



FORTH VALLEY TALKING NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION [FVTNA]

Known to our Listeners as ***NEWSLINE***

Committees' Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2011

Scottish Charity Number SC014778

Committee until 22nd May 2010

Mrs Christine Moroney	Chairperson
Mr Brian Sharp	Deputy Chairperson
Mrs Betty Sutherland	Secretary
Mrs Margaret Harvey	Treasurer
Mr Bill Buckner	Recording Manager
Mr Finlay Nicolson	Magazine Editor

Management Committee from 22nd May 2010

Mrs Christine Moroney	Chairperson
Mrs Betty Sutherland	Secretary
Mrs Moira Dobbie	Treasurer
Mr John Gow	
Mr Finlay Nicolson	
Mr Brian Sharp	

Contact Address

Mr B.F. Sharp, Deputy Chairperson, FVTNA, PO Box 42, FALKIRK, FK1 1AA

Recruitment and appointment of the Committee

All of the Association's committee are appointed or reappointed by the members at our annual general meeting, which is held in May each year.

Governing Document

The Association is a charitable unincorporated association and the purposes and administration arrangements are set out in our constitution.

Charitable Purposes

Our purposes, as recorded in our constitution, are: -

The object of the Association is to relieve the blind, or partially sighted, or those labouring under some temporary or permanent incapacity or disability which makes reading a strain, by the provision of recorded cassette tapes, CDs or other digital media.

Currently, we read the local newspaper, the **Falkirk Herald**, weekly, on to a 90 minute cassette tape, or 80 minutes for those receiving the CD version, for the blind and visually impaired in Falkirk and surrounding areas. In addition, we produce a 60 minute monthly magazine, 11 times per year, which is sent out either on cassette tape or in CD format. We also record the quarterly Falkirk Council Newspaper for the Council and distribute it to 97 listeners.

At 31st March 2011 we had 236 listeners receiving our service summarised below with comparative figures: -.

31st March	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
CD	184	176	105		
Tape	52	68	135		
Total	236	244	240	281	305

Considerable effort was made during the year to try to recruit new listeners with posters placed in various buildings throughout the Falkirk Council area, a feature in the Falkirk Herald and the establishment of a website.

Premises

We moved into our current premises in Falkirk on 30th April 2007. We have entered into a 10 year lease for these premises with the Rosehall Property Company. The lease commenced on 1st October 2006. 100% charitable rates relief has been granted by Falkirk Council for these premises from 1st October 2006. In addition we have to meet the cost of Electricity, which amounted to £496.30 in 2010 / 11 covering the period from 7th October 2009 to 10th December 2010.

Chairperson's Review of our Activities and Achievements in 2010 / 11

Firstly, I would like to welcome Duncan who has joined us since our last AGM and it is nice to have some young blood among us.

It has been a reasonably quiet year although we have taken another step forward in technology. We now have our own website (www.newsline.org.uk) and are now receiving some names and addresses of new listeners by registration online.

The website is also capable of uploading our recordings for those listeners who have access to a computer. Brian asked two visually impaired computer users to check out listening to *Newsline* via the web. Henry Sherlock came back to us with a couple of suggestions to improve listening with Jaws. Mark Wallace has been without a computer for a while so we are still waiting for comments on listening with Supanova. I don't know how many of our listeners would be interested in receiving *Newsline* in this way.

We had a good attendance at the Association of Scottish Talking Newspapers' Conference in October 2010. The date for this years' diary is 15th October.

In October last year, Marion Fraser decided to hang up her headphones. I would like to thank Marion for her long service to *Newsline*.

Bad weather struck in November and for the first time in 29 years *Newsline* was cancelled on 2 consecutive Thursdays because of the weather and roads being so bad. The road conditions made it impossible for some volunteers to get from their homes to *Newsline*. Our last recording for the year (16th December) was brought forward to the afternoon as we were again hit by bad weather.

One wet and windy Thursday night in January water started coming in through the ceiling. We had to put a bucket up in the roof space to catch the water. We reported this to our landlord and on 11th April a new window was installed above the fast copiers. Thanks to all who were involved in the preparation for this work to be done and to Brian for painting the window and putting the place back to rights. We also had to report a problem with the front door as this was sticking badly due to the damp weather and this has been sorted.

A series of interviews have been recorded by two members of Central Scotland Police Community Safety Section giving very good advice on personal safety and home security. We may be asked to make this into a full recording for the police to distribute to other members of the public.

Our 2011 Flag Day took place on 2nd April. Thanks to all who were involved in any way - to the volunteers who braved the cold wind to collect donations, the coin counters and a special thanks to four of our listeners who helped with the collection. Also a special mention to Colin Rae who did exceptionally well with his dog Frith. We collected £755.98. This will appear in the 2011 / 12 Accounts. Thanks as well to Duncan who did his own collection among work colleagues.

Generous donations have been received once again from our listeners as well as donations from: -

Muiravonside Church Watchnight Service
Marion's friend who sold some gold (Mrs Rita Braes)
Bridge & Scrabble Group
Corporation of Squairmen

Many thanks to all who made these donations to *Newsline*.

Falkirk Council have confirmed that our grant for 2010 / 11 will be £1600 which will appear in the 2011 / 12 Accounts. This is an increase on 2009 / 10.

A big thank you to John who has been editing the news and bringing the items along on a Thursday ready to read in large and clearer print making life easier for the readers.

Wearing my other hat I would like to thank all the volunteers for their hard work keeping all us listeners up to date with the news and good magazine stories.

Management Committee remuneration and expenses

None of the Management Committee received any remuneration or expenses during the year.

Reserves

As a result of the deficit of £1,921.86 for the year the balance at 31st March 2011 was £5,904.25 which is all unrestricted.

Approved by the Management Committee and signed on their behalf.

C. Moroney, Chairperson
28th April 2011