

Creting St. Mary Newsletter

Report to the Annual Parish meeting of the Parish Council, May 2020.

Joint Editors: Joan Hardingham and Kathryn Martin

The CSM newsletter is issued 6 times a year from February. We are currently preparing volume 38/3. With a 20th of the month deadline, we endeavour to get it delivered before the beginning of the month of publication. 345 copies are currently printed but with extra housing in the village more copies may be needed. The last edition was increased to 40 pages as more and more people have been providing useful and interesting information and pictures about what is happening in the village.

Finances: Publishing costs £1,349.50; income from advertisers: £1,041; balance carried forward from 2019: £2451.11 so there is £2,142.61 to carry forward. While the advertising does not cover the printing costs we still have a healthy balance to cover the shortfall.

There are regular contributions from the Parish Council including reports from our District Councillors, from the Church, our MP and the village Social Club. Charitable organisations are well presented supporting the Church (this year it was the new roof) and Suffolk Wildlife Trust as are the clubs – the WI, Horticultural Society and welcome information comes from Citizens' Advice and Stow Vets. Other activities such social events in the Jubilee Hall and around the area are advertised and reported on as well as the bi-annual litter-pick. Village history and footpaths are featured and we attempt to keep the contacts page at the end up-to-date. One gap is any report from the Village Primary School – if anyone has the time to report on activities there, when it recommences this would be appreciated by many.

As might be expected this is a communal effort: Kathryn deals with the admin. side contacting contributors, the distributors and advertisers. Joan prepares the magazine using the Scribus publishing programme and it is published very promptly each time by Gipping Press. There is a small army of 11 distributors. We were grateful to the Parish Council, when Covid struck, for finding replacements for the deliverers who could no longer go out. They also speedily set up contacts for those needing help if affected by the current situation. We have a loyal number of local businesses advertising which provides the bulk of the funds for printing.

Joan Hardingham May 2020