



Havant Talking News

A free service for blind and visually impaired people

Number 32

Vision

1st June 2026

I have found it very hard to sit down and start this edition. I can blame the spell of hot weather we have recently had - it does dull the energy tanks. I can blame my recent times away, a visit to Hayling's twinned town in Gorrion, Upper Loire and a wonderful trip up, and down the Norwegian coast on one of the Hurtigruten boats. I can also blame my recent cycling accident where I hit a legally parked car, hidden to me in the shade of trees, on a lovely sunny day. That was a week ago and I am still in recovery mode, although the bike has yet to be repaired. Lots of things to blame but lethargy has been the chief culprit!

You will have received the recent Minutes of the last AGM where I put out a strong plea for people to step forward to help ease us out of our current crisis with Producers. We have had 3 people step forward to express interest (many thanks) and indeed two of those are going to sit in on future recording evenings, with one having her name down for a future edition as producer in August. Many, many thanks for coming forward to Dian Perry and Simon Steele. If all goes well that will give us 4 producers and the ability to revert to fortnightly recordings - great news, although fortnightly recordings will mean we will be on the lookout for another engineer to add to our already great team. A fifth producer would be lovely, providing us with a flexibility we have not had for many a year. I will push for a further volunteer to bring us up to that magical number. If any of you would like to join the producer 'gang' or add to our engineering team do let me know - needless to say you would be more than welcome!

I am now very hopeful that we will be able to return to a normal service with our Listeners receiving a Havant Talking News recording once a fortnight. Great news and I know the Listeners will welcome it!

Robert Bull, who took over from Jan Turner as our Publicity member, has had to step down from the committee and the publicity work he undertook due to family health reasons. I thank Robert for the work he put in and for his ideas, but his departure leaves a void - in an important area. We do need to keep the Talking News in the public eye, both for getting

the message out to people who would benefit from our recordings and for pulling in more volunteers. It is not a demanding role, can be mostly done from home but does need someone with a bit of verve. The present committee members will find it very difficult to add this task to the work they already do.

We are again holding the annual BBQ, on Friday 24th July. Although the event last year was not well attended we do want to continue as it allows us to meet up, put faces to names and perhaps to sprout new ideas. One of the drawbacks for an HTN volunteer is that, for the most part, we do not meet up with other volunteers. A lot of the work is homebased and whilst the recording sessions do bring several people together, they are, for most, few and far between. So getting together is a good idea and what better way than a summer afternoon BBQ. There is a flyer attached with all the details. Do come along!

Just a little aside on Angel Radio. Did you know that it started out in 1993 as a Pirate radio station! Like other pirate stations it suffered from the increasing attempts by the government to close down these unlicensed broadcasters (broadcasters that provided a lot of pleasure to a lot of people). Indeed Angel Radio itself had 2 raids by the Department of Trade and Industry, the first saw the loss of all their equipment and the last 1996 led to its final closure as an unlicensed operator. Eventually in 1999, after several short-term broadcast licences and a meeting with Portsmouth City Council Angel Radio was reborn as a local radio station for the aged and run by the aged. Tony Smith, the driving force, had worked a miracle. Now you can access Angel radio from anywhere in the world on DAB, and FM coverage is continually expanding. A local success - and we get a free broadcast from fortnightly recordings!

Enjoy the summer and a thank you for what you do.

Peter Loveridge
Chair

Talking News BBQ!!

12.30 p.m. Friday 24th July 2026

at

53 Sinah Lane, PO11 0HJ

All are very welcome - especially new volunteers

No charge - Bring your own drinks

If coming please email Ann Sims at

(simsann07@gmail.com)

by Monday 21st July (earlier would help)

Do Join Us

Dessert or Salad donations welcomed

Just let us know beforehand