
THE TORCH TRUST FOR THE BLIND

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2009

Registered Charity No: 1095904
Registered Company No: 4616526

THE TORCH TRUST FOR THE BLIND

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THE TORCH TRUST FOR THE BLIND

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

TRUSTEES/DIRECTORS

Marilyn Baker	(Chair)
Jeff Bonser	(appointed 18 February 2009)
Dr Clive Dilloway	(Vice Chair)
Carol Eddon	
Rona Gibb	
Roger Morriss	(appointed 1 October 2009)
Dr Michael Townsend	
Heather Williams	
Reverend Glen Graham	(released 27 November 2008)

COMPANY SECRETARY

John Darby

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

Chief Executive:	Dr Gordon Temple
Assistant Chief Executive:	Andrew Nicholson
Leader - Literature:	Lydia Tebbutt
Leader - Holidays:	Gail Millar
Leader - Regional Outreach:	David Palmer
Leader - International Outreach:	Janet Stafford
Leader - Technical Services:	Paul Wood
Leader - Personnel:	John Darby

REGISTERED & PRINCIPAL OFFICE

Torch House
Torch Way
Market Harborough
Leicestershire
LE16 9HL

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER	1095904
REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER	4616526

AUDITORS

Cheyette & Co
167 London Road
Leicester
LE2 1EG

BANKERS

CAF Bank Limited	National Westminster Bank Plc
25 Kings Hill Avenue	21 Saint Mary's Road
West Malling	Market Harborough
Kent	Leicestershire
ME19 4JQ	LE16 7DY

SOLICITORS

Anthony Collins LLP	Wartnabys
134 Edmund Street	44 High Street
Birmingham	Market Harborough
B3 2ES	LE16 7AH

THE TORCH TRUST FOR THE BLIND

TRUSTEES' REPORT

The directors, who are also trustees of the charity for the purposes of the Charities Act and hereafter referred to collectively as the trustees, present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2009. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charity Commission's Statement of Recommended Practice and all applicable Accounting and Reporting standards including the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Constitution, Structure, Governance and Leadership

The Torch Trust for the Blind was incorporated on 13th December 2002 as a company limited by guarantee to carry on the activities of the unincorporated charity of the same name (registered charity no. 208678). The company was registered as a charity with aims equivalent to those of the unincorporated trust, which was founded in 1952 and constituted under a trust deed dated 17th January 1952.

The Torch Trust for the Blind is commonly identified as the *Torch Trust* and frequently referred to as *Torch* or sometimes the *Torch Family*.

Aims and Scope

The objects of the Trust are the relief and support of blind and partially sighted people in accordance with the Basis of Faith.

The Torch Trust is primarily concerned with the spiritual welfare of blind people and others who experience sight loss. The aims of the Torch Trust are summarised thus: to overcome sight loss as a barrier to finding a personal faith in Christ and living a fulfilling Christian life.

In setting our programme each year we have regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. The trustees always ensure that the programmes undertaken are in line with the charitable objects and aims of the Trust.

Production and distribution of Christian literature by Torch Trust is tackling the *information gap* experienced by people with sight loss. By supporting a network of Torch Fellowship Groups and running holidays and retreats, Torch Trust is responding to the problem of *social exclusion* - the number one issue for blind and partially sighted people.

Torch Trust serves people with sight loss throughout the UK and internationally. Magazines are distributed and library books loaned to readers in 100 countries. Specific projects are undertaken in Europe and Africa, where hardship experienced by people with sight loss requires a response that embraces physical as well as spiritual welfare.

The work of Torch Trust is motivated by the Christian faith shared by its trustees and leaders, and the large majority of its staff and volunteers. The Trust is non-denominational and enjoys good relationships with churches of many traditions. The products and services of Torch Trust are available to all blind and partially sighted people, including those of other faiths or none.

Much of the literature produced by the Torch Trust is distributed free of charge, the library service is a free service and those accessible books offered for sale are priced to match the print edition, usually meaning that the price is rather less than the production cost. Torch Fellowship Groups are free to attend though a freewill collection is usually taken up to cover the expenses of running the Group with any balance usually being donated to the Torch Trust's general fund. Torch Holidays for blind and partially sighted people are priced to offer good value all-inclusive packages and are subsidised from general funds as an activity in pursuit of the Trust's aims. Other groups that use the Torch Holiday and Retreat Centre when it is not used for blind and partially sighted people pay a higher rate, set to make a contribution to the fixed costs of running the Centre.

Ability to pay is never allowed to be a barrier to access of Torch's services by those that need them.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

Governance

Torch Trust is governed in accordance with the Memorandum and Articles, and in line with the principles of the Christian faith as set out in the Basis of Faith included within the governing documents. At the year end the board of trustees comprised eight members, four of whom are blind people.

Jeff Bonser joined the board in February 2009 bringing the experience of a long career in Christian media. Roger Morriss joined for the beginning of the new financial year in October 2009. He has been involved in the running of a Torch Fellowship Group for over thirty years and has business experience from sharing in the management of a successful family enterprise. Revd Glen Graham was released in November 2008 to devote time to a new role as a University chaplain.

In taking up their responsibilities the new trustees attend an induction day during which they are advised of their responsibilities under the charity law and the Torch Trust's governing documents, provided with a job description and are introduced to the work and the management structure of the Trust. During the initial period new trustees are encouraged to work closely with the Trust to ensure they fully understand the culture and ethos of the charity. Ongoing training is provided by the distribution of information from the Charity Commission and other appropriate bodies.

Leadership

The supervision of the Trust's operations and activities has been delegated by the board to the Chief Executive, Dr Gordon Temple. The Chief Executive reports regularly to the trustees and, together with Company Secretary John Darby and Assistant Chief Executive Andrew Nicholson, attends board meetings in an ex officio capacity.

These executives together with the leaders of the four divisions and the Technical Services Leader form the executive leadership committee, all reporting to the Chief Executive and meet at least monthly.

The trustees have been working through a thorough review of governance processes and the final document resulting is to be issued during 2010.

During 2010 Gordon Temple will be taking a sabbatical period to give attention to the drafting and finalisation of the 5-year Strategic Plan and other long term projects. During this period the day-to-day management of the work of the Trust is delegated to Andrew Nicholson. During this period each continues to hold the offices as set out above.

Values

From its long heritage and its commitment to a Christian ethos throughout, the Trust has developed a strong and distinctive set of values. The trustees and leadership are committed to seeing the core values that have emerged through Torch's journey documented, reinforced, developed and retained.

Council of Reference

The Council of Reference comprises well-known and respected Christian leaders who not only lend credibility to the Trust through the inclusion of their names on Torch's literature and website, but provide the trustees and leadership with expert advice and counsel. The eight Council of Reference members are invited to an annual meeting. The Council currently comprises:

- The Ven Richard Atkinson OBE, Archdeacon of Leicester
- Revd Dr Steve Brady, Principal of Moorlands College
- Revd Dr David Coffey OBE, President of the World Baptist Alliance
- Revd Malcolm Duncan, now Leader of Church and Community
- Jonathan Lamb, Langham Preaching
- Revd Roy Searle, Leader of the Northumbria Community
- Dr Elaine Storkey, President of TEARfund
- Revd Dr Derek Tidball, author, former Principal, London School of Theology

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

The Torch Trust has been serving blind and partially sighted people across the UK and around the world for 50 years.

50 Years Ago

It was 1959 that the events that shaped the Torch Trust of today took place. Ron and Stella Heath received a young blind person into the Fridaynighters Christian youth club they ran. Wendy became a Christian and the Heaths looked for some straightforward Christian literature to help her develop her Christian life. There was very little available in braille so they learned braille in order to copy out some booklets.

Then they came across the Torch Magazine, then produced only in Braille, originating from the Lake District where it was edited by Ada Trench the last surviving of 3 sisters, whose coachman had lost his sight in the 1930s. Ada Trench encouraged Rona and Stella Heath to take on the magazine and with it the Blind Fund Trust. The formal handover took place on 8th June 1959. The 50th anniversary of this date was marked with a day of prayer at both Torch House and Torch Holiday and Retreat Centre and with the planting of trees at both sites.

Ada Trench died before the next edition of the magazine. Ron Heath died in 1999, in Torch Trust's fortieth year, and the last of the founding group, Stella Heath, died on 29 September 2009, during Torch's fiftieth year.

The Torch Magazine has gone from strength to strength. It now has a total circulation of 9,070 with 4,806 in braille with the balance in giant print and audio formats, and its readership extend across 100 countries. It is the world's largest circulation periodical in braille of any kind.

Our 50th Year

The Torch Trust has used the opportunity presented by the 50th year to embark upon a programme of awareness-raising in pursuit of its charitable aims by seeking to encourage churches to more fully include blind and partially sighted people and to better enable their participation in every aspect of church life.

The campaign was headlined '*Come to your Senses*' and developed two complementary themes: on the one hand, sight loss and its consequences and on the other, multi-sensory worship. Those who showed interest in either topic were directed to Torch's *Foursight for the Church* website to register for a church pack of helpful resources.

In support of this campaign a DVD was produced and creative interactive displays were developed. The DVD starts with blind people talking about their church experience, continues by explaining the four steps of the *Foursight for the Church* initiative and concludes with affirming shots of blind people playing a full role in church services. The first part of this DVD, which is now available on YouTube, was used to gain attention for Torch's campaign at two major Christian events: Spring Harvest and Keswick Convention, a total audience of around 25,000 people.

At Spring Harvest - the largest UK Christian convention held annually at two centres - the showing of the DVD clip was followed by short presentations made by blind people (both being Torch trustees) during which the audience was invited to don blindfolds (around half had been provided with Torch branded airline-style 'sleepshades' on entering the venue) before being asked to join in saying a prayer the words for which were displayed on screens and available to the presenter in braille. The response was palpable. The audience were then invited to join an 'afternoon experience' on the following day that included workshop sessions conducted alongside interactive display 'pods'. Each of three 'pods' - modelled in the form of the Torch logo with an simulated flame at the top - had around its circumference three workstations. These workstations were populated with an activity for browsers to try, each giving an insight for some aspect of sight loss.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

Initially used at Spring Harvest, these unique and strongly branded display 'pods' have been used at several other events and exhibitions giving Torch an eye-catching and distinctive presentation.

During the year reports were published that update and deepen our understanding of the world of blind and partially sighted people. These are the people that Torch serves.

They set the number of people in the UK population experiencing appreciable sight loss - beyond correction with spectacles - of almost 1.8 million. Of them around 660,000 qualify as blind or partially sighted.

Highlights of the past year

Activities have remained diverse - and growth, or investment for future growth, has been experienced in many areas. Some 11,000 blind and partially sighted people are served by the magazine distribution and library services. Many more are in contact with Torch Trust through the network of 117 Torch Fellowship Groups and others through the growing Torch Holidays programme.

The greatest challenge faced by the Trust is to increase the pace at which it makes contact with blind and partially sighted people in the UK and around the world. In the UK alone every day 100 people learn they are losing their sight. Too many struggle for years before discovering all that is available to help them lead lives that are emotionally and spiritually rich, productive and fulfilling.

Some key achievements for the year include:

- Entering into a **Memorandum of Understanding** with the National Association of Local Societies for Visually Impaired people (NALSVI) giving regular access to an audience of 126 local societies across the entire UK and via them to potentially 236,000 blind and partially sighted people
- Net growth in **Torch Library** borrowers of 25 to 1928 (2008: 111 to 1903)
- A further 250 registrations for Torch's *Foursight for the Church* church packs in response to our church-facing campaign for full inclusion of blind and partially sighted people within Britain's churches, bringing the **total registrations to 555** by the year end
- Net growth in circulation for the **Torch Library Magazine (TLM)** of 62 bringing the total readership to 2080
- While just 4 new **Torch Fellowship Groups** have opened during the year there is interest in - and activity towards - starting new Groups in 18 places across the UK
- A **regional networker** has been recruited for Northern Ireland to pick up the work in the area from a retiring staff member. A new **regional coordinator** has been appointed to cover Essex
- A record number of holiday and retreat guests with over **210 holiday guests** joining in one or more Torch Holidays at the Torch Holiday and Retreat Centre and at other holiday venues around the UK
- Torch weekly **Insight radio programme** which is broadcast on Premier Christian Radio at 4pm each Sunday afternoon went nationwide on DAB Radio for the first time in September 2009
- Compiled *50 Steps Forward*, a book of 50 daily Bible readings celebrating the 50 years of Torch for launch at the 50th Anniversary weekend conference in November 2009 with commentary notes prepared by 50 authors, almost half of them blind or partially sighted people, some world renowned, others previously unpublished - exemplifying Torch Trust's values. Each reading is accompanied by a multisensory reflection.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

The year ahead

Recognising the danger of a loss of momentum in the wake of the intensive 50th year programme the trustee board has instigated the development of a new 5-year strategic plan (2010-2015) and initiated a period of consultation towards completion of the plan by mid-2010.

In the meantime a budget for the new financial year (ending 30 September 2010) has been set together with objectives for each aspect of the Trust's work taking into account the emerging consensus on the major themes for the 5-year Strategic Plan.

Summary of Principal Objectives for 2010

- Raise awareness of the needs of people with sight loss and of the work of the Torch Trust with churches - emphasising *Foursight for the Church* and Torch's international programme.
- Make more connections more quickly with blind and partially sighted people - building relationships with other organisations serving them.
- Improve the effectiveness and efficiency of our 'client service' processes - including the implementation of a Torch 'knowledge base' of useful information and advice.
- Further improve Torch Holidays 'guest experience' and streamline the booking process
- Grow magazine, daily Bible reading and library readerships and encourage 'crossovers' between Torch's services
- Add Daily Bible readings series in giant print and/or braille
- Continue the implementation of DAISY standard for accessible literature
- Establish for audio readers a migration path away from cassette use.
- Open new Torch Fellowship Groups across the UK and beyond - and support and encourage existing Groups
- Support the local leadership hand-over in Malawi
- Send two containers of *Aid Africa* aid items and oversee distribution to needy blind and partially sighted people .
- Launch a DAISY audio King James Bible in anticipation of the 400th anniversary of its translation in 2011
- Improve accessibility of Common Worship and other liturgical resources to blind and partially sighted worshippers
- Progress the multi-party initiative to provide braille Bibles for all languages for which there is a braille code by 2029
- Develop Torch's web presence - with Torch Fellowship pages to bring a local dimension
- Introduce flexible working staff contracts
- Advance the engagement of volunteers in Torch work - assisted by the appointment of a replacement volunteer coordinator
- Complete and communicate our 5-year Strategic Plan (2010-15)

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

With a sense of burgeoning demand for the products and services that the Torch Trust offers and the opportunity for development of the work of the Trust in coming years, 2010 has been designated our *Year of Promise* - with a forward-looking vision expressed in a seven-fold *Rainbow of Promise* charter:

That every blind or partially sighted person may have the opportunity to ...

- Explore Christian faith and discover Jesus
- Grow as a Christian
- Have a fulfilling devotional life
- Access Christian resources and activities
- Join a church of their choice
- Develop their invaluable God-given gifting
- Contribute to the life of the church

Activities

Four dimensions of service among people with sight loss

The activities of the Trust are organised into four divisions or 'dimensions', each with a leader charged with developing that aspect of Torch Trust's diverse activities:

- Literature: Lydia Tebbutt
- Regional: David Palmer
- International: Janet Stafford
- Holidays: Gail Millar

All are supported by a Technical Services function with Paul Wood as its Leader, and John Darby in the role of personnel officer as well as Company Secretary. As Assistant Chief Executive, Andrew Nicholson, now plays a major role in the day-to-day running of the Trust and supports the whole organisation with the management of finance and administrative services. His contribution has released Gordon Temple, Chief Executive, to spend more of his time on the development of future strategy and on major new initiatives.

1 Literature

Audio Options: When the RNIB Talking Book service adopted the international Digital Accessible Information SYstem [DAISY] and distributed the special CD players it requires, Torch started offering DAISY CDs as an alternative to cassettes for its library service and daily readings. DAISY has better navigation than other audio systems and also has a bookmarking facility. Torch's DAISY readership continues to develop. For example the number of DAISY library loans in the year grew by 37% over the previous year.

Nevertheless the audience for DAISY audio products is limited to those who have the special players. Though this audience grew rapidly when the RNIB introduced DAISY, the pace has slowed. Cassette technology is now obsolescent. Ultimately we expect that the Internet will become the principle means for delivery of audio reading materials but now relatively few of Torch's users access the Internet. The capacity of familiar audio CD's is inadequate for audio books and without the enhancements of DAISY they are far less convenient to visually impaired people than cassettes. During the coming year we will be seeking interim media options for Torch's audio library books and audio Daily Bible readings.

Torch is working with other organisations offering audio reading materials to blind and partially sighted people as an active member of the Reading Through Audio (RTA) consortium. Among the RTA partners is the British Wireless for the Blind Fund which is pioneering an Internet-delivered audio reading service using a unit dubbed Sonata, developed in Holland for housebound church members. Their pilot service gives access to 10 Torch titles along with those from other audio library and talking newspaper services. One Torch library user called to cancel her cassette service because she had now discovered Torch books on the BNBF Sonata service!

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

All of Torch's seven magazine titles are now available on audio CD as well as on cassette. Torch will continue to supply cassettes for as long as possible, certainly for some years to come, though there will be more effort applied to encourage users to change to disc during the coming year.

Magazines: Torch produces seven Christian magazines in a mix of braille, giant print and audio formats: *The Torch*, *Torch Times*, *Spark*, *Searchlight*, *Christian Today Digest*, *Torch Library Magazine (TLM)* and *Torch Family News (TFN)*. Between them they serve a wide range of ages, interests and readership styles. *TLM* is also available in large print, while *TFN*, Torch's quarterly news magazine, is also available to supporters in standard print. Many of the magazines are also available as text downloads from the Torch website.

Daily readings: Torch continues to produce two series of daily Bible readings on audio: CWR's *Every Day with Jesus* and Scripture Union's *Daily Bread*. The proportion preferring the DAISY 'talking book' CD format over audio cassette has gradually grown with 465 out of a total readership of 1,599 electing to use the DAISY CD version with its enhanced navigation features. Torch also produces *New Daylight* daily Bible readings in braille for the St John's Guild.

2010 plans include a review of options for further series of daily Bible readings in braille and giant print formats.

Library: As there are so few books available to blind and partially sighted people through booksellers, postal libraries like the Torch Library are vital. Torch's service is free and uses the 'Articles for the Blind' freepost. Torch librarians provide a personal service to the readership, helping them choose books to suit interest and circumstances.

During the year, a record 203 (2008:185) books were added to Torch's collections in braille, giant print and audio formats. There is always a high turnover of library users with around 1 in 6 loss through advancing years or death so it is encouraging to see continued growth with the user base rising to 1928 (2008: 1903). The DAISY CD section has continued to grow in both content and usage with 300 titles now in this collection and loans totalling 2826 over the year (2008: 2068). As well as new recording originated in the DAISY format, the stock is being expanded by conversion of titles already in the cassette collection rising to the challenge to serve 400 users of this format.

Volunteers working in their own homes undertake much of the work involved in transcribing books. Following a successful pilot initiative, the changeover to the use of DAISY recording equipment and software has continued with further growth in the proportion of transcribers now adopting this approach. The principle benefit is that the transcribers are able to correct their own errors or edit their own recordings.

Bibles: Following the outstanding success of the DAISY audio New Testament, the Torch Trust launched in 2009 the entire audio Bible on 4 DAISY CDs. Using the simple controls of a DAISY player the Bible can be easily navigated to select a passage and even a single verse in no more time that it takes to look up a reference in a print edition. The enormous task has been undertaken as a collaborative effort led by Torch Trust, with the RNIB providing equipment and software, Wycliffe Associates fielding enthusiastic volunteers, and publisher Hodder Headline providing the original recording. The Bible, the New Testament and the Old Testament are all available from both Torch and the RNIB at prices comparable to print editions.

Torch is working with Wycliffe Associates and RNIB to produce a DAISY King James Version of the Bible for launch in 2010, in anticipation of the 400th anniversary of this Bible version in 2010.

Torch is able to offer the On-line Bible - a computer-based Bible with many supporting resources - to blind and partially sighted people at a special price. Giant print Bibles printed by Torch Trust continue to be popular.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

Christian resources: Torch Trust offers a growing range of Christian books and booklets in braille, giant print and audio formats, some free of charge, some charged at prices comparable to standard print editions, though the cost of production is usually greater. Resources Catalogues are available in the appropriate media and searchable from the Torch website.

Working with the book trade: As a member of the Right to Read campaign, the Trust continues to engage Christian publishers with the needs of blind and partially sighted people to gain access to their material. The response of Christian publishers continues to encourage with willingness by most to supply Torch Trust with digital copies of book texts, so speeding transcription.

Resources that facilitate inclusion: Torch Trust is committed to the aim of providing blind and partially sighted people with the Christian resources they need when they need them, specifically to enable them to participate in Christian events, churches and groups.

Torch provides giant print and braille materials for major Christian conventions like Spring Harvest, Grapevine, Keswick, New Wine, New Horizon (Northern Ireland), plus many events run by churches.

2 Regional

Torch Fellowship Groups: Torch Trust supports a UK-wide network of local Torch Fellowship Groups. Groups are autonomous and are encouraged to have their own *constitution* according to a model offered by the Torch Trust. A *partnership agreement* defines the relationship between the Groups and the Trust. Torch Fellowship Groups are run by volunteers, with a team of both blind and sighted people overseeing the activities of the group. They receive guidance on running the group from Torch Trust through training events and handbooks.

Groups typically meet monthly for informal times of fellowship with a Christian ethos and Christian content. Many of the groups serve mainly elderly people who have lost their sight in later years, often leading lonely and isolated lives. Groups provide an opportunity to experience community and fellowship, and to celebrate and share the Christian faith. Groups are encouraged to undertake activities such as outings and organised holidays.

Groups are organised regionally, where possible linked by volunteer regional coordinators. An annual regional coordinators' conference run at the Torch Holiday and Retreat Centre provides additional opportunities to communicate fresh ideas and good practice.

A regional networker has been recruited for Northern Ireland to pick up the work in the area from a retiring staff member. A new regional coordinator has been appointed to cover Essex.

Four new Groups opened during the year - those in Corby, Cambridge, East Northants and Banbridge (Northern Ireland). Since some have sadly closed, the total number of groups dropped to 117 (2008: 125) by the year-end. Many Groups have been running for over 30 years and in some the leaders are elderly, so closures are inevitable. Nevertheless the year ended with news of initiatives towards the starting of new Groups in as many as eighteen locations across the UK.

Partnerships: The trust is intent on building stronger links with local charities and institutions working with blind and partially sighted people. Torch Trust exhibits at the annual conferences of the Talking Newspaper Federation and NALSVI (National Association of Local Societies for Visually Impaired people) with whom Torch Trust has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding. Participation in local exhibitions, typically organised by NALSVI member charities, has proved to be worthwhile in making new connections for the Trust and for local Fellowship Groups.

At a national level, Torch has continued to engage with the UK Vision Strategy, developed under the leadership of the RNIB and Vision 2020 and launched in April 2008.

THE TORCH TRUST FOR THE BLIND

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

Churches: One way Torch Trust can advance its aims is by encouraging and helping churches to be more inclusive in attitude and practice. A recent report estimates the number of people in the UK population living with appreciable sight loss beyond correction with spectacles to be 1.8million or almost 1 in 30. This makes sight loss an issue of relevance to almost every church. Churches tend to take the ability to read for granted and can unwittingly exclude those who cannot.

Torch Trust's *Foursight for the Church* initiative challenges churches with the uncomfortable facts about blind and partially sighted people and their all too frequent off-putting experiences of church. The campaign provides imaginative and helpful resources to enable churches to respond. *Foursight for the Church* is supported by a new DVD (also on YouTube), a dedicated website, brochures and bookmarks and has been promoted at exhibitions as part of Torch's *Come to your Senses* 50th Anniversary programme.

Torch Trust is an active partner in the Churches for All (CfA) campaign (www.churchesforall.org.uk) working alongside other Christian disability organisations. CfA has links with the Evangelical Alliance, Faithworks, and Churches Together in England. At the main Christian Resources Exhibition in May 2010 there will be a Churches for All zone where the partner organisations stands are grouped together in an area that includes space to hold workshops and for interactive exhibits. A CfA Theology of Disability conference is to be held in London in October 2010.

Building connections with churches and groups has also been supported by visits made by the Torch Singers, a choir comprising members of Torch staff, both blind and sighted.

3 Holidays and retreats

Most blind people find the battle for their holiday needs to be accommodated too daunting and few take a brochure holiday unaccompanied. Many blind and partially sighted people live alone - true of 95% of those who come on a Torch holiday - so our holidays and retreats always emphasise community and companionship as well as Torch's distinctive Christian ethos. Torch holidays always make a huge impact on the physical, emotional and spiritual wellbeing of those who go on them.

Both the number of guest-nights and the total payments for holidays rose again to a new record. Of 213 guests taking Torch holidays during the year ended September 2009, 172 were blind or partially sighted, 37 of them taking a Torch holiday for the first time. Guest satisfaction reported through feedback questionnaires is high.

With the need and benefit so apparent, the Trust embarked in 2007 on a three-year programme to explore ways in which it can offer a wider variety of holidays and retreats using other Christian centres across the UK, and maybe abroad. The 2009 season was the last to be covered by this exploration. The trustees will be reflecting on the experiences of the entire programme as a part of the development of the 5-year Strategic Plan (2010-2015). What is clear is that, while there is a place for holidays at other centres, the holidays taken at Torch's own Holiday & Retreat Centre offer a better guest experience yet with a lower demand on staff and volunteers.

Torch holidays serve a wide-variety of needs and interests. We provide hobby-themed holidays such as art and crafts, gardening, computers and cooking. Most include visits to places of interest some with pre organised guided tours especially for people with sight loss and outings to special events like Edinburgh Tattoo, proms in the park, music concerts, and theatre trips. Holiday activities include personalised shopping trips, boating, abseiling, canoeing, indoor bowls, ten pin bowling, walking, horse-riding, archery, assault courses, rock-climbing, tandem bike riding and more. We provide reading material, board games, audio described films, computer access, TV and radio.

Each and every holiday includes Christian worship with a mix of singing, reading the Bible, prayer, listening, sharing, encouraging one another and often the opportunity to visit a local church.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

The impact of these holidays on the blind and partially sighted guests is illustrated in a sample of their comments:

It was the first time on a holiday on my own, you made it so easy, the love, care and attention and I have made so many new and special friends

The outings are amazing, to visit places I never dreamed of being able to go to - thank you.

It feels like you are on holiday with your best friend and family, I come alone but never feel alone.

A first class holiday, nothing is ever too much, God is present in everything that we do.

Torch Holiday & Retreat Centre: Located in the bustling Sussex village of Hurstpierpoint, yet at the end of its own long drive, the centre enjoys a peaceful location with uninterrupted views of the South Downs. The majority of Torch holidays and retreats take place at the Centre, which is the venue for some of Torch staff and volunteer events too.

It is a place where it is simply normal not to see and many blind and partially sighted people from all over the UK and beyond have enjoyed holidays and retreats throughout the year. In both quietness and activity, many experience a fresh encounter with God.

Holidays at other locations: Among the holidays offered at other centres, two new venues were introduced: one in South Wales and the other in the Lake District. Both were much enjoyed and appreciated.

Also in the Lake District was a regular houseparty that runs alongside the famous Keswick Convention that takes place each July. The group takes over a guest house in the heart of the Lakeland town and supplements the convention's Bible teaching with outings to local beauty spots and points of interest. Torch was also a participant the convention exhibition.

Other holidays repeated from 2008 included a Scottish houseparty at Carron Vale House near Edinburgh, which included privileged seating at the world famous Edinburgh Tattoo, and a Northern Ireland houseparty at Glenada Christian Centre.

A unique event has been added to the Torch Holidays calendar for late in 2009. To coincide with the 50th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service, Hothorpe Hall, the large conference centre local to Torch House has been booked outright for a celebratory weekend and anniversary dinner.

The Torch Christmas houseparty, which in recent years has been accommodated at Torch Holiday & Retreat Centre, had always been very oversubscribed. So in 2008 it was relocated to High Leigh, a large Christian conference centre in Hertfordshire. This venue was booked again for the 2009 Christmas houseparty.

4 International

The international dimension to Torch Trust's work extends back through the entire 50 year history that we have celebrated in 2009. The Torch magazine already had overseas readers when it was transferred to Ron and Stella Heath. Today 83% of the readership is outside the UK. Among the countries receiving significant numbers of magazines over the past year were Malawi, Kenya, Nigeria, Ghana and India.

The Trust takes a particular interest in Europe and Africa. 2009 was also the 20th anniversary year of the start of the work in Malawi that now not only serves the blind and partially sighted people in that country but provides braille Scriptures to many other parts of Africa.

The Trust's strategy is to develop the international aspects of its work through partnership with organisations and missions that are the point of contact with blind and partially sighted people in their communities. In the year Torch published an update of its worldwide Directory of Christian organisations working with blind and partially sighted people.

THE TORCH TRUST FOR THE BLIND

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

Through the donation of braille books, Torch Trust has continued to maintain around 30 small lending libraries abroad.

Romania: Torch Trust has a longstanding interest in Romania though its involvement with Dezna Torch has reduced to the support of an annual visit of a Torch trustee who serves on the *ruling council* of the Romanian association and the passing on of a trickle of restricted donations.

Torch Trust also contributed to the support of a totally independent Romanian charity known as Pro-Lumina, which has similar aims to those of Torch Trust. In particular, financial support provided by Torch supporters continues to help Pro-Lumina run the occasional holiday for blind and partially sighted people who are held in a Romanian asylum and to make outreach visits to blind people across the country. From Torch House, Torch has continued to supply and emboss the braille plates necessary for Pro-Lumina's braille Bible production.

Spain: Nueva Luz (New Light) is a Spanish organisation doing work similar to Torch Trust among Spanish-speaking peoples, though on a smaller scale. Seeing the danger of Nueva Luz dying with its elderly founder the Torch Trust agreed with him to assist its Spanish counterpart through a period of transition. Under this agreement and in May 2008, Torch seconded one of its leadership team, Paul Wood, to Nueva Luz for a period of up to two years and relocated him with his family to Madrid. The founder died in September 2008 where upon David Padilla, son of the founder took responsibility for re-founding of this Spanish charity and has relocated its base of operations from Madrid to be close to his home in Marbella.

Paul was able to contribute greatly to the modernisation of the operations, and in the office move. The work under the agreement between the Torch Trust and Nueva Luz was completed in November 2009 and Paul with his family has rejoined the team at Torch House continuing in the role of Technical Services leader.

Malawi: In the early 1990s Torch Trust established Torch Trust for the Blind International (Malawi), a non-governmental organisation operating under Malawian law and overseen by a board of trustees, all of them African save for one appointed from the UK to represent the Trust. Day to day operations are overseen by a locally appointed Administrator who is due to retire in 2010. Recruitment of a successor is in hand. The basic running costs of the Malawian operation (now running at £15,000 per annum) are met from Torch Trust general funds by a monthly transfer.

The headquarters are located in a suburb of the southern Malawian city of Blantyre. Here four Malawian staff live and work, with their main work being the production and distribution of braille Bibles and other Christian literature in nine African languages:

Chichewa, Sena and Tumbuka for Malawi;
Hausa and Igala for Nigeria;
Bemba and Lunda for Zambia;
Shona and Ndabele for Zimbabwe; plus
Easy English for use of those for whom English is a second language

Work on Lunda started during the year and Gospels were taken to Zambia by Torch's International Outreach leader. They were received by blind people there with great enthusiasm. Not only was it the first time they had read any of the Bible in braille in their own language but it was the first time they had read any braille in their mother tongue. The only schools teaching braille to blind children are located in Bemba speaking districts, but happily the braille encoding works for both languages.

Since the foundation of the braille unit in Malawi some ten years ago 46,000 volumes of Bible Scriptures have been produce there.

In the coming year Torch is preparing to start work on Lugandan for Uganda and is also expecting to produce a booklet for AIDS sufferers called *Take Charge* in Chichewa and an *Assemblies of God* Chichewa hymnbook.

THE TORCH TRUST FOR THE BLIND

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

Torch Trust provides paper and binding materials for the braille and also covers the costs of Giant Print Bibles and Christian literature in the Chichewa language also produced here. In previous years the cost of braille Bibles and booklets has been largely funded by United Bible Societies (UBS) but no funding was received from this source in the year reported here.

Torch has approached the Bible Society and UBS with proposals for an international collaborative effort to complete the challenge of making the Bible available in every language for which there is a braille code by 2029, the bicentenary of the first braille book.

Supported from the Blantyre headquarters and visits from Michael and Janet Stafford, over 80 Torch Fellowship Groups meet regularly across Malawi. Many are located in poor rural communities where blindness is prevalent. Here the spiritual dimension of the work is supplemented with the provision of practical support to needy blind people and their families under the banner *Aid Africa*. Blind people are among the poorest in this the world's tenth poorest country.

As in previous years, a shipping container full of aid items was sent to Malawi and the contents distributed through the Fellowship Groups network. Items ranged from aids like white canes and braille writing frames to clothes and toiletries.

OPERATIONS

Website

The website is now a major source of new contacts nationally and internationally. A new website replaced the old one early in 2009. The new website has a registered users area and can be accessed by *bona fide* blind and partially sighted people (who may apply for a password) with the intention that accessible Christian literature will become available through the site. It also supports audio downloads which include the Insight Radio programmes which are available from the site shortly after broadcast.

The new website technology features Content Management tools that can be accessed from anywhere over the Internet, allowing a wider community to support the material on the site, including the facility for Torch Fellowship Groups to add content to their own Group's page.

People

The trustees acknowledge with gratitude the commitment of the leaders, staff and volunteers whose dedication to the work of Torch Trust has been essential to the ongoing delivery of ministry, particularly through a period of financial uncertainty.

Staff: In 2008 the trustees approved a new salaries policy building on the principles set out by Torch founders. Pay remains modest in comparison to the wider charity sector, but salaries are now set to one of a few rates that reflect either the skill level required to fill the role or the degree of responsibility undertaken.

The implementation of the new salaries policy is being phased in. Under the first phase 55 per cent of the increases were paid from October 2008. Complete implementation has been delayed as a consequence of the challenging financial circumstances that developed during the year but the commitment to full implementation remains subject to there being sufficient income to cover the additional pay bill.

The Trust and its staff continue to regard work with the Torch Trust to be vocational calling and an adventure of personal as well as corporate faith.

Recognising the uncertainties attributable to the global financial crisis and weakening of legacy income forecasts - and that the pay bill is the largest element in Torch's running cost, most staff volunteered to take a reduction in working time and/or salary. This together with retirements and non-continuation of fixed-term contracts has resulted in a 25% reduction of the pay bill run rate at year end. It is proposed that flexible contracts will be introduced by agreement with staff during the coming year.

THE TORCH TRUST FOR THE BLIND

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

Volunteers: Volunteering is essential to the functioning of the Torch Trust with volunteers delivering up to 20% of the work undertaken at Torch House, and rather more on Torch holidays. Improvements have been made to the recruitment of volunteers such that there is now a steady flow of applicants.

Apart from a growing band of volunteers who come to work at Torch House and Torch Holiday & Retreat Centre, there are well over a thousand volunteers working from home. Many are involved in running the national network of affiliated Torch Fellowship Groups. Volunteers working from home also play a vital part in the transcription and recording of books into braille, giant print and audio media.

To support the growth of volunteering and to ensure that volunteers are well supported, especially those working at Torch House, the Trust defined a new role of volunteer coordinator which was filled to good effect. That position became vacant again at the end of the year but, such is the conviction that this role is vital to the future health of the organisation and the achievement of the objective to make increasing use of volunteers, the Trust is committed to recruitment of a suitable candidate to take on the role as soon as possible.

Policy for safeguarding adults and children: Aware that some of those served by the Trust are regarded as vulnerable adults, the Trust operates a safeguarding policy which applies across the organisation, and which Torch Fellowship Groups are expected to adopt and implement.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial Control

To maintain effective financial control and support the efficient financial operation of the charity the trustees have authorised a structured delegation scheme for financial commitment and expenditure. This scheme is administered by the Assistant Chief Executive who provides financial reports to each meeting of the trustees and solicits trustee approval for all items in excess of the delegated authorities.

Income

The income of Torch Trust arises principally from donations and legacies, supplemented by sales of accessible media literature and fees from holidays/retreats, both of which are subsidised. It is the policy of the trust to sell books at a price comparable to standard print editions, though the cost of production is almost invariably much higher.

Torch Trust does not run fundraising campaigns or appeals but relies for most of its income on effective communication of its activities and needs, and faith in God through a commitment to regular prayer.

Donation income rose by over 16% and, in response to encouragement given to supporters to use Gift Aid, the amount of tax recovered rose by over 63%. This was insufficient to offset the impact of a 21% drop in legacy income. An absence of payments for foreign-language braille work supported in previous years by United Bibles Societies was a major factor in the reduced literature sales income. Despite an increase in the number of guests holidays and retreats income dropped, largely an artefact of change in accounting treatment that now recognises income at the time the holiday is taken.

Overall income fell by 8%. Encouragingly there is increasing use of both standing order giving and Gift Aid. Restricted donations, most of which are given in support of the Trust's overseas activities, fell by 26% from the 2008 total of £89,937.

Expenditure

Expenditure of Torch Trust is prioritised to achieving its aims and objectives. Although overall expenditure rose by 2.5%, this included exceptional expenditure of £60,000 in connection with the 50th Anniversary.

THE TORCH TRUST FOR THE BLIND

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

The spend on generating funds dropped as the focus of Torch Trust's 50th Anniversary awareness raising programme was directed towards challenging and enabling churches to fully include blind and partially sighted people - pursuit of a charitable aim. In any case, Torch does not use proactive fundraising methods but looks to God as provider through prayer and the generosity of Christian people. That expended was dominated by the cost of producing and distributing the quarterly newsletter to supporters.

It was the 50th Anniversary church-facing awareness raising programme that accounted for the large increase in UK Outreach expenditure. The move from cassette to CD audio is helping to reduce Production costs.

Much of the Overseas Outreach expenditure is supported by giving for specific programme restricted giving as the reduction follows the reduction in restricted income.

Staff costs rose by 6.5% with the cost implementing the new salaries scheme offset by a voluntary reduction accepted by most staff from May 2009 onwards.

Establishment and Support costs are kept to a minimum, consistent with the proper operation of the charity. An apparent increase in maintenance expenditure is explained by the way we now record the costs; overall they reduced. With much new equipment purchased in the run up to the move into the present Torch House in 2004, depreciation charges are now falling sharply. The rise in expenditure on professional fees reflects the graphics and exhibition design work associated with the 50th Anniversary awareness raising programme.

Deficit

The deficit before depreciation of £116,462 was funded through use of general fund reserves. A considerable portion of the deficit can be attributed to the extra expenditure made in to take advantage of the awareness raising opportunity presented by Torch's 50th Anniversary.

Recognising the present unfavourable financial climate the trustees have approved a budget for the year ending 30 September 2010 on the assumption of lower income and with rather lower expenditure. Nevertheless a further deficit is envisaged, funded from the proceeds of sale of the hospitality house, referred to below under Reserves.

The trustees are mindful of the long-term financial stability of the Trust and will, as previously, implement necessary measures in a phased manner if cash balances fall to or below the minimum reserves level.

Balance Sheet

Though trade debtors fell with improved management of collections the overall figure rose with recognition of legacies imminently expected at the year end and received early in the following year.

Repayment of a modest balance on a mortgage originally taken to support property improvements at Torch Holiday & Retreat Centre contributed most to the sharp drop in creditors.

Reserves

The trustees operate the charity in line with principles established by the founders, which have served the charity for 50 years. During this period the charity has frequently operated with no appreciable reserves and has expended all of its incoming funds on its charitable activities within a short period of receipt. As a Christian organisation, the charity has found its principle of faith dependency on God coupled with a careful management of resources brings adequate stability to its finances while maximising resources expended to meet its aims.

THE TORCH TRUST FOR THE BLIND

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

In this context, the trustees have previously considered cash reserves of one month's average expenditure to be more than adequate to meet imminent financial demands from ongoing charitable operations and would act to disburse any greater reserves in pursuit of the trust's charitable aims. However in light of the high dependency on legacy income which is by its nature irregular and unpredictable the trustees have revised the reserves policy to hold cash reserves of two months average expenditure - currently £150,000.

The Trust holds considerable fixed assets, mainly the three properties for which freehold is owned. In response to the sharp worsening of the economic climate and its inevitable adverse impact on legacy income, the trustees decided to market the property in Market Harborough used as a hospitality house for guests and volunteer workers.

When purchased it was recognised that there may come a time where the funds would be needed more than the utility the property provided. A sale was agreed during the year and was completed in October at a price of £285,000. Details of the sale have been communicated to the Charity Commission.

At the year end, cash reserves were well below the reserves figure. At the time the Trust had access to an overdraft facility with NatWest bank of £145,000 which it drew on only modestly and briefly before the income from the sale of the property was banked, more than restoring reserves to the extent of covering the deficit anticipated in the year ending 30 September 2010.

RISK REVIEW

The trustees recognise their responsibility to identify the major risks to which the Trust is exposed, to review these risks and establish systems to mitigate them. Accordingly the trustees have instituted a formal review of risks and controls to mitigate them.

Risk management is an ongoing process and the trustees are committed to regular reviews and a means of understanding the risk to which the Trust is exposed and to establish a proper degree of confidence that systems are in place to mitigate those risks to a tolerable level consistent with the achievement of the Trust's aims.

The trustees have renewed the appointment of Peninsular as Health and Safety advisors. In addition to providing regular advice they conduct an annual inspection at both premises. The advisors have expressed themselves reasonably satisfied with our attention to Health and Safety and observe matters requiring our attention are dealt with promptly. The trustees receive a Health and Safety report at each board meeting.

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of The Torch Trust for the Blind for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Applicable law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law).

Under that law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the net income or net expenditure of the charitable company for that year.

THE TORCH TRUST FOR THE BLIND

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information (information needed by the charitable company's auditors in connection with preparing their report) of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware, and
- the trustees have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditors are aware of that information.

The trustees have complied with their duties contained in Section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to guidance published by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Approved by the Board on 28th April 2010

Marilyn Baker
Trustee Director

John Darby
Company Secretary

THE TORCH TRUST FOR THE BLIND**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO
THE MEMBERS OF THE TORCH TRUST FOR THE BLIND**

We have audited the financial statements of The Torch Trust for the Blind for the year ended 30th September 2009 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008) (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice applicable to Smaller Entities).

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and auditors

The trustees' (who are also directors of The Torch Trust for the Blind for the purposes of company law) responsibilities for preparing the annual report (herein entitled directors' report) and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) are set out in the statement of trustees' responsibilities.

Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view, have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice and have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006. We also report to you whether in our opinion the information given in the directors' report is consistent with the financial statements.

In addition we report to you if, in our opinion, the company has not kept adequate accounting records, if the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns, if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit, or if certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made.

We read other information contained in the annual report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements within it.

Scope of the audit of the financial statements

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the trustees in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

THE TORCH TRUST FOR THE BLIND

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO
THE MEMBERS OF THE TORCH TRUST FOR THE BLIND**

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

The prior period's financial statements were audited by another practice and, during the course of our work, we have not discovered any evidence to suggest that there should be any modification to their Report.

Opinion on the financial statements

In our opinion the financial statements:

- Give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 30th September 2009 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- Have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice applicable to Smaller Entities; and
- Have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Opinion on other matter prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion the information given in the directors' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

Philip J. Dymond FCCA (senior statutory auditor)
For and on behalf of Cheyette & Co
Chartered Certified Accountants and
Registered Auditors

167 London Road
Leicester
LE2 1EG

Dated:

THE TORCH TRUST FOR THE BLIND

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the year ended 30 September 2009

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2009 Total £	2008 Total £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
<i>Voluntary Income</i>					
Donations		304,729	55,301	360,030	309,517
Tax recovered		28,713	4,811	33,524	20,518
Legacies		380,189	500	380,689	481,930
Grants		3,000	-	3,000	13,000
<i>Activities for generating funds</i>					
Interest receivable		3,111	-	3,111	11,488
Rental income		2,925	3,600	6,525	5,655
Incoming resources from charitable activities					
Sales of Braille, giant print and audio		20,472	2,260	22,732	39,058
Holidays and retreats		74,005	-	74,005	79,338
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		817,144	66,472	883,616	960,504
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Costs of generating funds					
<i>Costs of generating voluntary income</i>					
UK Outreach	2a	26,423	-	26,423	44,147
Charitable activities					
UK Outreach	2b	76,553	2,253	78,806	22,474
Production and distribution of Braille, giant print and audio	2c	48,158	1,414	49,572	61,905
Overseas Outreach		26,416	28,132	54,548	93,545
Holidays and retreats		63,916	-	63,916	61,455
Staff Remuneration & costs	2d	495,891	14,330	510,221	479,265
Establishment costs	2e	118,830	-	118,830	127,815
Support costs	2f	129,914	2,861	132,775	117,122
Governance costs	3	9,516	-	9,516	11,546
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		995,617	48,990	1,044,607	1,019,274
NET INCOMING (OUTGOING) RESOURCES BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS					
		(178,473)	17,482	(160,991)	(58,770)
Profit on disposal of fixed assets	4	-	-	-	-
		(178,473)	17,482	(160,991)	(58,770)
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS					
	10	16,441	(16,441)	-	-
NET RESOURCES RECEIVED/EXPENDED					
		(162,032)	1,041	(160,991)	(58,770)
Fund Balances Brought Forward 1 October 2008		2,816,809	16,062	2,832,871	2,891,641
FUND BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 30 September 2009	10	2,654,777	17,103	2,671,880	2,832,871

The notes on pages 22 - 27 form part of these financial statements.

The deficit for the year arises from the charity's continuing operations. There are no unrealised gains or losses in the year. The Statement of Financial Activities is thus also the income and expenditure account for the year.

THE TORCH TRUST FOR THE BLIND

BALANCE SHEET
30 SEPTEMBER 2009

	Notes	2009 £	2009 £	2008 £	2008 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	5		2,599,098		2,623,387
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stock	6	14,013		14,169	
Debtors	7	62,811		37,213	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>36,678</u>		<u>210,501</u>	
		113,502		261,883	
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	8	<u>40,720</u>		<u>52,399</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			<u>72,782</u>		<u>209,484</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			2,671,880		2,832,871
NET ASSETS			<u>2,671,880</u>		<u>2,832,871</u>
FUNDS AND RESERVES					
RESTRICTED	10		17,103		16,062
UNRESTRICTED	10		<u>2,654,777</u>		<u>2,816,809</u>
			<u>2,671,880</u>		<u>2,832,871</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by the trustees on 28 April 2010

Signed on their behalf

Marilyn Baker - Trustee Director

The notes on pages 22 to 27 form part of these financial statements

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**a) Basis of accounting**

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and comply with the Charity Commissions' Statement of Recommended Practice published in March 2005, the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008) and the Companies Act 2006.

b) Incoming resources

General donations and gifts (at cash value) are brought into account when received. Volunteer time is not included in the financial statements. Legacies are accounted for once it is known with reasonable certainty how much and when funds will be received.

Donations and grants given for specific purposes are treated as income in the year of receipt. Unspent restricted income is included under restricted funds as it is fully committed.

c) Resources expended

Expenditure is included on an accruals basis.

The resources expended are classified under the charity's functional categories of expenditure and type of expense in order to provide more useful information. The functional categories are explained in the notes.

The functional costs comprise direct costs attributable to the activity, including irrecoverable VAT. Where costs cannot be directly attributed they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with budgeted use of resources.

d) Fixed Assets

Assets costing less than £250 are not capitalised.

Depreciation is provided at the following rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life. Freehold property is depreciated at 1% per annum. All other fixed assets are depreciated at 25-33% on a straight-line basis.

e) Pension costs

The charity operates a stakeholder pension scheme for employees. No payments are made from the charity's funds to the pension scheme.

f) Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds comprise the accumulated surplus or deficit on the statement of financial activities. They are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. An amount of 6% of each donation made towards restricted purposes is deducted to contribute to the cost of administering the gift.

Designated funds are funds set aside by the Trustees for specific purposes.

Restricted funds are funds subject to specific restricted conditions imposed by donors. The areas of use of the restricted funds are set out in note 11 to the financial statements.

g) Stock

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value including provisions for items donated rather than sold.

h) Operating leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight-line basis over the lease duration.

THE TORCH TRUST FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 30 September 2009**2 RESOURCES EXPENDED****Costs of generating funds**

a) UK Outreach	2009	2008
	£	£
Literature	14,620	24,178
Exhibitions & Events	3,698	19,271
Advertising & Promotion	4,264	-
Other Supporter Activity & Donations	3,841	698
	<u>26,423</u>	<u>44,147</u>

Charitable Activities**b) UK Outreach**

Radio	10,274	16,578
Fellowship Groups	3,457	2,439
Literature	11,228	3,457
Exhibitions & Events	36,172	-
Advertising & Promotion	17,675	-
	<u>78,806</u>	<u>22,474</u>

c) Production and distribution costs

Braille	15,198	11,377
Giant Print	27,461	35,083
Audio	5,591	11,156
Cards and Miscellaneous	1,322	4,289
	<u>49,572</u>	<u>61,905</u>

d) Staff remuneration and costs

Salaries and Allowances	464,548	431,439
Social Security Costs	28,027	23,868
Training	4,033	8,232
Other costs	13,613	15,726
	<u>510,221</u>	<u>479,265</u>

Average number of staff during the year	<u>45</u>	<u>44</u>
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Equivalent full-time members of staff	<u>33</u>	<u>35</u>
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No employee received emoluments amounting to more than £60,000 in either year

Trustees received no remuneration (2008 - nil)

Five Trustees were reimbursed expenses amounting to £6,584 (2008: 5 trustees £4,606)

THE TORCH TRUST FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 30 September 2009

2 RESOURCES EXPENDED

e) Establishment costs	2009	2008
	£	£
Rates and Insurance	13,416	23,128
Power & Water	30,556	20,904
Internet & Website	1,648	7,235
Health & Safety & Security	5,606	5,499
Equipment Maintenance	2,142	6,771
Premises & Grounds Maintenance	15,667	1,712
Hospitality & Sundry	5,266	10,037
Depreciation	44,529	52,529
	<u>118,830</u>	<u>127,815</u>
f) Support costs		
Travel & Motor Expenses	57,583	55,427
Professional & Consultancy Fees	39,080	26,314
Postage & Stationery	17,005	14,329
Telephone	7,511	8,147
Bank Charges & Interest	5,045	4,515
Subscriptions	1,611	1,257
Software & Sundry Expenses	4,940	7,133
	<u>132,775</u>	<u>117,122</u>

Resources expended have been allocated to charitable activities as follows:

Allocated costs	Basis of allocation	Total	Braille, Giant Print & Audio	Overseas Outreach	Holidays & Retreats	Regional Activities
		£	£	£	£	£
Staff remuneration and costs	Headcount	488,810	298,108	51,546	51,572	87,584
Establishment & Support costs	Apportioned use	340,466	265,655	26,410	11,165	37,236
		<u>829,276</u>	<u>563,763</u>	<u>77,956</u>	<u>62,737</u>	<u>124,820</u>
Direct costs		215,331	45,773	62,506	103,595	3,457
Total		<u>1,044,607</u>	<u>609,536</u>	<u>140,462</u>	<u>166,332</u>	<u>128,277</u>

THE TORCH TRUST FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 30 September 2009**3 RESOURCES EXPENDED - Governance**

	2009	2008
	£	£
Audit fees - current auditors : Cheyette & Co	5,500	-
Audit fees - previous auditors : Dafferns	700	8,181
Consultancy & Legal Fees	689	341
Annual Report	1,000	540
Trustees Meeting Expenses	645	1,217
Trustee Indemnity Insurance	982	1,267
	<u>9,516</u>	<u>11,546</u>

4 PROFIT ON DISPOSAL OF FIXED ASSETS

Proceeds	-	-
Costs of purchase	-	3,152
Depreciation	-	(3,152)
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

5 FIXED ASSETS - held for use by the charity

	Freehold Land & Buildings	Motor Vehicles	Fixtures & Fittings	Machinery & Equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost as at 1 October 2008	2,709,689	37,170	64,513	268,331	3,079,703
Additions	6,089	-	1,186	14,281	21,556
Disposals				(1,316)	(1,316)
Cost at 30 September 2009	<u>2,715,778</u>	<u>37,170</u>	<u>65,699</u>	<u>281,296</u>	<u>3,099,943</u>
Depreciation at 1 October 2008	118,556	33,086	62,371	242,303	456,316
Charge for year	26,080	3,500	1,331	14,551	45,462
Disposals				(933)	(933)
Depreciation at 30 September 2009	<u>144,636</u>	<u>36,586</u>	<u>63,702</u>	<u>255,921</u>	<u>500,845</u>
Net book value at 30 September 2009	<u>2,571,142</u>	<u>584</u>	<u>1,997</u>	<u>25,375</u>	<u>2,599,098</u>
Net book value at 30 September 2008	<u>2,591,133</u>	<u>4,084</u>	<u>2,142</u>	<u>26,028</u>	<u>2,623,387</u>

Freehold land and buildings includes land of £107,799 that is not depreciated

THE TORCH TRUST FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 30 September 2009

6	STOCK	2009	2008
		£	£
	Goods for resale	<u>14,013</u>	<u>14,169</u>
7	DEBTORS		
	Trade debtors (less bad debt provision)	1,013	3,813
	Other debtors	5,900	-
	Gift Aid tax refunds	8,308	4,969
	Legacies	38,300	20,000
	Prepayments	<u>9,290</u>	<u>8,431</u>
		62,811	37,213
8	CREDITORS: FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR		
	Bank loans and overdrafts	4,440	18,689
	Trade creditors	19,170	21,016
	Wages creditor	1,127	-
	Accruals and deferred income	<u>15,983</u>	<u>12,694</u>
		<u>40,720</u>	<u>52,399</u>
	DEFERRED INCOME		
	Balance at start of year	-	-
	Amounts released to incoming resources	-	-
	Amounts deferred in year	8,975	-
	Balance at end of year	<u>8,975</u>	<u>-</u>
9	SECURED DEBTS		
	The following secured debts are included within creditors		
	Loan	<u>-</u>	<u>18,869</u>

THE TORCH TRUST FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 30 September 2008**10 MOVEMENT OF FUNDS**

RESTRICTED FUNDS	Balance 01 Oct 08	Income in Year	Expenditure in Year	Transfers	Realised Gains	Balance 30 Sep 09
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Eastern Europe	800	5,458	(4,370)	(282)	-	1,606
Africa	9,702	25,882	(29,084)	(1,535)	-	4,965
Holidays	(400)	-	-	400	-	-
Other	5,960	35,132	(15,536)	(15,024)	-	10,532
Totals	16,062	66,472	(48,990)	(16,441)	-	17,103
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS						
Accumulated surplus	2,814,840	817,144	(994,941)	17,734	-	2,654,777
DESIGNATED FUNDS						
Torch Eastern Europe	1,969	-	(676)	(1,293)	-	-
Totals	2,832,871	883,616	(1,044,607)	-	-	2,671,880

The areas of operation for these funds are set out in the Directors' report. Other restricted funds include the library and support within the United Kingdom

Analysis of assets between funds

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total
Fixed assets	£2,599,098	-	-	£2,599,098
Net current assets	£55,679	-	£17,103	£72,782
	£2,654,777	-	£17,103	£2,671,880

11 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Torch Trust for the Blind supports Fleckney Manor Training - a residential life skills training centre for visually impaired people - by paying certain expenses in connection with running a people carrier vehicle, travel, communications and training services. These amounted to £3,446 in the year. Dr Michael Townsend is a partner in Fleckney Manor Training. Some of this was in lieu of payment of Trustee expenses. The financial relationship between the two organisations is conducted on an arms' length basis.

12 LEASING COMMITMENTS

At 30 September 2009, the Charity had annual commitments for equipment under rental agreements of £20,120 for periods not exceeding 5 years.