

Activities during 2016-17

Wildlife Illustration workshop - July 30th 2016 at Fairycroft House

- Aspects of shape & form, feathering, leaves, flowers, butterflies with Alex Bass, wildlife tour guide based in North Suffolk



Maze Festival – 20-21 August 2016

Saffron Walden Arts Trust supported the Saffron Walden Initiative's Maze festival through sponsorship and organisation of a number of successful workshops mostly free:



- Maze Art Workshops for Children, teens and adults run by Julia Brassington
- Make a Mandala Labyrinth run by Tessa Hawkes
The Mandala grew organically as the day went on and resulted in a stunning creation
- Magical Mazes Craft Workshop
- Make your own small tapestry maze with textile artist Jill Leech
- Make a Minotaur Mask
- Laying Out Your Labyrinth run by local novelist Ruth Hatfield
- SWAT also organised **live music** throughout the festival on the Common, in the Hedge Maze, the Bandstand and at the Town Hall for "Walk the Chartres Labyrinth"



Comment from visitor: "A wonderful festival – does so much for the community – keep it up. And I have now discovered how beautiful Saffron Walden is, and will come back frequently –what a beautiful town".

Saffron Walden Neighbourhood Plan



Under the Localism Act 2011, residents have new rights and powers to shape development in their communities. A legally binding plan for Saffron Walden is being developed by a strategic team with and a great deal of public consultation. Among other opportunities NP enables:

- Create a shared vision for Saffron Walden
- Protect our green spaces and historic buildings
- Express our views on, tourism, leisure and community facilities

Isabella Warren, as current acting chair of SWAT and actively involved in local arts activities, was asked to join the team and represent the interests of the arts in Saffron Walden. Sharon Morris, SWAT Committee member and UDC representative, is also on the NP team. They have both been actively rooting for the arts in the development of NP policies regarding the arts. There have been several public consultations with exhibitions in the Town Hall and focus groups. There is a strong desire for a community centre which would include facilities for arts not available in other venues in the town.

"Help us to help you support the arts in Saffron Walden, by organising events like Fete de la Musique, workshops (all arts visual, music, dramatic, and drama) and contributing to other festivals and events in Saffron Walden like the Maze Festival."

Fairycroft House



One of SWAT's priorities is to support Fairycroft House Arts and Media Centre as it provides an invaluable asset to many arts individuals and organisations in Saffron Walden. SWAT has held workshops at FH, networking events, and is planning future events.

Tim Atkinson is a member of the SWAT Committee and gives updates at every meeting. He is currently on the planning sub-committee for the next Fête de la Musique.

Tim: *"I am very pleased to be involved with the Arts Trust, and everyone at Fairycroft House feels that it is extremely important to have a link up such as this. The Arts are so important - they make considerable and necessary contributions to the well-being of communities. They are powerful tools with which to engage communities in various levels of change.."* (T.A.)

Profile: Eugenie Degan: Luthier at Fairycroft House

Eugenie Degan, Luthier, set up her workshop at FH in 2016. She restores and provides maintenance for the quartet of stringed instruments (violin, viola, cello, double bass) and viols. She studied baroque cello in Paris and became interested in her craft through the restoration of her own cello. She spent 3 years with renowned luthier Peter Ratcliff and in 2007 received a prize from the Queen Elizabeth Trust which funds the education of talented and aspiring craftspeople.

Isabella Warren visited her workshop recently and was fascinated by the process and skill involved in restoring and maintaining instruments. Eugenie explained how important regular maintenance is "no different from giving a car its annual MOT". She also sells the instruments she restores and specialises in French cellos which she considers to be particularly fine.



Another service she provides is rehairing bows. There is considerably more to this than meets the eye. Eugenie explained that it took 128 Mongolian horse hairs, each of which she checks manually for quality and resistance to humidity. This is an art and skill of its own and is very time consuming and the cost of this service does not reflect the amount of time taken but there is a great demand for bow rehairing.

"Fairycroft House is very pleased to have such a skilled musician and craftsman within our building". (Tim Atkinson)



AGM Monday 31st July 2017 at 7pm at Fairycroft House

We are pleased to invite you to our AGM at 7 pm at Fairycroft House. This is an opportunity to meet committee members, chat about the arts, and share your ideas and concerns over a drink and nibbles. Please bring along anyone else you know is interested in the arts in Saffron Walden.

We would be delighted to welcome new members to the committee, and the AGM is an ideal opportunity to find out how you too can help promote the arts in Saffron Walden. We need a membership secretary urgently to maintain a database of members.

Next year: Jo Eden Song-Writing Workshop;

Isabella Warren, Chair

14th July 2017

Email: swartstrust@gmail.com

Website: www.saffronwaldenartstrust.co.uk/

Facebook: www.facebook.com/SaffronWaldenArtsTrust/