



NEWSLETTER

March 2023

Celebrating 20 years of Successful Community Events

Saffron Walden Initiative is registered as a Company Limited by Guarantee which means that it is a Company with no shares and can be regarded as **non-profit making**. The Board is elected by the Members. There are currently **182** registered Members.

The events for **Members only** which took place in the last 12 months were a Tour of P&A Wood (Rolls Royce & Bentley specialists) in Great Dunmow; an evening visit to West Wood Nature Reserve near Thaxted; a visit to the Gardens of Easton Lodge in Little Easton; a visit to Cambridge Central Mosque; a visit to the Gibson Collection at Saffron Walden Town Library and a visit to see the St Mary's Church Bell Ringers in action.

Events for the wider community which took place in the last 12 months were:

In May and early June the Initiative organised a **Jubilee Shop Windows Competition** and took part in the **Jubilee Charities Day**, raising funds for the Dance in the Square, and joined forces with Faircroft House for the **Big Lunch**. The public was entertained by local musicians and the Rock Choir and a Punch & Judy which the children loved.

In the summer damaged willow fencing around the **Mini-Maze** at Swan Meadow was replaced by the Initiative with the help of grants from Uttlesford District Council and Saffron Walden Town Council.

On August Bank Holiday Saturday the free 19th **Dance in the Square** was a huge success. The lead band Miss Disco thrilled the crowds with an amazing two sets, supported by Coverman, Brown Paper Bag and Maeve Hannigan.

In November the Initiative took part in the **Remembrance Day** wreath laying ceremony at the War Memorial. Also in November the 6th **Christmas Shop & Business Windows Competition** organised by the Initiative took place and Colorcraft were the winners.

The **Late Night Christmas Shopping** event held in early December was well attended. Locally based musicians, choirs and bands entertained the public whilst they shopped at a wide range of charity and market stalls, complimented by food trucks and a bar.

In December the **House & Gardens Competition** was a morale booster for the town.

The Initiative continues to put together **Welcome Packs** for new residents to the area. These are distributed free through the Tourist Information Centre (TIC).

The Initiative's **main objective** going forward is to address the needs of the town and promote it and is grateful for the support of the Town and District Councils.

Jacqui Portway (Chair)