



COUNTY DURHAM TALKING NEWSPAPER

CIO Charity: Registered No.1159940

Unit 1, City West Business Park, St John's Road, Meadowfield, Durham, DH7 8ER

T: 07888 645656 E: info@cdtn.org.uk www.cdtan.org.uk

ANNUAL REPORT FOR PERIOD JANUARY 2024 - DECEMBER 2024

Trustees: Stephen Prior (Chair); Alice Severs; Linda Johnson; Leita Prior (Managing Editor/Administrator)

Charitable Objects:

"To relieve blind and partially sighted people, or those labouring under some temporary or permanent incapacity or disability which makes reading a strain, in County Durham and the surrounding areas by the provision of audio resources in particular, but not exclusively, a talking newspaper."

A FREE RESOURCE FOR 100 VISUALLY IMPAIRED PEOPLE in COUNTY DURHAM

This period marks the completion of ten years' of continuous operation. CDTN was set up to maintain an existing service that was about to close down along with its former charity provider, and we wanted to keep supporting those service users. Our charity is run entirely by a small group of unpaid volunteers.

Throughout the year CDTN continued to provide a free audio package of local news and feature content for County Durham people who live with sight loss. The news content is sourced mostly from The Northern Echo and covers County Durham only. Content for the 40-minute 'magazine' section of our 80-minute recording is sourced mostly from local and regional publications; the articles we choose are generally to do with local history or nostalgia. Also included are VIP-specific notices and our own interviews or locally relevant packages such as coverage of the annual Durham Miners' Gala.

The recordings – either CDs or USBs— are delivered by Royal Mail free of charge under the 'Articles for the Blind' concession. This year (2024) our recordings have been received by around 90 listeners every fortnight; the average age of our listener body is around 85 years.

CDTN is a member of the Talking Newspaper Federation (TNF) through whom we enjoy a discounted insurance package along with advice and ideas.

THE FINANCES

(See Receipts & Payments Accounts in Appendix below)

Our service is completely free to our users, and we never ask them for donations. Recordings are carried in reusable heavy duty 'wallets' by Royal Mail under the free-of-charge 'Articles for the Blind' concession; listeners also return their postal wallets free of charge

Our operating costs include office rent, blank CDs, replacement postal wallets, insurance, newspapers USB sticks, USB players, office supplies and TNF subscriptions. Only two of our volunteers ever claim expenses (other than where such amounts are donated straight back to the charity).

We receive no grant aid. Our costs are met by (a) the remains of a legacy from former charity VIPS in County Durham which closed in 2014; (b) public donations.

With respect to reserves: we have no employment obligations but our reserves policy states that we should keep at least 6 months' running costs in reserve (to serve notice on our rented accommodation and pay any outstanding volunteer expenses, newspaper bills, etc.). At present this figure would be around £3,000.

Trustees declare they have approved the trustees report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to be 'SP', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

.....
Stephen Prior (Chair of Trustees)
14th October 2025

APPENDIX: RECEIPTS AND PAYMENT ACCOUNT
(January 2024 – December 2024)
COUNTY DURHAM TALKING NEWSPAPER
CIO Charity: Registered No.1159940

NB All figures to nearest £.

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total £	Last year £
Receipts					
Donations	250	-		250	4,000
Legacies	-	-		-	
Recording Income	1,719	-		1,719	1,773
				-	
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	1,969	-		1,969	5,773

Payments					
Office (includes rent, insurance, communications)	3,886	-		3,886	3,886
Recording (includes distributed consumables)	577	-		577	148
Recording and reproduction equipment	85	-		85	
Advertising	-	-		-	
Volunteer expenses	1,720	-		1,720	1,770
Newspapers	389	-		389	408
				-	
Sub total	6,657	-		6,657	6,212

Net of receipts/(payments)	- 4,689	-	-	- 4,689	- 439
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	6,908	-	-	6,908	7,347
Cash funds this year end	2,219	-	-	2,219	6,908

			Endowment £	Total £	Total £
Cash funds					
CAF Bank Account	2,219	-	-	2,219	6,908
		-	-	-	-
Total cash funds	2,219		-	2,219	6,908

			Endowment £	Total £	Total £
Assets retained for the charity's own use					
4 x PCs	-	-	-	-	-
Recording equipment	-	-	-	-	-
Audio reproduction equipment	-	-	-	-	-
Furniture	-	-	-	-	-
			-	-	-
			-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-



Signed by Chair of Trustees: Stephen Prior, 14th October 2025