



Proud of the Past - Excited about the Future

NEWSLETTER

March 2020

This is to bring you up to date on the various activities of the Initiative since the last Newsletter in March 2019. It has been another busy year for the Initiative.

Events arranged specifically for Members were: in March 2019 a visit to the Radleys business in Shire Hill; again in March a visit to Saffron Walden County High School; in April a visit to the Contamac business in Shire Hill; in May a visit to Noakes Grove Nature Reserve in Swards End; also in May a tour of the Henry Moore Studios and Gardens; in June a visit to the Audley End Iron Age Fort and Temple of Victory; also in June a visit to Saffron Walden Cricket Club; in July 'Saving the Children' talks & visit to Lodge Farm in Thaxted; in August a visit to Toppesfield Vineyard in Halstead; in September a visit to the Arts & Media Centre at Faircroft House; in October the Initiative AGM which was held for the first time in the King's Arms; in November a visit to Uttlesford Citizens Advice in Saffron Walden; and in February there was a presentation on Hearing Dogs for the Deaf.

Specific events the Initiative organised for the wider Community were: in June a Music Saturday event involving buskers in a number of locations around the town centre organised by Jacqui Portway; in August the seventeenth Dance in the Square with The Freddie Hall Band organised by Jacqui Portway and Peter Riding; in November the Initiative organised its second Christmas Shop Windows Competition with 32 entrants and the winner was Frank Riccio Hairdressing in Market Row; in December it was the Christmas Late Night Shopping evening for local charities organised by Patrick Hawke-Smith with musicians organised by Jacqui Portway; and in January there was another Social Quiz & Supper in the King's Arms organised by Barbara Wilcox and Ginny Eley.

Throughout the year Chris Hingston on behalf of the Initiative organised monthly *Saffron Business Friends* networking meetings in the King's Arms with a wide range of guest speakers.

It had been hoped that the Initiative would be able to organise a fourth Maze Festival during 2019 but this proved not to be possible due to a lack of members able to devote enough time over an extended period to raise the considerable funds, plan, publicise and then organise the event.

During the year John Ready for the Initiative distributed around 200 Welcome Packs for new residents to the area through the Tourist Information Centre.

During 2019 the Initiative sponsored the flower tubs outside Boots for a cost of £250 paid to the Town Council.

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.

For the record, the Directors elected at the 2019 Annual General Meeting were: Chris Hingston, Chris Knight, David Pearl, Jacqui Portway, John Ready, Peter Riding and Cindy Whife.

Peter A Riding

Chairman

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www.swinitiative.org