

Newsletter

October 2024



Sorry for the delay in sending the October newsletter. I felt it was important to be able to include some of the wonderful photos from the half term activities which took us right up to November.

Halloween

We have had a busy week for half term with lots of opportunities for the community to enjoy the Estate.

On the Monday 'Write Night' community writing group joined us in the dark to find inspiration for their writing. Jan Williams, author of 'The Ghost of Pendlesham Priory' read from her book in the Chapel. The story was about a ghost in the ruins of a deserted convent. The ghost communicates through a boy to tell her story of suffering during the Dissolution of the Monasteries. On Tuesday Home-Start Tendring joined us for some Halloween fun for the families they work with, including crafts and hot dogs!



Wednesday was our family photography workshop. Led by local photographer Becky, families learnt tips and techniques to use their smartphones or cameras to get the best pictures of their children. Using the beautiful setting of the Priory and some fun Halloween props this workshop saw the creation of some memorable photographs.

Room on the Broom is a fantastic book by Julia Donaldson with the famous rhyming style that captivates children. Under 8's were invited to the Priory throughout the day on Thursday 31st, to explore the story through treasure hunts, role play and potion making, ending in decorating biscuits and enjoying a hot chocolate in the Education Centre.

Colne Community School

We were thrilled to once again host the 255 Year 7 students from The Colne Community School for sessions on local history from the Anglo-Saxon legend of Osyth through Medieval Medicine and the Elizabethan witch trials. It is always a very busy time and to be able to welcome that number of people on to the site we rely on the support of our volunteers. We couldn't have asked for better weather and the feedback from the staff and students was brilliant and such an encouragement to the team.



Owl Pellets

We are fortunate enough to have a connection with a local owl expert and licenced ringer in the area. He provided us with a large amount of owl pellets which we have used this month with our Young Carers group and the Home Educating families. It was fascinating to be able to pick them apart and identify the owls' dinner from the skulls and bones contained within. We were surprised that nearly all those who took part wanted to take the bones they found home with them! The Young Carers project is a fantastic link between the Education Centre and the local school and following our session on Owls we had the idea to strengthen the connection by having twin owl boxes installed at each site. The expert will help site the boxes and monitor them for us as well as providing on going education about owls. Thank you to the volunteers who have helped in the building of the boxes.

Christmas

October does seem somewhat premature to be thinking about Christmas. However plans are underway for another public Christmas event at the Priory in conjunction with Blackjacket Events. So get ready for an afternoon filled with holiday cheer, including Christmas entertainment, delicious festive food, and fun activities for the whole family.

Father Christmas will also be joining us at the end of the event, to read stories to the children in our magnificent Great Hall!* Tickets available on Eventbrite. Search 'St. Osyth Priory Community Christmas.'



Jan Williams reading from her book in the Chapel.



A family who visited with Home-Start Tendring.



Fantastic photography techniques at our workshop.



Reading the story at the Room on the Broom event.