

Committee	Assets & Services Committee
Month	September 2022
Report Title	Summer Events & Activities Update
Report Author	Colette Kerr – Events & Activities
Attachments	None



Bridge End Garden workshop for Bell Day pre-school

Prior to the children breaking up for the school holidays, Nathan Doe, Senior Gardner at Bridge End Gardens and Colette Kerr, Events & Activities Officer ran a morning workshop consisting of 3 sessions; a treasure hunt, a talk on bugs and slugs and mindful art. It was received well by the children and staff and it is hope that a full dairy of summer workshops for pre-school and primary schools can be rolled out for Summer 2023.

FREE Summer Square Events (29th July – 2nd September)

The programme of FREE summer events in the Market Square every Friday in the school holidays (10am – 3pm) was organised for all to enjoy. The programme of events included:

- Superstar Sports Activities
- Fire Brigade & Police Crew
- Alice in Wonderland activities and storytelling by Saffron Hall & KD Productions
- Lord Butler Leisure, free face painting and crafts
- Saffron Walden Museum joined us with fun craft activities. They replaced Charles Dickens story performances by Half Cut Theatre who cancelled 72 hours prior to the event.
- Saffron Walden Cricket Club also stepped in at short notice with cricket activities. Unfortunately, Carver Barracks Display cancelled with 48 hours' notice.
- Off the Beaten Truck evening of food, drinks and music (chargeable)

As well as providing an activity for the events, each week acted as a showcase, public engagement event or promotional tool for each supplier. The only direct cost incurred by Saffron Walden Town Council was for face painting on one of the events.

Funding from Essex Activate provided a free hot meal for school aged children and young people who were eligible for benefits based free school meals or from low income working families. On average 24 vouchers were used each week, although funding allowed for 50 meals. Grant funding was also received from Essex Association of Local Council to fund two newspaper adverts prior to the events.

Saffron Walden Library attended every week with a pop-up stall and are interested in future collaborations with SWTS, noting the stall made a huge difference for the Library and increased membership.

Feedback

Using SurveyMonkey to gain feedback the following positive comments were received:

"Fantastic initiative - kids had a great time!"

"Thank you for arranging a free event. It's not often there are free things for children to do. You have catered for all ages. Great attention to detail. Seats, shade etc. We'll done."

"We had an absolutely fabulous time in the market Square for Alice in Wonderland. Organisation was fantastic, amazing fun dressing up and joining in with the cast for next week's play. Incredible donations from local eateries and we would love to say thank you to everyone involved."

"It is great that all children and young adults are included for both able children and those with a disability. Thank you so much!"

Each week the local papers covered the events and reported on forthcoming activities.

8 WALDEN LOCAL Wednesday August 24 2022

Fun and sporting activities in the Market Square and Ukraine's National Day in Jubilee Gardens

GAMES AND sporting activities saw the Market Square full of families having fun. Saffron Walden Town Council (SWTC) were joined by ILife, the team from Lord Butler Fitness & Leisure Centre who provided bean bag hula hoop toss as well as membership information and fitness advice. FREE face painting saw many designs on little faces and the colouring gazebo was busy throughout the day. This was the fourth instalment of SWTC's FREE Summer Square programme of events held every Friday during the Summer holidays.

Check the SWTC social media for updates regarding this Friday's event (26/08) or visit the Tourist Information Centre.

A last minute reminder about SWTC's community event to mark Ukraine's National Day TODAY, Wednesday 24th August. It is a chance to meet local people from Ukraine, learn a little about their traditions, learn a word or two of the language, and have a taste of some traditional food! So why not drop in between 12pm and 3pm to Jubilee Gardens, Saffron Walden CB10 1EH. Everyone welcome!





KD Theatre Productions Alice in Wonderland

Working collaboratively, KD Theatre Productions, Saffron Hall & Saffron Walden Town Council presented Alice in Wonderland on Friday 19th and Saturday 20th August 2022 in Bridge End Gardens, two performance on each day.

Following Saffron Hall's successful funding application to SWTC for the hire of the gardens, 35 free tickets for each of the four performances were made available for school aged children and young people, eligible for benefits based free school meals or from low income working families only.

With wonderful weather and the beautiful backdrop of Bridge End Garden, each performance was well supported. The Events and Activities Officer was present to promote the Council and future events. Detailed feedback from Saffron Hall will be presented at the October F&E meeting.



Ukraine's National Day (24th August)

This day was brought to officers attention by UDC. With one week's notice and with the help of local Ukrainians, notably Svetlana Boutwood and Kateryna Shotropa a community event was organised to mark this day in Ukraine's calendar.

The lunch time event, open to the public and held in Jubilee Garden was well supported. It gave many local Ukrainian families and their hosts a chance to connect and be together through such a difficult time, and particularly on an important day in the Ukrainian calendar. A highlight for event goers was a beautiful folk recital by 15 year old Sofiia Savchuk. It was a very touching and polished performance on her 'Bandura'; a plucked string folk instrument - the national musical instrument of Ukraine.

A delicious homemade buffet consisting of a selection of traditional sweet and savoury Ukrainian delights; all made by local Ukrainian women was provided for everyone to enjoy. It gave residents a chance to meet local people from Ukraine, learn a little about their traditions, culture and food, and learn a word or two of the language! Families were excited to have a photo opportunity with The Mayor, along with their national flag and a blue and yellow balloon arch back drop! Saffron Walden 'pop-up' Library joined in to share library stock with the children who engaged with the books and enjoyed the colouring in packs.

Direct expenses incurred for this event, totalling £250.00, were reimbursed from the Resilience Fund – Ukraine.

