

# Newsletter

## December 2024



### Community Christmas

The Community Christmas event on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> was such an amazing day. A collaboration with St. Osyth Priory Estate meant the event was bigger and better than 2023. It was wonderful to see so many people enjoying the Estate and making the most of the 25 different market stalls to do their last minute Christmas shopping. Thank you to Nicole Stafford for booking, coordinating, and liaising with, all the stall holders. The stage was managed by MAD About Theatre community group and included music from Joe Zuccla, James Broomfield, Eloise Carter and some of the MAD cast. Alongside the stage, entertainment was provided by aerial hoop artists Victoria Gunfield and Martha Brown. The Education Centre team worked with 1<sup>st</sup> St. Osyth Scout Group to provide free games for families to keep the little ones entertained. Our family game turning the medieval Chapel into a fun Escape room proved popular, with just one small hiccup when the padlock broke and a poor family was locked in even though they had solved the puzzles and deduced the correct code! We're very grateful to the member of the Education Centre staff who had wire cutters in her car! Mother Christmas and her elf helped children decorate gingerbread men in the marquee and our Tractor Trailer took 30 people on a tour to see the longhorn cattle and deer up close. The fun filled afternoon closed with a story time with Father Christmas in the Grand Hall. The children and adults were mesmerised and Education Centre staff were able to give every child wrapped Christmas books. There are so many people to Thank who all worked together to make the afternoon such a success. We're very grateful to have the support of volunteers and the community to be able to make events like this happen and give people opportunities to enjoy the Priory buildings and grounds.



### Charity Tractor Run

On Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> we took part in a charity tractor run organised by Brokhowse Farm, Weeley in aid of The Brain Tumour Charity. It was great fun with hundreds of people in the community coming out to show their support. 30+ tractors, decorated with lights, tinsel and even real trees followed the route through Weeley and Little Clacton. So far the organiser have raised £950 for the charity. It was great to be a part of this event and support this wonderful cause.

Thank you to Victoria for driving, Sidge for providing the vehicle support and ensuring we had enough fuel, and to Jane for helping us decorate the tractor and coming along to wave the tractors on their route.



As we go into the last week of the term we still have some exciting sessions to come. We have a special Christmas Outdoor Explorers on Wednesday morning. A Christmas event with local families in partnership with Home-Start Tendring on Wednesday evening. On Thursday our Home Educating families will have a very busy session including a tractor ride, candle making and flower arranging.

We're looking forward to a busy 2025 and will be back with Outdoor Explorers on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January.

**Have a very merry Christmas and happy New Year.**

Helen Brown

Education Manager

[www.prioryeducationcentre.co.uk](http://www.prioryeducationcentre.co.uk)