



AV News Editor Report - My report is much the same as last year, namely ...

We publish three times a year with AV News e-xtra to fill the gaps. This appears to have been well received by members particularly as we increased the page count of AV News up to 64 pages per issue. All of this has reduced our printing and postage costs and has had a positive impact on our accounts whilst maintaining quality. However, in 2023 there has been a significant increase in printing and postage costs. This will only head in the same direction.

Obtaining sufficient copy for AV News is always a challenge but we always get there. AV News looks to include more images and photography with some technical articles. Competition results are published in AV News e-xtra along with the promotion of future events.

New contributors are always needed.

Thanks are extended to AV News contributors and to Andrew Gagg for his excellent support with graphics and artwork. Thanks also to those who proof read AV News and spot all my typos.

AV News for the years 2017 to 2022 are now on the RPS Website with plans to scan and upload all copies from the very start. Some help with scanning would be appreciated.

AV News Going Forwards

I will continue editing AV News for the next year but plan to stand down as editor at the 2024 AGM. I have been editor since the end of 2016 and by the end of 2024 it will be almost eight years and 27 editions under my stewardship. After so long it is very difficult to maintain a fresh approach.

This gives a good opportunity for the Committee to review where we go with AV News. The following points are important.

- Our demographic is such that membership and subscription numbers are reducing year on year and we are getting to a point where expenditure exceeds income, particularly as print and distribution costs increase. Whilst our generation prefer hard copy we have to consider the next generation for whom different media are now the norm.
- There are many ways in which members gain updates (Social Media, E-News from various sources, the many Zoom events, the wonderful AV Group Website) so the need for a journal has changed. There are other ways of achieving the same outcome at much reduced costs at the same time as maintaining our legacy.
- The next generation expect (and demand) open access and this demands a different model which the AV Group should consider. One approach might be to publish electronically and then pull everything together into an annual review of the year which is available in print form. We need to see what other groups do for their members.

Alastair Taylor
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