

Newsletter



November 2023

Outdoor Explorers

Our pre-schoolers had a fantastic series of sessions throughout November. The first session was cancelled because of storm Ciaran but an extra special Christmas session was added at the beginning of December to ensure no one missed out.

We have been running blocks of Outdoor Explorer sessions for 1 year now following a successful pilot scheme supported by a grant from Essex Community Foundation.



Schools

We continue to have lots of Primary school visits. Most popular at the Anglo-Saxon v's Viking days for years 4, 5 and 6. We have received some bookings for February and lots of interest from schools wanting to come in January. I do remind them we are predominantly an outdoor education centre and it'll be cold but I also offer hot chocolate to warm the children up!

Jaywick History Group

I was invited to speak at Jaywick History Group after the chairperson heard me give a short talk at St. John's church fayre in the summer. I spoke about Medieval medicine and the role of the Priory in the community particularly in medicine, alms giving and education. It was a fantastic opportunity to showcase what we do at the Education Centre and meet so many others who are also passionate about our local history.

Community

At the time of writing this we haven't yet had our big Light switch-on event but have been very busy behind the scenes ensuring everything is in place including risk assessments, insurances, lighting etc... it has certainly kept myself, Karen, Sonia and Nicole very busy and once again we couldn't do it without the support of the volunteers who share our passion for getting the community into the Priory, to learn about its past and feel proud of where they live.

Staff and volunteers

We have had fantastic feedback from our advert for a new Education Officer. There are lots of really promising candidates who will be interviewed in December and hopefully be ready for work in January. We will also be focusing on our brilliant volunteers in 2024 to ensure they get the training, support and recognition they deserve for all they give to us at the Education Centre.

Thank you

Special thanks this month

- Amy, the Community link at Asda who donated us a box full of Christmas treats for our raffle. And to everyone who donated prizes.
- Colin at Entrac for printing all the tickets for the light switch-on event with an incredibly quick turnaround.
- Joe and Natalie at *Mollie's Gifts* and Nicole who distributed tickets and handled the negative comments with dignity and grace.
- Karen who has spent all her evenings knitting and needle felting wonderful items for us to sell to raise funds for the Centre.
- Will at Black Jacket events for gifting the Trust the use of the Priory for our Light switch-on event and Matt From City and Country for ensuring we had a safe access through the Gate House to see the wonderful restoration work.

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