

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

National Talking Newspapers & Magazines Wins Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2008

National Talking Newspapers and Magazines, a registered charity making newspapers and magazines available in accessible formats for blind and print disabled people, has been awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2008. The award, announced today, is in recognition of the work done by the hundreds of volunteers who make such a critical contribution to the charity's work.

Volunteers play a key part in many areas of the charity's activity. In particular they provide the voices for all the recordings made at the National Recording Centre in Heathfield, East Sussex. Without this contribution, it would simply not be possible to maintain a service which makes such a difference to so many lives.

National Talking Newspapers Chairman, Peter Driver says: "All our volunteers are delighted that the charity has been honoured by the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. Our 200 volunteers in East Sussex, together with our staff, contribute enormously to the well-being of many thousands of blind and partially sighted people throughout the UK. The award is a recognition of their hard work and dedication."

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Further Information

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Notes to Editors

- Since 1984, National Talking Newspapers and Magazines, a registered charity, has been providing visually impaired and print disabled people in the UK and worldwide with newspapers and magazines in a variety of

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alternative formats including tape, audio CD, DAISY CD, audio download and digital full-text.

- Based in Heathfield, East Sussex, the charity's 40 staff and 200+ volunteers record more than 200 different newspaper and magazine titles and deliver more than 1 million tapes and CDs each year to thousands of people who cannot access the printed word.
- Three million people in the UK have a sight problem or print reading disability.
- The Queens Award for Voluntary Service is awarded annually and recognises the vital role played by the hundreds of thousands of 'unsung heroes' of the voluntary and community world and emphasises the importance of continuing recognition of their work. More information about the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service can be found on the website: www.queensawardvoluntary.gov.uk
- Photos showing the charity's work, along with other supporting material, can be found on our media resources page: www.tnauk.org.uk/Pages/media_resources.html
- National Talking Newspapers & Magazines transcribe popular national newspapers and periodicals. Local publications are transcribed by a network of more than 500 local talking newspapers. For more information, contact the Talking News Federation, Tel: 0871 226 5506, E-mail: enquiries@tnf.org.uk, Web: www.tnf.org.uk
- National Talking Newspapers & Magazines is a registered charity: TNAUK Registered Charity No. 293656