

## Volunteers' Newsletter Scarborough Talking News



Hello, Scarborough Talking News Volunteers! Welcome to the first ever issue of your newsletter. This



may be a good way of keeping you all informed about what is going on behind the scenes, up to date with new STN initiatives and generally help keep more in touch with one another. Please let us know what you think about the idea, offer any constructive comments, including information or issues you'd like to see included and any photos of anything STN friendly that we might include in the forthcoming Magazine and Website.

Mary Grunwell, Chairman and Editor

### STN'S 2000th Broadcast

On Wednesday, 22nd May the 2000th broadcast will be recorded by the STN team. Plans are afoot to make it a bobby dazzler of an occasion and hopefully the weekly news will present us with some memorable items! If you can think of any special way we might add to the broadcast to celebrate, please don't hesitate to contact Mary, David or Steph asap.

### STN's Re-Launch of The Magazine

David Henderson, our Technical Manager, has suggested we bring back to life the STN Magazine to tie in with 2000th Broadcast celebrations. The Magazine will be published bi-monthly and contain as wide a variety of features, interviews, information and literary content as we feel would interest our Listeners. The initial idea is that we access items from sources such as the Talking News Federation site (of which we are a member so are allowed) and 'drop' them into our magazine, as well as record our own content. David suggests that the latter can be recorded on smart phones and emailed in (a new skill set for some but achievable!). We really do need to have an Editor for this venture, someone who can have oversight of the content and be a contact for all matters Magazine. Are you interested? Do you know someone who would consider this role with the support of David and others? With the clock ticking, we may not make the 22nd May deadline but it is exciting to think we might have this extra resource for our Listeners up and running before too long.

### Volunteers' Annual Meet and Greet

We are all very aware that our volunteer set up can mean that we never actually meet many other Talking News people. Several of the Committee feel it would be a friendly thing to meet at least annually to put names to faces, maybe have a chat about what we're doing and how successful we feel we are - maybe pool new ideas. No venue or format for this 'Meet and Greet' has been decided upon at this time although there have been a few comments that Christmas may be the least favourable time to do so. Any thoughts about this can be passed onto any of the Committee members when you are at STN or you can let Steph (Secretary) know by phone, email or WhatsApp.

## Notice of Non-Attendance

Your volunteering is such an excellence service to the Listeners but there are occasions when you simply can't make the rota date. It's a big help if you are able to find another volunteer to stand in for you yourself, using the Volunteers' Details Sheet that Susan (Registrar) sends out, before you contact your Editor to let them know you can't attend. If you feel you can't do this for whatever reason, Susan will help but it's very important that your Editor is told as soon as possible. If you are a despatcher who can't attend, speedy notification is key as currently we have a precious few!

## National Federation for the Blind Bus Stop Petition

STN has signed this petition this month (Feb) alongside 164 other organisations. Active travel schemes are being introduced across the UK to accommodate cycle lanes, a good thing. What's not good is the introduction of 'floating bus stops', bus stops separated from the pavement as cycle lanes are sandwiched in between the pavement and the stop. Some designs include bus passengers having to step into a live cycle lane to get on and off a bus. These complex, differently designed systems leave visually impaired people totally disorientated, confused and unable to navigate safely. Go to the NFBUK site to read about the petition in full and to view the alarming tweets and photos of floating bus stops currently in operation in the UK and elsewhere.

## And finally ...

... Listener figures remain stable at around 80 - 85 people registered for broadcast delivery...

... Trevor will be issuing door keys to all Recorders to ensure entry to YCSS is available even on the rare occasions that Colin and the team are not at work...

... Copies of all STN paperwork are kept for public scrutiny in the Despatch Room if you want to read what goes on behind the scenes...

... A warm welcome to our new Volunteers who have joined us since Christmas.