

# BIRMINGHAM TALKING NEWSPAPERS FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

England & Wales · Charity number 1185917

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2019-10-22

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** Strangford  
Lichfield Road  
Hopwas  
Tamworth  
Staffordshire  
B78 3AG

**Phone** 03003301404

**Email** [info@btnbvi.org](mailto:info@btnbvi.org)

**Website** <http://www.btnbvi.org>

## Activities

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**Objects:** THE OBJECT OF THE CIO IS TO RELIEVE THE BLIND OR VISUALLY IMPAIRED IN THE BIRMINGHAM AREA BY THE PROVISION OF RECORDED MATERIAL READ PRIMARILY FROM NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES.

**Activities:** We provide recorded material read from local newspapers for the blind and visually impaired to listen to.

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** Disability
- **Who:** Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities

## Geography

- Birmingham City

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£4,726	£4,995	-	-
2024-03-31	£6,375	£7,015	-	-
2023-03-31	£5,699	£6,049	-	-
2022-03-31	£3,314	£6,459	-	-
2021-03-31	£11,316	£8,030	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ALFRED DAVID GOWDY		2019-11-28
Ann Meadows		2025-07-23
DANIEL DENIS COLLMAN		2019-11-28
Denise Lesley Cutting		2025-07-23
IAN ALEXANDER		2021-12-21
Kathryn Frances Collman		2021-03-25
MARION GWENDOLINE DANCE		2022-05-30
ROBERT J HALLEY		2021-03-25

**BIRMINGHAM TALKING NEWSPAPERS FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED**

England & Wales - Charity number 1185917

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# Accounts

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## Birmingham Talking Newspapers

for the blind & visually impaired (BTNBVI)

Registered Charity (England) No. 1185917

### **Trustees' Annual Report**

1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025

Section A

#### Charity's principal address

Strangford  
Lichfield Rd  
Hopwas  
Tamworth  
B78 3AG

#### Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

David Gowdy - Chair  
Danny Collman - VC (South)  
Rob Halley - VC (North)  
Kath Collman - Secretary

Ian Alexander - Treasurer  
Brian Sansom - Webmaster  
Marion Dance  
Alan Johnson (to Aug 2024)

## Governance

BTNBVI is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation whose trustees are elected by its Members at each Annual General Meeting. Members are mainly the volunteers who produce the recordings each week.

BTNBVI is affiliated to the national Talking Newspapers Federation (TNF) and to Birmingham Voluntary Service Council (BVSC)

Since 2020 BTNBVI has continued with the pattern of operations established by Birmingham Talking Newspaper Association (BTNA) over its 40 years providing a talking newspaper service.

Our trustees are mainly experienced senior volunteers but we do need to widen our skills base. We were successful in engaging several volunteers in a formal survey exercise, and were pleased to find significant in-house skills to undertake this work. A “more than reading” initiative has been effective in developing a volunteer team to develop publicity efforts

## Charitable Objects

The object of BTNBVI is to relieve the blind or visually impaired in the Birmingham area by the provision of recorded material read primarily from newspapers and magazines.

In meeting its object and to provide public benefit, each week BTNBVI provides 3- 5 hours of recorded material which is distributed by post using USB memory sticks to blind and visually-impaired listeners across Birmingham. This is current material, mostly from local print newspapers, and therefore not readily accessible to visually impaired people.

Recordings can also be accessed via our website: [www.btnbvi.org](http://www.btnbvi.org), via smartphones using the BWBF Talking News app and via Alexa or similar smart speakers. The service helps reduce social isolation and listeners often comment on the companionship of familiar voices “in the room”.

We continue to receive encouraging comments from listeners:

- Dear lovely people, Thank you for your entertaining Talking Newspapers. Unfortunately, this one appears to be blank;
- Please find enclosed cheque. Thank you for your prompt service;
- Thank you. This is my second BTN. Very informative and interesting. Many thanks to everyone who contributed to this recording. Thoroughly enjoyed it;
- Please accept this £10 cheque. Thank you for all you do;
- Thank you for the Talking Newspaper. I do enjoy the articles and the History talk. I enclose a donation and wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year;

and also a further significant bequest.

Section D

## Performance

At year end we are serving fewer than the 300 listeners we had last year. Attention is being given to increasing our publicity efforts. The pattern of usage is often irregular rather than a constant weekly turnover.

A major disturbance across 2024-25 stemmed from the unexpected loss of the Alan Geale House [AGH] studio capacity which provided 50% of our operational capacity.

We were very pleased when the efforts of the South team identified new space in Bournville Village Trust [BVT] HQ building, available from June 2024. This is an excellent modern building, used free-of-charge, but lacks the storage space and single-user arrangements that were enjoyed in AGH. BVT staff have been exemplary in their welcome and support.

During the few months at the start of the year, before BVT was identified, the trustees considered the overall response and quickly agreed that BTNBVI could operate from one site if necessary, but struggled to translate that position to actuality. The obvious difficulty was the 50% redundancy implications for volunteers if one of the two centres closed. Trustees continue to review the position. From a governance position there is no justification for running an organisation that is twice as big as it needs to be, especially as the listener numbers decline.

One development that does need more people is the “more than reading” concept that encourages volunteers to support areas like publicity, training, listener contact. There is evident energy in areas like ECLO contact, but trustee support in terms of leadership and training is not yet secure.

Our long-running and repeated History programme material was replaced in Jan 2025 with a commercial podcast series (The Rest is History). Evaluation of this will be undertaken in early 2025-26 once people get used to the different format ( a single female-voice enthusiastic lecture format has been overtaken by two “blokes” talking through the issues). So far we have seen criticism, both negative and positive.

Policy work continues, but slowly.

Progress in recruiting new trustees will be reported at the July 2025 AGM

Section E

## Finance

The Treasurer has continued to improve our money management and is preparing a Gift Aid submission to HMRC.

At present income donations do not fully cover running costs, leaving a small annual deficit that is offset from reserves.

BTNBVI bank accounts are with The Co-Operative Bank. The arrangements have now bedded in with most transactions handled online.

Trustees are keen to see a higher return on reserves than the 2.8% pa currently being achieved

Section F

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Section G

## Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature

*A D Gowdy*

Full name ALFRED DAVID GOWDY

Position CHAIR

Date 8 JULY 2025

Note: this report is presented in sections that align with the Charities Commission Trustees Annual Report CC16 template



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

BIRMINGHAM TALKING NEWSPAPERS  
FOR THE BLIND & VISUALLY IMPAIRED (BTNBVI) 1185917

CC16a

CC16a

### Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	01/04/2024	To	31/03/2025
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	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year 31/03/24 to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Donations	3,809	-	-	3,809	5,720
Interest	918	-	-	918	655
Reclaimed under Gift Aid	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>4,726</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,726</b>	<b>6,375</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>4,726</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,726</b>	<b>6,375</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
P.O. Boxes	683	-	-	683	522
Sutton Studio Rent	2,040	-	-	2,040	2,040
Room hire. Other meetings	180	-	-	180	122
Email A/c hosting	50	-	-	50	91
Web site design & hosting	216	-	-	216	1,205
Zoom	-	-	-	-	144
TNF Subs Conf. fees	42	-	-	42	74
Travel Exp's	-	-	-	-	-
Insurance	252	-	-	252	240
Surveys. Listeners, Vols	-	-	-	-	-
Publicity	565	-	-	565	-
Recording Equipment	-	-	-	-	1,627
USB Players, chargers	479	-	-	479	301
USB Sticks	57	-	-	57	-
Ink cartr's	179	-	-	179	222
Other Tech Equipment	-	-	-	-	325
Misc / Sundries	252	-	-	252	103
Accountancy fees	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>4,995</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,995</b>	<b>7,016</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>4,995</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,995</b>	<b>7,016</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>- 269</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>- 269</b>	<b>- 641</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>42,123</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>42,473</b>	<b>43,114</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>41,855</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>42,204</b>	<b>42,473</b>

## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds
Categories	Details	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Co-op current A/c	4,457		-
	Co-op savings A/c	37,398	-	-
			-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>41,855</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))			

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds
Categories	Details	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>	None	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>	None		-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	Studio equipment - USB copiers, laptops, mixers, microphones	General	10,000	Note 1
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

		Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>	None		-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">                     I. Alexander (Treasurer)                 </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">                     23rd July 2025                 </div>

Notes:- Most equipment is 4+ years old and has no formal book value.  
Two laptops and one mixer were replaced prior to end 2021 at a cost of £900

**BIRMINGHAM TALKING NEWSPAPERS FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED**

England & Wales - Charity number 1185917

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# Accounts

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**B**

**Birmingham Talking Newspapers**  
for the blind & visually impaired (BTNBVI)

Registered Charity (England) No. 1185917

**Trustees' Annual Report**  
1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024

Section A

Charity's principal address

Strangford  
Lichfield Rd  
Hopwas  
Tamworth  
B78 3AG

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

David Gowdy - Chair  
Danny Collman - VC (South)  
Rob Halley - VC (North)  
Kath Collman - Secretary

Ian Alexander - Treasurer  
Brian Sansom - Webmaster  
Alan Johnson  
Marion Dance

## Governance

BTNBVI is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation whose trustees are elected by its Members at each Annual General Meeting. Members are mainly volunteers who produce the recordings.

BTNBVI is affiliated to the national Talking Newspapers Federation (TNF) and to Birmingham Voluntary Service Council (BVSC)

Since 2020 BTNBVI has continued with the pattern of operations established by Birmingham Talking Newspaper Association (BTNA) over its 40 years providing a talking newspaper service.

Our trustees are mainly experienced senior volunteers but we do need to widen our skills base. We were successful in engaging several volunteers in a formal survey exercise, and were pleased to find significant in-house skills to undertake this work.

## Charitable Objects

The object of BTNBVI is to relieve the blind or visually impaired in the Birmingham area by the provision of recorded material read primarily from newspapers and magazines.

In meeting its object and to provide public benefit, each week BTNBVI provides 3- 5 hours of recorded material which is distributed by post using USB memory sticks to blind and visually-impaired listeners across Birmingham. This is current material, mostly from local print newspapers, and therefore not readily accessible to visually impaired people.

Recordings can also be accessed via our website: [www.btnbvi.org](http://www.btnbvi.org), via smartphones using the BWBF Talking News app and via Alexa or similar smart speakers. The service helps reduce social isolation and listeners often comment on the companionship of familiar voices “in the room”.

This letter is a response from a new listener:

*"I have listened to all 5 hours of the recording. I was impressed with intelligent and un-condescending presentations. It was good to have a variety of voices, both male and female, who spoke slowly and clearly so that the content could be absorbed. I particularly enjoyed the two historical items about Evesham and the Duke of Clarence.*

*We are enclosing £10 in appreciation and will set up a regular gift through stewardship.*

*I was delighted to be welcomed by name. Thank you so much, keep up the good work!"*

We also received an unexpected £1000 bequest, another solid reminder that what we do is valued in ways we may not fully understand.

Section D

## Performance

At year end we are serving up to 300 listeners, a reduction from last year. The pattern of usage is often irregular rather than a constant weekly turnover.

In early 2023 we completed a survey of listeners' opinions about our service. A survey of volunteers is in progress but has not yet been collated or analysed.

New referrals come primarily from hospital-based Eye Care Liaison Officers (ECLOs), specialist non-clinical staff who support people adjusting to changes in their visual acuity. They are able to recommend TN services but this is in a busy clinic still dealing with post-COVID backlogs. We may need to revise our publicity & support materials.

The BTNBVI website is now operational providing a new branding and a framework for information presentation. It includes online access to current TN material and signposts to the BWBF Talking Newspaper phone app and the various smart speaker services providing our TN content.

One major aspect of the website is its presentation of our various policies – the Charities Commission identify 13 to which we add Health & Safety and Data Protection. Taking this list, writing BTN-specific policies, procedures and training material is moving ahead rather more slowly than we would prefer.

Our service is provided 100% by our volunteers. We have about 80 people, most of whom work in teams to read and record material taken from local newspapers. We have begun to develop some new non-reading roles in areas like publicity, volunteer and listener support and training.

Towards year-end we had an unexpected notice to vacate our rent-free studio premises in Alan Geale House (by 5 April 2024). The notice triggered an immediate search for replacement premises and a more strategic review by trustees of how we deliver our charitable objects.

Section E

## Finance

The Treasurer has continued to improve our money management and is preparing a Gift Aid submission to HMRC.

At present income donations do not fully cover running costs, leaving a small annual deficit that is offset from reserves.

BTNBVI bank accounts are with The Co-Operative Bank. The arrangements have now bedded in with most transactions handled online.

## Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature

dg

Full name ALFRED DAVID GOWDY

Position CHAIR

Date 3 JULY 2014

Note: this report is presented in sections that align with the Charities Commission Trustees Annual Report CC16 template

**BTNBVI End year accounts 31/03/24**

	<b>31/03/2024</b>	Previous Year <b>31/03/2023</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Bank accounts		
Co-op Savings	36,480	35,825
Co-op Current A/c	5,644	6,939
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b><u>42,123</u></b>	<b><u>42,764</u></b>

**Income and expenditure statement 2023 - 2024**

	<b>2023 / 2024</b>	<b>2022 / 2023</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Donations	5720	5599
Interest	655	100
<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>6375</u></b>	<b><u>5699</u></b>

**Expenditure as at 31/3/24**

P O Box	522	300
Rent of Sutton Studio Rooms	2040	1200
Room Hire. Other meetings	122	460
Bank Charges	0	15
Email A/c hosting	91	61
Web hosting & design	1205	1193
Zoom	144	144
TNF Subs, Conference. Fees	74	137
Travel Exp's	0	48
Insurance	240	230
Surveys - Listeners, Vols.	0	214
USB Players, chargers	301	448
USB Sticks	0	865
Laptops	590	0
Mixer desks	697	0
Mic's	340	0
Printers	285	0
Ink cartr's	222	115
Misc&Sundries	103	620
Other Tech Equipment	40	0
Accountants fees	0	0
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>7015</b>	<b>6050</b>
<b>Surplus/(reduction) in year</b>	<b><u>-641</u></b>	<b><u>-351</u></b>

Notes:-

- 1) Amounts shown to nearest pound.
- 2) These accounts are based on bank transactions during the year.
- 3) PO Box charge includes a figure of £192 for a PO Box for 6 months at South
- 4) "Web hosting & design" at £1205, includes a final payment of £1175 to complete the web site design.
- 5) New equipment purchased includes USB Players, 2 laptops, 3 mixer desks, 4 microphones, 2 Printers.
- 6) The 2023 figures have been brought in line with the 2024 headings to facilitate comparison.

**BIRMINGHAM TALKING NEWSPAPERS FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED**

England & Wales - Charity number 1185917

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# Accounts

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# Birmingham Talking Newspapers

for the blind & visually impaired (BTNBVI)

Registered Charity (England) No. 1185917

## **Trustees' Annual Report**

1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023

Section A

### Charity's principal address

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Lichfield Rd  
Hopwas  
Tamworth  
B78 3AG

### Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

David Gowdy Chair  
Daniel Collman VC (South)  
Rob Halley VC (North)  
Kath Collman (Secretary)  
Ian Alexander Treasurer  
Paul Bryce (retired Nov 2022)  
Brian Sansom (from May 2022)  
Alan Johnson  
Marion Dance

## Governance

BTNBVI is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation whose trustees are elected by its Members at each Annual General Meeting. Members are mainly volunteers who produce the recordings.

BTNBVI is affiliated to the national Talking Newspapers Federation (TNF) and to Birmingham Voluntary Service Council (BVSC)

Since 2020 BTNBVI has continued with the pattern of operations established by Birmingham Talking Newspaper Association (BTNA) over its 40 years providing a talking newspaper service.

One trustee, Paul Bryce, retired in-year. He got married and moved away from Birmingham. Brian Sansom became a trustee, retaining his webmaster portfolio. Our trustees are mainly experienced senior volunteers but we do need to widen our skills base. We were successful in engaging several volunteers in formal survey exercise, and we were pleasantly surprised to find significant in-house skills to undertake this work.

## Charitable Objects

The object of BTNBVI is to relieve the blind or visually impaired in the Birmingham area by the provision of recorded material read primarily from newspapers and magazines.

In meeting its object and to provide public benefit, each week BTNBVI provides 3- 5 hours of recorded material which is distributed by post using USB memory sticks to blind and visually-impaired listeners across Birmingham. This is current material, mostly from local print newspapers, and therefore not readily accessible to visually impaired people.

Recordings can also be accessed via our website: [www.btnbvi.org](http://www.btnbvi.org), via smartphones using the BWBF Talking News app and via Alexa smart speakers. The service helps reduce social isolation and listeners often comment on the companionship of familiar voices “in the room”.

*“Thank you so much for the wonderful news and magazine service you provide free to your visually-impaired listeners- it really has been a lifeline for mum!  
With kind regards and grateful thanks”*

*Daughter of listener*

Section D

## Performance

At year-end we are serving around 300 listeners, but their pattern of usage is often rather irregular, perhaps because they are still not back to a shopping-type routine or because postal services are still erratic. In the current year we, like many other TNs, have noted a reducing number of listeners. Most listeners are referred by local hospital eye clinics so we have, post-COVID, renewed our contact with the staff to encourage new referrals. We also have started a programme to contact lapsed listeners – but visual impairment is mostly age-related and we have an elderly listener population so the consequences of old-age lead to inevitable losses. We believe the proportion of listeners to the visually-impaired population compares favourably with newspaper circulation relative to the sighted catchment population. All valid requests for service are met.

The change to cio in 2020 was the first step on a governance and operational improvement path which is still continuing.

Our service is provided 100% by our volunteers. We have about 80 people who work in teams to read and record material taken from local newspapers.

Work is in hand to retire the old BTNA website and replace it with a BTNBVI version. Apart from the usual explanatory material the website will also provide a reference point for the organisation’s key documents –

constitution, policies, volunteer handbook etc. and will also be used to inform volunteer induction and training activities.

During the year Kings Audio ceased to trade. They had, for many years, supplied USB mp3 players designed for blind and visually-impaired users. We found that most commercial players are not as easy to use and lack some of the controls that assist listeners to navigate the 70-80 mp3 tracks we produce each week. We eventually found a replacement player that meets our needs. It has proved popular with listeners and is significantly less expensive.



Sovereign 2



Sonic

The Sovereign and Sonic players are no longer available. They have been replaced by the Prunus J725, which is smaller, about the size of a typical mobile phone



Prunus J725

## Finance

In 2022/23 our new Treasurer has continued to tame the accounts and organise this foundational aspect of our work.

BTNBVI bank accounts are with The Co-Operative Bank. The arrangements have now bedded in with most transactions handled online.

A significant sum transferred to BTNBVI from BTNA in 2020. This sum provides BTNBVI with a reserve (sufficient to cover an unexpected loss of one of the two recording centres and its contents). At present income donations do not cover running costs, leaving a deficit that is offset also from this sum.

## Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature

Full name

Position (Chair)

Date

Note: this report is presented in sections that align with the Charities Commission Trustees Annual Report CC16 template



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

CC16a

BIRMINGHAM TALKING NEWSPAPERS  
FOR THE BLIND & VISUALLY IMPAIRED (BTNBVI) 1185917


**Receipts and payments accounts**

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date 01/04/2022	To	Period end 31/03/2023
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	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year 31/03/22 to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Donations	5,599	-	-	5,599	3,267
Interest	100	-	-	100	47
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>5,699</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,699</b>	<b>3,314</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>5,699</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,699</b>	<b>3,314</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
P.O. Box	300	-	-	300	284
Studio Rent	1,200	-	-	1,200	680
Room Hire	460	-	-	460	252
Bank charges (HSBC A/c now closed)	15	-	-	15	17
Email/Web hosting	1,254	-	-	1,254	402
Zoom subs	144	-	-	144	209
TNF Subs	42	-	-	42	42
Conference	95	-	-	95	250
Insurance	230	-	-	230	220
Misc / Sundries	783	-	-	783	555
Listeners Survey	214	-	-	214	-
Client mp3 players	418	-	-	418	2,539
Other tech /equip	895	-	-	895	509
Accountancy fees	-	-	-	-	500
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>6,049</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,049</b>	<b>6,459</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>6,049</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,049</b>	<b>6,459</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>- 351</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>- 351</b>	<b>- 3,145</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>43,114</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>43,114</b>	<b>46,259</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>42,764</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>42,764</b>	<b>43,114</b>

**Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period**

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds
		to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Co-op current A/c	7,300		-
	Co-op savings A/c	35,725	-	-
	HSBC	89	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>43,115</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	43,115		
		<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>Restricted funds</b>	<b>Endowment funds</b>
		to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>	None	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Noe		-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Studio equipment - USB copiers,laptops, mixers, microphones	General	10,000	Ref Notes
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	None		-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
	 <p>Digitally signed by A.D.GOWDY DN: cn=ALFRED DAVID GOWDY, o=BTNBVI, ou=INTERIM CHAIR, e=INFO@BTNBVI.ORG Reason: I am approving this document with my legally binding signature Location: BTNBVI, London Date: 2022.05.13 22:35:32+0100 Foxit PDF Reader Version: 11.1.0</p>	ALFRED DAVID GOWDY	12 MAY 2021	

Notes:- Most equipment is 4+ years old and has no formal book value.  
Two laptops and one mixer were replaced prior to end 2021 at a cost of £900

**BIRMINGHAM TALKING NEWSPAPERS FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED**

England & Wales - Charity number 1185917

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# Accounts

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# Birmingham Talking Newspapers

for the blind & visually impaired (BTNBVI)

Registered Charity (England) No. 1185917

## **Trustees' Annual Report**

23 March 2021 – 31 March 2022

Section A

### Charity's principal address

Strangford  
Lichfield Rd  
Hopwas  
Tamworth  
B78 3AG

### Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

Daniel Collman VC(South)  
David Widney  
David Gowdy VC(North) & interim Chair from 27 Oct 2022  
Paul Bryce  
Rob Halley  
Alan Johnson  
Kath Collman  
Lizzy Hunting Treasurer Resigned 20 Aug 2021  
Tim Badger Resigned 29 June 2021  
Algar Goredema-Braid Chair  
Co-opted 18 May 2021 Resigned 21 Oct 2021  
Ian Alexander Treasurer Co-opted 21 Dec 2021

## Governance

BTNBVI is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation whose trustees are elected by its Members at each Annual General Meeting. Members are mainly volunteers or listeners (beneficiaries)

BTNBVI is affiliated to the national Talking Newspapers Federation (TNF) and to Birmingham Voluntary Service Council (BVSC)

Since 2020 BTNBVI has continued with the pattern of operations established by Birmingham Talking Newspaper Association (BTNA) over its 40 years providing a talking newspaper service.

Although the number of trustees had increased at the start of the year, there have been some significant resignations in-year and currently there are 4 vacancies. Our trustees are mainly experienced senior volunteers but we do need to widen our skills base – using other existing volunteers on specific projects should help spread the load and accelerate our improvement plans.

## Charitable Objectives

The object of BTNBVI is to relieve the blind or visually impaired in the Birmingham area by the provision of recorded material read primarily from newspapers and magazines.

In meeting its object and to provide public benefit, each week BTNBVI provides approx 5 hours of recorded material which is distributed by post using USB memory sticks to blind and visually-impaired listeners across Birmingham. This is current material, mostly from local print newspapers, and therefore not readily accessible to visually impaired people.

Recordings can also be accessed via our website: [www.btnbvi.org](http://www.btnbvi.org) and via Alexa smart speakers. The service helps reduce social isolation and listeners often comment on the companionship of familiar voices “in the room”.

## Performance

At year-end we are serving around 300 listeners. In the current year we, like many other TNs, have noted a reducing number of listeners. Most listeners are referred by local hospital eye clinics so we have, post-COVID, renewed our contact with the staff to encourage new referrals. We also have started a programme to contact lapsed listeners – but visual impairment is mostly age-related and we have an elderly listener population so the consequences of old-age lead to inevitable losses. We believe the proportion of listeners to the visually-impaired population compares favourably with newspaper circulation relative to the sighted catchment population. All requests for service are met.

The change to cio in 2020 was the first step on a governance and operational improvement path which is still continuing.

Our service is provided 100% by our volunteers. We have about 70 people who work in teams to read and record material taken from local newspapers.

A Volunteer Handbook has been developed mainly to help new volunteers but it will also include documents like the Constitution and key policies. It has been drafted as a paper document but will be more-readily accessed on the revised website when that project is completed.

## Finance

We engaged an Independent Examiner to work with us in completing the 2020-21 reports for submission to the Charities Commission. This clarified and simplified our overall approach and confirmed that a formal IE Report was not required (we had previously been advised it was needed). We have been able to adopt receipts and payments accounting procedures and have formally registered a merged relationship between BTNA and BTNBVI

BTNBVI bank accounts were opened and BTNA accounts closed, something which we had not been able to do over lockdown. Ian Alexander was co-opted as treasurer in Dec 2021 and has been finalising a finance policy and related accounting arrangements.

A significant sum from BTNA transferred to BTNBVI when it was formed. A Reserves Policy has been established and will lead to the development of a strategic plan to guide investment in prioritised improvement activities. These are likely to include listener engagement, new online technology and governance.

At present regular income donations do not cover running costs, leaving a deficit that is offset from reserves.

## Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

Full name(s)

ALFRED DAVID GOWDY

Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)

INTERIM CHAIR

Date

13 MAY 2022

Note: this report is presented in sections that align with the Charities Commission Trustees Annual Report CC16 template

CC16a	BIRMINGHAM TALKING NEWSPAPERS FOR THE BLIND & VISUALLY IMPAIRED (BTNBVI)		1185917		CC16a	
	Receipts and payments accounts					
	For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end		
		01/04/2021		31/03/2022		
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year 22/10/19 to 31/03/21 (17 mths) to the nearest £	
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £		
<b>A1 Receipts</b>						
Donations	3,267	-	-	3,267	11,316	
Interest	47	-	-	47	325	
	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>3,314</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,314</b>	<b>11,641</b>	
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>						
	-	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>3,314</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,314</b>	<b>11,641</b>	
<b>A3 Payments</b>						
P.O. Box	284			284		
Studio Rent	680	-	-	680		
Misc / Sundries	555	-	-	555	761	
Client mp3 players	2,539	-	-	2,539	3,385	
Other tech /equip	509			509		
Email/Web hosting	402	-	-	402	288	
Room Hire	252	-	-	252	3,155	
Bank charges	17			17		
Zoom subs	209			209		
TNF Subs	42			42		
Conference	250			250		
Insurance	220			220	441	
Accountancy fees	500	-	-	500	-	
	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>6,459</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,459</b>	<b>8,030</b>	
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>						
	-	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>6,459</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,459</b>	<b>8,030</b>	
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>- 3,145</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>- 3,145</b>	<b>3,611</b>	
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>46,259</b>	-	-	<b>46,259</b>	<b>42,648</b>	
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>43,114</b>	-	-	<b>43,114</b>	<b>46,259</b>	

**BIRMINGHAM TALKING NEWSPAPERS FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED**

England & Wales - Charity number 1185917

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# Accounts

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# Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date			Period end date				
<b>From</b>	Day	Month	Year	<b>To</b>	Day	Month	Year
	22	October	2019		31	March	2021

## Section A Reference and administration details

<b>Charity name</b>	<b>BIRMINGHAM TALKING NEWSPAPERS FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED</b>
<b>Other names charity is known by</b>	<b>BTNBVI</b>
<b>Registered charity number (if any)</b>	<b>1185917</b>
<b>Charity's principal address</b>	<b>Strangford, Lichfield Rd, Hopwas TAMWORTH Postcode <b>B78 3AG</b></b>

### Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Charles Ashton-Gray	Chair	Resigned 1 Dec 2020	
2	Daniel Collman	VC(South)		
3	David Widney			
4	David Gowdy	VC(North)		
5	Paul Bryce			
6	Mike Hughes		Deceased 21 Dec 2019	
7	Sue Bushell		Resigned Feb 2020	
8	Rob Halley		Co-opted Sept 2020 Elected 25 Mar 2021	
9	Alan Johnson		Elected 25 Mar 2021	
10	Kath Collman		Elected 25 Mar 2021	
11	Lizzy Hunting	Treasurer	Elected 25 Mar 2021 Resigned 20 Aug 2021	
12	Tim Badger		Elected 25 Mar 2021 Resigned 29 June 2021	
13	Algar Goredema-Braid	Chair	Co-opted 18 May 2021 Resigned 21 Oct 2021	
14				

### Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

**Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)**

Type of adviser	Name	Address

**Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)**

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**Description of the charity's trusts**

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution (CIO membership model)
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	CIO
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Election at AGM (or co-option if necessary)

**Additional governance issues (Optional information)**

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

BTNBVI is affiliated to the national Talking Newspapers Federation (TNF)

BTNBVI has continued with the pattern of operations established by BTNA over its 40 years providing a talking newspaper service.

The change to cio was the first step in a governance and operational improvement intention but we lost some key potential trustees unexpectedly and then went into lockdown in early 2020. Although we did maintain our services across lockdown when many other TNs had to close, we have not been able to progress our improvement agenda in the way we hoped.

**Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document**

The object of the BTNBVI is to relieve the blind or visually impaired in the Birmingham area by the provision of recorded material read primarily from newspapers and magazines.

**Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)**

In meeting its objects and to provide public benefit, BTNBVI delivers approx 5 hours of recorded material each week which is provided by post using USB memory sticks to 500 B&VI listeners across Birmingham. This is current material, mostly local, and not readily available by other means. Recordings can also be accessed via our website: [www.btnbvi.org](http://www.btnbvi.org)

## Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

The charity is run entirely by volunteers working in teams. Our volunteers read and record the material to be included in our audio publications, and perform a variety of administrative tasks

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

**Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year**

Our first year of operation as a CIO has not been an easy one, blighted as it was by the global Covid pandemic. However, we have managed some significant achievements during this difficult period:

- We successfully managed to continue sending out our full complement of publications to all listeners who wished to continue with our service. These publications are: Weekly news; weekly magazine; history talk; monthly news; monthly magazine and miscellany magazine
- Our volunteer readers learned new skills enabling them to make audio recordings in their own homes and send them for editing and compiling into the various different publications
- Our volunteer technicians also learned new skills enabling them to edit the publications in their own homes, using their own equipment and finding websites which allowed them not only to convert incoming recordings into a different audio format, but also to transfer extremely large files from person to person for copying onto memory sticks for our listeners
- We carried out risk assessments enabling us to make a managed return to live studio recordings when circumstances permitted
- A new board of Trustees was elected at the AGM in March 2021. The Board holds monthly meetings either on zoom or face-to-face

## Section E Financial review

### Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

On 20 February 2020 funds were transferred from [505512](#) Birmingham Talking Newspaper Association (BTNA). This funding (£39674) represents a historic legacy and two smaller direct grants. It is held now against future costs of usb sticks, listener players and studio kit. We intend to invest in developmental activity especially to improve our formal understanding of our listeners' expectations and needs. There is also a major technical change underway in the telephone network which we expect to have a significant effect on how we operate.

### Details of any funds materially in deficit

None

### Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

The charity is entirely dependent on donations, grants and legacies

## Section F Other optional information

In 2020 during lockdown it proved very difficult to open a charity bank account. BTNBVI trustees had inherited control over the residual assets of BTNA and continued to use the BTNA bank account for ongoing business. This banking problem has now been remedied with a dedicated BTNBVI account in active operation from 29 October 2021 and all funds are now held in that account or a related savings account

## Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	ALFRED DAVID GOWDY	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	INTERIM CHAIR	
Date	31/01/2022	

**BIRMINGHAM TALKING NEWSPAPERS  
FOR THE BLIND & VISUALLY IMPAIRED**

CHARITY NUMBER 1185917

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**For the period ended 31st March 2021**

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**ADDRESS**

Strangford, Lichfield Rd,  
Hopwas  
TAMWORTH B78 3AG

**TRUSTEES**

Charles  
Ashton-Gray

Daniel Collman

David Widney

David Gowdy

Paul Bryce

Rob Halley

Alan Johnson

Kath Collman

Lizzy Hunting

Tim Badger

**BIRMINGHAM TALKING NEWSPAPERS FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED - CHARITY NUMBER 1185917**  
**RECEIPT AND PAYMENT ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR PERIOD FROM 22ND OCTOBER 2019 TO 31ST MARCH 2021**

	<u>Current period</u>	<u>Current period</u>	<u>TOTAL Current period</u>	<u>Previous period</u>	<u>Previous period</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
	<u>01/04/20-31/03/21</u>	<u>22/10/19-31/03/20</u>	<u>22/10/19-31/03/21</u>	<u>01/04/19-21/10/19</u>	<u>01/04/18-31/03/19</u>
	Unrestricted	Unrestricted	Unrestricted	Unrestricted	Unrestricted
<b>RECEIPTS</b>					
Donations	9,301	2,015	11,316	2,265	18,929
Interest	185	140	325	128	141
<b>Total receipts</b>	<u>9,486</u>	<u>2,155</u>	<u>11,641</u>	<u>2,393</u>	<u>19,070</u>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>					
Room hire	2,040	1,115	3,155	930	1,855
Technical equipment	-	3,385	3,385	2,739	2,340
Website and email hosting	144	144	288	-	230
Insurance	221	220	441	-	220
Other administration and running costs	533	228	761	270	800
<b>Total payments</b>	<u>2,938</u>	<u>5,092</u>	<u>8,030</u>	<u>3,939</u>	<u>5,445</u>
<b>NET OF RECEIPTS/(PAYMENTS)</b>	6,548	(2,937)	3,611	(1,546)	13,625
Cash funds at previous period	39,711	42,648	42,648	44,194	30,569
<b>Cash funds at period end</b>	<u>46,259</u>	<u>39,711</u>	<u>46,259</u>	<u>42,648</u>	<u>44,194</u>

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**  
**AT THE END OF THE PERIOD**

Cash funds (see note 2)					
HSBC (held in trust)	8,581	2,217	8,581	5,295	6,969
Virgin (held in trust)	37,678	37,494	37,678	37,353	37,225
	<u>46,259</u>	<u>39,711</u>	<u>46,259</u>	<u>42,648</u>	<u>44,194</u>
Other monetary assets	-	-	-	-	-
Investment assets	-	-	-	-	-
Assets retained for organisation's own use (see note 3)					
Laptops (not valued)	-	-	-	-	-
Other equipment (not valued)	-	-	-	-	-
Liabilities					
Accountant's fee	500	-	500	-	-
	<u>500</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

Signed by Trustees on behalf of all

SIGNATURE



PRINT NAME

ALFRED DAVID GOWDY

DATE

31-01-22

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

### 1 Basis of preparation

These financial statements have been prepared using the Receipt and Payments basis.

Merger accounting has been applied and the receipts, payments, statement of assets and liabilities and funds of the unincorporated charity, which was converted to CIO as per note 4 below, has been presented combined.

### 2 Cash funds held

As at the period end monies had not been officially transferred to bank accounts held in the name of Birmingham Talking Newspapers for the Blind and Visually Impaired ("BTNBVI"). However, due to legal documentation in accordance with note 4 below, all monies still held in the name of Birmingham Talking Newspapers Association was held on trust for BTNBVI.

### 3 Assets retained for charity's own use

Studio equipment (laptops, mixers, USB copiers) for both studios

### 4 Conversion of unincorporated charity to CIO

In accordance with the vesting declaration dated 19th December 2019, and resolution of the Trustees of Birmingham Talking Newspaper Association registered number 505512 dated 18th July 2019, all property was transferred to Birmingham Talking Newspapers for the Blind and Visually Impaired on 20th February 2020.

Cash at bank held as at that date was as follows:	£
HSBC	2181
Virgin	<u>37493</u>
	<u>39674</u>

Trustees of both organisations were as follows:

David Widney  
Daniel Collman  
Charles Ashton-Gray  
Alfred D Gowdy