The Year of The MagPi

I first proposed the idea of the MagPi magazine back in March on the Raspberry Pi forums after reading numerous threads by those new to programming who wanted to learn but were unsure of how to start or whether they had enough experience to operate the Raspberry Pi.

At the time, there was no documentation for how to use this clever little computer, and most tutorials and projects were aimed at those with some experience in using Linux or had a background in programming. I felt that as a result of this it may put a lot of beginners off attempting to learn how to program or prevent them from realising the vast variety of projects that would be possible with limited effort with the Pi.

To target the more experienced programmer, one thing I felt was missing from the Raspberry Pi community was that of a central hub, aside from the forums, which would allow those to explain in detail to others how to replicate their project, show case pictures and videos and answer any questions from the community on the topic to help others in a similar situation.

Coming from a medical background with experience in publishing papers in journals, I felt that the best way the community could share their experience was to create a centralised place where everyone could access and share information, and the media of an online peer reviewed journal seemed to tick all the boxes and comply with the educational ethos of the foundation.

Over the last 8 months, both the MagPi magazine and the team has evolved. We are now a LTD company, working very closely with the Raspberry Pi foundation, allowing users to send their projects and we upload them to the draft of the issue, allowing readers to get an early glimpse of the next magazine.

This provides the ability of readers to provide suggestions to correct or clarify what is written and any tips or tricks which may be of benefit. We currently produce a 32 page monthly magazine, of which month by month we expand our content covering articles on a variety of Raspberry Pi related themes including coding with various languages, robotics, home automation, electronics, and practical techniques to name a few.

We are thankful for all the support given to us by both the Raspberry Pi Foundation and all our readers. We have been overwhelmed by how we have been positively received, with constant feedback to reflect this and some great articles featuring the magazine, including those by the Wall Street Journal and the BBC’s Rory Cellan-Jones!

We have grown in size as a team, with editors and contributors from all over the world, from all age groups and all professions, from computing to educationalists to medicine, technologists to students. To reflect the diversity of our teams, we recently were proud to announce that the MagPi magazine has been translated to French and German with Chinese and Spanish translations also being worked on.

We're super excited by our plans for The MagPi in 2013 including our Kickstarter project allowing readers the chance to get all eight issues in a limited edition binder and hope you will continue to support us in the New Year.

Ash Stone

Chief Editor of The MagPi