

# TEAM TALK

Summer 2024



## The Newsletter for Chichester Area Talking News Volunteers

### President

Anne Scicluna

### Vice-Presidents:

Graham Brooks

MBE

Robbie Burns

### Committee

#### *Chairman:*

Ken Pritchard

OBE

#### *Vice Chairman,*

*Publicity Media:*

Bob Money

#### *Treasurer:*

John Goodman

#### *Secretary:*

Libbie Bush

#### *Production:*

David Bathurst

#### *Technical:*

Colin Jenner

#### *Admin Team:*

Helen Pinn

#### *V I Rep:*

Jan Penn

#### *VI Rep:*

Chris Mustchin

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Michael Bevis

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You can contact your

Committee

Members via

The Studio:

**01243 775050**

or the website:

[www.catn.org.uk](http://www.catn.org.uk)

Messages will be  
forwarded or a  
phone call arranged.

### **A message from our Chairman, Ken Pritchard**

As you know, we always try to have a theme running through much of our Team Talk Newsletters.

In this edition we mainly follow a theme of invitations which includes invitations to slightly different types of tea party!

We also set out some ideas for celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday of CaTN which itself contains an invitation hidden in the last paragraph.

In addition, we set out significant dates for your diaries which take you through the coming year.

The first invitation in our list, to the Team Lunch, was issued to all volunteers at the end of March 2024.

### **Team Lunch on 19<sup>th</sup> May at Fishbourne Church Hall**

Thirty-one volunteers, some with partners, enjoyed the Team Lunch and there have been a number of comments and emails from attendees saying that they had enjoyed the occasion very much. Jeff Cardwell, who caters for us at the AGM, provided a delicious and varied menu and a combination of buffet and table service.

I took the opportunity to thank colleagues for all of their commitment to CaTN and that we all now looked forward to the outcome of the Kings Award for Voluntary Service which will be announced on the King's birthday in November. Bob outlined the possible programme of events for the year leading up to CaTN's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday in December 2025 and asked for any further ideas to be given to him so that they can be considered for inclusion the final programme.

We also announced the death of Martin Muncaster whose passing was announced on the 17<sup>th</sup> May. Martin was a great, long-time supporter of Chichester area Talking News and attended Listeners' Lunches and our AGMs as often as he could. Tribute was paid to Martin on our news programme recorded on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May. Dave and Paula McVittie had many dealings with Martin when they were chairman and secretary of CaTN respectively, and they and I will represent CaTN at the Memorial Service for Martin on June 25<sup>th</sup>.

### **Some joyful invitations**

#### Lord-Lieutenant of West Sussex's tea party

Following the assessment of Chichester Area Talking News for a King's Award for Voluntary Service, the Lord-Lieutenant of West Sussex, Lady Emma Barnard,



invited two representatives of CaTN to join her for afternoon tea on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July at Amberley Museum.

This will be an informal event and will provide an opportunity to meet the other groups from West Sussex that have been nominated for the Award this year. The Deputy Lieutenants who assessed us, Simon Knight and Margaret Bamford OBE, have also been invited, along with representatives from Amberley Museum who received the Award in 2023. Part of the afternoon will explain the next stages in the process and answer any questions that we may have.

I will be in out of the country on that date and so Bob and Helen will be representing CaTN.

### Royal Garden Party

In recognition of David Bathurst's 34 years of service to Chichester area Talking News, 32 as a producer, and also his work as a clerk to the magistrates based in Chichester between 1988 and 2012, he and his wife, Sue, were invited to a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on the 8<sup>th</sup> of May 2024. Here is David's account of the day.

*One Friday morning in early February I heard that my name was being put forward for an invitation to a Royal Garden Party to be held at Buckingham Palace. In due course I received invitations to both my wife Sue and me to attend on 8 May.*

*The big day was gloriously sunny. We arrived in front of the palace and waited to be admitted. We observed the splendid variety of hats and fascinators; one woman appeared to have a tree growing out of her hat! Great fun!*



*There was a splendid variety of attire on display. Many wore military or naval uniform. There were numerous clergy, male and female, a few wearing splendid red robes. One woman priest wore a smart green trouser suit to complement her dog collar. Each guest surely had his or her story to tell about their contributions to community life that had brought them here.*

*Promptly at 3pm, the gates opened, and we proceeded around the side of the Palace into the gardens, with their incredibly diverse range of plants, flowers and habitats. A rose garden provided a colour feast with shades of white, yellow, pink, red and orange, while a few steps away a stream led to an impressive waterfall surrounded by lush plants and shrubs. Tall trees provided shade, forming an impressive arboretum, with the deciduous trees magnificently decked in fresh spring green. The views from beside the large lake were magnificent. (see photo of the palace and tea tents from the lake)*

*As 4pm neared, crowds of garden partygoers, including Sue and I, made their way towards the steps leading up to the Palace's rear entrance leaving a "path" for the Royal party to walk down in order to take tea in the Royal tea tent. Then, out of the doors came His Majesty the King, and Queen Camilla, closely followed by Edward and Sophie, Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh, and Princess Anne, the Princess Royal.*

*Tea was now served in the tea tent on small rectangular fine china plates. There were finger sandwiches (crustless, of course) with choices of ham and tomato, carrot hummus, cucumber or egg mayonnaise fillings, trout and pea quiche, chicken, tarragon and asparagus wrap, slabs of Dundee cake, Victoria sponge, and small apricot and lavender tarts.*

*After tea there was still a little time before the garden party was due to end, so we made a circular tour of the grounds. On completing our circuit, around 6pm, we headed towards the main exit gates, and saw His Majesty the King come out of one of the side doors, to cheers and applause from the people around us. We waved at him and as he set off in the car, he waved back at us. It was a perfect ending to a very special occasion.*

It was truly a day to remember for Sue and David and there is a fuller account available for those who would like to read it. Just contact David.

## **Annual General Meeting – 24<sup>th</sup> October 2024, Oving Village Hall – an invitation to attend**

The CaTN AGM will be on us again before we know it and, as well as the formal business which only takes a short time to complete, there will be the usual delicious buffet lunch and glass of wine, fruit juice or water, plus coffee together with some entertainment. If anyone would like to help organise the event, either on the day or beforehand then please contact Libbie Bush to discuss it. Help with the raffle would be especially appreciated. At the AGM we will take the opportunity to highlight some of the events we plan for the year leading up to the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of CaTN's "birth". So see if you can spot the hidden invitations in the following article written by Bob.

### **1975-2025 - Celebrating 50 years of Talking News**

Next year we'll mark a half-century of recording local news for the blind and visually impaired in West Sussex. This is quite a milestone, and we have a whole range of ideas for how best to make the most of our Golden Jubilee. It's a great testimony to the staying power of our volunteers that we have some who were there at the very beginning and are still actively helping us today.

We are looking at a range of events throughout the year, starting off with a *'pre-50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration'* in early December 2024. It will be a Volunteers' party with food and music to be held somewhere central, to get the ball rolling. Watch this space for further details!



Throughout the year we'll make 'the 50<sup>th</sup>' a feature in our regular programmes and Insight magazine, telling the story of how Talking News has grown and developed from that very first programme on December 5, 1975 – recorded on borrowed equipment at the Hospital Radio studio at St Richard's, Chichester, followed by a dash to Portsmouth Talking News to use its duplicating machine to copy cassette tapes for our first 42 listeners, to the professional organisation we see today. We'd like to have interviews from those who were there and who remember our founder, Eileen Brown, who had the drive and enthusiasm to make it all happen.

Other possible ideas are to set up a Talking News stall with volunteers and a 50<sup>th</sup> banner at some of the regular summer events such as Chichester City Council's Annual Gala Day in Priory Park, Petworth Fete in the Park and the Bosham Village Fete at The Manor House. We could also link with Arundel Museum and Chichester Festival Theatre to set up special tours for our Listeners to enjoy the facilities provided by them for the visually impaired. Of course, our own regular events like the Team and Listeners' Lunches and the AGM will also help to celebrate our Golden Jubilee.

Finally, if anyone has an idea for what else we might do to mark our fifty years of providing recorded news for the blind do please get in touch with your suggestions by phone, email or in person - we'd love to hear from you!

*Bob Money*

### **Invitation to celebrate long service**

One of the many amazing things about CaTN is the hard work and loyalty of its members and volunteers some of whom, believe it or not, have been with CaTN since its inception!

During the year leading up to the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary itself, we would like to highlight the stories of those volunteers with long service, say ten years or more. Some of those stories may appear in Team Talk, some may feature in one of our news or *Insight* magazine programmes, and many, if not all, could go into an album of photographs and stories taken from the 50 years of CaTN's life and that tell its wonderful story.

If you have served CaTN for a number of years, or if you have a particular story of your involvement that you would like to share, then please get in touch with Libbie or Helen at the CaTN office to let us know. Nothing will be published without your personal consent.

## Invitation to participate in a Listener Survey

Over recent weeks, Area Helpers have been contacting a sample of their listeners with a brief set of questions to find out what they think of our fortnightly news programmes. Whilst the survey is not yet finally complete, you will be thrilled to know that the initial analysis of listeners' responses so far is overwhelmingly positive and there were some really lovely comments: "I have only praise" and "I enjoy it very much" being just two.

Suggestions to help develop our programmes were very constructive and included ideas for other features including simple recipes, gardening, nature and wildlife, and even astronomy! One listener would welcome more local history; another would like us to continue to end each programme on an upbeat note!

A main thread to come out of the survey so far is the wish for us to provide more information than we're doing, particularly around coping with the cost-of-living crisis, access to other support groups, concessions, and where and how to get in touch with local services such as tradespeople and transport facilities. Clearly, we will do our best to respond constructively to all of these ideas.

When the survey has been finally completed in full, we will analyse the returns and let you know of the outcome. In the meantime, our grateful thanks go to all of the area helpers who made this possible and to the listeners who responded so thoughtfully.

### Yet more invitations!

We set out below the dates for the forthcoming year of events and activities as far as they are known to date. As you can imagine, with a year of activities to celebrate our collective 50<sup>th</sup> birthday there will be others to add to this list and we will inform you of them as soon as they are finalised.

### CaTN CALENDAR FOR 2024

DATE	EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> August	Area and Morning Helpers' Meeting and Social	1pm to 6pm	Lavant Village Hall Green Room
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> September	Listeners' Lunch	12.30 for 1pm	Horse and Groom East Ashling
Mondy 16 <sup>th</sup> September	Committee Meeting	7pm to 9pm	Oving Jubilee Village Hall
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	AGM	12.30 to 3pm	Oving Jubilee Village Hall
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	Committee Meeting	7pm to 9pm	Oving Jubilee Village Hall
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	CaTN Party	TBA	Boxgrove Village Hall

### Thanks to you all and best wishes for a relaxing summer break

And now it only remains to thank you all for your work on behalf of CaTN's listeners and for the unwavering support that you give to each other. The CaTN Trustees all hope that you enjoy the summer ahead and that those of you who are going on holiday somewhere in the UK or abroad enjoy it and return refreshed and re-energised. We all look forward to a busy year celebrating CaTN's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and to making it as memorable as we can.