

Chair's Report

It has been another busy year for the Bingham Audio Magazine as, like all other organisations, we continue to recover from the effects of the pandemic. The Trustees and all volunteers have been working hard to maintain an interesting and varied audio magazine which we hope continues to serve the interests and needs of our listeners.

Since the last AGM the Trustees have met on 4 occasions. The group still consists of Andrew Charlett, Elaine Baker, Jane Roberts, Sue Hull, Lesley Lyon, Alan Cotton. For those of you who attended this meeting last year you will remember that we voted to elect Jim Hedges. Despite attending our first Trustees Meeting unfortunately Jim has had to step down due to health problems but we wish him well and thank him for his contribution.

Alan Howe also decided to resign as a member of BDAM after many years spent supporting the charity in various roles including Chair, Interviewer and Technical Advisor. His contribution will be missed and we would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his many hours of work on behalf of BDAM.

In terms of fundraising events we held our annual book sale and coffee morning which was again a success. We managed to control the number of books donated and everyone enjoyed coffee, cakes and a browse for the essential holiday reading. We made £220 towards the charity funds. We decided to hold a different event to the quiz, usually held in Spring, and we are replacing it with a Strawberry and Prosecco tea on 6th July at this venue. Tickets are available today for anyone who has not made a purchase yet. The quiz will be returning, however, on April 19th 2024 – so a date for the diary and the book sale will be held on 6th October at 17 Tithby Road.

As Sue explained at our last AGM we had very kindly been given a donation and we decided to spend this money on an advertising campaign. We had leaflets designed and sent out in The Buttercross. This generated some responses which unfortunately resulted in no further interest. Subsequently, this year we have had one person showing an interest in the magazine, so we hope to be able to report back on this at the meeting.

At the end of March 2023 we reached Disc number 167.

In the year we had 29 new recordings (Interviews and talks) and used 7 archive recordings, mainly from Tapes which although are a little bit inferior in quality, seem to be popular with our listeners.

It is getting more difficult to find people or subjects to record because after 30 years we have had the pleasure of meeting a lot of people. We appreciate some people are too shy or worried about recording but it is quite easy and we will not pressure people to do it. Anyone willing to contribute is asked to contact one of the team and we will explain the routine.

We have 91 listeners and 11 visitors at the moment. The number does vary from month to month as sadly listeners can move to a care home for instance, but our team of volunteers are working hard to sign up new listeners.

It has been a busy year for the audio magazine but we continue to develop and move things forward and we are hoping, in the coming year to recruit our youngest member of staff, a very keen young man, as our sports reporter. Watch this space!