a dozen. We have not yet organised any social events, although this is something we are considering, and we have previously organised a festive dog walk with champagne on Christmas Day.

Contact: Faraz Shibli,

Email: faraz.shibli@oxon.org

Tel: 07742 906 780

Aynho History Society

Another year of interesting talks got off to a good start in March with a return visit from Pippa Gwilliam who provided a highly interesting and detailed talk on Woodstock, Blenheim Palace and a brief resume of English History! This was followed in April with second talk from Wendy Raybould whose topic was the 'West Haddon's Enclosure Riots 1765'

brought about by the steady enclosure of the countryside forcing people off the land and marking the start of the significant changes to the countryside.

Going forwards we have a talk from Maureen Paterson on the building of 'The Gardens of Waddesdon' in May; Kevin O'Regen in June on WWII and women in the war. July and August are a two-month break, and we recommence in September with another visit from Laura Malpass on the 'Scandals and Secrets of Canons Ashby'. October brings the humorous subject of 'Pork Pie Heaven' from John Paul Carr - guaranteed to get our mouths watering. We end the year in November with our Annual General Meeting and a Surprise Speaker with a Quiz Night.

Currently the Society has no subscription and is open to all with an entrance fee of £3.00 payable on the door. We have a small number of regular attendees, and all are welcome. New attendees are much needed to ensure we can continue to fund and invite interesting and entertaining speakers to Aynho. We meet on the FOURTH WEDNESDAY of March to June and September to November. Please come along and join us. We look forward to meeting you. Suggestions for speakers and topics are welcome.

Contact Helen Mackenzie (07866 044985)

Well- Being Walks

A huge thank you to Kathy White who has organized and led the well-being walks for the past 10 years. Kathy has now stepped down from this role but the walks continue. Thank you Kathy, for your many years of commitment to the walks.

There are currently two levels of walks led by several qualified walk leaders so the walks are different each week.



One is a more leisurely pace for approximately 2 or 3 miles and lasts a little over the hour or longer if needed. We walk at the pace which is comfortable for all. The second walk is more challenging and walked at a brisk pace for an average of 6 miles. These walks usually take around 2 hours.

If you are new to the village or just want to get out and about a bit more and meet some new faces this is the group for you. The walks cover Souldern, Kings Sutton, The Canal, Croughton and everywhere in between. The views are spectacular.

There is no need to pre book, just come along. All new walkers are very welcome. However, the walks are not suitable for pushchairs as we often go across country and over stiles and gates. Sturdy footwear is recommended.

We meet at the Sports Field Pavilion every Thursday and set off at 10.00am come rain or shine. On returning to the Pavilion, there are some light refreshments for sale. A nice cup of tea and a slice of cake is a welcome sight after the walks.

There is no fee for the walks but we ask for a voluntary 50p towards the running costs of the Pavilion.

Hope to see you there.

Dawn Willis

Aynho Cricket Club

The Aynho Cricket Club (ACC) was re-established in January 2023 and completed its inaugural season playing cricket on the Aynho Sports Field. The Club has been established under the charter of the English Cricket Board (ECB) and works under guidance from the Northamptonshire County Cricket Club. The ACC board has four members who are elected annually and the mission is to play non league, friendly cricket matches at Aynho with local and visiting clubs and to actively facilitate the introduction of cricket to village and local children aged between 5 and 8 years. This is accomplished by being a member of the ECB All Stars programme and coaching commences each year in May and ends in early July each year. Parents of children attending the All Stars programme participate actively in managing coaching sessions and receive formal training and guidance from ECB programmes.



The ACC has 15 active playing members who are all from the village. During the 2023 season the home cricket matches were well supported by Aynho villagers who came to watch the matches; enjoy a cup of tea at the Denis Compton Pavilion and many stayed on after the match to enjoy a drink and the barbeque that was hosted by the Club. Matches start at 2 pm and normally end after 5pm.

In 2023 there 2 wins – against Souldern and Fritwell – 1 match was rained off and 1 loss in the final match During 2024 there are 5 home and 2 away matches in 2024 and the fixture dates are shown in the monthly Aynho Parish Newsletter. There are frequent net sessions - winter and summer - to hone your bowling arm or perfect that cover drive.

The All Stars sessions during 2024 are being held on a Saturday morning and start at 10.00 am for an hour. Last year most sessions had over 20 children being coached and this year 24 children have entered the programme.

The re establishment of the ACC in 2023 would not have been possible without the support of the Parish Council. A new cricket outfield, the cricket square and two grass wickets have been prepared and established on the northern end of the Sports Field. Cricket teas and the BBQs have been held at the Denis Compton Pavilion and use of the two changing rooms have been essential. Fellow villagers Andrew Bellamy and Ray Willis have been a very great help to the club in both in getting the cricket square up to a playable standard and managing the complexities of ensuring the subcontractors cut the grass on a regular basis during the cricket season.

We are looking forward to a second, enjoyable summer season and we would welcome

more members whether they wish to learn to play, support the club or dust off their old cricket whites and renew their love of the game.

Contacts: Ryan Pont (Secretary);
Paul Duncanson (Club Captain),
Chris Coopman (Treasurer),
Kevin D'Silva (Club Chairman).

email: oshy@ryanpont.co.uk

The Village Almshouses – John Baker Charity

Throughout 2023 our Almshouses remained at full occupancy with the residents keeping an eye out for each other and enjoying living as part of the village. Our regular maintenance continued and we now have additional help with the gardens. The electrical circuit boards were replaced and fully comply with current legislation and power supplies are now run to each of the sheds.

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. As we did not have a Rector, the team was not at full strength but I would like to thank all my fellow trustees for helping to get everything done so smoothly. During the next year, we will be looking for additional people to join us and if anyone is interested in taking on such a role, please contact myself or Andrew Bellamy. It is not onerous, I promise you.



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 2023 and previous years –

<https://www.aynho.org/alms-houses/>.

St Michael's Church



2023 was a full year in which we continued in vacancy across the Benefice. We have kept St Michael's Church open and provided regular services within the capacity of the retired clergy and lay readers in our Ministry Team for which we are very grateful. During the year we held at least two Sunday services a month at St Michael's one of Holy Communion and one of Morning Worship. We accept and encourage marriage and blessing services for all couples from inside and outside the Parish and appreciate the time given by the Clergy in support of all the couples in their preparation.

Recognising the importance of the role the young will have in the future of the Church and in our own Parish life, we strive to maintain our links with the Church school in Charlton. Through young parishioners with families, we have managed to maintain a great little "Sunday Club" for the 8-year-olds and younger who give us some potential for doing more things than the lovely drawings they do each Sunday and their contribution to the feeling of life in the church. All so appreciated by our

relatively elderly congregation of worshippers.

We decided also to find ways for the Church to make a contribution into the Aynho community – an outreach effort really – and supported with allocated funding and calling it the Community Fund. We supported community efforts to lay on a tea party for the elderly during the Coronation and the organisers of the Children’s Christmas Party in the Village Hall. Both were great successes. We fundraised by laying on the Winter Christmas Fair.



This year we also reinstated the practice of making a bit of a fuss about our Patronal Day (29th September). We invited guests from amongst the community, the Ministry Team, those who help in the church and churchyard, and some from neighbouring villages. We hosted a party, entertained and thanked about 80 persons overall, with lots of children coming along and dressing up to find the little dragons hiding amongst the paths in the churchyard. We had a lot of fun and will continue to celebrate St Michael on the Patronal Day in future years.

The big project of replacing the old heating system finally got underway in September and the first stage was completed. Plans were drawn up for this to continue in 2024 and St Michael’s closed its doors after the Christmas Day service in readiness for this to happen. The next instalment follows in 2024 so eyes and ears open!

A marvellous conclusion to the year: the aurora, 10 May, 2024

