

TEAM TALK



Winter 2023

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,

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Bob Money

Treasurer:

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01243 775050

or the website:

www.catn.org.uk

Messages will be
forwarded or a
phone call
arranged.

A message from our Chairman, Ken Pritchard OBE

This will be our last Team Talk for 2023 as we move towards the Christmas and New Year season and then on into 2024! This edition is much more of a catch up on news and events over the past few months and in the New Year we shall return to usual format of including more articles from our volunteers and listeners.



One important task at this time of year, though, is to acknowledge the work of our volunteers throughout the year. CaTN is an amazing service and has been so for almost 50 years. We are one of the largest Talking News services in the country. We have 312 members of whom 82 are volunteers. Some of those volunteers are also listeners and in total we have 245 listeners.

Our listeners appreciate our service very much and are always ready to say so. Without the work of every single volunteer our service to listeners would not be such very high quality and acknowledged as such nationally. On behalf of all our listeners, or trustees, and everyone involved with our service, "Thank you!"

The 47th Annual General Meeting (AGM) There was good attendance of over 60 Listeners, Carers, Volunteers, and other supporters at the Annual General Meeting which was held in Oving Jubilee Village Hall on 26 October. Everyone was especially delighted to see our two Vice Presidents Robbie Burns and Graham Brooks at the meeting, together with our President Anne Scicluna who has been a great supporter of CaTN. Graham, of course, was a founder member of CaTN and is very highly respected within the organisation.

Chairman, Ken Pritchard outlined the achievements of CaTN over the past 12 months and thanked all concerned for their enthusiasm and hard work throughout the year. At the end of the AGM a presentation was made to Geoff Porter who has been treasurer of CaTN for six years and is now standing down from that role but remaining a Trustee.



Following the AGM and presentation, our special guests Clare Apel, Chair of Chichester District Council, and Anne Scicluna gave short talks praising the work of CaTN.



Tom McNulty and Toby

Then, a light lunch was served, followed by a raffle, before everyone settled into their seats to enjoy an inspiring address by Tom McNulty, who spoke about the shock of losing his sight as a young man and demonstrating by his example how being visually disabled doesn't stop people from leading full, exciting, and satisfying lives in the service of others.

Finally we were entertained by nine lady members of a Chichester-based a cappella choir, *Get Vocal*, who even got us all to join with a couple of items. It made a delightful conclusion to the day's events.



The ladies from Get Vocal

A full report of the AGM can be found at the end of broadcast number 1240 which was recorded in our studios at St Richard's Hospital on Thursday 9th November 2022, and which is accessible from the website www.catn.org.uk and via Alexa.

The use of social media

The Charity Commission now requires every charity to have a social media policy. The real purpose behind this is to protect charities from misleading or damaging information which could give rise to a reputational risk which, in turn, could lead to a significant fall off in income.

The Trustees are now drafting a social media policy which should be on the website within the next few months. The Charity Commission guidance on it is complex and will need to be adapted appropriately for our charity which, as you well know, has no employees.

The key points and behaviours expected of all of us within our final policy will include the following.

Point of contact for social media

Our Vice-Chairman is responsible for the day-to-day management of our social media channels. No other person should post content on Chichester area Talking News' official channels without checking with the Vice-Chairman.

Posting content on social media

Volunteers should not post content about our supporters, volunteers, or listeners without their express permission. If volunteers are sharing such information as a private individual, it should be clearly labelled as not coming directly from Chichester area Talking News. If using interviews, videos or photos that clearly identify a child or young person, volunteers **must** ensure they have the consent of a parent or guardian before using them on social media.

Promoting CATN's values

Chichester area Talking News is not a political organisation, and our Constitution is clear that CaTN cannot hold a view on party politics or have any affiliation with, or links to, political parties. All Chichester area Talking News volunteers are expected to behave always in ways that are consistent with CaTN's values and policies, both online and in real life.

Complaints - if in doubt

If a complaint is made on Chichester area Talking News' social media channels, volunteers should seek advice from the Chairman or Vice Chairman before responding, if at all.

This policy is not in any ways intended to inhibit personal use of social media but instead flags up those areas in which conflicts might arise and which could, potentially, reflect adversely on CaTN's reputation. That reputation has been hard earned over almost 50 years and is worth all of us working to protect.

The Listeners' Lunch

The listeners' lunch held in the Park Hotel Chichester was enjoyed by some 60 listeners, volunteers, and guests. As you know, the hotel is now closed for business, and we are actively searching for an alternative venue for next year.

This is a very important occasion for our listeners who enjoy the opportunity to meet with other listeners and volunteers. We've had numerous messages of appreciation from listeners, and, for volunteers, it's a very pleasant experience to meet a listener who says, "I've heard of you" or "I recognise your voice". Such comments are often followed by thanks to all of the volunteers who make our news and magazine programmes come to life, who respond to queries in our office, and who support listeners in their homes.

The King's Award for Voluntary Service (KAVS)

We were delighted that CaTN has been nominated for the premier award for charitable organisations in the UK – the King's Award for Voluntary Service. The award celebrates outstanding work of local volunteer groups across the UK and, to be nominated is a powerful recognition of the high quality of CaTN's work over nearly 50 years. Every single volunteer who has served for some of that time, for however long or short a period, can take great pride in this.

The competition for such an award is fierce and it is by no means certain that we will be successful. The process of investigation and moderation, including on-site visits, takes a year to complete, is very challenging, and extremely rigorous.

So we will not know the result of our nomination until this time next year. If we achieve the Award, it will strengthen our bids for grant aid as well as being a huge compliment to everyone who has worked with CaTN over the last 48 years. Let's hope that our nervous systems are up to the wait!

Opportunities for development within CaTN!

As you are aware, our *Induction Policy*, which is available to read on the website, says that we will always try to ensure that volunteers are able to enjoy their roles and also have the opportunity to change or add to their roles as they wish.

We are now seeking a volunteer to work alongside Libbie Bush, CaTN secretary and producer of this newsletter to learn something of what lies behind the organisation of important events in the CaTN calendar.

The roles are to help Libbie to organise

- The Listeners' Lunch – usually early in September
- The AGM - the last Thursday in October
- The Volunteers' Lunch which is to be reintroduced this year – date to be confirmed.

All of the administrative infrastructure, documentation, procedures, etc are already in place and it's really a question of going through the process for carrying out a task to its conclusion with Libbie's advice and guidance. It's actually a great opportunity to find out more about how CaTN works "behind the scenes".

If you would like to take on one, or more, of these tasks alongside Libbie, please email or 'phone the office and then Libbie or Ken will contact you to give you further information about what the tasks actually entail and arrange for you to find out more.

We are also looking for someone to take on responsibility for running the raffle at the AGM in October and the Listeners' Lunch in September. Sheila Forsyth has managed both raffles for a very long time and, again, the system for doing so is in place. Again, if you are interested contact the office by phone or email and Sheila Forsyth will be in touch with you to explain more.

Our programmes and *Insight*

The new music that integrates into our news programmes has been very well received by our listeners and volunteers as has the inclusion of news items involving visually impaired, disabled, or elderly people doing interesting things like becoming judo champions!

We know that there are volunteers, and listeners out there who have interesting stories to tell about events in their lives. I learned recently of one volunteer who has enjoyed a trans-European rail journey. Maybe that will appear somewhere soon. We would like very much to hear from volunteers or listeners who have something of interest to tell others. Items might go into our news programmes or *Insight* magazine, or even *Team Talk*! These items could be presented anonymously if that would help the more reticent volunteers to offer something!

The last news recording before Christmas will be posted out on December 8th and we hope that you will enjoy its festive content. Although this may seem rather early to distribute our Christmas programme, I'm sure that you are all aware of the unreliability of postal deliveries at the moment and this is likely to increase as the volume of Christmas mail rises.

This date should ensure that our listeners receive their wallet in good time before the Christmas festivities begin. The programme recorded two weeks later will be a "New Year" Edition that should arrive with listeners early in 2024,



And Finally!

During 2023 there seems to have been a marked increase in aggression and unpleasantness affecting so many aspects of our lives, from armed conflicts in some parts of the World to negative and spiteful criticisms of others on social media, including from those in public life. Sometimes it seems that the joy and hope embedded in this time of year has been lost.

Maybe, once again, we can use the Christmas holiday period to keep the true spirit of Christmas alive and refresh the CaTN values of service and of bringing some joy and hope into the lives of those around us.

Many of you know that I was born and brought up in a mining community in the Welsh valleys. Going to chapel and Sunday School was a very important part of life then and there was great pleasure in singing hymns and reciting poetry.

A favourite hymn of my mother's, and aimed at small children, had a first verse that suggested that:

Jesus bids us shine with a pure clear light

Like a little candle burning in the night

In this world of darkness so let us shine

You in your small corner

And I in mine



Maybe that's something we could do in our small corner of the World.

This is the last Team Talk for 2023 and so we wish everyone associated with Chichester area Talking News the happiest of times with friends and family over Christmas, and a peaceful, healthy, and uplifting New Year.

CHICHESTER AREA TALKING NEWS CALENDAR 2024

DATE	EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
Monday 5 th February 2024	Committee Meeting	7pm to 9pm	Oving Village Hall
Sunday 19 th May	Team Lunch	12.30 for 1pm	<i>To be arranged</i>
Monday 10 th June	Committee Meeting	7pm to 9pm	Oving Village Hall
Friday 16 th August	Morning & Area Helpers' meeting and social	1pm to 4pm	Lavant Village Hall
Sunday 1 st September	Listeners' Lunch	12.30 for 1pm	<i>To be arranged</i>
Monday 16 th September	Committee Meeting	7pm to 9pm	Oving Village Hall
Thursday 24 th October	AGM	12.30 to 3pm	Oving Village Hall
Monday 11 th November	Committee Meeting	7pm to 9pm	Oving Village Hall