



Hear all about it!

Cumbernauld Audio News, the service which provides 'talking newspapers' for the blind, is in the fortunate position of having a qualified instrument/electrical technician as recording technician and committee member.

Scott Wylie (above) who works in the polymers area on site, became involved with CAN after seeing a plea for people willing to help out. As both of his grandfathers were users of the service he knew how beneficial taped recordings of up-to-date news can be for people who are blind or visually impaired.

Scott said: "The recordings make a huge difference to those who make use of the service. It makes them feel less isolated by enabling them to hear what is going on in the community that they have been very actively involved in for most of their lives."

One of Scott's roles is to set up the studio and record the 'readers' onto a master tape. He also collects the returned tapes, wipes the previous week's news and then records the latest news from a master. Finally, he packages the tapes up and

sends them out to the listeners.

However Scott's latest initiative is to bring the 30-year-old charity into the 21st century with the use of digital recording. His first steps are to trial dedicated software and assess new recording hardware. Scott said: "The plan is to replace the old analogue tapes - which are increasingly difficult to source and expensive to purchase - with CDs and memory sticks."

Scott's time spent with the CAN has been recognised through an INEOS Employee Volunteering Grant. "The grant was most gratefully received as we operate on a hand-to-mouth existence. The money has already been put to good use; towards replacing tapes, repairing our ageing equipment and on day-to-day costs." Scott believes that, while there are currently around 50 users of the service, there are many more who might be able to benefit from receiving 'talking newspapers' from CAN. If any readers of **inform** would like more information on this free audio service, they can contact Scott via scott.wylie@ineos.com