

# Volunteers' Newsletter

## Scarborough Talking News

23rd April 2024 Issue 3



Scarborough Talking News Volunteers! I'm Gill and I have been a Listener of Scarborough Talking News since 2017. In June 2023, I joined the Trustees' Committee as a Committee representative and I've been busy since then offering my support to the new Committee, attending a meeting and photo shoot to secure needed funding and recording for the new Magazine and Website.

Gill Steel, Committee Trustee and Listener

### Our Website is launched!

David Henderson, Technical Manager, has beavered away and put together our new website, which you can access at <https://scarboroughtalkingnews.org.uk>. We can now download STN events, achievements and news directly online, speeding up delivery and making STN available to a global audience. Any feedback re. the site would be gratefully received.

### Listener Feedback

Chris Herbert, Trustee Committee member and Reader, and David met with some of our listeners with the purpose of recording snippets for the website. This proved to be a really useful get together and led to some useful feedback conversation. Chris reports: "Of the five people who were present at YCSS, 3 were STN Listeners, all of whom were very positive about the service. It was felt that, generally, content was good, with a wide spread of news. Special appreciation was voiced about the additional articles which are read e.g. extracts from the Dalesman.

One question was, "Why is there so much Whitby news?" Our response was that STN coverage includes the Whitby area, with items being taken from the Scarborough News and Whitby Gazette. Some weeks it may be that there are more interesting, varied items in The Gazette. We talked about the Scarborough News moving to a weekly paper covering fewer events and news reports. Recognising that Filey Mercury is no longer a separate publication, one Listener advised us of a monthly publication – 'Filey Bay' - which promotes upcoming events in Filey and includes items of local interest.

We discussed STN weekly distribution - people were interested to hear about this process and were impressed with the rapid turnaround from recording to despatch. However, the comment was made that by the time the pen drive is received, some events which have been reported have happened. Generally, the pen drive is received on a Friday: one Listener living in Goathland does not receive hers until Saturday. The Listeners all agreed that the listening equipment is very easy to use once initial instruction has been given. They were all interested to hear from David of the IT advances which are being made and the alternative ways of hearing STN. Our Listeners' comments are now captured on the website!"

Chris plans to return to talk about STN to more YCSS clients and left on Tuesday having recruited two new Listeners – good results all round!

### Talking News Federation Training

The recording, slides and ebook for 'Describing Pictures' can be found on the TFN website at: <https://tnf.org.uk/events/events-workshops/winter-workshops-2024/2024-winter-workshop-3/> - gasp!

### Dear Despatchers....

Susan Airlie, our Registrar, has asked that the significance of the Volunteer rota colours be explained again. They are directly linked to the weekly despatch pouches. Each Listener has a blue and yellow pouch. One week their USB stick is delivered in a blue pouch; their yellow pouch is sitting waiting eagerly in the Despatch Room ready for the following

week's recording. This means there's 'wiggle room' for the return delivery of the blue pouch. The despatcher looks at the rota, notes which colour pouch they are using on that particular day and the job's a good 'un!

There is a tray in the Despatch Room for two USB sticks to be left weekly in case there is a new Listener(s) mid-week. Susan would go to the tray and send out the recording, using these memory sticks. It would be useful if you could take out the previous week's USBs for cleaning each week, replacing them with two of the new week's recording. This would result in the right recording being sent out and only two memory sticks in the tray in any one week.

Recently the Postman who collects from the local post box on Dean Road asked if the Thursday pouches could be spread out rather than be posted into just one box. Further investigation has uncovered that the Dean Road Postie has no van, it's him and his post cart! If you are a Despatcher with a car, you might consider using the Royal Mail sack that's in the Despatch Room and taking the pouches to Newlands Park Post Office. Several Despatchers already do this; they hand the sack over, stating it is Talking News freepost delivery and ask for a replacement sack. If you are a Despatcher who is on foot, the Postman will cope – Steph has written him a Thank You card for all his efforts.

## The STN Magazine is so very close to being ready!

After meeting on 9th April, it feels like our Magazine is actually close to publication! Now is the time for you to help out 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](mailto: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. See Volunteers' News 2 for more details.

And finally ...

...Gill and Mary took delivery of a whopping £1,500 from SeeCHANGE last month, for which STN is so grateful...



Founded in 1982  
Scarborough Talking Newspaper

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