



NEWSLETTER

March 2024

Saffron Walden Initiative is registered as a Company Limited by Guarantee which means that it is a Company with no shares and can be regarded as **non-profit making**. The Board is elected by the Members. There are currently **174** registered Members.

The events for **Members only** which took place in the last 12 months were a visit to the Wellcome Trust Genome Campus; a tour of St Mary's Church in Saffron Walden; a talk at the Fry Art Gallery; a visit to the Saffron Walden Waste Water Recycling Centre; a tour of Bridge End Garden; a walking tour of some of the important historic sites in Saffron Walden; a 20th Anniversary Celebration talk and social in the King's Arms.

Events for the wider community which took place in the last 12 months were:

The 20th free **Dance in the Square** on August Bank Holiday Saturday which featured excellent local musicians and was organised by Jacqui Portway and Cindy White, backed up by other Initiative volunteers, Tim Atkinson and Fairycroft House and Town Council teams. Photographs were taken by Martin Porter and Creative Walden made a memorable video.

The 6th **Winstanley Christmas Shop & Business Windows** competition was won by Cole's of King Street. The event was sponsored by Saffron Hall and helped promote the town and what's on offer here.

The 20th **Winstanley Late Night Christmas Shopping** charity stalls, musical entertainment and food stalls were organised for the Initiative by Jacqui Portway and Cindy White and supported and sponsored by Saffron Walden Town Council. The focus of the event was to reignite the legacy of William Winstanley and help as many local charitable organisations as possible. £1,623.70 was raised for the Fairycroft House Young Carers Holiday Fund. The Initiative was also grateful for the support of Uttlesford District Council, Round Table, local businesses and members. Over 200 children were served with a donated gift this Christmas.

This year Saffron Walden Initiative organised a '**Write a Song for Christmas**' competition. There were 25 entries in all and the standard was high. At the Late Night Shopping event the Mayoress presented Elliott Porter with the winner's certificate. His winning entry 'Christmas in my Heart' was then performed for everyone to enjoy.

The 3rd **Winstanley Christmas House & Gardens** competition was a morale booster for the town, sponsored by Saffron Hall. Cindy White and Jacqui organised the competition and had much fun discovering people's efforts.

The Initiative continues to put together **Welcome Packs** for new residents to the area. These are distributed free through the Tourist Information Centre (TIC). And the Initiative arranges ongoing maintenance of the **Mini Maze** next to Swan Meadow car park.

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)