**Tune In.**

**The British Wireless newsletter for our beneficiaries.**

Welcome to the new British Wireless beneficiary’s newsletter.

Here is a message from our Chief Executive, Margaret Grainger.

Firstly I want to send my best wishes to all of you. I hope that you have stayed safe and well during these difficult times. As we at British Wireless have strived to keep our service up and running I have thought of you often.

The months of separation in 2020 have taught us that staying in touch is more important than ever, so I hope this newsletter will allow me to connect with even more of you – sharing some of our charity’s history and, of course, our future direction.

After more than 30 years with the charity myself, I am still extremely proud that we have continued to support so many people, for so long. Even through the recent pandemic we have continued our vital work, albeit with an adapted delivery and follow-up phone service.

Our aim remains the same today as it was when we formed in 1928 – through radio technology we are committed to alleviating the isolation and loneliness that sight loss can bring.

I hope you enjoy learning a little more about British Wireless and I look forward to keeping in touch with each of you.

**Who are we?**

Established by a blinded Boer War veteran in 1928 today we are a national charity with our Head Office in Maidstone, Kent.

With an ‘in-house team’ of just 14 staff we simply wouldn’t be able to continue our work without the support and loyalty of the wonderful volunteers who work on our behalf in your communities. We cannot thank them enough for all they do for us - and for you.

Although in recent months our sets have been delivered by our trusted courier service our work is still supported by volunteers and agents all over the country – you have probably met one of them! Your set may have been delivered by a local blind association, a council team or even a single volunteer looking after your area but it is British Wireless for the Blind who fund all radio provisions and the day to day running of the charity.

**How do we do it?**

As a charity we receive no government funding and rely on the generosity of the great British public to support our work.

How do we raise your funds?

In 2019 we raised a total of £1,176,280. Legacy Gifts made up 59% of this. Trusts and Foundations brought in 14% of the total. Gifts from individual donors accounted for 7%. Our BWBF Direct sister company brought in 12% and 8% came from investments and other income.

How do we spend your funds?

In 2019 we spend a total of £1,912,487, which included some of our reserves fund.

We spent 58% of this on completing our charitable objectives. The support costs associated with this totalled 26% of our spend. A mere 14% goes toward fundraising costs and our all-important charity governance is only 2% of our total spend.

**Stay in touch with us**

We hope that you get many hours of enjoyment from your radio.

Of course if you have any queries or would like more information about British Wireless please get in touch with us on any of the below details:

Our website is www.blind.org.uk

Our email address is info@blind.org.uk

Our Telephone number is 01622 754757

And our address in British Wireless for the Blind Fund, 10 Albion Place, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 5DZ

We are also on the following social media channels-

Facebook – BWBFO

Twitter - @BritishWireless

Instagram - @bwbfund

LinkedIn - LinkedIn.com/Company/british-wireless-for-the-blind-fund