

# Newsletter



April 2024

## Easter



Our Easter events were a great success and hundreds were able to enjoy the beautiful Estate over 3 days of activities. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> April in the morning we hosted a children's party for 25 5 year olds and in the afternoon welcomed 30 families to our Easter activities in partnership with Home-Start Tendring, who had an amazing time in the sun. On the Wednesday we sold tickets to the public to take part in our Easter Egg-stravaganza with around 150 people attending. Thursday we had two tractor trailer tours for families to see the animals; the tiny lambs really were a sight to behold. As an added extra, children were invited to enter a colouring competition and we had some truly beautiful entries and very happy faces when they came to get their prize.



## Layer Marney Tower

A group of us from the Education Centre; Sonia, Helen and Jane, went to Layer Marney Tower this month to join a day, organised by the Historic Houses Association, for staff of Education Centres who run at privately owned homes. It was fascinating to meet staff from Kentwell Hall, the Royal Palaces, Knebworth and others. Sheila Charrington gave a fascinating talk about all the work that goes on at Layer Marney with school and community groups. We learnt a lot and came away feeling very positive about our role as an Education Centre in the community and in the life of the Priory.

## Public Tours

Our public tours start officially on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May and will be running weekly until the end of September. There is the option to do a walking tour of the historic buildings or a tractor trailer tour of the Parkland. Both tours cost £6.50 per person and include expert commentary giving the history and social story of the Priory.

Tickets are available on our website.

We have had a couple of trial runs, with Jaywick History Group and two creative writing groups coming for a visit and tour.

If anyone is interested in booking for a community group visit on a Wednesday please email Sonia

[Sonia.grantham@me.com](mailto:Sonia.grantham@me.com)

## Summer Holiday Club

For the first time ever we are going to be offering a drop-off holiday club for primary school aged children every Wednesday in the summer holidays. Between 9am and 3pm children will explore the grounds doing a variety of activities from Pond dipping and den building to nature, art and circus skills. As well as being fun for the children we hope it will provide a real asset in the community for parents who work during the school break. Spaces are £30 per child and booking is via our website.



## Home Educators Day

This month our Home Educating families had a lesson on Sir John Johnson's gardens, learning the difference between a knot garden and a parterre and exploring the Rose Garden as well as seeing the wonderful, newly restored, gardens on the south side of the Rochford Wing. We looked at the purposes of the ha-ha to manage the animals and why Johnson moved it. Having explored the Japanese Water garden we used the nature around us to create our own gardens in miniature. It was a very tranquil time doing such a mindful activity on the North Lawn in the sun and everyone felt the benefits.

Helen Brown  
Education Manager

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