

THE ABBOTT September 2026

It's Play Time!

We're so happy to see the playpark being enjoyed by the village!

Since opening, there's hardly been a day when someone hasn't been using it, children and adults alike! It's fantastic to see the park being used exactly as we hoped it would be.

A huge thank you to all of our volunteers and local supporters who helped make this happen. This project has been a real community effort, and we're incredibly grateful to everyone who contributed their time, money, cakes, ideas and encouragement along the way.



In particular, we'd like to thank The National Lottery Community Fund, Red House Youth Trust, Geoffrey Watling Charity, Paul Bassham Trust and Swanton Abbott Parish Council for their generous support.

The best reward for all that hard work is seeing the park full of life and bringing people together.

And remember, the park isn't just for play! If you'd like to run a community activity, meet-up, group or event there, we'd love to hear from you. Get in touch and let's make the most of this wonderful community space. - Please contact us through our Facebook page or email

playparkswantonabbott@gmail.com

Swanton Abbott Playpark Committee.



Our Macmillan Coffee to be held at The Village Hall on **Friday 25th Sept 8.30-12.30**. We will be serving teas, coffee, cakes etc, there will be a raffle with great prizes, and not forgetting the Pluck- A-Duck! Also this year a stall with Bric-A-Brac and pre-loved items to tempt you. Please support this very worthy cause- we have done so well at this over the years so let's do it again

I would be very grateful for donations for the Raffle etc , also cakes and savoury goods to sell on the day. Also any items that you feel would raise money on the bric-a-brac stall can be brought to Barrelle, The Street; for more details contact Jenny 01692 538939

Jen.a.vaughan@outlook.com

Parish Council- A View from the Chair

PERFECT MOBILE STORM: The mobile situation in the village gets worse. Physical landlines are being discontinued in January 27 as the nation swaps to digital only services. In most areas the mobile signal and Wi-Fi calling will take over as the primary sources of communication, and your Broadband provider should be contacting you about this. However, as the village has no mobile signal, that solution may not work. The vulnerability of residents was illustrated by the planned outage of the broadband network on 23rd June which extended into the next day leaving most Wi-Fi connectivity inoperable. With broadband out of action and no mobile signal in the village, the only way of contacting the outside World was using the Starlink service from the Village Hall. And this, too, is being discontinued in December 2026– it was funded by Norfolk County Council but they have decided not to support the service in the future. Leaving us...nowhere.

Parish Councillors met with Adam Varley, the new Norfolk County Councillor for the area, where we discussed a number of topics affecting the village. One of our main concerns was the mobile connectivity in the village and Adam said he would raise this at County level. We also contacted Steff Aquarone, our MP; he investigated the 23rd June incident and assured us that he would raise connectivity in rural areas in Parliament as appropriate. And we are talking to NCC about what other solutions there might be. But this seems like a problem that no-one is prepared to fix.

To this end, I would urge you to fill in an NNDC survey on mobile connectivity across the district. The link is here: <http://forms.north-norfolk.gov.uk/xforms/Launch/New/MobileConnectivityReportJourney>

I will also put it, and a downloadable form, on our website under the “News” tab.

The deadline for submissions is 15th September– please encourage everyone to complete it!

QUESTIONNAIRE The Parish Council would like to know a bit more about the villagers they serve. Included in this newsletter you should find a numbered questionnaire; the purpose of this is to find out whether we as a Parish Council are addressing the issues of most concern to you and what you would like to see in the village. It is anonymous so that the survey can be shared with other village organisations to see if there are activities that they could put on for the village. It should not take too long to complete and can be returned to a survey box placed in the phone box or in the porch of the Village Hall. Alternatively you can email it to the clerk@swantonabbottparishcouncil.gov.uk although that, of course, won't be truly anonymous. If you can return the survey before the **30th September** we will analyse the results and hope to discuss them at the November PC meeting.

WEBSITE: Don't forget you can find bin times, bus timetables, agendas, mobile library, latest news, village hall prices, bowls results and lots more information about Swanton Abbott on our website <https://swantonabbottparishcouncil.gov.uk/>

Next PC Meeting: Tues 8th September 2026 Village Hall 7.15pm All Welcome!

Christmas Craft Fayre

Sunday
29th Nov
9am-1pm
Village Hall



We are holding a **Xmas and Craft Fayre** at the Village Hall on **Sunday 29th November** from 9am -1pm. We have some exciting new stalls as well as some firm favourites and there will be refreshments served as well. Come and join us and browse round for Xmas Gifts or just for yourself!

We have 1 space left for another Stall /Table -the price is £10.00 . To book or for further details contact

Jenny Vaughan Jen.a.vaughan@outlook.com 01692 538939

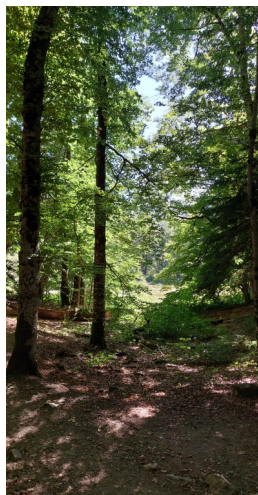
Hope to see you there!

Swanton Abbott Poors Trust

Low Common has in the past been used for The Flying Flock, a bicycle track and even let out for local Shooting Parties. Today it is a wildlife haven that all villagers can enjoy. Please make sure that you take care of it; in particular do not set fires or smoke there in dry weather.

We will in the next few months be installing an Information Board near the Entrance to Low Common. This will include Information on:

- The Swanton Abbott Poors Trust –what it is, it's history, why we have Trustees and what we do
- Map of the Common showing maintained pathways, areas of special interest etc.
- Wild life– flora and fauna you might see.



This work is made possible by the fund raising efforts of the Trustees and Friends and we are hopefully going to receive a grant from the NNDC Community Fund via our District Councillor Saul Penfold. I am sure that during the heatwaves the Common has been a very pleasant place to be. May we ask that you place any dog poo in the bin by the entrance. The guys who give their time on the Common often come across dog mess just left lying about. Not pleasant for them or others who use the Common.

Jenny Vaughan On Behalf of the Trustees

Jen.a.vaughan@outlook.com 01692 538939

THE REVELS

The Revels on 13th June was another great success with thanks being owed to the individuals and institutions that support us. It followed a period of wet weather (remember what that is?) which rendered safe access to the field extremely difficult. Colin Powell and Keith Harris supported by Dick and Ann constructed a permanent base to allow vehicles and pedestrians access in the future. Fortunately the field drained quickly and the usual festivities began. The stalls, bar, bbq and competitions plied a brisk trade and the raffle was also well supported. Consequently all raised a good sum for the organisations they represented.

The committee thank the following for their support

Dick and Gill Blinch for the use of the field

LATTA for the toilet

Les and Pat Christman for car parking

All the stallholders

All those who help to set up and tidy up every year including Cllr Vaughan

All the bar staff

And most of all those who attend.

The Revels AGM is held on **28th October at 7pm** in the Village Hall. All are welcome and encouraged to air their views on what we do well and what we could do better. Anyone wishing to join the committee would be warmly welcomed.

For further information please contact Ann on 538598 or annjdt@btinternet.com



Chapel Chat

SWANTON ABBOTT COMMUNITY CHAPEL meets on **Sundays at 11am**

and we serve refreshments from 10.15am. Our church family is a mix of ages, and we enjoy getting together every Sunday to sing songs of worship, and to look at a bible passage. We have disabled access, a disabled toilet, baby changing facilities, and a colouring/craft table for children. All are welcome!

Coffee On The Corner runs at the Chapel on the **1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month**. Free refreshments are available from 10.30-12pm. It's an opportunity to meet others in our community and enjoy a cuppa and a cake together. Our next meetings are **Tuesday 15th September and Tuesday 6th October**.

Blanket Blessings is our 'Knit and Natter' social group. We meet on the **first Saturday** of each month from 10am-12pm at the Village Hall. We make blankets for palliative care patients at the NNUH and Priscilla Bacon Hospice. We love to learn from one another and are very happy to teach new members if needed. All equipment is provided including wool. Free refreshments. Our next meetings will be **Saturday 5th September and Saturday 3rd October**.

On **Sunday 20th September**, we will be holding our annual **Harvest Thanksgiving service**. There is always much to give the Lord thanks for and at this time of year, we are particularly thankful for our hard-working farming community who help to provide us with the food and crops we can sometimes take for granted. Join us as we remember and express our appreciation for those who serve us in this way.



On **Saturday 14th November** at 6.30pm, we will be holding a **Big Quiz and Chips Night**. Bring your friends, family and community for an epic evening of fun, all in aid of the Christian charity **Tearfund**. Up and down the UK, people will be gathering on the same night for the ultimate quiz. And you can be part of it! Every pound raised at the Big Quiz Night will help transform the lives of people living in poverty. Donations on the night will be accepted. Free drinks and chips will be provided. Further details and to register your team (up to 6 people), please email address below or contact Andy on 07515490201.

A Prayer....as the new school year begins, we pray that the Lord will bless our children and keep them safe, grant them courage when they feel nervous, surround them with good friends and wrap them in his peace, love and protection. In Jesus name, Amen.



Email: info@thesacc.co.uk Website: www.thesacc.co.uk



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Swanton Abbott Church- St Michael's



The Village Revels in June gave us the opportunity to raise funds for our church.

It is always a popular event and a great way to bring our village community together. I wish to thank many friends in the village who generously supported us by making delicious cakes, all of which sold out!

Thanks to those who enjoyed a cuppa and a cake and helped us raise £160!; to Melanie Mears who volunteered to help me on the day; and to Heather

McEwan who kindly manned the First Aid Tent. (and fortunately only had 1 bee sting to report).

I would also like to thank the Revels Committee for giving us all the opportunity to bring our community together for showcasing our individual parts of the village, whilst meeting up with old and new friends. I said it last year and again now...Community at its best!!!!

June saw the start of improvements to the fabric of the church. We have scaffolding on the northside turret, where flints have been replaced and deep cracks repaired. There will also be some remedial work on the porch roof. Inside, an area behind the organ has been professionally investigated and the entrance to the turret sealed and re-painted. The gutters have been cleared and cleaned. These are all recommendations from our QI.

In September the Friends of the church will be thinking about the next important improvement we can pursue, in order to enable this wonderful building to remain serviceable to the village for many years to come.

If anyone in the village would like to be involved in our discussions please ring me on 07808 697962

The church yards looked wonderful during No Mow May and due to the weather many wild flowers lasted well into June. The hedgerow at the bottom of the new graveyard has been cut back to enable us to enjoy the wonderful vista.

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SALLY and GORDON

OUR FAMILY CARING FOR YOUR FAMILY

Thanks to the team who help by cleaning, polishing, potting, cutting grass and delivering magazines and water when the butt runs dry!

How are we already half way through the school summer holidays? Enjoy the light nights while we can.

Best wishes , Diane.

Swanton Abbott Primary School

Looking Ahead to a New School Year

We hope everyone in our local community has been enjoying the summer break. Here at Swanton Abbott Community Primary School, we have been making the most of the holidays and are now looking forward to welcoming everyone back in September. We are especially excited to welcome a number of new families to our school community.



We would like to say a massive thank you to the **Play Park Committee** for inviting our children and staff to be VIP guests at the opening of the wonderful new play park on our last day of term. We had such a fantastic time! From all the children, families and staff at Swanton Abbott Community Primary School, we would like to say a huge thank you to all the volunteers who have given their time, energy and enthusiasm to planning and creating such a fantastic facility for the children of our local community. What a wonderful achievement!

Enrichment and Our Community

This coming term, we will also be continuing with our enrichment sessions. We love these opportunities because they allow our children to experience activities and develop skills that they might not encounter through the curriculum. We particularly enjoy sessions that involve learning a new skill or working with and supporting members of our local community.

Last year, our children enjoyed gardening and baking for the Chapel, learnt some basic British Sign Language and even created their very own school magazine. We would love to hear from local people, groups and organisations who may have something they would like our children to support with, or a skill or experience that they could share with them. If you have an idea for an enrichment session, please get in touch with f.russell@aimfederation.org and we will see if we can plan some opportunities to support our children. We look forward to another exciting and enriching year at Swanton Abbott Community Primary School!



The Manor House,

Care Home

North Walsham Wood , North Walsham ,
Norfolk, NR28 0LU

A Warm Welcome Awaits You

Welcome to the Manor House– where exceptional care sets us apart. We are a friendly residential dementia care home with a dedicated caring team.

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More info at www.healthcarehomes.co.uk



Swans Ladies Club

The next Open meeting is on **October 15th** when Wally Webb will be giving a talk on his time with the BBC. Everyone is very welcome and the cost for visitors is £6.00 which includes wine or soft drinks on arrival and refreshments after the talk.

As always, we look forward to welcoming new people to the Swans.

Become a member: You are sure of a warm welcome to all our evenings in Swanton Abbott Village Hall from 7p.m, usually on the 3rd Thursday of the month and all ladies are welcome to become members for as little as £12 per year. Contact Gill on loomscot@live.com for more info.

VILLAGE HALL

The Village Hall is now a fully-updated modern facility, there for you all to use. It is versatile, well equipped and it's best selling point is that it is so cheap compared to other similar facilities in the area. It is small, but perfect for:

- Christmas Parties
- Children's parties
- Business meetings
- Lectures and talks
- A workspace
- Trade fairs and demos
- To start a club
- Keep-Fit classes
- Table Tennis or other games and pastimes
- Social space
- Theatre or music practice

Village Hall Hire Fees

Weekdays am/pm—£15 Evenings £20 All day £40

Weekend am/pm £20 Evenings £25 Weekend am & pm—£36 Weekend—All day £50

Contact Jenny on 538939 or Jen.a.vaughan@outlook.com for more info and to book.

STOP PRESS: There is one Village Hall Committee Vacancy. Contact Marie Day on 01692 538919 for more info.

Regular Events Every Monday 10 –12 noon Village Hall -Table Tennis

Every Friday 7pm-9pm Village Hall Friday Night Social + Table Tennis

1st & 3rd Tuesdays 10.30am-12 Chapel : Coffee on the Corner

Swanton Abbott Walking Club

Once a month regular walkers and new friends set out on a five mile walk somewhere around Swanton Abbott. Everyone is welcome to join us; all start at 10.30am, the pace is leisurely, dogs are welcome and we often finish near a pub. The next walks are as follows:

Sunday 13th September 10.30am: Hill House Happisburgh

Sunday 18th October 10.30am: Marsham Arms

Sunday 8th November 10.30am: tba

Contact spday2014@btinternet.com for more details.





NEWS FROM THE GREEN

What a wonderful summer it's been but a nightmare for the Greenkeeper with barely any rain.

As you read this edition of the Abbott the outdoor bowling season will almost be over.

2026 hasn't been our finest but we did manage to get to the Final of the Cawston League Knock Out where we narrowly lost to Bawdeswell. We finished 3rd in Sub Area D of the NCBA County League and our remaining

matches in the City League and Cawston League have just been completed and we await the final league tables.

During July Club members, Paul & Julie along with Chris & Sarah, organised a BBQ for members and their families. This was well supported and in addition to the food Paul had a selection of games for people to try which caused plenty of amusement.

Once again this year we staged a Tournament to raise monies for East Anglia Children's Hospice. The event was held on Saturday 1st August. The day remembers former bowls member, Sue Read, and was a huge success with £645 raised being shared between the Bowls Club and EACH. All the competitors and spectators enjoyed the afternoon. This year we attracted some new faces all of whom said they'd had a wonderful afternoon and would gladly support us in the future. On the bowling front both the winning pair came from County Arts/Acle and runner up place went to Buxton/Aylsham. Prize money was donated by Sue Lee and Sue Read's family and the trophy was presented by Lee Potter and his Sister, Lyndsey.

We attracted several new members this season and we'd love to hear from others who would like to join the Club. All ages and abilities welcomed. If you're keen to know more about the Club and interested in joining for the 2027 season then contact Secretary, Linda Blake, 01692 538493. Even better why not come along to our Annual General Meeting which will be on **Tuesday 20th October 2026** at 7pm in the Village Hall.

Our **Annual Christmas Bingo**, raising monies for Club funds, will be on **Saturday 28th November 2026, 7pm** start in the Village Hall.

Please contact Captain Paul Pratt on 538853 swantonabbottbowlsclub@gmail.com or Chris Blanche on 538487 or to learn more.

Notices

Date, Time	Event, Location
Saturday 5 th September 10am-12	Blanket Blessings Village Hall
Tuesday 8 th September 7.15pm	Parish Council Meeting Village Hall
Tuesday 15 th September 10.30am-12.30pm	Coffee on the Corner Chapel
Sunday 13 th September 10.30am	Walk; Hill House, Happisburgh
Sunday 20 th September 11am	Harvest Thanksgiving service; Chapel
Friday 25 th September 8.30am-12.30	McMillan Coffee Morning Village Hall
Saturday 3 rd October 10am-12	Blanket Blessings Village Hall

Date, Time	Event, Location
Tuesday 6 th October 10.30am-12.30pm	Coffee on the Corner Chapel
Sunday 18 th October 10.30am	Walk, Marsham Arms
Thursday 15 th October 7pm	Swans open meeting; Wally Webb Talk; village Hall
Tuesday 20 th October 7pm	Bowls AGM Village Hall
Wednesday 28 th October 7pm	Revels AGM Village Hall
Saturday 14 th November at 6.30pm	Big Quiz and Chips Night, Chapel
Saturday 28 th November 7pm	Bowls Bingo Village Hall
Sunday 29 th November 9am -1pm	Christmas and Craft Fayre Village Hall