



February 2009 Newsletter

BTN COMMITTEE

Matilda Mitchell Convenor
Ted Ball Treasurer
Christine Tucker Secretary
Janette Denholm
Tom Ingolesby
Bea Nicholson
Terry O'Boyle
Charlie Rickett
Tim Usher

Our email address is
office@btn.org.uk

DO WE HAVE YOURS?



to speak to Wendy,
(Mon am, Thurs and Fri)
phone 01361 884 206

(you can leave a message at ANY time)

Charity No: SC 020192

TALKING PRIZES

Although BTN succeeds because of the time and effort given by the volunteers, some costs are unavoidable and we need a regular income to cover these expenses. Please ask friends and family to support BTN by subscribing to our **Talking Prizes draw**. They need only to set up a Standing Order at their bank for £2.00 per month (or £24.00 per year) Standing Order forms enclosed. If we can each persuade at least two contacts to make this small pledge, it will help ensure our long-term future.



Thanks very much for your help

BTN DVD

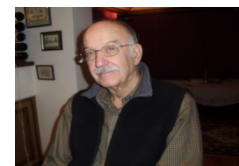
The film which explains how the talking newspaper is made, has been a great success and we are updating it to reflect the change to digital recording and listening. It can be shown to Rotary, Inner Wheel or Probus Clubs, at SWRI or Guild groups....

New bookings always welcome, so call the office to book it! We can get someone to 'work it' and answer questions afterwards or you could do it yourself (Full training will be given!



We have a shelf of books in the studio; only 50p each. Call in and see if there is anything that interests you – or bring in a good book you have finished with.

MEET THE VOLUNTEER



Hello, my name is Rowland Driscoll, born in 1933 and therefore somewhat long in the tooth. During the depression years of the late

1920's with little work around in the United Kingdom, my father was lucky enough to obtain a work contract with a firm in Ecuador and at the same time my maternal grandfather obtained a similar contract and left Glasgow with his wife and three daughters. My father married his eldest daughter and I am their first born. Lucky me!! So, I was born in Ecuador from a Scottish mother, an English father and I have an Irish name. No wonder I get confused sometimes!!

The war years were spent, firstly on an oil field in Ecuador (which was used to supply fuel for the Royal Navy's South Atlantic and Pacific Fleets and where some of the war ships involved in the Battle of the River Plate were bunkered) and then in Baranca Bermeja in Colombia, South America. The family returned home in 1947. I was educated in Blackburn and Southampton and spent my working career in the oil industry around the UK and eventually ending up in London. I am married to Pat and we have five children and five grandchildren. We are both retired and now live in the village of Smailholm, six miles from Kelso. Pat was born in Glasgow and raised in Fort William and Inverness, so we spend a lot of our time visiting friends and relations up North. Our children are scattered all over England as well as in Stockholm, Sweden, so we do spend some considerable time visiting. When not doing that I enjoy painting, the occasional game of golf and we both enjoy walking and getting involved in village life.

I thoroughly enjoy reading out articles from the local newspapers from the wee office in Duns and hope that your weekly diet of local news keeping people in touch with what goes on in their local area and around the Borders.

Will you host a BTN coffee morning?

When the weather gets kinder, would you club together with a couple of others and arrange a coffee morning? This will help to keep us in the public eye **and** raise money. Please think about it; The Committee will be most grateful.



Wendy will help with publicity... and anything else!

I/We am/are interested in hosting a coffee morning

.....
 Please return this section by post,
 phone or email Wendy
 25 Market Square, Duns TD11 3BY
 01361 884206
 office@btn.org.uk

We feel it's time for another social event; would you come to a 'gathering' of volunteers?

Yes **No.....**

If yes, tell us your preferred day and time??

daytime sat..... sun..... weekday.....

evening fri..... .sat..... sun..... other.....

demonstration and fundraising sales.....
 entertainment/activity and buffet
 'Sit-down' meal.

Any suggestions?.....

Hawick Talking Newspaper

For some time we have been hearing that many more Hawick people would listen to BTN if we included the Hawick News. This seemed quite difficult to do from Duns because the paper is not published until Friday morning.

We have recently had discussions with Hawick Rotary Club who are very keen to get involved with recording it in Hawick. Planning is ongoing but it looks like we will be setting up a second studio in Hawick and then the recording will be emailed to Duns where it can be added to the sticks. The Hawick News will not be available on tapes but we will convert all our existing Hawick listeners to sticks.

Equipment

We are trying out a bulk copier for sticks which will be the last major item to be bought for Duns, completing the changeover to digital recording. We still produce tapes but are keen to get as many listeners as possible using sticks. The players are available free, are delivered and listeners are shown how to use them.

The sticks are not as easy to navigate as tapes (no rewind or fast forward options) so we are trying to split the recording into five tracks to help the listeners. Team leaders in particular need to read the introductory notes carefully - and ask Wendy for clarification if needed!

BTN Website

'Our presence on the web is undergoing a complete revamp' writes committee member Bea Nicholson

'The web address (url) will remain the same **http://www.btn.org.uk** but the whole look is different!

The **home page** outlines our whole reason for being while other pages provide a little background to BTN, talk about volunteering, tell readers how to donate (always important and includes a Talking Prizes application form – hint hint!) and ability to listen online to both our weekly newspaper (because of copyright it will be a week later than listeners receive in the post) and our quarterly magazine. Hopefully other information that we record for our listeners will also be made available. Our video will be available soon too!

Another page will provide **links** to organisations and websites which serve the visually impaired community as well as some local sites with local information (including our sponsors).

Finally there is a **contacts page** which provides telephone, email and regular mail details to Wendy (with her photo!)

This is a visually clear and very easy to navigate **site** on which readers can enlarge the text size and font colour (black on white; white on black or black on yellow)

The photograph which is bannered across every page is of our own River Tweed which cuts through all of our region.

Please pay us a virtual visit – and let us know what you think!