congregation first worshipped.

replaced the original church of 1694, which in turn was built on the site of the barn where the Chapel. With an Ionic four-column portico, it The place of worship for another of the Nonconformist groups, the United Reformed Church was built in 1811 as a Congregational Change With an Ionic four-column neutron it UNITED REFORMED CHURCH Abbey Lane

praised flexible acoustic and state-of-the-art facilities that surpass those of more established venues. www.saffronhall.com November 2013, the £10 million hall has a muchan annual season of concerts and events featuring local, national and international artists. Opened in performance space within the grounds of Saffron Walden County High School. Saffron Hall hosts Saffron Hall is an award winning, 740 seat

SAFFRON HALL

free parking. www.saffronscreen.com screen and full surround sound, refreshments and of mainstream, independent, art-house and children's films, as well as a wide range of live special events. Opened in 2006, it has a comfortable 200 seat auditorium with a wide comfortable and a wide sand till surround sound refreshments and school holidays. The cinema shows a range cinema, open every Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday, with additional screenings in Saffron Walden's Independent, not for profit

SAFFRON SCREEN

Town Ditch, as it was essentially a Norman and medieval boundary marker. of the town through archaeological excavations over the years. It is perhaps best referred to as the the medieval town area. The course of the ditch, now mostly buried, has been traced round much (visible today linking Gibson Gardens to Abbey Lane) of a large, rectangular circuit enclosing The medieval earthwork popularly known as the Battle Ditches is the surviving SW corner feet and the surviving states of the s

BATTLE DITCHES

the years and was rebuilt in the 1870s by the in the High Street where they first met in 1676. The Meeting House was altered many times over The Quakers still gather at this meeting place EKIENDS, WEELING HOUSE High Street

within a circle 100 feet (30.5 mtrs) in diameter. path, winds for about one mile through the turf events as tournaments. On the eastern side is the Common, is a meadow on which the local people had grazing rights and it was also used for such The oldest of Saffron Walden's open spaces, the

THE COMMON & TURF MAZE

crocus design. In front of the church is the town's Its latest addition is the glass door with a saffron the present site and built the first Baptist church there. The present church was built in 1878-9. Nonconformists who worshipped in Abbey Lane Independent Church. They bought an orchard on In 1774 the Baptists split with their fellow

BAPTIST CHURCH High Street

Fairies and Elves through the Enchanted Woods! www.audley-end-railway.co.uk exciting 1.5 mile train ride through the Essex countryside perfect for a day out with all the family! Spot the many Teddies in their Teddy Bear Houses around the track or try and find the bear the track of the perfect and the track of the Audley End Miniature Railway

AUDLEY END MINIATURE RAILWAY

service wing.

the organic walled kitchen garden, stables and over 30 lavishly decorated rooms, interiors by paintings and furnishings. Explore the Capability Brown parkland, 19th century parterre and Treasurer to King James I. Audley End is one of England's most magnificent stately homes with www.english-heritage.org.uk/audley Built by Thomas Howard, Earl of Suffolk, Lord

Audley End, CB11 4JF Tel: 01799 522842 VODIEK END HOUSE & GARDENS

the replacements and extensions of the original. fell into disrepair and those now grouped in Park Lane and Abbey Lane were built in 1834 and are each with ten dwellings. After 1633 the building The building was in the form of two courtyards The earliest almshouse was built in 1400 by a charity founded by John and Elizabeth Butler. Park Lane and Abbey Lane

ALMSHOUSES

OTHER PLACES OF INTEREST IN SAFFRON WALDEN

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A SHORT HISTORY OF SAFFRON WALDEN

For the four hundred years of the Roman era there was never more than a small settlement in what the later Saxon inhabitants called "weala-denu" ("Valley of the Britons") and we now call Saffron Walden. However, by the time the Doomsday Book was written in 1086, there was a village of about 120 households.

In the 1130s and 1140s the Norman Lord of the Manor Geoffrey de Mandeville 3rd Earl of Essex did three things that led to Walden becoming the economic and administrative centre of the area; he built the castle, moved the market from Newport and founded a Benedictine Priory. The castle keep ruins can be seen today and the market is still held on Tuesdays and Saturdays. The Priory became Walden Abbey in 1190; it was given to Sir Thomas Audley in 1538 during the dissolution of the monasteries, and he used it to create Audley End House

In the 1230s the Earls of Essex, now de Bohuns, set out a new ambitious town plan including some earlier elements with a grid system of streets, a new market place and a new church These elements can still be seen in the town centre today. By the late 1300s the area around Walden had begun to grow the saffron crocus and by the early 1500s was the centre of the saffron industry in this country. Such was its importance that the town adopted the name of Saffron Walden and its legacy is reflected in the wealth of timber-framed buildings of this time and the largest parish church in Essex, completed in 1525.

Saffron Walden has a major place in the evolution of democracy in this country. In the spring of 1647 with one civil war won, the New Model Army under Sir Thomas Fairfax split with Parliament and was ordered not to approach London. Fairfax settled on Saffron Walden as his headquarters and billeted his soldiers in the area. Debates were held in the parish church where for the first time ever ordinary soldiers elected representatives to speak for them. Eventually even Oliver Cromwell MP was persuaded to throw in his lot with the New Model Army

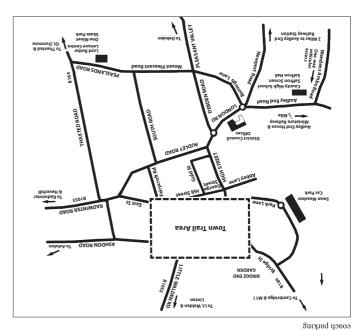
There was little development or expansion of the town in the 17th and 18th centuries due to the decline of the saffron industry. However, there was some refacing of old houses, and the Georgian Town Hall was built in the 1760s.

Prosperity returned in the nineteenth century with the growth of the malting and brewing industries and with farming still at the centre of the area's economy. The Gibsons, who were bankers and brewers, were one of the wealthiest families in the town. They were Quakers and great philanthropists and were involved in the founding of the museum, the library, the hospital, the transfer of the Friends' School to the town from Croydon, digging wells and eventually bringing the branch line of the railway in 1865. The Victorian prosperity is reflected in buildings around the Market Square and to the south of the town.

Changes in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries have included the demise of the branch line of the railway in 1964, the stopping of the regular livestock markets, large modern housing developments on the outskirts and latterly infill developments in the town centre. Saffron Walden has a growing population of 15,000 people and is widely recognised as a safe, healthy place to live within easy reach of London and Cambridge.







www.iryarigaliery.org Tel: 01799 513779 for opening times Off Castle Street, CB10 1BD ERY ART GALLERY

www.saffronwaldenmuseum.org CB10 11LTel: 01799 510333 Saffron Walden Museum, Museum Street,

MOSEUM 2018 Great British Market Awards. Held in the Market Place on Tues & Sat. Winner of Best Small Outdoor Market in the MARKETS

2 King Street, CB10 1ES Tel: 0345 603 7628

LIBRARY [6]: [01

POLICE Hill Street, 8am – 5pm Bridge End Garden, restricted opening times TOILETS

The Common – short stay & cycle racks Rose and Crown – short stay Swan Meadow – short and long stay & Fairycroft Road - short stay & cycle racks

CVE PARKING

Station, about 2 miles (3.2 km) from the centre of Saffron Walden. Rail Enquiries – Tel: 03457 484950 www.greateranglia.co.uk

The nearest railway station is at Audley End

RAIL TRAVEL

Centre of consult www.essexbus.into The main bus stops are on the High Street. For timetables contact the Tourist Information of the fortes or consult ways essential into

(Easter to August Only) Market Place, CB10 1HR Tel: 01799 524002 **Opening Times:** Mon – Sat 9.30am – 5.00pm Bank Holidays 10.30am – 1.00pm (Faster to August Only)

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE

SAFFRON WALDEN



- Guide to places of interest
- Short history of Saffron Walden

www.visitsaffronwalden.gov.uk Instagram:/swtic www.facebook.com/saffronwalden Twitter: @swtic seventeenth century 'Spider' window.

framed house with later additions including an unusual The Close, a fine late fifteenth century timber the road from Myddylton Place stands converted to a malting. Diagonally across century when part of the building was in the roof was added in the early nineteenth carved dragon post on the corner. The sack hoist There is a fine doorway into Bridge Street and a combined shop, home and warehouse in the 1490s. the finest medieval buildings in the town. It was built as a

At the start of the Rows, on the corner of King Street and Cross Street stands a large late eighteenth century. The Rows were the house shows clearly how large houses were fifteenth century hall house (pictured). The town's shopping centre from medieval times

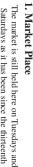
On Cross Street are some of the best preserved Tudor shop windows which had shutters that opened to provide a counter and a canopy over the goods market stalls and progressed to become permanent home and business premises combined.

Bridge End

sited there in 1630. The shops started as onwards, with 33 of the 46 shops in the town open hall section having its roof raised in the divided into three different elements with the

Garden

Maze N.C.



Saturdays as it has been since the thirteenth century. The Market Place is dominated by Victorian buildings. Barclays Bank was designed by Eden Nesfield as a bank for Gibson & Co. in 1874. The stone portico and timber framed additions to the Georgian Town Hall were The drinking fountain (pictured) was also a the town from George Stacey Gibson in 1879. designed by Edward Burgess and were a gift to The Tourist Information Centre is housed here.

completed in 1848. Exchange, is of Italianate style designed by Richard Tress and Princess Alexandra of Denmark. The Library, once The Corn 1863 to commemorate the marriage of The Prince of Wales to

gift to the town from the Gibson family in



2. The Old Sun Inn

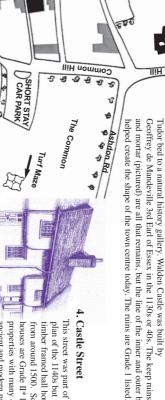
Wisbech Giant or Gog and Magog. whether they are Tom Hickathrift and The two figures and opinion is divided as to to 1676. The end gable (pictured) shows Grade I listed homes and shops dating from bas-relief of birds and fruit, possibly dating patterns, some freehand designs and later types of decorative plaster work called the fourteenth century with many different four corners. The Old Sun Inn is a range of stands has timber framed buildings on all The crossroads at which the Old Sun Inn pargetting'. These include incised repeat



collection is of national importance. It completed in 1835. Its ethnographic museum buildings in the country, in one of the oldest purpose built 3. Museum and Castle Ruins The museum collections are housed

has everything from mammoth tusks to mummies, from an early

and mortar (pictured) are all that remains, but the line of the inner and outer bailey Geoffrey de Mandeville 3rd Earl of Essex in the 1130s or 40s. The keep ruins of flint Tudor bed to a natural history gallery. Walden Castle was built by



600 4. Castle Street This street was part of the new town plan of the 1140s but most of the

Wealden houses, the easiest to identify properties with many examples of houses are Grade II* listed from around 1500. Some of the timber framed hall houses now date There are a number of unusual ancient and modern pargetting

roof lines give clues as to the extent of the original houses houses divided into small cottages. Clear breaks in the the 1800s this was the poorer section of town with many of the is normally associated with Kent. The house also has sliding sash is at No 49/51 (pictured). This style of hall house under a single roof windows which are commonly found in Saffron Walden houses. By

The Cross Keys is a fifteenth 9. The Old Cross Keys

frontage. The plaster on the entire and first floors of the King Street new windows added on the ground the early nineteenth century and additions. The roof was raised in house and shop with later century timber framed former

timber framed section was taken off in the early twentieth century and some first floor windows reinstated

two of the original fifteenth century shop windows At the corner of King Street and High Street on the ground floor are 8. Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin The earliest features of the largest parish church in Essex

in the Perpendicular style between 1470 and 1525. The church size reflects the wealth of the town at the height of the saffron trade. With the addition of the spire in 1832 the tower is 193 feet (59m) high. The interior of the church has a wonderful organ

date from 1250 but the majority of the church was rebuilt

SHORT + LONG STAY CAR PARK

www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org at the east end of the churchyard pipes, nine medieval brasses with spectacular Trompeta Real memorial plaque, his grave being chapel and R.A.Butler's and some fine stained glass Belgian slate tomb in the south monuments are Lord Audley's windows. Among the

Listed buildings mentioned 6. The Eight Bells

Listed buildings

Metres

8

Abbey Lane

W.C.

SHORT STAY CAR PARK

Park Lane

7. 1, Myddylton Place and The Close

Myddylton Place (pictured) is Grade I listed and is one of

different elements. The range at right angles to the late sixteenth century addition which features a continuous road is fifteenth century while the street frontage is a buildings in Saffron Walden and is an amalgam of The Eight Bells is one of the 27 Grade II* listed

his alleged assailant was found not guilty at trial Chief Constable Campling commemorates his murder after he left the Eight Bells pub one night the upper floor. The building is one of the few buildings in the town with both first and ground this floor. It has a fine carved bressumer beam which is the exposed horizontal beam that supports floor windows in their original positions. The memorial on the bridge over the Madgate Slade to first floor jetty or oversailing developed to create bigger rooms on

5. Fry Art Gallery and Bridge End Garden

The path to Bridge End Garden passes the Fry Art Gallery which was built in

oft Rd

who settled in the Essex countryside in the works of the Great Bardfield group of artists Since 1987 it has housed a collection of the It was then inherited by his daughter Elizabeth Fry 1856 by Francis Gibson to hold his personal art collection

commended in the 2018 UK Heritage Awards as a the Heritage Lottery Fund. Bridge End Garden was garden, wilderness area, hedge maze and a lovely Gibson who expanded Bridge End Garden The garden has now been restored with help from south facing lawn with a summerhouse (pictured) introducing a Dutch garden, rose garden, kitchen 'Hidden Gem". www.fryartgallery.org 1930s. Started by his father, it was Francis

