

2025 FOSS FOCUS REPORT – for 2026 APCM

A quick look back in the archives shows that the FOSS FOCUS achieved its 57th birthday in January 2025 and by the end of the year that was 58 years and 696 publications – quite an achievement.

The start of 2025 was very challenging when we found out over the New Year shutdown that certain key members of our printing company, IMPRINT, had left the company at very short notice and had set up as a rival company. After lengthy conversations with both parties, it was decided to remain with our current provider. Unfortunately, time had been lost during this process, and we had to accept delivery a week later than normal. Regrettably, this created additional problems for the volunteer deliverers when they were also faced with collecting the annual payments. The only good aspect was that the weather was better for collecting that week later! The magazine cost remained at 60p per copy for a further year. More regular customers started paying by BACS.

In January emails went out to all 106 advertisers, informing them that the advertising rates were to remain the same for another year; asking if they wished to continue and to check that their advert details were up to date. The advert pages were then revised for the February edition to cover the 94 remaining advertisers; this helped to save some space. Further space was saved when the Parish Council deciding to reduce their pages from four to two from February onwards. Altogether, this helped reduce the printing costs by having a 48-page magazine instead of 52 pages, saving £163.00 per month, although we lost £34.50 per month from the Parish Council due to their change.

Most of the advertisers emailed a reply but over 30 telephone calls had to be made to chase the remainder. Eventually, all 94 invoices were sent out by the end of January – all but three went out by email. By the end of the year a further 17 advertisers came along. Just 4 of all the advertisers paid by cash, 6 by cheque and the remainder by BACS; internet access to the bank account allowed regular checks to be made and outstanding payments to be chased up.

The number of regular customers drop slightly in 2025, but the sale of magazines at the Saxilby Coop remained constant at 170. Throughout the year we had 2 other static outlets, on a sale or return basis, at M.R. Poole's shop in the village (35 copies), and the Quayside Gift shop in Burton Waters (6 copies), with Sarah Hogg kindly collecting 10 for Kettlethorpe church.

We started the year with 940 copies each month, but from June onwards this was reduced to 910. There were 3 special editions during the year with full colour front cover – May VE 80, August VJ 80 and December for Christmas. All editions had 48 pages, except for 52 pages in July due to the many news items. The majority of pages always carried regular articles from numerous clubs and local organisations to benefit the whole community, whilst the advertising pages provide a valuable platform for the local traders.

The April (Easter) edition 2025 carried the newly designed front cover produced in WORD, to replace the previous design in PUBLISHER in readiness for the latter being withdrawn by Microsoft in 2026. During the remainder of 2025 all 15 pages of adverts were also gradually converted to WORD, so by the end of the year everything was in WORD.

IMPRINT continued to deliver them each month to 36 Church Road, where they were then collected by our faithful band of volunteers who then distributed free of charge to our regular customers throughout the Saxilby area. Freda and Alan Lowe continued to do a great job in managing the distribution and whenever someone could not do their round, they always stepped in and did it themselves. A great team effort by all concerned.

David Turner (editor)