



*Proud of the Past - Excited about the Future*

## **TOWN MEETING REPORT**

**March 2023**

# **Celebrating 20 years of Successful Community Events**

The Town Council has been supportive of the Saffron Walden Initiative in a number of different ways in the past 12 months.

In June the Initiative took part in the Jubilee Charities Day, raising funds for the Dance in the Square and joining forces with Fairycroft House on the Sunday for the Big Lunch. Atrocious weather didn't dampen Saffron Walden and musicians and Rock Choir entertained the public. The Initiative provided a Punch & Judy which the children loved.

The 19<sup>th</sup> Dance in the Square on August Bank Holiday was a huge success, organised by Jacqui Portway and Cindy Whife and backed up by volunteers, Terry Frostick and the Town Council team. District Councillors and the Town Council supported the Dance with grants and sponsorship. Photographs were taken by Martin Porter and Walden Creative made a memorable video.

In the summer the Town Council provided a grant towards the replacement of the damaged willow fencing for the Mini Maze at Swan Meadow which now attracts many visitors.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Winstanley Christmas Shop & Business Windows competition was supported by the Town Council and won by Colorcraft. The event was sponsored by Saffron Hall and helped promote the town and what's on offer here.

The Winstanley Late Night Christmas Shopping charity stalls, musical entertainment and food stalls were organised for the Initiative by Jacqui Portway and Cindy Whife supported and sponsored by Fairycroft House, Walden Creative, Round Table, Bentens, Saffron Building Society, Cllr Heather Asker, many volunteers and Town Council staff. The event was opened by the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Richard Freeman.

The focus of this year's Late Night Shopping was to reignite the legacy of William Winstanley, help as many local charitable organisations as possible and to assist the Young Carers holiday fund. A good evening was achieved by all involved.

The Winstanley Christmas House & Gardens competition was a morale booster for the town, sponsored by Crystal Waters and Saffron Hall. Dominic Davey took the photographs. Cindy White and Jacqui organised the competition, assisted by Liz Dixon, and had much fun discovering people's efforts. Saffron Walden looked glorious.

The Initiative arranged a number of Members only events including a tour of the Gibson Collection at Saffron Walden Library and a visit to St Mary's Church Bell Ringers.

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)*