

Swanton Abbott Social Report May 2022.

The past 12 months have been a very difficult time for Swanton Abbott Social for more than one reason. Hopefully this is all behind us now and we can move on with our aim of providing social activities for the residents of Swanton Abbott and the local area.

Covid has naturally affected all of our meetings over the last year. Our Tai Chi instructor decided not to restart the class on Mondays as he has reduced the number of days he is now working. For a while Sarah Powell instructed us in some useful stretching and weight lifting exercises and since her departure we have continued to practice these to uplifting music from the 50s onwards. This is now followed by a table tennis session with a regular number of attendees.

We were very sad in February to learn of the death of our friend Nancy Hill. Nancy was a founder member of The Forget Me Not Club and never missed a meeting. We will very much miss her shy smile and gentle good humour. Her family generously donated some of the money raised in her memory to The FMNC. It is planned to purchase a vase, have it engraved with her name and fill it with colourful flowers at every meeting. However, it is a fairly substantial amount and as yet we have not decided what to do with the bulk of it.

The Forget Me Not Club met when possible often providing hot food at lunch time and organising outings when possible. Everyone enjoyed a trip on The Bure Valley Steam Railway followed by a cream tea in July and a Christmas meal at The Goat in December. We have continued to remember our single members at Easter, Christmas and birthday time with cards & gifts.

The Book Club continued to supply books from the library but met only a few times in person. However we are grateful to Caroline Barrett for continuing to organise this and run around delivering and collecting the books when we couldn't meet up. There has been a wide range of titles from classics such as George Orwell's Animal Farm and John Buchan's 39 Steps to modern tales with a twist such as Jodi Picoult's The Pact and thrillers such as T.M. Logan's The Catch.

Unfortunately as this club meets in people's houses the numbers are severely limited.

The Walking Club continued unabated over the last year and indeed goes from strength to strength. Over 100 different people have attended walks coming from not only Swanton Abbott but many of the surrounding villages. Highlights have included

The Friday Night Social has taken place when possible with games, table tennis and the opportunity to meet and just have a chat. We are grateful to The Village Hall Management Committee for purchasing black out curtains to reduce the echoing, prevent heat loss and enable films to be seen in daylight.

In October we planted hundreds more bulbs around the village resulting in beautiful approaches to the village in Spring and a blue floral carpet beneath the village sign.

In November 100 plastic bottle bottoms were turned into handsome red poppies and displayed by the new war memorial to mark 100 years of The British Poppy Appeal.

In December we erected a Christmas tree outside the Village hall covered in white lights. It was a beacon in the darkness, much appreciated by those walking to and from school.

Our charitable giving has reduced as has our income, but we have still donated to

The Terracycle scheme recycling crisp and cheese wrapping raised over £100 towards the refurbishment of the playpark. Unfortunately the scheme was closed when Walkers withdrew from it.

Plans for the future include participating in The Queen's Jubilee Lunch, planting a tree to mark her jubilee and holding a 70 years of history exhibition in the hall to mark the 70 years of her reign.