

Saffron Walden Annual Town Meeting 2023 Report

Essex Police

26th January 2023



Over the past 9 months I have been giving out Fraud Prevention Packs at events I have attended within Saffron Walden which are aimed at providing ALL residents with advice, support and safeguarding. These packs have included the items kindly funded via a grant by Saffron Walden Town Council; 300 x purse bells and 500 x “Take 5” post it notes.

I have concentrated over the last 6 months on ensuring every elderly/vulnerable residents I come in contact with when working in Saffron Walden are not only offered fraud prevention advice, booklets and leaflets but a purse bell, post it notes or key chain. (I even have spare purse bells in my pocket in case I see someone with their bag open or I feel are vulnerable to purse/wallet theft!). Younger and non-vulnerable residents have also been keen to collect Fraud Prevention Packs, purse bells and post if notes.

As you can see from the numbers provided; the grant provided by yourselves has already been used and I am now using the funding that the team I work within were recently awarded in 2 small sums; £600 and £750. As you can imagine this does not go a long way when we have the whole of the district to provide safeguarding and preventative advice to!

I have been attending the Barclays Hub in the Town Hall and Nationwide in Saffron Walden to supply their customers with the packs – I have bookings for Spring onwards as well. I have found that the Barclays Hub is very quiet and have therefore concentrated on being outside where residents are able to engage with me. I have found being outside Boots, Waitrose or at the bottom of Hill Street means I reach more members of the Public.

I have found the residents of Saffron Walden express their gratitude and they feel we are assisting in offering them protection from scammers/fraudsters. I enjoy walking around the second hand shops and Waitrose and hearing the jingle of purse bells; knowing that myself and the SWTC have assisted in the resident building up their defences against prospective perpetrators. Whenever I do an event I try and get a social media post completed (I do not have access myself so it can be difficult!) and the followers in Saffron Walden show their appreciation in the comments and likes for the event or talk I have given in the town. Since starting my role; in Saffron Walden alone I have physically supplied to the public over 400 fraud prevention packs / purse bells or keychains along with card defenders. I have ongoing events / engagements booked within Saffron Walden over the coming months. I divide my time between the Districts; however Saffron Walden holds a place in my heart and the residents are so supportive when I am working here that I try and ensure that a couple of times a month I am in the Town providing support. I believe with the support of PC Ryan McNamara (SW Town Officer) and yourselves in highlighting the pickpockets by supplying the bells and the Take 5 campaign notes that this has helped reduce this type of crime within the Town. I notice on my weekly figures that the purse/wallet thefts seem to be slowing down (at last) within Saffron Walden!

Please see detailed the events and talks I have completed in Saffron Walden with the amount of Purse Bells / Fraud Prevention Packs (inc post it notes) since I was awarded the grant.

04/06/22

SW Commonwealth Day

(quiet as not great weather and hidden behind the Circus) only 13

21/06/22

Nationwide Building Society

14

21/06/22

Lloyds Bank

7

12/07/22

Outside Boots, Market Square

35

19/07/22

Street Beat outside Premier Travel with PC Conor Fields due to a increase of pick pockets in town.

47

06/08/22

Outside Boots, Market Square

38

14/09/22

Walden Place Sheltered Housing FP Talk

8

20/09/22

Saffron Walden Library

5

28/09/22

John Dane Player Sheltered Housing FP Talk

14

13/10/22

Four Acres Sheltered Housing FP Talk
Church

10

13/10/22

Mothers Union Talk, St Marys

28

25/10/22

Nationwide
11

25/10/22

Barclays Hub, Town Hall
3

20/11/22

SW Christmas Market
55

22/11/22

Barclays Bank Hub
2

22/11/22

Nationwide
17

27/11/22

Cornell Court Residents Sunday Service
24

27/11/22

Waitrose
21 (was only there just over an hour)

13/12/22

Barclays Bank Hub
2

24/01/23

Hatherley House
9

I also did a Fraud Prevention Presentation to Saffron Walden WI in the United Reform Church Hall, Abbey Lane on the 5th May 2022. There were 52 attendees and as I knew I had been successful in gaining the grant from SWTC I borrowed 52 purse bells and post it notes from another coordinator to supply the ladies with one each.

Report non-emergency crime and anti-social behaviour online at www.essex.police.uk or ring **101**

If a crime is in progress or someone is in immediate danger, always ring **999**

If you have a hearing or speech impairment, use our textphone service **18000** or the **999 BSL app**