

ASPRA APRIL 2021

Annual General Meeting

29 April

Magazine Editor's Report



1989 - 2021

No one needs telling that 2020 was a difficult and unusual year. Our Spring 2020 issue of the magazine was the last produced in conditions of relative normalcy. It's hard to think back now but only twelve months ago we were complaining of good old coughs and colds as being the worst of winter woes. Boy — did we not know what was just around the corner!

The first lockdown was salutary enough with three months of shutdown stifling nearly all of the businesses in our high street and around. A comprehensive neighbourhood approach emerged with a willingness for a whole-community effort translating into the first ever all-Addiscombe Magazine replacing our Summer publication. It carried free advertising to support our local traders and went into 4000 Addiscombe homes. We carried articles and opinion pieces from both H.O.M.E and Blackhorse RAs and were grateful for funding from the ward budgets of both Jeet Bains and Maddie Henson. It was quite natural for this magazine to carry a title for *The Addiscombe Magazine*, something we have decided to appropriate for ASPRA from now on.

Conned by covid into thinking the coast was clear, the Summer issue was optimistic about 'a new normal', and we hardly saw the second wave coming. However, we did adjust and did delay the Autumn issue, gearing its content very much to Christmas and New Year. This was as well, as print delays took weeks out of our schedule. However, with a Christmas cartoon on the cover and much pessimistic speculation about how long another lockdown would last, we found ourselves quite in tune with the times. Many thanks here for the efforts of Dave and Colin and all of the Road Reps in getting that issue out in double quick time.

Now two months behind schedule and waiting-to-know whatever was (is) going to happen next, we have negotiated the later release of the Spring issue from its usual February to April (where it becomes Spring-Summer). Normally out to just our membership, this one will go for a 2000 print and become the whole-ASPRA recruitment number (normally scheduled for May-June). The remaining two issues for 2021 will be back to 'members only' and will probably be prepared for August and November.

At time of writing (end March) much of our copy is written and ready, and we expect to be off to print in the next week or so.

PRP/ March 21