



FORTH VALLEY TALKING NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION [FVTNA]

Known to our Listeners as **NEWSLINE**

Management Committee's Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2015

Scottish Charity Number SC014778

Management Committee

Christine Moroney	Chairperson
Betty Sutherland	Secretary
Moira Dobbie	Treasurer
John Gow to 29th May 2014	
Duncan McVicar from 29th May 2014	
Finlay Nicolson	
Brian Sharp	

Contact Address

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Recruitment and appointment of the Management Committee

All of the Association's Management Committee are appointed or reappointed by the members at the 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 digital media i.e. recorded USB Memory Sticks and Players (if required by the Listener).

Currently, for the benefit of the blind and visually impaired in Falkirk and surrounding areas, we record the local newspaper, the **Falkirk Herald** and extracts from the **Bo'ness Journal**, weekly, and produce an audio version on USB Memory Sticks. In addition, we produce a monthly magazine, 11 times per year, which is also sent out on USB Memory Stick. In

addition we record the quarterly Falkirk Council Newspaper for the Council and distribute it to approximately 100 Listeners.

At 31st March 2015 we had 166 Listeners receiving our service summarised below with comparative figures: -.

31st March	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
CD		151	169	172	184
Tape		12	19	27	52
USB Memory Stick	166				
Total	166	163	188	199	236

Although we lost a few Listeners when we moved to USB Memory Sticks last May we have more than made this up. Recent visits to the Forth Valley Macular Society and the Bo'ness Blind & Disabled Club as well as a few referrals from the Forth Valley Sensory Centre have helped to increase our total Listeners.

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 £312.12 in 2014 / 15 covering the period from 5th December 2013 to 20th June 2014. We also consider it prudent to hold reasonable cash reserves should, for any reason, our Lease not be renewed in 2016 as we are required to leave the premises in an 'as was' condition. Currently we have no reason to believe the renewal of the Lease would be a problem.

Chairperson's Review of our Activities and Achievements in 2014 / 15

A special welcome to Peter, Samantha, Marion and John who have joined us as volunteers since last year. Peter attends *NEWSLINE* on a regular basis and Samantha, Marion and John are on a new three weekly rota. This is to help maintain numbers when either of them is unable to attend by swapping their position on the rota.

At the end of 2014 Moira Fraser and Ross McParlane resigned from *NEWSLINE*. Moira found the drive back to Bo' ness uncomfortable in the dark and Ross' work took him away from the local area and it wasn't possible for him to be home in time to attend. He does hope to rejoin if his work brings him back to the Falkirk area.

The number of Listeners has fluctuated a bit over the past year. We did lose some Listeners when we transferred to USB Memory Sticks. At 31 March, 2015, we had 166 Listeners and looking back over reports for the last three years we are down but do seem to be on the way up again.

There are several occasions which deserve a special mention during the year. In June 2014, Brian and Christine enjoyed afternoon tea at the MacDonald Inchyra Grange Hotel and

received a cheque for £500 from the Rotary Club of Polmont as part of the proceeds from their 2014 Swimathon.

It was a great privilege to welcome Walter Sharp, Brian's father, to *NEWSLINE* at the beginning of September. Mr Sharp celebrated his 100th birthday in August and donated his birthday gift money in lieu of presents to *NEWSLINE* amounting to £1,185. Along with the recovery of Gift Aid on some of the donations we were able to buy four new computers for the three studios and one for administration. A big thank you to Mr Sharp. I don't think many talking newspapers will have had a centenarian in their company.

We also received a quarter of the estate from the late Mr Alex Carmichael amounting to £1,432.82 and we say a big thank you for this. This was used to buy 300 additional USB Memory Sticks and Keyrings.

Samuel McFarland, one of our own Listeners, celebrated his 90th birthday at the end of 2014 and his daughter contacted us requesting some literature about *NEWSLINE* to hand out to guests at his party as donations in lieu of presents were being given to us amounting to £500. A big thank you again to Mr McFarland and his family.

Once again Grangemouth Rotary gave us a donation of £250 from their Santa Float for which we are again grateful and wish to say another big thank you. This was used to purchase new publicity material - 100 Posters, 1,000 Flyers and 1,000 Brochures.

Polmont Rotary Club also donated £500 to *NEWSLINE* from the proceeds of their successful Santa Sleigh which was used to purchase four new microphones to BBC standards for Studios 1 & 2.

Our grant from Falkirk Council this year was down on last year but again we are grateful. All Councils are struggling financially. Some of the grant has been used to purchase another twenty four USB Memory Stick Players.

As mentioned above we have made good use of all these donations. During the year we have had to return some faulty USB Memory Stick Players, some of which have been damaged by Listeners connecting up the wrong charger! We have also been able to recycle some players returned to us when a Listener has passed away or no longer requires our service.

NEWSLINE was well represented at the Scottish Talking Newspaper Conference and although the topics were very interesting, the relevance to talking newspapers was missing. For the first time in around 20 years we had representation at the UK Talking Newspaper Federation Conference in Peterborough. Brian and Catherine were able to tie this in with a visit to her cousin's in Norwich saving *NEWSLINE* travelling costs. It was considered this conference was more appropriate for talking newspapers and they both came back with a number of ideas and loads of information.

We still have some equipment which is no longer in use. In January we donated four analogue cassette fast copying machines (2 Masters & 2 Slaves) to the Museum of Communication in Burntisland, Fife. However, we still have a number of CD / DVD fast copiers needing a new home but as talking newspapers are moving more to memory sticks it is not so easy to find a home for them.

At the end of last year our local fire service supplied questionnaires and envelopes to send out to all our Listeners. The uptake was small but I am sure all those who did take up the offer of a free home fire check benefited. Thank you to the Scottish Fire Service for this.

As mentioned above, work has been done on producing new posters, leaflets and flyers for *NEWSLINE*. It is thanks to Brian and Betty for all their hard work. The literature is looking good. Please pass them on where you can.

We have added two new tracks to our weekly recording. A lady in Bo'ness had made some enquiries through the library home service about an audio recording of the Bo'ness Journal. We were never in a position to record this as the Bo'ness Journal was printed the day after our recording. However, by arrangement with the Journal some of the pages, in PDF format, are now sent to us on a Thursday afternoon and we can include some of the Bo'ness news in our weekly recording. The Forth Valley Sensory Centre asked us if we could record their new monthly bulletin and include it in our weekly recording. I am pleased to say both organisations have benefited from this.

As mentioned above Brian has visited the local Macular Society, Bo'ness Blind and Disabled Club and is visiting Falkirk Blind Club at the end of April to talk about *NEWSLINE'S* recordings. As a result these visits have helped to boost our Listener numbers.

In January Brian and Catherine were presented with certificates for 25 years' service and Rae with a certificate for 20 years.

Thank you time:

A big thank you as always to our Listeners who send donations to us, Soroptomist International of Falkirk for attending *NEWSLINE* fortnightly as well as Grangemouth Rotary on the alternate weeks to help with reading and other administration tasks. Thank you to Falkirk Rotary who help over the Summer months.

A big thank you to Finlay for all the work he does producing a most interesting monthly magazine. I know from speaking to Listeners this is much appreciated.

The biggest thank you is kept for all the volunteers who turn out in all weathers to keep the service going 50 weeks of the year. This is a much valued service.

Management Committee remuneration and expenses

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

Reserves

As a result of the surplus of £3,705.20 for the year the balance at 31st March 2015 was £9,242.62 which is all unrestricted.

Approved by the Management Committee and signed on their behalf.

C. Moroney, Chairperson
30th April 2015