

Houghton Village News

Annual Report Houghton Annual Parish Assembly 2024

Background

Houghton Village News has existed in its current format since September 2021 and is delivered free to every home on the parish. This was initially possible through the grants made by The Houghton Community Benefit Fund and Houghton Parish Council, but of late, I have increased advertising rates and taken on a few more adverts, meaning that for 2024, I have been able to produce the magazine without the need for a grant. The increase in ad rates was the first since 2017, despite rising print costs over the past couple of years.

Editions

There are 10 editions each year (no January or August Edition). These average 60 pages printed full colour on A5 paper, although the April 2024 edition will contain 68 pages, impacting print costs.

Content

Each month, there are around 10 regular contributors who provide fresh content for the magazines. This is augmented by reports from village organisations such as All Saints' Church and Houghton Village Hall. We try to vary content through local news stories, local history and local events and welcome ad hoc contributions from parishioners.

Distribution

We have 12 delivery rounds, each averaging 20 homes. Distribution is made possible by a team of around 20 volunteers who collect magazines from Sandra Harper who receives the copies from our printer. Deliverers then collect from her home and deliver, usually by the end of the previous month. Without such a band of willing volunteers, the magazine could not exist.

Continuous Improvement

We have acted on feedback from our readers and tried to accommodate all suggestions for improvement. Having said that, we now have a well-honed process that seems to resonate strongly with the community as most feedback is positive about the value of the magazine.

Acknowledgements, Without Who...

- Our columnists and contributors
- Our Advertisers
- Our Distribution Team
- Editing/Proof Reading Support - Alistair Dougall
- The residents of Houghton & Bossington

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