

Report to Wells Town Council on Monday Feb 1st 2021

The Quay magazine was born 15 years ago when the Business Forum was asked by representatives of Wells Churches if it would consider taking over the task of producing a community newsletter.

The group applied their combined expertise to create and deliver a self-financing, professional quality publication. The group formed a corporate vehicle, Quay Publishing Ltd, a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee (not shares) and, led by founding editor, Bernard Phillips (no relation to Sara), created the publication that has now been published 180 times and delivered, free of charge, to approximately 2,400 addresses in Wells, Holkham, Stiffkey, Wighton and Warham.

Sara Philips took over the editorship when Bernard retired and, together with Pete Lynn, Carolyn Stocker and Peter Rainsford ensured that the contributors were encouraged to submit copy, the advertisers were persuaded to buy space, the deliverers delivered the magazine efficiently, the bills were paid and the corporate formalities were observed.

For fifteen years and 180 issues this team has supported Sara, who has given so much, to deliver every 4 weeks the content and layout that we have all come to expect and depend on for keeping us all in touch with what is going on in Wells and its neighbouring parishes.

I need now to let you know what is happening with the magazine and what the board of Quay Publishing Ltd has decided to do.

A number of factors came together at the end of January to make it difficult to get the magazine out in February and March. Announcing that we were not publishing a February and March issue gave us (SP CS and I) time to consider exactly how The Quay was to go forward.

We have come to the decision that it is the right time for we three to stop doing the magazine. Having announced that decision, we are pleased to say that others have come forward with proposals to continue a "Quay"- type community magazine in the future.

We have decided to put out a "final" issue under the current management, to be published at the end of February/beginning of March in which we can round everything up, explain what is happening, invite new people to involve themselves in a new magazine and generally bring the curtain down on our involvement over the last 15 years. We will support a new team in as seamless a transition as possible with an aim to restart the magazine in May. This is, in our opinion, the earliest possible time to complete a transfer.

Finally, and most importantly, do you or any group that you are associated with have anything you would like to write for this "Spring" issue? If so, please can we receive it by the end of this week - Friday 5 February?

It remains for me and my fellow directors to thank you all, very much, for your support over the years.

Peter Rainsford
Director, Quay Publishing Ltd.