

West Shropshire Talking Newspaper



01743 364 726
www.wstn.org.uk
www.facebook.com/westshropstn

Charity No.. 504996 established 1976

Free digital news recordings for anyone who cannot see to read printed newspapers

After 40 years of continuous operation the production of each week's West Shropshire Talking Newspaper (WSTN) follows a well tried and tested routine to publish a consistently high quality recording which arrives through listeners' letterboxes on Fridays.

The 90-minute programme of news, information and features is recorded on USB memory sticks which give excellent audio quality through easy to use, portable players

Listeners can directly click track selector buttons to reach different sections of the content.

The WSTN is also available online and via internet radio.



In 1976 the first talking newspapers were published in Shropshire.

Blind people had said they needed an audio news service and a public appeal achieved both the necessary funds and the initial team of volunteers to produce and publish the recordings,

Portable players were provided to listeners on free loan and the service itself was, and still is, free of charge.

The Editor's role

Generally a typical week's preparations start with the WSTN duty editor reading the online Shropshire Star on his or her computer at home. Stories about our West Shropshire area are highlighted and copied to new text documents for any editing to suit recording a weekly digest of six daily papers. After seven days around 60 stories will have been collected which then need final selection and sorting into the six main sections of our WSTN programme. Main news for Track One; people-in-the-news for Track Three, and so on.

Features Contributors

The days before our Wednesday evening recording session are also busy ones for contributors who will be researching particular types of news such as sport, women's clubs and forthcoming events in order to pre-record those sections of the programme for insertion between the main news readings in the master recording.

Each week our duty editor reads all the local news stories in the Shropshire Star and makes a selection for our recording

Our duty editor will spend around 15 hours in a typical week collecting and arranging the content of the WSTN

The week's duty presenter becomes involved in WSTN preparation when the duty editor delivers the set of scripts from the papers together with a running order of other contributions. The presenter reads through the stories to resolve problems before the studio session and sorts which

stories will be read by which of the other two readers in the team,

A continuity script is drafted to help listeners find their way around the eleven or twelve sections of the 60 - 90 minute recorded programme.

Before closing an 'And Finally' amusing anecdote aims to leave our listener with a smile.



The WSTN online

On completion of the week's master recording the technical operator will upload the issue to the website of British Wireless for the Blind so that listeners with Sonata internet radios can listen to the WSTN. The recording can also be accessed through our website: wstn.org.uk



Every week of the year

These three volunteers then assemble in the studio together with a technical operator and make a master recording of all the scripts; they also incorporate the pre-recorded contributions on designated tracks.

Production then continues next morning when another small team of volunteers make a memory stick copy of the recording for each mailing list listener.

At the same time other volunteers unpack the returning memory sticks from the previous week for re-recording. The bar-coded address labels are scanned to the mailing list and the week's despatch list is produced by the computer. Packing the postal pouches and filling the mail sacks completes the WSTN's weekly routine before Royal Mail collect our sacks for delivery to listeners.



40 years celebrated on
25 May 2016





The 100th talking newspaper in 1980



The 1000th talking newspaper in 2006



40 years in 2016

Anyone who cannot see to read newsprint can apply to join the free West Shropshire Talking Newspaper service. An application form can be downloaded from our website wstn.org.uk where it is also possible to 'Click to Listen'. Telephone enquiries can be made to our answering machine on 01743 364 726.

The first talking newspaper in Shropshire was published in May 1976

Our 40th anniversary was marked with a special issue recorded on 25 May 2016

The anniversary recording was presented by Alan Wilding who had presented the first issue in 1976. When interviewed for BBC Shropshire, by Genevieve Tudor, Alan said: "It's a huge team effort each week. I'm still involved because I enjoy what I do for most of the time but also I know, from talking to listeners, that the WSTN service is still needed."

The programme included archive recordings of some of the other volunteers from 1976 as well as most of the other current day presenters who enjoyed drinks and birthday cake in the Production Room before popping into the studio to read some of the week's news stories for listeners.



We met some of our WSTN listeners at the See & Hear Day



WSTN Summer Concert, 11 June 2016, celebrating 40 years of talking newspapers in Shropshire



The Shropshire Girls Choir (top)
Paul Pascoe welcomes a full house (left)
Alan Wilding demonstrates a talking newspaper (below)
The Shropshire Youth Wind Orchestra (bottom)



TO CELEBRATE 40 YEARS OF TALKING NEWSPAPERS
FOR BLIND PEOPLE IN SHROPSHIRE
SUMMER CONCERT
AN EVENING OF POPULAR MUSIC BY THE
SHROPSHIRE MUSIC SERVICE INCLUDING
THE SHROPSHIRE GIRLS CHOIR AND THE
SHROPSHIRE YOUTH WIND ORCHESTRA
Conductor Alison Stevens

 **SATURDAY 11 JUNE 2016**
6.30 – 9.00 PM [DOORS OPEN 6 PM]

THE LORD HILL HOTEL, REGENCY SUITE
ABBEY FOREGATE, SHREWSBURY SY2 6AX

ADMISSION BY TICKET ONLY Tickets available free of charge on
telephone application to the West Shropshire Talking Newspaper
01743 364 726

THE RETIRING BUCKET COLLECTION WILL BE SPLIT EQUALLY BETWEEN THE WEST SHROPSHIRE
TALKING NEWSPAPER (CHARITY REG. 504996) AND THE SHROPSHIRE MUSIC SERVICE

