

TALK TO TOWN FORUM, 22 APRIL 2024

THE DOVE magazine

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We continue to cover the six parishes in the Benefice: Bruton, Brewham, Pitcombe, Redlynch, Shepton Montague and Wyke Champflower. We still produce ten issues a year, monthly with double issues in July/August and December/January. For cost and other reasons we can't increase the number of pages.

The big change this year is that I have stepped down as editor, after 15 years, and the committee has changed too. I can safely say that these have been very successful years, and I am gratified by the warm response I have had during that time from many people, both friends and strangers. My new role is as Chair of the committee, less onerous but still with its challenges.

Our new editor is Eve Anderton, who has taken up the challenge wholeheartedly. She is bringing in new ideas, one of the most important being to access the magazine on-line. This should happen within the next few months. She is also hoping to address more young people, maybe including some articles by schoolchildren.

The person now responsible for the layout, since Robert and Lucy Carter stopped doing it, is Sarah Mills, who does such a good job with the Benefice Newsletter. In charge of distribution are Dick and Angela Pearce, taking over from Alan and Moira Ashdown. David Freestone is the new advertising manager, replacing Eve in her former role. Mike Kelham remains as deputy Chair, and Ed Tickner as Treasurer. Many thanks to the Carters and the Ashdowns for their hard work over years. And our Chair, Anna Groskop, stepped down at the end of last year. We are deeply grateful to her for her chairmanship.

Subscribers – the current total is around 120. Very many people now pick up the magazine from the various outlets – shops, restaurants, pubs, the church, the petrol station, the Library, the Museum. We also put copies into the Bailey Hill bookshop in Castle Cary and the Post Office in Wincanton. The cost to subscribe is only £15 per annum, delivered to your door; or £25 postal. And we do greatly value our subscribers, who are an essential part of our financial set-up. More are always welcome! We've put the subscription cost up only once since we started the magazine in February 2009.

Our treasurer, Ed Tickner, says: '*The Dove* remains in good financial health. Our advert prices represent excellent value in comparison with rates for similar productions elsewhere, and, together with our very reasonable annual subscription charges, enable us to provide substantial numbers of free copies for tourists and visitors in particular, and also for those who don't want an annual subscription. We do not ask for Council or other support financially and will shortly be considering offering donations to deserving organisations within the Bruton Community. The time and efforts of the committee, all given voluntarily, plus the work of the extensive volunteer distribution team, who deliver in all weathers, combine to make all this possible.' And I must add that we are most grateful to our advertisers for their support.

Our exceptional team are beyond praise, and I can't thank them enough: Mike, Sarah, Ed, David, Angela and Dick, above all Eve.

One plea I would like to reiterate: we want to keep Useful Information useful and not Useless. If you know that something is inaccurate, please tell us.

Thank you, everyone in the town and beyond, for your support and appreciation.