



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

Agenda item: 5

September 2022

The annual Eco-Market on The Common took place on Saturday 24th September and coincided with the UK's Great Big Green Week. There were traders offering environmentally friendly products as well as companies on hand offering advice on reducing carbon footprint and recycling. SWTC stall had bird and bat boxes on sale; they were donated free of charge by a developer and all monies raised will fund future local environmental initiatives in Saffron Walden.

Second 'Eco Market' on The Common was a great success

SAFFRON WALDEN TOWN COUNCIL hosted the second 'Eco Market' on The Common on Saturday as part of the national Great Big Green Week. It was a very successful day with a range of stalls displaying goods made from recyclable or natural materials or offering information about local environmental initiatives and information, advice and guidance about how individuals can make a difference to the world we live in.

Said a Town Council spokesman: "We were joined by 'Madhead' Denise Oswald's new 'waste buy' party generated by using solar panels on the roof along with opportunities to try and buy battery-powered bicycles. The Town Council was selling bird and bat boxes, encouraging local residents to help protect local wildlife.

"Some products are still available and we will be selling these again on a market stall soon; they make very lovely and unusual Christmas gifts!"

"We would like to thank all stall holders for attending on Saturday (and the weather was very kind to us), and all residents for their continued interest and support of local environment and climate change issues."

Edward Childs, who initiated the market last year said: "I am hoping that this market will continue to grow year on year, pointing the way to an exciting and sustainable future for us all."

October 2022

The 'Wellbeing over 40' event, for World Menopause Day took place on Tuesday 18th October in The Garden Room. The relaxed evening of information and discussion was a 'sell out!' Town Clerk, Lisa Courtney introduced the evening by talking menopause in the workplace; the policy recently adopted by SWTC and explaining what support and guidance looks like in real terms. Speaker, Professor Joyce Harper (head of Reproductive Science at the Institute for Women's Health, University College London) delivered an engaging and interactive presentation. The positive evening was further enhanced by a selection of local wellbeing practitioners; from Alexander Technique and yoga to nutrition and skin care - who offered additional advice and give aways. Saffron Grange provided a prize of a vineyard tour and tasting for two, and Adnams a bottle Copper House blackcurrant gin. Sage & Saffron supplied a complimentary gourmet cheese and biscuit selection. The evening was very received – and two more wellbeing events are planned for 2023, possibly with men's health and mental health themes. This event

Council lifting the lid on the menopause

A 'WELLBEING over 40' event was held in Saffron Walden to mark World Menopause Day.

The event was hosted by Saffron Walden Town Council, which has recently adopted a policy on the menopause and guidelines for employees and managers.

The theme for World Menopause Day this year was 'cognition and mood', and the evening aimed to raise awareness and promote a positive message to lift the taboo around the menopause.

Guest speaker Professor Joyce Harper, who is head of reproductive science at the Institute for Women's Health at University College London presented information and discussion on nutrition, exercise, sleep and mental wellbeing, with a talk focusing on demystifying the menopause.



ALL SMILES: An event was held in Saffron Walden to mark World Menopause Day

October Half Term

A collaboration with Saffron Hall to bring free half term fun to Jubilee Garden was a success and very well supported. On Tuesday 25th October characters from Saffron Hall's 2022 pantomime of Robin Hood (23 – 29 December) entertained families of all ages with short fun filled performances. Free face painting, colouring, and games were provided by SWTC and Saffron Walden Library provided a pop-up book selection. A fancy dress competition also added to the fun, the prize being four free tickets to see Robin Hood.

Event feedback;

"My daughter has severe learning difficulties so being able to watch a short preview of what to expect when she sees the pantomime was fantastic and the fact that all the players spent time with her afterwards and to have her photos taken with them made it that extra special and she came home buzzing. It was a real confidence booster which we so badly needed.

A massive thank you for going that extra mile for everyone of all abilities as it makes a huge difference. Despite being a lot older developmentally everyone made her welcome and there were no negative comments about her being there. The whole morning was brilliant and thank you to everyone for all your hard work. Best wishes"

"I have had a lovely day with my grandchildren. The staff have been amazing and really friendly. We should have bought a picnic. Will be more organized next time. My grandchildren loved it. There great grandmother had a lovely time as well"



Saffron Walden Town Council's collaboration with Saffron Hall to bring free half term fun to Jubilee Gardens was a great success yesterday (Tuesday) and very well supported. Characters from Saffron Hall's pantomime Robin Hood (which runs December 23-29) entertained families of all ages with short fun filled performances. The Town Council also offered free face painting, colouring, and games - and books from Saffron Walden library too! Town Mayor Cllr James de Vries also joined in the fun. The winner of the fancy dress competition was Martha Switzer who won four tickets to see Robin Hood at Saffron Hall."

Christmas 2022

Lantern making workshops

Free lantern making workshops were held in The Garden Room on Saturday 5th and Saturday 12th November. Both were well attended which saw families using their creative skills to make their own lantern - all in readiness for the annual lantern parade to follow. Town Mayor, Cllr James de Vries and Mayoress Sheila de Vries joined in the fun, along with cast members of Saffron Players' 2023 Pantomime of Princess and the Pea. Volunteers gave their time including: Saffron Walden Lions Club, The Diamonds, Cllr Trilby Roberts and Saffron Walden County High School student Bee Armitage.

Lantern Parade & Light Switch on

Friday 18th November saw the start of the Christmas festivities in Saffron Walden. Following the Town Crier's Proclamation in the Market Square, Saffron Community Choir entertained with Christmas Carols. It was then the turn of Saffron Walden County High School Choir and Tempos Performing Arts. Rapunzel and Flynn Ryder also arrived in town to entertain in the Market Square.

The Lantern Parade was led by Father Christmas (David Barrs) and Town Mayor, Cllr James de Vries; The Sleigh departed St Mary's Church and headed for The Market Square, following in the Lantern Parade was SWCHS Choir, Tempos Performing Arts, Saffron Players and plenty of families. At 18.00, with over 2000 in the Market Square, the Lights were switched on and a Christmas Disco party continued the evening. Stuart Vant from InXpress compered the event and was the evening's DJ – he offered his services free of charge.

Saffron Walden were lucky to have Father Christmas take time out of his busy schedule to visit twice over that weekend; on Friday 18th and again on Sunday 20th. The free specially created Grotto in the Committee Room (Town Hall) gave 350 children and their families a chance to see and talk with Father Christmas. It raised over £425.00 in donations for the Town Mayors charities; Accurro, Citizen's Advice and Support for Sight.

Additionally, on Sunday 20th November, a bustling market saw **Fayre in the Square** enjoyed by many and offered a perfect chance for Christmas shopping. Somewhere to Sing provided musical entertainment for shoppers. The event was a success with many traders selling out by the end of the day. Running alongside this throughout the weekend in the Town Hall was the Christmas Gift Fair.

SWTC has thanked all its sponsors and stewarding by volunteer groups - The Saffron Walden Lions, The Diamonds, UCAN, and Saffron Hall; Town Crier - Matt Clare, St Mary's Church, Round Table - Sleigh with stewards; and Father Christmas (David Barrs, Lee Dorrington, Brien Walker, Henry Rowe and Charles Courtney) and his elves!

Marigold Twenty Photography; The Lantern Parade and Light Switch on 2022



Millar Visuals; Video of the Light Switch On 2022 can be found via the weblink below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6xEr33eDTfM>

Christmas Events Budget

The Events & Activities Officer sought local sponsorship, totalling £4,400.00.

This was made up of £1,150.00 New Homes Bonus from UDC Councillors for Saffron Walden - thank you to; Cllr Heather Asker, Cllr John Lodge and Cllr Derek Eke – and sponsorship from nine local businesses, totalling £3,250.00. Thank you to Intercounty, Peasegood & Skeates, Tela, Radleys, Pelly's, Contamac, Adams Harrison, Coles Menswear, and Wilby & Burnett.

Future Events for 2023

A 2023 provisional events calendar will be presented in the January meeting.