

By Simon Winchester, Editor -in-Chief

Ours is a most unusual town – one of the largest in Massachusetts in area, and yet with one of the smallest populations. Many are from families that have been here for generations; but a significant number are either newcomers or seasonal or weekend dwellers. Largely because of this disparity within the population there has never developed here a true sense of what all neighbors surely wish for – a sense of community. So it is the goal of our new newspaper to try to change this - though only for those who would like to see it changed – and to forge a wide realisation that all of us here in this very old highland town share a set of aims and aspirations that we both hold dear, and hold in common. All of us want this to be an amiable, pleasant and civilised place to live – a place with good and responsible government, with clean land and waters, with safe roads, an environment in which our children can grow without fear or worry, and where the rest of us can live amongst our abundant natural beauty in peace and serenity. Our newspaper, which will take no political stand other than as a tribune of the people – which will be our motto, in Latin – seeks only to voice our support for all of these things, and to hold up what I hope will be a faithful and flawless mirror to ourselves. It is our newspaper, it is your newspaper, and everyone is invited to write articles or letters, to take or make pictures, or in other unimagined ways to help assemble the monthly mosaic portrait that each issue will turn out to be. By doing so we hope, month by month, to be able to tell or remind each of us in Sandisfield and beyond just who we are and what we wish for, and why we should feel proud and privileged to live in this idyllic and mysteriously overlooked little corner of the American world.