



Proud of the Past - Excited about the Future

NEWSLETTER

March 2022

This is to bring you up to date on the activities of the Initiative since the last Newsletter in March 2021.

Because of the restrictions due to the continuing Covid-19 pandemic, the only Initiative event specifically for members which did take place was a much enjoyed guided tour of Hatfield Forest in September. Member events which had to be postponed in 2021 because of the pandemic included a Tour of P&A Wood in Great Easton; Visit to Geoffrey Parker Games in Wimbish; Tour of Cambridge Colleges Sundials; and the Societies Showcase.

Initiative community events which took place in the past 12 months included the 18th Dance in the Square on August Bank Holiday Saturday, organised by Jacqui Portway and Cindy White, with the Miss Disco and Moonshine Coyote bands. This was supported by grants from Saffron Walden Town Council and Uttlesford District Council as well as grants from District Councillors and other donations including those from the Stansted Passenger Community Fund and Saffron Building Society.

Between March and October Peter Riding from the Initiative, working with the Saffron Walden Camera Club, organised a Photography Competition for all ages called 'Imaging Saffron Walden 2021' with photographs to be taken within the Parish of Saffron Walden. There were 183 entries from 48 individuals and the certificates and cash prizes were presented by the Mayor, Cllr Richard Porch.

The 4th Xmas Business & Shop Windows competition organised by Jacqui Portway and Cindy White was supported by the Town Council, with Walden Creative making an amazing video. This gave terrific coverage of the town and what's on offer here. The Mayor presented the winning trophy to Frank Riccio Hairdressing.

The Late Night Christmas Shopping event was held on Friday 3rd December after a gap of two years because of the pandemic. Patrick Hawke-Smith organised the many charity stalls in King Street which raised the spirits with their festive fun and games, food and drink, and advice and awareness. Jacqui Portway organised the musical entertainment and has been asked by the Town Council to organise the whole event this year.

In December Xmas House & Gardens was a morale booster for the town and, once again, Walden Creative's video caught the attention of 5 Live and an interview took place with Jacqui Portway. Town Clerk Lisa Courtney and Mayor Richard Porch attended the prize giving sponsored by Scotsdales Nursery. The Town Council financed the video and Dominic Davey took the photographs.

The Listening Bench in the Museum grounds 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. At Swan Meadow the mini maze is currently awaiting a small repair to the fencing around it.

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. We are still waiting for Essex Highways to provide funds for the works to be carried out. See the surveys here: <http://www.swinitiative.org/street-furniture-surveys>

The Initiative is grateful to the Town Council for providing a grant to cover the cost of its 2021 Public Liability Insurance Policy.

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 and there are currently 181 registered members. At the last Annual General Meeting the Directors elected were: Patrick Hawke-Smith, Chris Knight, David Pearl, Jacqui Portway, John Ready, Peter Riding and Cindy Whife.

Jacqui Portway

Chair

07931 534599 & jacqui.portway@gmail.com

www.swinitiative.org