

WINCHESTER TALKING NEWSPAPER

25th AGM – 5 May 2015

Chairman's Report

Madam Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen ...

Recently I spoke to the daughter of one of our listeners, who had just died. She made a point of thanking everyone at WTN for the recordings her mother had received over many years. She told me how much her mother had enjoyed the recordings and how much she had looked forward to receiving the yellow wallet every Saturday morning. It kept her in touch with her local news, she said.

Those comments are just some of the many we receive regularly. And they are the reason so many of us are here today. We care for our listeners and strive to provide them with the very highest quality of recordings we can. We have 80 volunteers altogether and they all give their time and enthusiasm unstintingly, so that our listeners can enjoy our service – completely free of charge.

I think that's something we should be proud of.

Of course, today's AGM is quite a milestone for us. We have been doing what we do for 25 years and look set to continue doing it for many years to come.

Something which surprises me often is that, after 25 years and 80 volunteers spreading the word, there are still people who haven't heard of WTN and what we do. At the beginning of a talk we might ask those in the audience who have heard of us to raise their hand. Occasionally there will be none. How can that be? We are always active, communicating news about our association wherever we can – and, of course, doing our best to raise funds. Here are examples of some of the things we've done in the past year:

- We had a presence at the Open Sight Exhibition at Badger Farm.
- We gave a talk about WTN to the Salvation Army lunch club – they kindly donated £51.
- At the end of last year we had talks with the long-term dementia wards at the Royal Hampshire County Hospital. I am pleased to say that the three long-term dementia wards now receive our weekly recordings.
- In October, Rawlings Opticians chose us to be their charity of the month, to coincide with World sight Day on October 9th. They and their customers raised £300 for us and produced a charity cook-booklet with healthy eye recipes – logo on front, blurb on back etc.
- A group of us manned a welcome station during the Clarendon Marathon, for which we received a share of the donations – £300.
- We gave a talk to St Luke's Church holiday club and they generously donated £40 to WTN, plus a further £43 later in the year.

- We wrote an article for "Frontline", the Hampshire Constabulary magazine.
- Sparsholt WI invited us to speak to them about WTN and they kindly donated £77.
- We've had a positive meeting with Bluebird Care and we hope that some of their visually impaired customers will be benefiting from our service.
- And we've had a meeting with Winchester Hospital Radio, to see if they are areas of common interest.

We were approached by The Graham High Charitable Trust, who asked us to explain how a substantial donation would help us. Improvements in our sound quality are something we always strive for and The Graham High Trust has generously donated £2,000 to help us in this. We have taken professional advice from an acoustics consultancy and are now in the process of deciding how the money can be spent most effectively.

So, those are some of the things we've done to raise awareness of WTN. I'm sure we can do more. I would ask everyone here to help spread the word.

What else to report? Well, earlier this year The Mayor visited our studio to be a guest reader and I think she enjoyed the experience. She may tell you what she really thought of it later.

Everything during the past year has worked according to plan. (*fingers crossed*). There have been one or two hiccups with copying the memory sticks. The copiers cope with these little problems and are, no doubt, pleased that we have recently bought a new copying machine, which seems to be behaving itself.

Generally, though, everything has run smoothly. This is thanks to all our volunteers, who work so selflessly.

Finally, an enormous thanks to all our supporters and friends, to every one of the volunteers and last but by no means least our listeners – the reason we are all here today.

Thank you.