

Volunteers' Newsletter Scarborough Talking News

21st March 2024 Issue 2



Hello, Scarborough Talking News Volunteers! Thank you to everyone who has fed back comments and suggestions about the Volunteer Newsletter. As Secretary of our Committee, I send the newsletter out so if there's anything you want adding, just contact me. I attended my first formal meeting in June last year and left as Secretary – the moral of the story is never be late to a meeting! A reader for STN, I also help send out the weekly broadcast now and again – we are short of despatchers and copiers. Maybe you might consider filling another role once a month or know someone who could?

Steph Brown, Secretary and Reader/Despatcher

How Do We Make STN Broadcasts?

We have several new Volunteers who may not have the overview of the whole process so here goes! The Editors research news stories from local sources and put together a running order for the week's broadcast. They distribute the articles to the Readers on Wednesday recordings in the Studio. A quick discussion about matters of the day, a nod from the Recorder and two hours later, an edition is born! The Recorder is left in the Studio to 'tidy up' the recording, adding music and making the whole thing sound professional. On Thursdays, the Despatcher empties Listeners' delivery pouches of returned memory sticks, which the Copier will wipe clean ready to transfer the new recording. Once this process is complete, the Despatcher refills the pouches with the newly loaded memory sticks and the pouches are posted off. Very recently, the broadcasts have been made available through the Talking Newspaper App and Alexa so you can listen on the very same day they have been recorded if you want to. Soon it will be on our brand new, soon to be launched website too.

Access to STN Broadcasts

The Scarborough Talking News service is not only accessible using the USB system – it's also available on the website, the Talking News app (downloadable from App Store), Alexa (just ask, "Alexa, enable Talking Newspapers", or do it manually through the Alexa app on a smart device) and now by telephone 01723 630 636 – all free and very easy to access. Listening to the broadcasts ourselves is the best way of being our own critical listening friends!

Successful Fund Raising

Trevor Bulcock, our Treasurer, keeps a careful eye on STN accounts. The Charity is completely dependent on volunteers, the only income being donations or fund raising, much needed to meet annual expenditure and any improvements to equipment. We have a balance which represents approximately three years of running the service but much of the equipment is dated and everything costs more these days. For the assured continuation of STN, we need more financial support. Last month Colin Eastwood, STN Committee member (and YCSS Manager), successfully bid for £1,500 of funding from SeeChange, a huge timely help. Rick Switzer-Green, Reader, is in the process of securing a £300 donation from the National Association of Retired Police Officers and David Henderson, Technical Manager, is also on the hunt!

STN is considering becoming a CIO

Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) status is being considered for STN. This would mean we would have a corporate body with a wider membership, including voting members other than the charity trustees. We are using the Charity Commission model governing document and have been given invaluable support from a local retired solicitor, keeping us on the right path. Colin Eastwood, STN Committee member and manager of YCSS has been very helpful too!

The STN Magazine is Happening!

Several members of the trustees met on 27th February to discuss the STN Magazine relaunch. We have not been able to find any one person who is prepared to adopt the role of Magazine Editor. In the usual stoic attitude of STN, we decided for this first edition we would share the responsibility to get it up and running! David Henderson, Technical Manager, has put together the format, we have identified information sources and we are on with collecting recordings about all sorts of things of local interest for our Listeners, including sport, pastimes, recipes, verse, quizzes... anything really that people might get some pleasure and knowledge from hearing.

You can help with this – if you have an article that will add colour, variety and/or fun to our Magazine, record it using your phone or any other way at your disposal and send it through to David scarboroughtalkingnews@gmail.com , who will make it broadcast ready. David has asked if readers who wish to record their own contributions to the magazine would contact him first for a quick discussion and advice, before embarking on a recording session. David has a set of recording procedures he can give out if needed, as a guide. It may well work out that we will need to have some studio recording time blocked in for those who can contribute but don't have any way of recording. We'll work out these fine details as we go along. You may have a little gem but be shy about recording your own voice. That's fine – either ask someone you know who would like five minutes of fame or send the article to Martin Johnson, Chief Editor, who will decide which Volunteer could read it for you. We are also asking local folk who are not part of the STN Team to contribute so, hopefully, before long we will have a bank of different quality recordings we can select from to make our Magazine a monthly 'must' to listen to.

Fingers crossed that it will all come together to be broadcast alongside our 2000th STN edition on 22nd May 2024 – gulp!!!

And finally ...

- ... Steph has been taking photos of STN Volunteers over the past few months to use on the forthcoming Website and in STN literature. Your image will not appear without your consent, it is fine to say you'd rather not and you could send in your own head and shoulders photo if you prefer...
- ... 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. They are in a blue file on the desk and are updated as meetings occur. The next Committee meeting is in April...
- ... On Monday, 18th March, Susan re-sent the 3rd April – 27th June Rota, asking us to destroy the previous rota and list...
- ... We are delighted to welcome four new volunteers to the STN Team...
- ... We say a sad farewell to Annette Schmuck, who has been a valuable STN Copier for some years – thank you, Annette!

