

# SPRING/SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2025

Saffron Walden



## CHAIR'S WELCOME

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2025. We are keen to tell you about the events and activities that our various groups have been involved with over the last few months. It's well worth a read! Go With Our Flow, Growability, and Side by Side continue to provide interesting activities and events for you to take part in. Remember our discos, theatre visits, the big BBQ and canal trips are always very popular. The Music Man Project is our next new group to start on Monday April 28<sup>th</sup> which is being led by a talented musician Nicky and ably assisted by Cath Read, Steve Lee and our organiser Jacquie Lucas. We already have a large number who are keen to join the Music Man group. Speaking of dates, remember to look at the end of this newsletter for dates of our upcoming events. If you would like anything to go into our next newsletter, please let Jo Arundell know on 07763236274



## Membership Secretary's Report – Pat Bailey

Currently in this now shortened Membership year (1st January to 30th September 2025) we have 92 subscribed members and 4 Life Members. Membership remains at £3.00 per member. This includes 26 Members associated with GWOF, 18 Members attending We ARE Carers and 8 members attending Growability. All Members are welcome to participate in all other activities SWMS has to offer.

It is noticeable that many more Members are opting to pay their subscription online and this is a welcome progression. The next Membership year will commence on the 1st October 2025 and end on the 30th September 2026. The Membership year will then align with SWMS financial year which was approved by the Trustees. The subscription will however, rise to £5.00 per member. Membership still offers great value for everything SWMS has to offer.



## Secretary's Report – Jane Bailey



Our Spring/Summer Newsletter gives us the chance to look back on all the events and activities that SWMS has organised over the past six months and to hear from our Club Leaders who have been very busy on your behalf. It is ten years since the Side by Side Group began and Members still keep coming to meet socially. I'm sure the recent lovely weather must have been very much welcomed by the Growability allotment group as they resume meeting after their winter break. The Go with Our Flow members have enjoyed some great visits and activities and how can it be almost a year since We are Carers first met!

Our Discos, Canal boat trips, summer BBQ, Christmas panto, Christmas and Valentines meals remain staples of our events calendar - but also, look out for a Bingo and Cream tea Afternoon in June (details to follow). Thanks as usual go to our supporters, volunteers, trustees and fundraisers and to all our great SWMS Members.



# CLUBS AND EVENTS NEWS!

## SIDE BY SIDE CLUB

Side by Side continues to be as busy as ever on Wednesday evenings. Everyone's favourite activity gets a turn with Bingo being the club favourite!

Starting in September is a new Side by Side project for the over 25's. Small groups will go out on a Friday evening for activities of their own choice. Such activities could be swimming, bowling or a pub meal to give a few examples.

This will be open to all SWMS members.

**Steve Lee - club leader**



## GO WITH OUR FLOW

GWOF now has 21 members and continues to thrive. Over the past few months we have enjoyed a variety of activities and social evenings. In January we were thrilled to go and watch Saffron Player's Robin Hood pantomime at the Town Hall in Saffron Walden. It was a great night of fun, laughter and singing. We have celebrated several birthdays recently and members have chosen trips such as bowling, trampolining and pizza nights.

We have many more activities planned over the next few months.

We love our Friday nights!

**GWOF Co-ordinators: Cath Read and Dianne King**



## GROWABILITY

Growability's winter rest is over!

We reopened on March 5<sup>th</sup> with Lisa and Steve welcoming back our happy group of members and volunteers.

Sunshine fuels our busy allotment: seed sprouts and plans grow for the season. We've already had a few picnics on the decking, it's looking lovely and the whole plot is now fully accessible!

Contact Steve or Jacquie for a taster session - every Wednesday 10am - 1pm.

**Jacquie Lucas**



## WE ARE CARERS

We Are Carer's met for our first Christmas Dinner at The Crown in Little Walden. What a lovely meal we were served. We all had a lovely relaxing time. Just what we needed!

We also met at the end of January at The Plough in Radwinter. where I arranged for a speaker from Gepps solicitors Danny Carter to give a talk on Wills/Trusts and power of attorney. It was very informative, and I'm sure we all came away with something we needed to know.

**Julie Petchy**





### **CHRISTMAS MEAL**

This year's Christmas meal was held at Swards End village hall.

We made the decision to try using outside caterers this year and we weren't disappointed!

The lovely Maxine Quinn from Quintessential Catering served us up a delicious festive feast.

The hall and tables were beautifully decorated and we had a great turnout with 61 members attending.



### **VALENTINES'S DISCO**

On February the 15<sup>th</sup> there was a great turnout for our ever popular Valentines's Disco in Swards End Village Hall.

The hall was decorated with a Valentine's theme and members enjoyed a buffet supper and drinks from the bar.

Everyone enjoyed dancing the night away with our very own resident DJ Monkey Wind!



### **MUSIC MAN PROJECT**

The wonderful Music Man Project came to Saffron Walden and wow did they put on a show! David Stanley and his global Ambassadors from @musicmanproject showed us how magical music really is!

We are now super excited to be launching our very own Saffron Walden Mencap Society group. We have our first session on Monday April 28<sup>th</sup> led by musician Nicky New and supported by Cath Read- with 22 people signed up already we can't wait to get started.



### **QUIZ NIGHT TAKE TWO**

On March 29<sup>th</sup> we held our second quiz night in Newport Village Hall.

The quiz was hosted by one of our Trustees Jo and her family. It was completely sold out and a fun evening was enjoyed by all 80 participants!

The evening included a cheese ploughman's supper and a raffle with some fantastic prizes.

After costs the night raised a fabulous £1,400.



### **THRIFLOW DAFFODIL WEEKEND**

The annual Thriplow Daffodil weekend took place over the weekend of March 22 & 23.

Our friend and tireless supporter of SWMS Eileen Gladman spends the whole year knitting her delightful little animals and then fills them with a cream egg and sells them at the event and local businesses.

Eileen raised £1235.50!



**If you have any views, comments or ideas you would like to make regarding SWMS, our clubs, activities or events we would be delighted to hear from you. Please see contact details below for Patrick Draper (Chairman) and Jane Bailey (Secretary). Alternatively, you can mention any comments you have to Steve Lee or Patrick Bailey at Side by Side club. You can also contact our administrator Jacquie Lucas.**

### **OUR TRUSTEES**

Arundell	Jo		Trustee
Bailey	Jane	01799 540700	Secretary
Bailey	Patrick		Membership Secretary
Draper	Patrick	07974 306917	Chairman
Clark	Richard		Trustee
Cornell	Daphne		President & Life-Long Member
Dimmock	Ben		Treasurer
Lee	Steve		Trustee & Club Leader
Lucas	Jacquie	07973 552262	Administrator & Trustee for safeguarding
Petchey	Julie		Trustee
Walbanke	Gerard		Trustee

### **Upcoming Events**

May 10<sup>th</sup> Swards End Disco  
 May 29<sup>th</sup> Volunteers Week Lunch  
 May 31<sup>st</sup> Cake sale  
 June 21<sup>st</sup> Bingo & afternoon tea  
 Canalability June 7/14 July 12  
 August 17<sup>th</sup> The Big BBQ



**Our funders are...**

**Essex Community Foundation  
 Saffron Walden Golf Club  
 Young Farmers  
 Saffron Building Society  
 Rotary Club  
 Elsenham Lodge  
 Round Table  
 Eileen Gladman**

**We are extremely grateful to all of the above for their generous donations.**

**Don't forget to log in to the website or follow us on Facebook and Instagram!**

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