



**FORTH VALLEY TALKING NEWSPAPER
ASSOCIATION**

Known to our Listeners as ***NEWSLINE***

Scottish Charity Number SC014778

Annual Report and Accounts
for the year ended 31st March 2026

FORTH VALLEY TALKING NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION [FVTNA]

Management Committee's Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2026

Scottish Charity Number SC014778

Management Committee

Christine Moroney	Chairperson
Elizabeth Sutherland	Secretary
James Cairns	Treasurer
Duncan McVicar	
Finlay Nicolson	
Peter Trevis	

Contact Address

Mrs. Christine Moroney, FVTNA, PO Box 42, FALKIRK, FK1 1AA

Recruitment and appointment of the Management Committee

All of the Association's Management Committee are appointed or reappointed by the members at the Annual General Meeting.

Governing Document

The Association is a charitable unincorporated association and the purposes and administration arrangements are set out in our constitution.

Charitable purposes

Our purposes, as recorded in our constitution, are: -

The object of the Association is to relieve the blind, or partially sighted, or those labouring under some temporary or permanent incapacity or disability which makes reading a strain, by the provision of digital media i.e. recorded USB Memory Sticks and Players (if required by the Listener).

Currently, for the benefit of the blind and visually impaired in Falkirk and surrounding areas, we record an audio version, weekly, of the local newspaper, **The Falkirk Herald**. The audio version is distributed on USB Memory Sticks, and online. Monthly, we produce a magazine which is also sent out on USB Memory Sticks

At 31st March 2026 we had 70 Listeners receiving our service.

We have been unable to source further stocks of the players we are currently issuing to listeners who require them. Replacement charging cables are also unavailable. Presently we are modifying charging cables to suit and continue to search for suitable replacement players and encourage the return of those no longer used by listeners. Any Players that are returned are checked before being issued to new Listeners. We also try to recover USB Memory Sticks and Mailing Wallets.

We are extremely grateful to the **NEWSLINE** Volunteers who deliver and demonstrate the Players to new Listeners. Most Volunteers find it an enjoyable and rewarding experience.

Premises

We moved into our current premises in Falkirk on 30th April 2007 following extensive alterations to accommodate three recording studios and ancillary equipment and facilities. In October 2016 we entered into a second 10-year lease for the premises with the Rosehall Property Company at an increased rental cost of £150 per month. On 16th December 2022 the premises were bought by Parkside Properties Ltd. In 2023 this changed again to Envisage Dental Group. Our lease continued on a similar basis under the new ownership. we meet the cost of electricity. 100% charitable rates relief has been granted by Falkirk Council for these premises from 1st October 2006. We have exemption from Water and Sewerage Charges under the Scottish Government Scheme.

Chairperson's Review of our Activities and Achievements in 2025-2026

Welcome to the Annual general Meeting of Newslines 2026. A special welcome to Margaret Laird who has joined us on a fortnightly basis since this time last year. Each year I give an approximate number of wallets we send out each week and for several years now these numbers are falling. I would say it is between 50 and 55 wallets each week that we now send. Last year there were between 60 and 65 wallets. Our main source of listeners comes from the Social Work services. There are many ways now of accessing information for visually impaired people, online and in some cases very strong magnifiers or reading scanner machines which will transcribe text to speech. Due to a fall in listeners, we don't receive as many listeners donations, although some listeners are very generous and we thank them for their generosity.

Thank you again to Finlay and Marion who cut the Falkirk Herald and put the various sections into the folders ready to read on a Thursday evening. Thanks also to Grace and Betty who cut the paper when Finlay is on holiday. Thanks again to Finlay for collecting our mail from Scotweigh each week and for handing our mail into the Post Office on a Friday morning. We receive a number of phone calls from listeners telling us they are not receiving their recordings on time. We are not alone in this. Several other talking newspapers I speak to have the same problem. There is not a lot we can do about this. We all experiencing poor service from Royal Mail.

Betty and Peter continue to deliver the players and recordings for that week to new listeners. It is time consuming and they try to make the visit to coincide with a member of the family being there, or a friend, to help if the listener has any difficulties with the player. Thank you for doing this.

Betty made application in November 2025 to Falkirk Council for the Community Grant we usually receive to help with running costs. The grant for year 24-25 wasn't received until May 2025 and this amounted to £4860. We were told then it would possibly be the last grant under that name. We have not heard anything about a grant for this year so Betty contacted CVS and was informed that this grant was no longer paid. We will need to think out what other umbrellas we can access for funding. Betty, Jim and Duncan have already completed the Gift Aid claim but unfortunately this did not go through and we need to re-submit.

We discovered about two months ago that we had lost our email address account. This gave us some headaches at the time as we were not receiving online mail. Duncan has managed to get info@newslines.org back for us, but it cost £450. We hope that is all in order for as long as we need it.

Our main event in 2025 was the 2000th edition of Newslines and this was celebrated the following day in Forth Valley Sensory Centre who gave us the use of three halls free of charge and thanks to Carol, Café Manager, for providing a very good buffet. We thank Scotweigh and Rotary Club of Falkirk for donations to pay for this as well as a lovely cake. The event was attended by some listeners, present volunteers, a number of volunteers from the past including three original volunteers. I think there were a few white heads of hair around that day! Cecil Meiklejohn, leader of Falkirk Council, and Brian Leishman, M.P. for Grangemouth and Alloa, attended and said a few words, as did Jaqui Winning CEO of FVSC. It was great to meet some old friends again.

In September we all received fobs to allow us access through the glass door into the premises. It saves most volunteers having to carry keys. Mr. Sharp installed the system and supplied the fobs.

On 3rd September Betty and myself went along to Grangemouth Probus Club and gave a talk about Newslane. Betty spoke to Falkirk Ladies Lunch Club about Newslane.

When we received the new Rota from Soroptimists International of Falkirk we were informed that there would only be one person coming along to help with reading. Like ourselves, the members are getting older and less fit to come along. Thanks to the ladies who do help us. Thanks also to Rotary Club of Grangemouth who send a member along on the alternate weeks to help with reading and also for their donation of £300 from their Santa Sleigh collection. It is very much appreciated. We have some extra help from Rotary Club of Falkirk with reading. It is good to have a variety of voices and special thanks to David Wheeler for auditing our accounts.

Our lease on these premises ends in October this year, so we are hoping to be able to report within the next few months that we have secured a further lease. Getting to speak with the landlord is not so easy.

We had our Annual Dinner again in the Leapark Hotel Grangemouth and again thanks to Sandy for our very difficult quiz. I won't mention the winners!

My final thanks as always goes to the committee for all the hard work done throughout the year and, of course, to all of you who turn out each week in all weathers to keep myself and all listeners up to date with the local news and to Finally for his most interesting magazine each month. I speak to several listeners who all enjoy listening to the recordings.

Once again, a big Thank You. We are all a year older than this time last year.

Christine Moroney
20th April 2026

Management Committee Remuneration and Expenses

None of the Management Committee received any remuneration or expenses during the year.

Reserves

As a result of the surplus of £1687.31 for the year, the balance as at 31st March 2026 was £ 20666.16.

Approved by the Management Committee and signed on their behalf.

Chairperson
28.05.2026

