

## **NORTH PICKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL: Annual Parish Meeting 2024.**

### **Report on *The Pickenhams'* Community Newsletter:**

The community newsletter – “The Pickenhams” is funded partly by grants (the last one was in 2018) and partly by advertising. It is produced and delivered by a team of volunteers and delivered free every month to the 300 homes/750 residents in North and South Pickenham. It is also posted on the North and South Pickenham Parish Councils’ web sites, and is sent by e-mail to those who request it. Selected extracts can be posted on the Pickenhams Community and Events Facebook pages. We also deliver the free Swaffham Newsletter (when available) at the same time as the Pickenhams’ Newsletter. Many residents continue to value the printed copies, whether or not they use Facebook or other computer-based media.

It continues to provide details of local events; local groups (eg the Pickenhams’ WI); Church Services; community activities (particularly those at The Pickenham Hub); reports from North Pickenham Parish Council and South Pickenham Parish Council meetings; community notices; contact details for Parish, District and County Councillors; bus and mobile library times; and, on a lighter note, local anecdotes and stories; a fun quiz; and recipes and poetry. Various adverts provide details of services and products available to local residents.

The “core team” of volunteers (Editor – Chris Cousins; Finance and Advertising – Stephen Chalkley; and Printing - Sue Bloomfield; and distribution - Melanie Cousins) remained the same until recently. Alison Furniss has now taken over Finance and Advertising; and Cherry Cook and Angela Carricker have volunteered to do the printing. Many thanks to Sue Bloomfield and Stephen Chalkley for their sterling efforts over the years and help in ensuring the Newsletter is issued on time each month and is able to cover its costs from advertising. The printer has recently been relocated to North Pickenham Pavilion.

Many thanks to all the others who also help. Eileen Reilly, assisted by Ben Hogan, collates the printed North Pickenham copies of the Newsletter and gets the printed copies to the deliverers. The delivery team now comprises Melanie Cousins, Eileen Reilly, Rosie Barrington, Beth Clifton, Angela Carricker, Helen Haley and Ian Rose in North Pickenham; and Sue Bloomfield, Stephen Chalkley, Jenny Blackburne and Estelle Kelleher in South Pickenham.

Local residents also submit a variety of articles or other items for inclusion.

New volunteers and contributors are always welcome. Anyone interested in helping with the newsletter, for example by writing copy; or assisting with delivery; or with any ideas on how it can be improved should contact the current Editor, Chris Cousins on 01760 440456 or email to [pickenhamsperiodical@gmail.com](mailto:pickenhamsperiodical@gmail.com).

The greatly increased cost of paper, electricity and copying has affected the *Newsletter's* finances. However given the number of reliable long-term advertisers, revenue has covered all outgoings over the past year. We continue to look out for potential new advertisers. A recent agreement with the printer company has resulted in more predictable, and lower, costs for the next three years.

Chris Cousins on behalf of the Pickenhams’ Newsletter Team.

5 March 2024