

# Volunteers' Newsletter Scarborough Talking News

September 2024 Issue 6



I am Martin Johnson and have been a member of the STN Team for 9 years. It was initially suggested by our now Chairman that I might enjoy becoming a Reader and I fell for it! Subsequently, when there was a need for a new Editor, I fell for it again! I have found the role to be both satisfying and enjoyable. Then came that dreadful Covid period and many volunteers were concerned about infection. It was at this point that STN almost folded and might have done so but for the enthusiasm of both David Henderson and Mary Grunwell. In 2023, a newly fully functioning committee system granted me the grandiose title of Editor-in-Chief...I hope I live up to expectations! As Readers, we do our best; it is always of benefit to Readers themselves to take time on occasions to listen to their recordings, which perhaps allows acknowledgement of both speed and volume of delivery, together with clarity of speech? A corrective approach may then be made in future recordings if necessary. Volunteers, in whatever role, are the backbone to the success of the STN and thanks goes out to you all...you are ALL so worthy. Yes, we're all volunteers and we must give of our best to our listeners who, after all, deserve an 'easy listening service'.

To listen to recordings go to: [scarboroughtalkingnews.org.uk](http://scarboroughtalkingnews.org.uk)

## Trustee Committee Conversation

These are the key issues discussed on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July meeting:

- A Volunteer policy will be drafted for presentation at the next meeting
- Expenditure and Income over the past year has balanced out and there is £5266.32 in the bank, as of the end of June 2024
- There has been an influx of Readers (there are now 20) – other posts may be boosted in number by current volunteers offering to expand their skill base
- Listener feedback about the Magazine has been positive
- Much needed new recording equipment has been purchased from recent fund raising success (major issues with Amazon delivery have caused great concern, time commitment to resolve and are still ongoing)
- An update of Listener numbers is being undertaken
- Fundraising has been very forthcoming over the last year and there are a couple of requests being considered at the time of the meeting
- Lauren Downey attended the meeting to share her experiences as a younger person who is blind – much was learnt and Lauren offered her assistance to STN.

## Magazine Review Gathering

STN Magazine 3 was issued successfully on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September. Well done, everyone who was involved in any way. On Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> October there will be a gathering for anyone who is interested in the Magazine to discuss progress to date, analyse content and make suggestions for future issues. Hot drinks and biscuits will be ready from 10.00 at Yorkshire Coast Sight Support, Dean Road. Come dressed for a cool environment – the heating won't be on!

## New Lighting on Studio Stairwell

A motion light has been fitted above the Studio staircase. This means that Volunteers no longer have to be mindful about switching the stair light on and off on entry and exit. However, we still need to be diligent in switching off and closing up all areas we use when on STN business. Thank you.

# Scarborough 41 Club Hold Christmas Charity Evening - For Us!

An evening of food and entertainment to raise money for two local charities

SPARKS – Founded in 2018, SPARKS provides help to local people who have problems relating to poverty, mental health, social isolation, domestic abuse or addiction.

The Scarborough Talking News – They provide a free weekly talking newspaper to local people who are blind or partially sighted. Founded in 1982, the organisation is run by volunteers and relies entirely on donations.

There will be a disco provided by the brilliant Magic Mike as well as live music from Annie & King, a Scarborough based Crossover Folk duo. They play original music and covers in their own unique style.

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2024 7pm – 11.30pm

£30 per person at Scarborough Rugby Club

[www.scarbororough41club.co.uk](http://www.scarbororough41club.co.uk)

All Volunteers, their partners and guests are invited to this Christmas fundraising event (Mary's son, Dominic is Chairman of the 41 Club this year). We can celebrate Christmas in style – to book tickets use the link above.

Welcome to our New STN Volunteers...



Julia Boorer

Phyllis Robertson

Anne Brown

And finally ...

... Debbie G. (Despatcher) shares a really good idea to protect fingers from the rigours of pouching! She has bought rubber finger thimbles from Ryman's in town and uses one on her index finger to prevent skin cuts from the USB pouch Velcro. Debbie has left two in the Despatch Room for anyone to borrow – lots of finger protectors available online too.

... We are all very welcome to pop into the YCSS lunch gatherings if we have time and a mind to do so, just for a chat or to gather news from the 'people what lunch'.

... We say a sad but fond 'Goodbye and Thank You' to Henry Lunn, who has retired from his current role as Copier for STN due to health issues. Thank you for your reliable volunteering, Henry – you will be greatly missed.



Founded in 1982

Scarborough Talking Newspaper

Website: <https://scarboroughtalkingnews.org.uk> Listeners' Phone: 01723 630 636 Email: [hello@scarboroughtalkingnews.org.uk](mailto:hello@scarboroughtalkingnews.org.uk)