

Volunteers' Newsletter Scarborough Talking News

July 2024 Issue 5



I am David Henderson and, in STN, I act as what our constitution calls 'Technical Manager'.

It is only just over a year ago that I, amongst others, received the bombshell news that the previous group of Talking News Trustees planned to close the service to our wonderful Listeners because, as they said, we had little money, not enough volunteers and no one wanting to serve on the Committee. I spent a few hours of a holiday in the Lake District ringing around our Volunteers who, to a woman and a man, wished to continue our weekly news operation. Now, just about a year later, we have a growing number of listeners, a wonderful group of dedicated volunteers, a fine team of twelve on the Committee, some very welcome and helpful grants to sustain and develop our activities and our 2000th news edition under our belts. The Recorder team (our sound engineers as I prefer to call them) are currently testing a complete set of new recording equipment aimed at improving the quality of our sound output by updating equipment that is getting on for 20 years old! In the Autumn our Readers will see new microphones installed and our Listeners will hear, I hope, a welcome improvement in audio quality. In addition to these vital changes our Talking News and Talking Magazine can be heard online: via apps for Android and Apple devices, with Alexa, by a local telephone call and on our new website. It's been quite a year!

Thank You, North Yorkshire County Council!

Mary contacted Councillor Bastiman, told him about our Shopping List and running costs and relatively quickly, we have received £2000 from NYCC Locality Grant Budget – result! The grant is earmarked for improving studio sound quality and software. We have also received several Listener donations, which help with topping up the STN running cost pot.

Raising Awareness of the Service we Offer

Scarborough Talking News is not well known in our area. David is preparing information fliers, a poster and cards to distribute locally to raise our profile. Please contact Steph (07746041749) if you are willing to help the delivery process when our publicity is ready (September) – if we share it out between us, we should make a positive impact. We'll keep a record of where we go to ensure breadth of coverage and prevent duplication. Mary is working on the idea of a music concert to raise awareness (and the bank balance!) – more about that soon.

Trustee Committee Conversation

At the last meeting on 2nd July, we divided our time in two. Trevor reported difficulties with Amazon; they maintain we've received equipment that has never arrived. David has spent ages trying to sort the issue. He directly contacted Rode, the supplier, who have been hugely helpful and supplied us with the missing equipment – for free! How brilliant was that? However, the negotiations with Amazon continue.

A Volunteer Policy is being drafted and will be published with Volunteer News 6. The Data Protection Notice is displayed in the Studio and Despatch Room – please take a few minutes to read it.

Gill, our Listener Representative, provided very helpful feedback and critique about the Magazine, telling us that she had gathered comments through YCSS staff and the result was very positive (see below).

The second part of our meeting was shared with Lauren Downey, a local 27-year-old, together with her guide dog, Penny and friend Sylvia Brabbs. Lauren was fascinating, describing how technology had become her eyes, now helped further with the addition of Penny, who's been with Lauren for two weeks. Her exuberance, practical capabilities and expertise with the many I.T. support apps and programs was a joy to behold. Lauren has offered to help STN in any way she can.

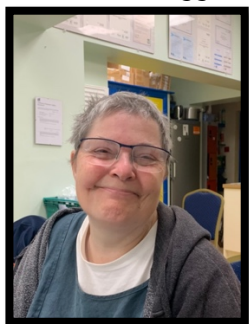
STN minutes are kept in a blue folder in the Despatch Room if you want to read the full details.

Magazine Review Gathering

Ten of us met at YCSS on Friday, 12th July to discuss all things Talking Magazine. Edition 1 has been given the 'thumbs up' and Edition 2 is nearly ready for broadcasting in wb 22nd July. We are steadily gathering articles, music, interviews and suchlike, banking contributions to always be ahead of the game. Steph is compiling two lists: one of people who would like to read articles found for them and another of people who want to act as researchers who don't want to read. Please let her know if you want to be added to either list or know someone who isn't currently a STN Volunteer but would like to help in this way.

Welcome to our New STN Volunteers...

Carolyn Briggs



David Smith



Hilary Smith



And finally ...

It is very important that we ensure we close windows and turn off lights and equipment when leaving the Studio and Despatch Rooms. The light above the staircase is an LED lamp fitting, looks like daylight and must be switched off by the switch close to the toilet by the last person to leave the area. There have been several occasions when this has not happened and the light has remained on constantly for four days. Our rent will be increased if we cannot make this happen with immediate effect.

- ... Please read the Privacy policy if you haven't already done so...
- ... If contacting people by email about STN matters, please use STN at the beginning of the subject heading, to help with quick identification and filing
- ... Listen to the weekly news broadcasts. It will help you to evaluate the quality of reading, recording and content, something that, as Readers, Recorders and Editors, we all need to be doing to ensure we are delivering the best possible service to our Listeners
- ... Thanks go to Yolanda Guthrie, who has left her STN Reader role, as she is busy with lots of projects, including editing and publishing The Scarborough Spy, an excellent information guide about what's happening locally. Thanks for your valued volunteering, Yolanda.



Founded in 1982

Scarborough Talking Newspaper

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