

# Houghton Village News

## Annual Report Houghton Annual Parish Assembly 2026

### Background

Houghton Village News has existed in its current format since I took over the editorship in September 2021. The magazine, which came 13<sup>th</sup> in the Parish Magazine of the Year Awards in 2023, is delivered free to every home on the parish. This is made possible through grants from The Houghton Community Benefit Fund and Houghton Parish Council, and through the sale of advertising space. To cover the annual print costs required revenues of circa £4,000, of which £3,000 comes from advertising. One of my objectives has been to maintain a reasonable balance between content and adverts, which, to date, has been achieved.

### Editions

There are 10 editions each year (no January or August Edition). These average 60 pages printed full colour on high grade A5 paper.

### Content

Each month, there are around 10 regular contributors who provide fresh content for the magazines. This is augmented by reports from village organisations such as All Saints' Church, Houghton Parish Council and Houghton Village Hall. We try to vary content through local news stories, local history and local events and welcome ad hoc contributions from parishioners.

### Distribution

We have 12 delivery rounds, each averaging 20 homes. Distribution is made possible by a team of around 20 volunteers who collect magazines from Sandra Harper who receives the copies from our printer and bundles them into rounds. Deliverers then collect from her home and deliver, usually by the end of the previous month. Without such a band of willing volunteers, the magazine could not exist.

### Continuous Improvement

We have always acted on feedback from our readers and tried to accommodate all suggestions for improvement. Having said that, we now have a well-honed process that seems to resonate strongly with the community as verbal feedback is positive about the value of the magazine to the community.

### Acknowledgements, Without Whom..

- Our columnists and contributors
- Our Advertisers
- Our Distribution Team
- Editing/Proof Reading Support - Alistair Dougall
- The residents of Houghton & Bossington
- Houghton Community Benefit Fund
- Houghton Parish Council

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