

Village Voice report for Annual Parish Meetings 2018

The Village Voice is a bi-monthly magazine covering the four parishes of Denham, Hoxne, Syleham and Wingfield.

Looking Back

The magazine has now been produced in full colour for the first complete year and continues to be viable over the previous black/white issues. Thanks go out to all the advertisers and contributors throughout the year, without whom there wouldn't be a magazine. We have provided reports and event dates from local clubs, organisations and Churches, as well as articles of interest.

The Parish Council reports are most welcome as not everyone can get out and about or have internet access. It's also a chance for other parishes to easily see what else is being implemented or problems incurred, and hopefully benefit from shared experiences.

Finances

The Village Voice is primarily funded through advertising revenue. Dawn Lodge handles the advertising and there are on average 56 different advertisers covering a wide range of local services. Advertising is limited to provide a balance with articles and this is around 11 to 12 pages in total which represents 20-25% of each issue. When an advertiser does drop out, there is usually always someone in reserve. Income vs costs are broadly on par with last year and we have funds in-hand. There is no plan to revise advertising charges in the coming year.

Distribution

The print run continues at of some 900 copies and each village has its own distributors organised by Sally Dudley. These breakdown as:

Denham - 110 copies; **Hoxne** (including St. Peter and St. Paul Church, Post Office Stores and Swan Inn) - 520 copies; **Syleham** - 105 copies; **Wingfield** (including De La Pole Arms & GWC Café) - 160 copies; Copies are also dropped off in **Eye** at the Library, Bank, Queens Head and Hartismere Place. Any overrun copies have been delivered to **Harleston** Library and Info Plus, **Stradbroke** Library and the antique/coffee shop.

Going Forward

The new features introduced last year will continue, i.e. *In the Kitchen*, *In the Garden*, *The Lunch Bunch*, and now the weather has turned fine once again, the *Village Walks*. Anyone who holds regular or one-off events or who offer community facilities are encouraged to get in touch. It's free advertising and reports can encourage participation and membership, not just from new residents, but current parishioners alike.

Deadline remains at 8th preceding month, just beware it's bi-monthly so you may need to think two-three months ahead for event dates. More entries for the crossword are always welcome, don't just complete it and then not send it in as you never know you might just win!

A special vote of thanks must go to some VV helpers who are now moving on: Peter at Hoxne Post Office Stores for acting as a drop-off and distribution point and the Chester's: Brian has continued to compile the Church Services and News section even though he hasn't been editor for some five years and Sallie has distributed the magazine far and wide. We wish them all well for the future.