

Fynn-Lark News. 2020. Report for PCs and PCCs

2020 was the year of the Covid pandemic. Almost everyone was affected by it, and by various degrees of lock-down. The role of our magazine was important in that sustained a certain level of communication between people living in our villages. In some ways it served as a history of that difficult period.

Despite, or maybe because of a financial panic at the end of the previous year, supporters rallied round to great effect, with the result that we were able to fully fund all 10 issues of the FLN and still end up around £1000 in the black. Our policy is to try to have enough in our account at the end of one year to be able to fund the whole of the following year, and so embark on the new year with confidence. Our expenditure, virtually all going on printing, amounts to over £3000 pa, partly because we are now producing issues of 40 pages or more. A good sign, but we need to sustain that financially. We remain grateful to individuals, Parish Councils, churches and other organisations, and advertisers for their indispensable support. Without them there would be no Magazine.

At the end of the year we took soundings from representatives of the four parishes and the following conclusions were agreed.

1/ The FLN is broadly valued by Bealings and Playford as a means of keeping the community together and of contributing to its cohesion and sense of identity.

2. Culpho came close to going its own way, on the grounds that the church is now closely tied in with Grundisburgh and that maintaining the link with the FLN is a duplication. In the event, Culpho residents agreed that they wished to remain part of the FLN group for other reasons.

3/ It was agreed that having local advertisers advertising local services is a valued function of the FLN, and one of reciprocal benefit. The FLN also advertises local events.

4/ It was agreed that, even in this increasingly digital age, hard copies of the Magazine are still enjoyed, perhaps even preferred, by many. The frequency of publication – 10 issues per annum is appreciated. Any reduction would result in a loss of immediacy.

5/ While the churches may now feel conflicting allegiances, and the old Benefice is no more, church news is now a relatively small proportion of the Magazine, so the rest of the content remains relevant to the “geographical entity”, the Fynn-Lark valleys. The churches can send their news both to this publication, and to any partner church.

6/ To ensure the continuity of organisation of the FLN, each of the Parish Councils could designate a representative belonging to a small standing committee, responsible for ensuring that appropriate personnel are in place. This they now have done. Some advertising in the FLN for additional help was undertaken, with a degree of success, small but welcome.

7/ The range of items is appreciated by the readership, but even more contributors of material would be welcome. Much of the Magazine is written by a small number of contributors. The March edition will contain an item from Bealings School, and it is hoped to make this a regular feature.

8/ There was over-all agreement that the Magazine should continue on very much the same path in 2021.

Norman Porter. Editor. Report agreed by Tim Llewellyn, designer and Peter Carr, i/c Distribution.