



FORTH VALLEY TALKING NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION [FVTNA]

Known to our Listeners as NEWSLINE

Committees' Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2010

Scottish Charity Number SC014778

Committee

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

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 April / 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 95 listeners.

At 31st March 2010 we had 244 listeners receiving our service summarised below with comparative figures: -.

31st March	2010	2009	2008	2007
CD	176	105		
Cassette Tape	68	135		
Total	244	240	281	305

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 £356.76 in 2009 / 10 covering the period from 29th November 2008 to 7th October 2009. Under the terms of the lease we are also responsible for any Water charges levied by Scottish Water Business Stream. As we have charitable status with them we have been granted full exemption for Water Charges from Scottish Water Business Stream for 2009 / 10.

Chairperson's Review of our Activities and Achievements in 2009 / 10

During the year we have been proactive in encouraging our Listeners to receive our service in CD format (see table above) as there is always the concern that our cassette tape copiers will fail and replacement parts could be difficult to obtain. New cassette tapes could also be difficult to source. To this end we have invested £884 in two new 1 to 11 CD Duplicators bringing our total CD coping capacity to 62 copies per run. Depending on the age of our Listeners' CD players not all players can play CD-RW CDs i.e. rewritable ones. For this

reason we have to send out CD-R CDs which can only be used once. This is an added cost for our service - approximately 11p per CD or £6.71 p.a. per Listener receiving both the news and magazine. In addition we have had to purchase new CD Wallets to carry the CDs through the Royal Mail to our Listeners.

Recently we have had a telephone line and broadband connection installed in the premises to make the charity independent of the active volunteers. Any calls from Listeners will now be received by our answering service and can be remotely picked up by members of the Committee. The Committee have also decided to use the broadband connection to have our own website (www.newsline.org.uk) which will allow Social Workers, Friends & Family, etc. to register new Listeners for our service online. The website is under construction by a local web designer and the first part went live on Thursday 22nd April 2010. Links will also be made to and from other relevant websites. It is also hoped to deliver our recordings via the internet using a secure area on our website. This will help to reduce the cost of providing CDs to some of our Listeners who are familiar with using a computer.

Although our Listener numbers have increased slightly over the past year we are convinced more people could take advantage of our service. Statistics released by the Scottish Government in October 2006 indicated there were 812 registered blind and partially sighted in Falkirk Council area. Research has indicated that only one quarter to one third of visually impaired people across Scotland are registered with their local authority, so the actual figure could be considerably higher. This will be the focus of our attention in 2010 / 11.

NEWSLINE was once again well represented at the Association of Scottish Talking Newspapers' Conference at the Inchyra Grange Hotel in Polmont. Disappointingly the copyright position on the use of recorded music in our recordings has still not been clarified.

Since the last AGM a considerable amount of work has been undertaken, with the grateful assistance of Muriel from the Volunteer Centre in Falkirk, to update or modernise our Constitution which has remained in a similar format since NEWSLINE was founded in 1981. The Committee are bringing to this AGM the new Constitution with the recommendation that it be approved.

During the past year our income has seen a downturn possibly as a result of the current economic situation. Listener donations are down from £1,721 in 2008 / 9 to £586 this year. There were, however, two sizeable donations from funeral collections in the previous year. Other donations are down by nearly £3,000, but tend to be one off, apart from Grangemouth Rotary Club who continue to support us from part of the proceeds from their Santa Sleigh. We are also grateful to Sean Moroney who did a sponsored walk of the West Highland Way. The proceeds of this year's Flag Day were down nearly £100 on last year despite it being a beautiful day. We are grateful, once again, to those Volunteers and Listeners who gave of their time to help with the collection.

Our thoughts and best wishes go once again to Bill Buckner for an improvement to his health.

It is with great sadness that we record the passing of one of our founder members, Christine McPherson on 27th April 2010. She was a very faithful attender until her recent illness. She

undertook a number of tasks on a Thursday night. Her jovial companionship and enthusiasm will be greatly missed.

On behalf of the Listeners I would like to thank all the active volunteers for their efforts over the year in making sure we are kept up-to-date with the news and entertained by the magazine. The severe wintry weather didn't help! I am grateful to our dedicated team of volunteers for making it through the snow and ice and even switching one of the recordings to the afternoon to ensure the Listeners received their weekly recording.

Committee remuneration and expenses

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

Reserves

As a result of the deficit of £995.15 for the year the balance at 31st March 2010 was £7,826.11 which is all unrestricted.

Approved by the Committee and signed on their behalf.

C. Moroney, Chairperson
29th April 2010