

REPORT FROM CREETING ST MARY NEWSLETTER
TO ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
ON THURSDAY 21st MAY 2026

Production of the newsletter has continued regularly and provided information to all residents about village events and general information.

I have just finished my first year as the editor and it is a great responsibility and honour – and a lot of fun. Editorially I have tried very lightly to bring a new voice to it I hope without changing the excellent format that I inherited. I hope that it still achieves its role of delivering information from all the interested councillors and the MP, institutions and local groups but also bringing in a few more feature-style elements like history, art and poetry and interesting facts and maybe some goofy fun. I hope people like it.

I am trying to balance all that with reporting on and promoting local events. I was pleased with the coverage of the last summer's Suffolk Day fete, fireworks night and Christmas parties. This year I am working with the Social Club and the Village Hall committee to use the Hall's centenary to promote celebratory events. I hope I am always asking for suggestions and am happy when people send odd and ends (like Chris' request about the bench in Blacksmiths Field which I hope will result in its refurbishment).

Numbers have had to increase rapidly as the village expands, and we are now looking at over 475 copies per edition, up from 426 this time last year. This has placed pressure on the budget over recent months. We remain grateful to two advertisers sponsoring the colour pages in the middle which is very good both for the finances and the appearance of the newsletter. Furthermore I have recently found a volunteer who will now start to hit the phones to try to drum up some more advertisers. We are grateful of course to the Parish and District councils for contributions to our funds this year, to the Social Club who also contribute to help us to promote their events, and to all the advertisers. Jennie will guide you through the balance sheet.

We would also like to thank Janice Lilley and her intrepid bank of distributors for collecting and delivering the finished newsletters, and of course all the contributors for their reliably prompt and interesting submissions and indeed everyone who has made suggestions. Special thank yous to Pam and Brian Day for giving me a treasure trove of historical resources which I am dipping into edition by edition, and to our brilliant photographers whose beautiful images help use the newsletter to capture the village season by season.

And finally a special thank you to Kathryn Martin and Joan Hardingham for trusting me with this task and for supporting me as I've found my feet.

- Steve Matthews, Editor