



*Proud of the Past - Excited about the Future*

## NEWSLETTER

March 2021

This is to bring you up to date on the activities of the Initiative since the last Newsletter in March 2020. It has been an exceptionally quiet year for the Initiative because of the Covid-19 pandemic which started 12 months ago.

Member events which were postponed because of the pandemic were: Tour of P&A Wood in Great Easton; Cambridgeshire Search & Rescue Presentation; Visit to Hatfield Forest; Visit to Geoffrey Parker Games in Wimbish; Tour of Cambridge Colleges Sundials; Tour & Tasting at Saffron Grange Vineyard.

The only Community event which did take place in the past 12 months was the third Christmas Shop Windows Competition in November which had 40 entries and involved 12 judges, organised by Jacqui Portway and Cindy Whife.

Community events which were postponed were a Music Saturday event in June involving buskers in a number of locations around the town centre; the 18<sup>th</sup> Dance in the Square on August Bank Holiday Saturday; the biannual Societies Showcase in the Town Hall in September; the Late Night Christmas Shopping event in December with the charity stalls; and the Social Quiz in the King's Arms in January.

The past 12 months have seen John Ready continuing to put together Welcome Packs for new residents to the area. These are distributed free through the Tourist Information Centre.

The Listening Bench in the Museum grounds was fitted with a replacement battery and continues to be popular. This is where you can hear a range of oral history recordings which the Initiative set up with the help of Essex Record Office.

An ongoing project which is now completed has been the photographing of all the Listed Buildings in Saffron Walden. This was started off by Barbara Wilcox from the Initiative and then taken over by Dominic Davey from the Camera Club who is also an Initiative member. The photographs, along with copies of their Historic England listings, were sent to the Planning Department at Uttlesford as well as the Town Council and Essex County Council Archives. All the images and accompanying text can be found at [www.swinitiative.org/listed-buildings](http://www.swinitiative.org/listed-buildings)

In January 2021 the Board asked one of the Directors, David Pearl, to update the Initiative's Action Plan first prepared in 2005. Feedback from members has resulted in a number of interesting project suggestions which are now being followed up. The Action Plan can be seen at: [www.swinitiative.org/action-plan](http://www.swinitiative.org/action-plan)

In February 2021 the Initiative submitted to the Town Council the results of three street furniture surveys which had recorded a total of 72 items which were either redundant and need removing or required repairs. See the surveys here:  
<http://www.swinitiative.org/street-furniture-surveys>

Looking ahead, the Initiative is organising with the Saffron Walden Camera Club a Photography Competition for all ages with photographs to be taken within the Parish of Saffron Walden. Covid-19 regulations permitting, the Initiative will be starting again its Member events and also its Community events such as the Dance in the Square, Societies Showcase and Late Night Christmas Shopping for local charities. It also hopes to be able to assist Team Laptop put on a free community event later in the year.

Saffron Walden Initiative is registered as a Company Limited by Guarantee which means that we are a Company with no shares and so can be regarded as a non-profit making organisation. The Board is elected by the Members. There are currently 198 registered Members. As a Member you can participate in the activities of the Initiative by suggesting new community projects, member visits and talks and by volunteering to help with projects and events.

In October 2020 the Annual General Meeting of the Initiative was held using postal voting. The Directors elected at this AGM were: Chris Knight, David Pearl, Jacqui Portway, John Ready, Peter Riding and Cindy Whife. In January 2021 Patrick Hawke-Smith accepted an invitation to re-join the Board.

*Peter A Riding*  
Chairman  
01799 502355 & [peter@riding.co.uk](mailto:peter@riding.co.uk)

[www.swinitiative.org](http://www.swinitiative.org)