



Thornbury FM 87.7

Radio for the whole community

Annual Report 2008

Third Annual Meeting

Our third Annual General Meeting was held on 29th March 2008 at Methodist Church Hall, Thornbury. The Officers and Trustees during 2008 were: David Primrose (Chair), Andrew Mearman (Vice-Chair), Simon Ellis, Christopher Isherwood, Dan Budd, Kevin Sharp (Treasurer), Tim Harrison, Winifred Baker, Alan Mullinex, Margaret Goldring, Glyn Roylance, Phil Clarke, Jane Parfitt, and Perry Poole (Secretary).

Governance

The Management Committee met nine times, and was assisted variously by, for example, Mhairi Bremner (finance), Phil Clarke (ICT), Glyn Roylance (technical), John Harding (programming), Simon Ellis (Child Protection), Christopher Isherwood (programming), Kevin Sharp (business plan), Winifred Baker (development), Alan Mullinex (coordinator), Margaret Goldring (advertising), Mike Trebble (programming), Jane Parfitt (receptionists), Tim Harrison (website) and Dan Budd (posters).

From April to August, David Primrose was on sabbatical, and Andrew Mearman acted as chair. Andrew Mearman, Jane Parfitt and Margaret Goldring each advised us that after the November broadcast they would be leaving the committee. We are grateful for them all for their huge contribution in helping establish Thornbury FM. Rosemary Rodliffe joined us to take on Jane Parfitt's responsibility for receptionists.

The Management Committee explored the possibility of establishing a Community Interest Company, which would address concerns about liability hence enabling positive decisions to be made about the future. With the help of the business community, members also worked on a business plan should the station decide to bid for a (full-time) community radio licence.

A former presenter and trustee submitted 47 complaints, initially to the Management Committee and subsequently to OFCOM. None were upheld.

Annual membership subscription remained fixed at £10, (£5 concessions) with the circulation of an occasional newsletter.

Community Support

The Parish Church continued to allow us the exclusive use of the studio premises, and we made a lump sum contribution for utilities and the occasional use of the Church Hall. *MyThornbury.co.uk* provided free promotion, inclusion of events in the calendar and news items on the homepage. It also supplied an online events calendar for the public-facing Thornbury FM website, as well as an internal version for presenters to use as their source of local events to read out on air. Thornbury Magazine carried our schedule as an insert, and the Gazette ran a series of articles, as well as printing the weekly schedule. In May and November, we were able to display our banner at Tesco's, where, for both broadcasts, programme schedules were available on the check-out.

We were involved both in Thornbury Volunteer Fayre, and in the Christmas Fayre. We worked with the Arts Festival to develop stronger links. Grants were received from Oldbury Power Station, Aldi and GCAP which

enabled us to establish our “Are you listening” project, supporting our work with children and young people. Helen Harrison was able to take a lead on this important part of our work.

Review of 2008 Accounts for TFM

Income

Donations and sponsorship raised £10,500 (£5,500 for the April broadcast, £4,500 for the November broadcast, with an additional £500 donation from Avon and Somerset Constabulary). Revenue from advertising was slightly less than £7,000, a significant reduction from last year due to a much reduced advertising team. We received £8,200 in grants throughout the year, £6,700 of which relates to the ‘Are You Listening’ (AYL) project, lead by Helen Harrison. The remaining £1,500 relates to the South Gloucestershire capital grant approved during 2007. £500 was received in membership subscriptions.

Expenditure

Licence and copyright fees and royalties are by far the largest expenditure accounting for approximately £9,500. We hire: a mast for the broadcasts, a disabled ramp in April (This was then donated to TFM by Oldbury Power Station) and the Church Hall. Other costs include the AYL project expenditure incurred during 2008. There was some additional capital expenditure: mainly the purchase of new chairs for the station, some technical equipment and a voice recorder all of which were offset against the South Gloucestershire capital grant. Promotion and publicity expenditure is in line with 2007 whilst advertising expenditure has decreased in line with the related revenue stream.

General

The accounts show a cash flow in for the year of £26,440 and a cash outflow of £17,211. The balance at the end of the year shows approximately £17,750 in the account of which £4,500 relates to the AYL grant carried forward to 2009.

Sixth and Seventh Broadcast

We were back on air from 28th April to 25th May 2008 and again from 3rd to 30th November 2008. Scheduling programmes is always a challenge to get the right mix of entertainment at the right time of day. Many of the presenters are in full time employment so they are only available to broadcast in the evenings and at weekends. The request for programme slots is often over subscribed during these periods and the standard week day 7am to 6pm slots are more difficult to balance. In 2008 we added some 27 new presenters in addition to a new group of young people representing the schools in the area. They brought us a wide range of new programmes representing, the business sector in the area, the volunteering sector, Arts in the Community, news from the charitable organisations, something for the pre-school children and a new selection of music programmes.

An even bigger challenge is getting volunteers to do the very important task of reception duties. The receptionists are often the first contact the public have with TFM. They welcome guests and visitors to the studio or take phone calls for requests to be played or answer queries for further information from the station. The receptionists also do a very valuable job of quality control of the actual station output, by listening to what is being broadcast and giving feedback to the presenters as and when necessary.

Future Activity

We are currently committed to our eighth broadcast, 18th April to 15th May 2009, with our ninth broadcast planned for 2nd to 29th November 2009. This year we welcome 19 new presenters and are delighted to increase the number of young presenters on ThornburyFM, whilst also raising the standard of training and support available. It is our intention to reach every sector of our community and broadcast schedules for the coming year include programmes covering minority ethnic and health issues. We continue to work closely with the Arts Festival and will be actively promoting other local events, such as Thornbury Carnival and Christmas Lights celebrations.

At our Annual Meeting, it will be proposed that Thornbury FM be dissolved, and all its assets transferred to Severnvale Media Community Interest Company.

We are very grateful to all those who give their time and talents so generously to ensure that Thornbury FM continues to serve the local community.

David Primrose, Chair

THORNBURY FM, Treasurers Report

The financial year for TFM runs from January 1st to December 31st. This report is presented for the accounts for the year ending December 31st 2008. These are separately available.

The accounts were prepared by the Treasurer for 2008, Mhairi Bremner, according to guidelines set out by the Charity Commission and were independently examined by Mr Mike Elcock. His report is available for inspection.

Receipts for the year totalled £26,440. Corporate sponsorship contributed £10,000 and donations £500. Advertising revenue £6,945 and grants £8,200 provide the bulk of the remainder of income.

Expenditure totalled £17,211 leaving a closing cash book balance at the yearend of £17,750. (Opening balance as at 1st January 2008 £8,521).

The majority of expenditure is accounted for in broadcasting costs, which include fees, licences and subscriptions (£9,350), hire and rental charges (£1,550) and promotion and publicity (£864). Each broadcast continues to cost in excess of £7,000.

Some capital items were purchased during the year which were offset against the South Gloucestershire capital grant. There is a continuing need to budget for replacement costs for capital items in future years and to better equip the studio for subsequent broadcasts. The ramp for disabled use has been donated to TFM.

I would like to formally thank Mr Kevin Sharp for his work in keeping the accounts and his ongoing advice and support and Mr Mike Elcock for the independent examination of them.

Mhairi Bremner, Treasurer