

Chair's Annual Report for Oxtalk's AGM 13 October 2018

Good afternoon and welcome to this Autumn Meeting and AGM. I am pleased to be welcoming Patrick Lawrence to this meeting.

The year has passed with very few changes taking place. Oxtalk is very happily based at OAB – it is our 3rd year at Bradbury Lodge. This is a partnership which benefits both organisations and their users. Earlier in the year I entered Oxtalk into the OCVA Partnership Award with OAB and surprise, surprise Oxtalk in Partnership with OAB were selected as the winners at the Awards Ceremony held at Oxford Town Hall in June. It really was a very pleasing surprise and the Certificate and Award are on display in Reception at OAB.

Another invaluable partnership is the one with the County Council's Visual Impairment Team. Most of these Social Workers will be known to listeners as they are the people who invariably make the referral to Oxtalk for their client to receive Oxtalk. The Visual Impairment staff have a supply of the Sonic Audio Players and they train the new listeners how to use the Audio Players before they refer them to Oxtalk. Because of changes within the Oxtalk Committee I took over as the Listener's Co-ordinator at the end of last year and since January there have been 39 referrals, with the weekly average number of wallets posted out to listeners being 95. I do not know, but will make a point of trying to find out at the next meeting of the County's Talking Newspapers groups, which is going to be held at OAB at the

end of this month, how many new referrals are made to the other 5 Talking Newspapers. When you consider that these new Oxtalk referrals all live within the Oxford and district area and there are 5 other Talking Newspapers in Oxfordshire, the Visual Impairment Team is an invaluable service for helping to keep people with a diagnosed sight loss in touch with their community, as well as all the other services they offer.

One of the Social Workers Jane Cluff with her twin daughters held a book fair at the girls' Primary School to both raise funds and raise awareness of sight loss. The money they raised was shared between their school and Oxtalk – we received just over £86. We were very grateful for this donation, as we are for those received from individuals, local WIs, resident groups, coffee mornings and following the talks given by Anne Ambler. Without these donations Oxtalk would not be able to continue.

On 25 May the new General Data Protection Regulation became law and we had to ask all listeners to sign a form which said they agreed for Oxtalk to keep their personal details so we can post Oxtalk to them. Without this permission we would not be able to post Oxtalk to listeners. This is on-going with all new listeners. Likewise the permission had to be gained from all the volunteers.

As I am sure you are aware charities such as Oxtalk, which make no charge for the services offered to the listeners have to constantly look

for fund raising opportunities. This year ASDA in Wheatley, gave us 2 fund raising opportunities, 1 was the green token option and the other was a full day of talking to the shoppers and hoping they would generously part with some of their money, which they did!! Pete will give you the details in his report. The full day spent at ASDA was only possible because Oxtalk's volunteers were prepared to give time standing in the reception area making the shoppers aware of Oxtalk – my thanks to these volunteers.

Cala Homes have built a new small housing development in Barton – not part of the Barton Park large estate. This housing development company Cala Housing have an interest in the local community into which they build and invited applications from local charities to bid for the funding available. An application was put in on behalf of Oxtalk for £1559.60 and Oxtalk was selected as the recipient of £1550.00. Excellent news - which meant we could buy a new FlashMax Duplicator – for copying the USBs. I understand Oxtalk's win may be featured in their regional and national literature, so who knows who may be reading about Oxtalk.

Certainly the people of Oxford could read about the excellent work Oxtalk's volunteers do quietly and with reliable commitment as there was an article in the Oxford Times in September. There are currently 50 volunteers helping to produce the weekly recording – these volunteers work in small Tuesday groups of 8 and offer a seamless service.

An application has been made and approved just this week to AVIVA Insurance Company. Whether Oxtalk receives any funding will be dependent on Oxtalk supporters voting for Oxtalk. The groups with the most votes will receive the funding. Last year it was an electronic nightmare as the system kept crashing but being ever optimistic I am hoping all will be well this time round! I will be letting everyone know when the voting starts and I will be asking both the volunteers and the listeners to ask all their friends and family members to vote for Oxtalk.

Ray Anson is someone who has been an Oxtalk volunteer from the start and has had various roles over the years. Ray is stepping down as Vice-Chair, trainer, copier and keyholder as she has moved out of Oxford but will continue as the Volunteer's Co-Ordinator. When you sign up for the Oxtalk Committee you are not asked to do so many jobs!!! Ray I am pleased you are continuing to be involved, thank you very much for all the years of service given to Oxtalk so far. Earlier in the year Irene Read who had represented listeners for very many years decided she would retire from the Committee. We valued Irene's input at the Committee Meetings and I am very pleased Irene is here today so we can thank her once again for her help and advice. Stuart McGill has been an Oxtalk volunteer for 15 years. Because of a change of job he has sadly had to terminate his volunteering. We shall miss his expertise as a Technical Officer.

My thanks to all Oxtalk volunteers, the volunteers who have driven

the listeners to this meeting and the catering team led by Mandy plus my extra thanks to the Committee members. Oxtalk would not survive without the committed volunteers. If anyone is interested in joining the Committee do please let me know but you will not be asked to take on all the roles Ray has vacated. You may have friends or family members who might be interested, if so please ask them to get in touch.

Thank you to Tesco, Cowley Rd as they have given Oxtalk a £10.00 donation. It is actually towards the food for the afternoon tea, but it is just being handed over to Pete.

Finally and you heard it here first – next February Oxtalk turns 40!! February may not be the best month weather wise for travelling so we are celebrating in July, as we did when Oxtalk reached 30. The celebration will be held on Saturday 20 July 2019 in the Old Headington Village Hall, some of you may know it as Dunstan Hall. So a date for your diary. There will be more information in the New Year.

Thank you for attending this meeting.

Margaret A Simpson, Chair

11 October 2018.