

Association of Talking Newspapers Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland · Charity number 103184

Details

Known as	ATNNI
Status	Received
Registered	2015-09-30
Register	View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register

Contact

Address 1 Maybrook Park
Coleraine
County Londonderry
BT52 1sn
BT52 1SN

Phone 07525479876

Email info@atnni.org.uk

Website www.atnni.org.uk

Activities

Purposes: The Association is established to promote the benefit of blind or partially sighted peoples or those labouring under some temporary or permanent incapacity or disability that makes reading a strain (hereinafter “the beneficiaries”) in Northern Ireland (hereinafter called the “area of benefit”) without distinction of age, gender, sexual orientation, nationality, ethnic identity, political or religious opinion, in a common effort to improve their conditions of life and in particular: a) to promote good practice and the efficiency and effectiveness of its member organisations for the benefit of the beneficiaries in the area of benefit; b) to support, represent and develop the work of organisations within Northern Ireland which undertake the systematic provision of news and other material by digital or analogue transmission (“talking news organisations”); c) to promote and assist the formation of talking news organisations throughout Northern Ireland.

What the charity does: The advancement of citizenship or community development, The relief of those in need by reason of youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage

How the charity works: Disability, Education/training

Who the charity helps: Older people, Sensory disabilities, Voluntary and community sector

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£2,046	£690	£0	0

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Mr Francis Barden		
Mr Samuel Andrew Gribben		
Mrs Alison Coyle		
Mrs Julie Russell		
Mrs Margaret Davidson		
Ms Jacqueline Gwyneth Cotton		
Ms Marion Elizabeth Mclaughlin		
Patricia Mcguinness		

Association of Talking Newspapers Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103184

Accounts

Association of Talking Newspapers N Ireland
Statement of Accounts for 15 months ending 31.03.25

INCOME	£	EXPENDITURE	£
Credit Balance at 31.12.23:			
Saver Plus Ac 990.61		Website refund	35.99
Current Ac 5,752.78	6743.39	Travel expenses	177.75
		Bank fees	25.19
Membership fees 7 @ £20	140.00	Support to TNs	382.00
Interest	46.78	AGM	70.00
Donation	1,780.09		
AGM fees	80.00	Income minus Expenditure	690.93
		Credit Balance at 31.03.25	8099.33
		Saver Plus Ac 5,032.31	
		Current Ac 3,067.02	
TOTAL	8790.26		8099.33

I have compared this account with the relevant bank statements and other records held by the Treasurer and certify it to be in accordance therewith. W. Davidson (Hon Auditor) Wm Davidson

There are no assets or liabilities

Association of Talking Newspapers Northern Ireland

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Accounts

Association of Talking Newspapers N Ireland

Statement of Accounts for year ending 31.12.23

INCOME	£	EXPENDITURE	£
Credit Balance at 31.12.22:		Website	145.07
Saver Plus Ac	982.80	Travel expenses	136.35
Current Ac	5,781.51	Bank fees	17.23
Membership fees 9 @ £20	180.00	Uncleared cheques	84.15
Interest	13.58	Credit Balance at 31.12.23:	
	6,764.31	Saver Plus Ac	990.61
		Current Ac	5,752.78
TOTAL	6957.89	TOTAL	6957.89

I have compared this account with the relevant bank statements and other records held by the Treasurer and certify it to be in accordance therewith. W Davidson (Hon Auditor)

Association of Talking Newspapers Northern Ireland

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Annual report



Association of Talking Newspapers Northern Ireland

Annual Report 2023

2023 Committee

Chair	Patricia McGuinness
Secretary	Julie Russell
Treasurer	Marion McLaughlin

Committee members

- Jackie Cotton – RNIB Representative
- Margaret Davidson - Listener Representative
- Andrew Gribben – Technical Officer
- Jennifer Loughridge – Volunteer Representative

Association of Talking Newspapers Northern Ireland

(ATNNI) COMMITTEE REPORT 2023

The Committee of the Association of Talking Newspapers, Northern Ireland (ATNNI), is pleased to submit its Annual Report for 2023 to its members.

The committee met 4 times in the year (in September and November 2023 and in February and May 2024) and we continue to have our meetings in Portadown thanks to the hospitality of St Mark's church.

Committee officers took advantage of free training offered by NICVA and attended awareness courses on good governance in the voluntary sector and on financial management. These highlighted some important issues and, as a result, changes were made to the way the ATNNI bank account is managed including drawing up a policy. The ATNNI Constitution was reviewed and some small amendments will be proposed at the 2024 AGM.

Expert input from Andrew as Technical Officer has set out new aims for the ATNNI website

- Use the site to better effect
- Make the site accessible and easy for the public to use
- Make the site easier to update
- Bring down costs

A change to the provider has brought the annual cost down from over £140 to only £8. Changes to the site itself and to how it links us together are still in the pipeline.

The Talking NewspapersNI Facebook page continues to promote Talking Newspapers to the public in general and to create a social media community for our volunteers across NI.

Some TNs continue to feel the pressure after Covid and a few are in a precarious situation. During the year, both Armagh and Banbridge decided to close for good. ATNNI is supporting them as they complete the necessary formalities. In Ballymena a change in library staff is worrying for the 3 TNs who have their copying done there. So far all is going well and the TNs have each written to Libraries NI to underline the importance of this long-term partnership.

Marion was able to attend the conference of the Talking News Federation and brought back stories of inspiration from TNs in GB and many ideas especially around use of technology. She also attended an RNIB Technology event in Belfast.

Patricia, as Chair of ATNNI, was invited to be a guest speaker at a celebration of 40 years of Sound Around Ards in March 2024. This was a very positive and enjoyable evening and the Association presented the TN with a certificate to mark the milestone.

Association of Talking Newspapers Northern Ireland

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Annual return

ATNNI

Association of Talking
Newspapers Northern Ireland



“supporting and promoting together”

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matter (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Name: Relevant professional qualification or body:

Name: William Davidson

Address: 49 Village Walk, Portadown BT63 5TL

Signature of Independent Examiner: *W. Davidson*.....

Date: *20/3/2024*.....

Apart from the Bank Account, this Charity has no other assets or Liabilities

Association of Talking Newspapers Northern Ireland

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Accounts

Association of Talking Newspapers Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103184

Annual report

Association of Talking Newspapers Northern Ireland (ATNNI)

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

2022 Committee

Chair	Marion McLaughlin
Secretary	Julie Russell
Treasurer	Jennifer Loughridge
Information Officer	Patricia McGuinness

Committee members

Robert Apsley

Richard Bradley *to sept 22*

Phil Graham *to oct22*

Margaret Davidson *from nov 22*

The Committee of the Association of Talking Newspapers, Northern Ireland (ATNNI) is pleased to submit its Annual Report for 2022 to its members.

The committee met four times in the year – in January, April, September and November 2022. We continue to have use of a room in Fergus Hall thanks to St Mark's church in Portadown. It was good to be able to resume face to face meetings after the many disruptions of the pandemic, but the fallout from Covid was still a big factor in the business of the Association throughout the year.

All TNs were contacted several times in the year to gauge their post-Covid status and it was sad to know that some have decided to close completely while others are only slowly restarting. There was better news from several which are confidently back to normal. The Association offered support and advice where needed. Where a TN was closing, help was given by the Information Officer in the legal process required and in sourcing a new home at another TN for any equipment.

Challenges facing all TNs were identified and included:

- Recruitment of volunteers, especially technicians
- Suitable premises
- Getting the message to communities so that new listeners are identified
- Building/keeping strong relationship with sensory teams
- Changing technology – most older people are not keen on streaming and podcasts
- Fragile state of newspaper publishing in general

The effects of the last 2 points will be long lasting and TNs know that new technology will, in due course, give blind and vision impaired people fast and unhindered access to local news and information. Until then, TNs will endeavour to provide this and ATNNI will continue to support local groups.

At the time of our AGM in June 2023 the current state of play across Northern Ireland is:

Talking Newspapers currently in operation in NI	Talking Newspapers closed either temporarily or permanently
Antrim/Ballymena Bangor/Newtownards Coleraine Craigavon Downpatrick Fermanagh Mid-Ulster Newry Omagh Strabane	Armagh Ballyclare/Larne/Carrickfergus Banbridge Belfast Londonderry Dungannon (now part of Mid U) Lisburn

Coleraine TN has been proactive in seeking volunteers in Derry/Londonderry for restarting there with support from the Association and from Coleraine TN. This has been delayed by the pandemic and will be a focus in the year ahead.

The ATNNI website and Talking NewspapersNI Facebook page continued to provide information and to promote Talking Newspapers to the public; they also have the aim of creating a social media community for our volunteers across NI. In addition ATNNI provides a link to the Talking News Federation in GB and ensures local information is held on their UK-wide website.

ATNNI is grateful to former members Jackie Cotton, Richard Bradley and Phil Graham who resigned from the committee in 2022 after long and dedicated service.

Association of Talking Newspapers Northern Ireland

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Annual return

ATNNI Report for Charities Commission.

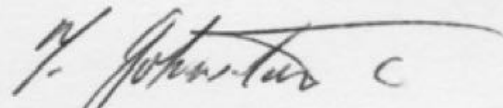
Auditor:

Name: Thomas Johnston

Address: 5 The Links, Warren Road, Donaghadee. BT210QS.

Report on Annual Accounts for year ending 31st December, 2022: Income and expenditure for the charity are both modest and well within expectations for the year. Income (i.e. membership subscriptions) is down post pandemic and this will be monitored by the committee in future years.

I can certify that the financial records of ATNNI are being maintained in a satisfactory manner.



T. Johnston

5th April, 2023