

ASPRA AGM

April 2019

Editor's Report



My apologies for non-attendance; I will be on holiday but Colin Gamm has promised to present this report and to field any consequent questions.

The Spring magazine was out slightly later than we'd hoped. The number of new adverts and increased copy we were running necessitated some additional work from TD Print, which took a little time, and the complexities of putting together a 64 page book meant the printing and binding were done in Germany, which also added a day or two to production.

We have a very good working relationship with TD Print, whose help and advice is invaluable. They are not a large business and they rely on prompt payment. Our costs, this time, were considerable but we failed to process their invoice for nearly three weeks. If we could improve this situation it would save embarrassment all round.

The Summer issue is in its embryonic state. We intend to run a small feature on ASPRA's thirty years, but will leave a proper anniversary issue until the Autumn. This is because we've just discovered that issue number one went out in September 1989. We will be requesting our neighbours to consider their recollections of ASPRA's beginnings and to look for any very old magazines that may still exist.

The Blackhorse Lane bridge will have closed to pedestrian traffic by the time of the AGM. The closure is expected to last into June (at least). We have opened a dialogue with a member of the contractor's team and we hope to secure enough information for an article this issue. We will also be featuring pieces on the September Jumble Trail and on the number of clubs locally available.

Because of holidays and family commitments detailed writing and editing won't really get under way until the beginning of May. Nevertheless, we would hope to be going to print in the last two weeks of May, with the magazine arriving some seven to ten days later. We will be inviting those who use our 'What's On?' pages to offer us their plans for June through to early October.

Some last few words about the distribution; I post to all of the Road Reps on the day I pick up the magazines from TD Print. Most are very good and respond within 48 hours to arrange collection and I am often down to half the number in a few days. Some take a polite reminder (people are away or at work etc.) and that's not a problem. Some don't respond at all, which is just rude.

I've taken to dumping out parcels of the magazine allocation to the non-respondents in the hope that they do at least deliver, but if you hear of members saying 'we don't even see a magazine' then there might be a reason for that.