

**Trustees Report 2017 - 18**  
**Coleraine & District Talking News**  
**Charity No: 103499**

**Introduction**

The Coleraine & District Talking News is based in the RNIB Centre in Abbey Street, Coleraine. For 41 years we have been providing a free audio service to those in our community who have a range of visual impairments. This year we have once again produced on CD 49 weekly 80-minute audio programmes of local community news, useful information on disabilities, items of historical interest, humour and music. We aim, in the best tradition of public service, to entertain and inform.

Current listenership.....130

This figure fluctuates annually and throughout the year due to bereavements, relocation etc

Committee.....9      Volunteers.....21      Frequency.....weekly

**Trustees**

Barry Williamson (Chairperson)  
Mary Ellard (Treasurer)  
Julie Russell  
Maureen McLean  
John Cunning

Sharman Wilson (Secretary)  
Stan Lightowler MBE  
Elaine Lynch  
David Terrett

**Honorary President**

David Barnes

**Core Activity / Public Benefit**

The purpose of our charity is to support blind or partially sighted people and those living with some temporary or permanent incapacity or disability which makes reading a strain, by the provision of news and other information via audio recordings or digital transmissions together with the discretionary provision of equipment considered necessary to use such transcriptions.

We continue to fulfil our key purpose as stated above. This work has contributed directly to our listeners' ability to take part more fully in local activities and to keep them informed of events relevant to them, thus providing a social outlet to those who might otherwise be isolated from their local community.

Libraries NI duplicates from our master CD and, using the free service provided by Royal Mail, sends out individual CDs to each listener on a weekly basis. Our sincere thanks go to both these organisations for their invaluable help and continued commitment.

**Finances**

It is important to recognise that, while our expenditure is reasonably stable, our income is totally dependent on the flow of grants and gifts. The committee continue to research and pursue a variety of funding sources and we are happy to report that this year we surpassed our goal of covering our core expenses, ending the year with an operating profit of £1434. This was a welcome improvement on last year when we had an operating loss of £9.

**Equipment**

We maintain a supply of CDs with Libraries NI in Ballymena and will be purchasing a new supply in the coming year. We encountered no technical problems this year and continue to monitor this important aspect of our work.