

Foss Focus

Saxilby and District Parish Magazine

EDITOR

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REPORT for Saxilby Annual Parish Meeting 28th April 2021

2020 turned out to be a very challenging year for FOSS FOCUS.

The year started well, with the usual magazine being printed and delivered to the church for collection and distribution by the army of volunteers. By the end of January 2020 most of the annual subscriptions had been collected in from the regular readers (12 months at 50p per copy) and all the invoices had been sent out to advertisers.

All continued in the normal way for February and then in March 2020 we just managed to get the magazine out before the national lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Sadly, we had to suspend printed copies in April 2020 due to the continuing lockdown, so it was decided to go on-line. This had to be a slimdown news-only version (no advertising) to keep it within the on-line size limits. We had to continue with this on-line version for a further 3 months.

In August 2020 we managed to resume the printed copy after completing a full risk assessment. As it was not appropriate under the Covid restrictions to use the confined space of the church for collection by the distributors, we started to use an open car-port as a distribution point, the magazines being delivered a day early to allow them to stand 24 hours before being handled. This worked well and has continued this way.

We recognised that both the readers and advertisers had paid for a full year in 2020 and were therefore in credit for 4 months: this has come off their bill in 2021. Also, in order to make it safer for the distributors, it was decided to defer collection of the 2021 subscriptions until May, when the reduced sum will be £4.00 for the rest of the year.

We are always grateful to the regular news contributors: Elaine Atkin/Lydia Hopton (parish & assistant clerk) who send four pages for the Parish Council, Chris Hewis for History, David Cotton for District Council News, Saxilby School, the Scouts, Brownies, Police, Saxilby Bowls Club, Saxilby Strollers, Gardening Club, SIGNS, Reading group, Saxilby Drama Circle, Saxilby Golf Society, the WI and the U3A. Sadly, the Methodist Church decided to close in 2020, so their last two pages were in September last year.

As well as delivery to our regular readers, the magazine is on sale at the Saxilby Coop and M R Poole's shop in the village. We have further outlets at Quayside Gifts in Burton Waters and Newton-on-Trent Post Office.

Special thanks for the help of all the volunteers who have delivered the magazines every month, especially when they have taken their exercise during the Covid restrictions, and to Freda and Alan Lowe for organising the distribution.

Despite all the challenges, FOSS FOCUS has survived the pandemic and is still going strong!

If you want to have a regular copy please contact Freda Lowe (tel. 01522 809673)

David Turner (acting assistant Editor)

**A parish church publication
serving the community**