

## **Fynn-Lark News. Annual Report 2018.**

### **Finance:**

**Income:** We need about £2500 pa to break even.

Finance comes from three sources:

a/Parish Councils, for whose on-going support we are extremely grateful – about £550 total

b/About three dozen residents with standing orders, and occasional donations. More would be welcome. Probably around £450

c/ Advertising income, sought by the editor, so not far short of £2000 pa needed – many personal links. Again we need more!

**Expenditure:** almost all our expenditure goes on printing. One issue can cost anything between £200/£300, depending on size. One recent issue cost £292 – 40 pages. Probably unsustainable without an increase in income.

We have a team of some 40 people who offer their services free – it was for that reason that we had a small party in late summer to thank them -£50 to say thank you to 40 people -so good value for money.

Current situation: £2088 in YBS, with 8 issues to come, so we are marginally ahead – with PC income for the year – hopefully - still to come.

### **Personnel**

**Production: co-ordinating editor – Norman Porter -Gt B. designer Tim Llewellyn – Playford.**

**Distribution -Peter Carr – Lt B – two collating editors -Ferial Rogers and Jane Hartley -both Lt B.**

I have real concerns for the future. Tim is moving to Chillesford. I'm getting on a bit, and don't have much more in the tank. We desperately need understudies – and help. Pleas for help fall on deaf ears. Without people to produce this Magazine, it will go under. It not only tries to convey and support the values of village life in these parts, but is also the prime vehicle for PCs to communicate with residents. It is a moot point as to whether this can eventually be effectively done exclusively by digital media, should this printed medium fade away or collapse for lack of volunteers.

We are an independent body – used by, but not controlled by the PCs. On balance that independence is good, but it raises the question of continuity – of the way in which this independent body can self-perpetuate – and if it can't, who steps in? The crunch could come sooner rather than later.

### **Editorial independence and neutrality.**

Everyone will be aware that this was a thorny issue in 2018. A series of editorials explained our dilemma. While we would love to paint the picture of an eternally idyllic community, that would be, at various junctures, a distortion of the truth. Our Magazine must have a role to play in communicating controversy, and that necessarily means putting all points of view, not only to inform readers of what is happening, but also to allow them to make up their own minds. We have aspired to neutrality, which sounds a safe word, but it is far from it. Towards the end of 2018 there were pressures on us which nearly led to our throwing in the towel. I know that to edit is to choose, but

when we are doing our best to tread a delicate middle way, that is the sort of pressure to which volunteers should not be subjected. But – phew – happily we seem to have come through it all. But the principle of neutrality may at some time in the future come back to test us. It is not something which will encourage others to join the team.

## **Content**

I can but ask whether it meets with general approval. The Magazine is contributor-led, and within the limits of good taste and space availability we try to publish what we are sent. We do apologise for the occasional failure of material to make it through the process, but we do our amateur best.

In this interregnum the religious side of things is even more squeezed as we have no priest to make official contributions, but again we do our best to work out the information that needs to be published and to keep people informed.

## **Conclusion**

Finance – stable enough, but needs constant watching

Personnel -a real concern for the future

Editorial neutrality – despite our disclaimer on the back page of the Mag this is a sensitive issue, but we will keep trying to produce a balanced magazine, expressing all printable shades of opinion.

I am more than happy to take questions, or to respond to responses to what has been said.