

Saffron Walden Heritage Development Group
Report to Saffron Walden Town Council, Annual Meeting on Monday,
4th April, 2022

Saffron Walden Heritage Development Group would like to express its gratitude to the Town Council, not only for offering free use of the Town Hall for Saffron Day on Sunday, October 16, 2022, should the weather mean that this event cannot be held in the Market Place, but also for encouragement and practical help in connection with the wider Saffron Story Project.

The Saffron Story is the Group's second project, and involves the following initiatives:

- An interpretation board, illustrating the significance of the saffron crocus in the historic development of our town
- An illustrated leaflet presenting this story in detail
- A Saffron Story video, to be uploaded to the Tourist Information Centre's You Tube channel
- Working with Key Stage 2 pupils at the R.A. Butler Primary School
- Four Saffron Story Walking Tours during the summer with local historian and Blue Badge Guide Sarah Kirkpatrick
- Improved signage for the saffron beds in the town's Bridge End Garden
- The staging of Saffron Day on Sunday, 16th October, 2022.

Saffron Day is scheduled for this date in October because the saffron crocus flowers in the autumn, and may be seen in dedicated flower beds in Bridge End Garden. Being in the autumn, the weather could prove to be problematic and the Heritage Group needed a contingency plan for this. With the generous offer of free use of the Town Hall for the day, we know that our event will be able to go ahead whatever the weather, and for this we would like to express our grateful thanks to the Town Council.

Saffron Day will include a saffron cookery demonstration, another of dyeing with saffron, a history stall, several stalls selling saffron-based products, music and Morris dancing, with many more other attractions being planned.

Saffron Day is also being supported in kind, as the Town Council is running the market stall element of this for the Group and staffing the event and will also be opening the Tourist Information Centre for the day.

In concluding, our thanks to the Town Council's Events Manager Colette Kerr for all her help in advising the Group, particularly on risk assessments and health and safety issues on Saffron Day, and also to Operations Manager Terry Frostick and Town Clerk, Lisa Courtney, for much essential practical information. Thanks must also go to the Mayor, Cllr Richard Porch, who sits on our committee and has offered us a great deal of support.