

Roundabout Annual Report – April 2019 to March 2021

This report covers two years as circumstances in 2020 made an AGM unfeasible.

Background

Roundabout magazine is non-profit making and is published and distributed entirely by volunteers. We would like to express our thanks to all who help to make this possible as well as our hugely valued readers and contributors. Content is written and selected to be of interest and relevance to the residents of the parish. We normally produce ten issues per year and it is delivered to virtually every household in the villages of Woodhouse and Woodhouse Eaves. We circulate 1000 copies per edition. An electronic version is available via the parish website.

Production team

Over the last two years we have seen a change in our team as Chris Brown left the team after sterling service to the magazine as editor. After an appeal for help, David McClelland, who has come to the village recently, saw the magazine and offered to add his expertise to the team. We are grateful to both of them for their work and contributions – both past and present.

Finances

The production team would like to express their thanks to Woodhouse Parish Council for providing a grant of £400 in the 2019/20 financial year to support the magazine. The team agreed that we would not request a grant for 2020/21 because we felt that we have sufficient reserves and the money could be used better by the parish council to help support other areas. Now, the costs of the magazine are therefore entirely covered by a number of local advertisers who choose to promote their services and events with us. We limit the percentage of such material to approximately 25% of the publication.

The magazine made a small surplus of £485 in 2019/20 and a small deficit of £138 in 2020/21, largely due to a reduction in advertising during the pandemic. The magazine currently has reserves of £2,970 and the budget for the year ending 1st April 2022 is forecast to have a small deficit.

Impact of the pandemic

As with all aspects of our lives, the pandemic had an impact on the magazine. In 2020, the April, May and June issues were only available online and this was also the case for the February and March issues in 2021. We were unable to print due to a combination of Loughborough University Printers being shut and the need to ensure that we adhered to appropriate restrictions for our distributors. We still wanted to produce the magazine for our readers and so we did this by continuing with an electronic version. The facility to notify people by email that this was available via the parish website became invaluable and we further boosted this by notifications on posters around the villages, social media and word of mouth.

The lack of social events in the villages meant that one-off adverts have reduced dramatically. We continue, however, to receive support from our regular advertisers. We decided that when the magazine was only available online, we would not charge our advertisers and so they have only paid when the magazine was actually printed and distributed. We have been very grateful for all of our advertisers continued support and cooperation while we have administered all of these changes.

Magazine

We are always pleased to receive articles from residents and these give voice and share interest with our community. If you or anyone you know would like to contribute please get in touch. Also, if there is anyone who would like to join the production team, please do contact us.

You can find full details of how to contact us inside the cover of *Roundabout* and our email address can be found below.

The Roundabout Production Team

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