

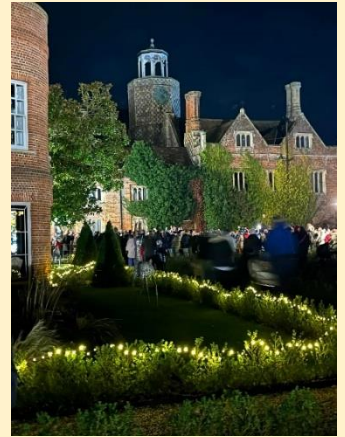
Newsletter



December 2023

Light Switch-on Success

Our first ever public event to see the lighting up of the Darcy House for Christmas was a cold evening, but we were warmed by the buzz of excitement from the community. Santa led the count down and the Salvation Army provided the Christmas spirit with the playing of carols. This was a fantastic way to promote the work of the Education Centre, raise some funds for the Centre and seize an opportunity to welcome the public into the Estate once again. A huge thank you to Black Jacket and City and Country for helping make the event happen and to all the wonderful volunteers who braved the cold to help marshal the event, including the teenagers from 1st St. Osyth Scout Group. The hot food and drinks stands were also very welcome and a lot of people were able to purchase unique Christmas gifts from the 12 craft stalls who lined the path from the Gate House.



Home-start



Earlier this year we made connections with a Charity called Home-Start Colchester who work to support families in the local area. We are really pleased that they chose to come to us for their Christmas event. The families went on the tractor to see the deer and cattle. They all meet Santa in the Chapel who gave them a special gift. They did Christmas arts and crafts and finished the evening at the Education Centre decorating a homemade gingerbread man and enjoying a hot chocolate. A fantastic Christmas experience to take in the lights and sights of the Priory.

Little Lambs

At the start of the summer the Estate farmer, Faye, gave us a fleece from one of the Priory sheep. In September Cathy Guilder came and taught staff and volunteers about processing it, the wool trade and natural dyes. We then taught our Home Educating group and they each made a wool bracelet. There was lots of fleece left over and Karen, our creative admin, has used it to make gorgeous little lambs.



She sold these Estate sheep at the Light Switch-On event, giving all the money to the work of Education Centre. We think they are adorable and a fantastic way to have a piece of the Priory in your own home.

Thank you

- To City and Country and Black Jacket events for all their help and going the extra mile to make the Community Light Switch-on such a success.
- To all the volunteers who continue to support our work especially in the cold weather.
- To our wonderful tractor drivers who skilfully drive the trailer around the Estate and open up the beautiful parkland to our visitors,

We wish you all a very merry Christmas and happy New Year

Helen Brown
Education Manager
www.prioryeducationcentre.co.uk