

***Willingham News* Report for Annual Parish Meeting April 2021**

This time last year none of us could have predicted that the country would still be in a lockdown a year later but the whole team at *Willingham News* are very pleased and proud that we are continuing to produce and deliver a paper magazine to all households in the village. There was a brief period during the first lockdown when we only published online and during this time, received several very favourable and appreciative comments from readers. The advantage with the online version was that we were not confined to the usual 24 pages and could produce all photos in colour. Obviously not all our readers were able to access the magazine online and so as soon as we could we reverted to the printed magazines. Meanwhile the magazine is also available on the village website.

Enormous thanks go to David Clarke, our distribution coordinator, who throughout most of this year has continued to collect the magazine from the printers, to do all the counting, weighing, labelling and packaging of the magazines on his own in order to comply with social distancing and safety regulations. Thanks also go to his team of deliverers for ensuring the magazine arrives in each household.

As of 1st April we have gained 26 houses at the far end of Station Road, which until now would have been in Longstanton. Dave will deliver to these extra houses in April but is hoping to get a volunteer from amongst these houses for subsequent months. A further consequence of the extra houses is that we will again need to increase our print run.

Throughout the past year we have produced several issues with extra colour within the magazine. We hope this will continue occasionally in months when we receive more than the usual number of photos or when we are covering a particular event within the village. As and when further COVID restrictions are lifted we look forward to once again receiving news from the various Willingham clubs and groups. We welcome news from our regular contributors but are always very pleased to receive articles or news from any village resident, young or not so young.

The whole team at *Willingham News* are volunteers. The magazine is non – profit making with the publishing costs being largely made by the advertising revenue. Maintaining the quality, size and increasing circulation in its current form usually results in a small loss. We are grateful to the Parish Council who kindly agree to underwrite annual losses provided these do not exceed £3000. However, in the year to April 2021, as a result of the months when we had no printing costs, we did not need this grant. Assuming we are able to produce a printed magazine each month during the year April 2021 to April 2022, and with the need for our print run to be increased, we feel sure we will once again need and be very grateful for this grant.

Liz Cosford April 2021