

TEAM TALK



Summer 2023

The Newsletter for Chichester Area Talking News Volunteers

A message from our Chairman Ken Pritchard OBE



I hope that you are all enjoying the summer so far and that there will be plenty more for us to enjoy as the season moves on, perhaps with holidays to enjoy and time to catch up with friends and family.

In this Team Talk you will see that a great deal has been done to implement important decisions made at the last Trustees' meeting in February.

We also have short pieces from Alicia Denny who produces *Insight*, our quarterly magazine; Geoffrey Archer, an eminent journalist who has conducted many interesting interviews on behalf of CaTN, and Anne Brearley-Smith who has prepared an induction document to help new volunteers learn about CaTN and find joining us an easy process.

So, let's begin.

A new treasurer!

We have appointed a new Treasurer, John Goodman, to take over from Geoff Porter who, as you know, has been our very capable treasurer for the past six years. There will be a handover period from now until the AGM in October during which time Geoff and Bob Money, our Vice Chairman, will support John as he settles into his new role. We will be able to say a proper "Thank you" to Geoff at the AGM.

John Goodman and Geoff Porter



For many years John was the Business Manager of the West Sussex Advisory and Inspection Service which worked closely with primary, secondary, and special school headteachers to provide in-service training and advice to teachers at all levels of responsibility, from their "probationary" year, immediately after they finished training, right up to headteachers themselves. Previous to working in West Sussex, John lived in Australia and had held several managerial posts in the Australian banking system. Before his move to Australia John had been the general manager for a yacht company in Jersey, carrying out boat building, repair work, harbour services and yacht delivery. During this time he was also a lifeboat crew member with the RNLI. Prior to this John was a deck officer in the Merchant Navy.

With all that globetrotting you may be surprised to hear that John is Scottish born and bred – a nation well-known stereotypically for its fiscal probity!

Many of you will have the pleasure of meeting John over the next few weeks and months. You will find him to be a very pleasant, helpful man.

President

Anne Scicluna

Vice-Presidents:

Graham Brooks

Robbie Burns

Committee

Chairman:

Ken Pritchard

OBE

Vice Chairman,

Publicity Media:

Bob Money

Treasurer:

John Goodman

Secretary:

Libbie Bush

Production:

David Bathurst

Technical:

Colin Jenner

Admin Team:

Helen Pinn

VI Rep:

Jan Penn

VI Rep:

Chris Mustchin

Carers' Rep:

Chriss Mustchin

Anne Brearley-Smith

Smith

Michael Bevis

Geoff Porter

You can contact
your Committee
Members via
The Studio:

01243 775050

or the website:

www.catn.org.uk

Messages will be
forwarded or a
phone call arranged.

Changing Banks

Thanks to Bob preparing the application in great detail, ably supported by Geoff who provided the information required, we have successfully opened a Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) bank account and can soon begin the transfer of business from Barclays to CAF. This represents a major step forward for CaTN.

The music for fortnightly news programmes



The quality of our programmes remains high, and we get many appreciative comments from listeners. I hope that you have enjoyed the different music that accompanies each programme now. Personally, I think that the new choice of music has enlivened our programmes whilst maintaining the familiarity for our listeners which is so important to them. Thanks are due to Geoff, David, and Colin for selecting the pieces and making it possible to insert them easily into the recorded news programmes.

Review of Policies

We are in the final stages of reviewing all of our policies to ensure that they are all compliant with legislation, the requirements of the Charities Commission, and guidance from Talking News Federation (TNF). As soon as the policies are finally approved by Trustees, they will be made available on our website.

Induction and support for new volunteers

When I joined CaTN as a Trustee I found a very smooth-running organisation with everyone around me knowing exactly what they were doing! As you know, I was subsequently appointed as Chairman and if it hadn't been for the kindness and support of Trustees and those around me, I would probably still be floundering around now!

So, as Trustees discussed updating CaTN's policies, one Trustee, Anne Brearley-Smith, proposed, and subsequently wrote, an induction document to support all volunteers. Here, she explains her thinking and briefly describes its contents.

"No matter how young or old you are, the first few weeks and months in a new organisation can be daunting. Who among us does not have vivid memories of going to a new school or stepping into a new job! Who's who and what's what, let alone the complexities of the organisation and its procedures are not easy to piece together. One can feel like the inexperienced new girl or boy for a long time.

"Offering to become a volunteer with CaTN is no different. So this induction guide, explains not only what we do, but who does what, and how – a handy reference document to give a sense of the bigger picture and where each person fits in. Hopefully, this will make new volunteers feel more at home in their role, give them greater confidence in speaking to others about CaTN and also highlight opportunities for taking up other roles in CaTN which might be attractive to them.

“Packed into just a few pages, the guide includes important information about

- our purpose and how we came about*
- CaTN as it is today*
- an overview of our volunteers - our Trustees; our Production, Technical and Administrative teams; and our team of Listener Contacts*

and briefly describes

- how programmes are put together – Producers, Presenters and Readers*
- recording, copying, and distributing our programmes, and*
- the role of Listener Contacts*

with notes and details about

- publicity and Media*
- the CaTN office*
- money matters, and*
- CaTN contact details*

“As from now, new volunteers will automatically be sent this guide. There may also be some current volunteers who would like to see it, in which case, please contact Libbie Bush and she will email one to you. Let us know what you think of it and please pass on any suggestions you might have for improving it.”



Please be aware that being a volunteer for CaTN is incredibly important to all of our listeners. Some volunteers are happy with a single role, perhaps reading on our fortnightly news programmes or items for our quarterly magazine *Insight*. If any of you would like to enhance even further your contribution to CaTN by extending your role, or if you feel that you would like to try something new within CaTN, please contact us and we will do our best to help.

Promoting CaTN

Since the last Team Talk was published there have been promotional events at Chichester Library and an Open Day at the studio. Bob Money organised these occasions and a number of Trustees spent time to talk with those who visited, using our leaflets to promote the valuable work that we all do for our listeners.

There have also been presentations on the work of CaTN to a number of groups. As a result of these, and other, continuous efforts to promote the work of CaTN we have received grants or donations of varying amounts from a range of sources including the Pagham Pram Race Committee, Chichester Historical Society, and Pagham and District Residents' Association. We have also received donations from listeners, or the families of listeners, and from two individuals who simply heard of the work of CaTN and chose to support it. I always respond to each donation with a letter of thanks pointing out its value in helping us to continue our work.

Free Pass to Pallant House Art Gallery for CaTN Volunteers

Our volunteers often get preferential treatment from local organisations. Pallant House have this year very kindly offered CaTN Volunteers a free visitors' pass for the gallery where there are also some very interesting exhibitions. The current 'Gwen John' exhibition runs until 8 October 2023.

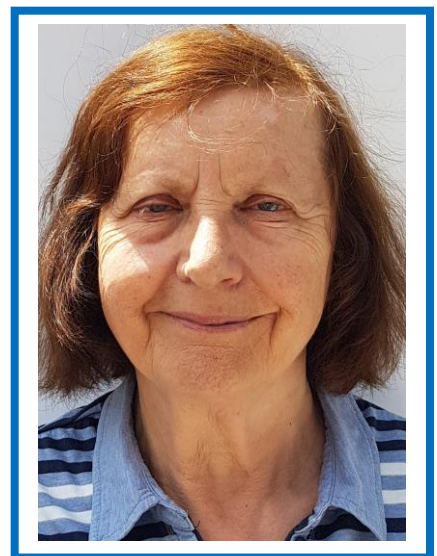
The entrance fee is normally £14 per person, so the free pass represents a considerable saving. The gallery staff are very welcoming and clearly want us to visit and spread the word about the gallery. The pass is on the noticeboard in the office. Please sign it out and return it as soon as possible after your visit so that others can make use of it.

Please note that this is just for CaTN volunteers and not for listeners, unless taken in as part of a group with volunteers.

More key people in CaTN

You will remember that the last two issues of Team Talk, Winter 2022 and Spring 2023, contained small pen portraits of volunteers within CaTN who carry out key functions to ensure that our Listeners are well supported in their homes. We continue that sequence here.

Alicia Denny produces *Insight* our quarterly magazine. It's easy to spot Alicia's journalistic background in the way that *Insight* is presented and put together. Here, Alicia gives us an "insight into Insight" as she describes how she began with CaTN and how the process of assembling ideas and making recordings has changed over time.



"When I was working as a journalist at the Chichester Observer in 2007, I knew Graham Brooks as a former editor and colleague as well as a vital cog in the smooth running of Talking News. One day, when he was collecting copies of the Observer to collate extracts for the news programmes, he told me he was planning to step down as producer of Insight and "would I like to take over from him?" As many of us volunteers know, it's hard to say 'no' to Graham, and here I am, 15 years later, still in the quarterly hot seat.

"Graham didn't hand over straight away, he wanted to show me the ropes and explain the technicalities, especially as, in those days, we were still recording on cassette tapes, which meant the two sides needed an exact balance of content timing so that an item wasn't cut off or finish too early to fit into 40 minutes. This required quite a lot of arithmetic and careful editing to ensure a professional result which, I hope, we have continued through the transition using firstly CDs and now USB sticks. Nowadays, Insight can be as long – or short – as I wish.

"These technical aspects of recording Insight have been the most difficult task for me to learn as it has been easy to transfer my journalistic skills from the written word to the spoken. I've always lived and worked in Sussex, West and East, Hampshire, and Surrey and, both personally and professionally, have never (yet!) run out of ideas for subjects to bring to listeners.

“I keep a specific Insight notebook in which I jot down ideas and people’s contact details, either as they occur to me or as a result of a suggestion by someone else. For a number of years, John Holloway was joint producer and contributed in many ways, including writing and organising studio recordings. I look through the Observer for people who could be interviewed and, knowing the area as well as I do, quite often when I’m out and about, something will inspire me as a potential subject.

“My overall aim is to provide a variety of items to keep listeners entertained and informed. As Insight is produced quarterly, on the first Saturday in March, June, September, and December, some of these will have a seasonal element. Most, but not all, will have a link to our area of West Sussex and I try to have a mixture of interviews and written pieces, usually read and recorded by one of our regular readers. I also aim to have both men and women involved, as I think this makes for easier listening.

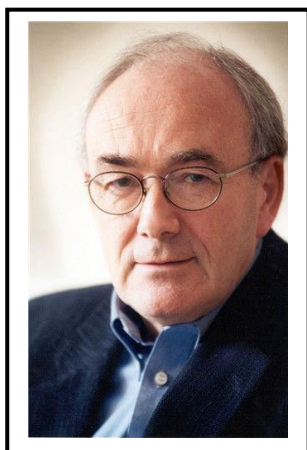
“The interviews are the most complicated element to arrange. I have to ask the person concerned, find a mutually convenient diary date and either ask them to come to the studio, having previously checked a technical operator is available to press the computer buttons, or visit them with my mobile recording equipment. Having an up-to-date lightweight good quality recorder is very useful as I can go anywhere, such as Waterloo Gardens in Bognor Regis, used for this summer’s edition, and have a relaxed conversation.

“Back at home, I download the recording onto my computer and use software similar to that in the studio to listen to and edit it. As well as editing for length, I can remove pauses, duplication, and mistakes. In a similar way, I can edit items recorded in the studio and then have all the audio ready on a USB stick for the compilation recording.

“When I have all the material assembled, I decide on a suitable running order, write a continuity script summing up the contents and email it to whoever has agreed to be the announcer. We meet on the appointed day to join Colin in the studio where, once again, he works his technical magic and makes the finished product sound even better.”

To many of us the name “Geoffrey Archer” will bring memories of hearing his numerous interviews with a wide range of individuals for *Insight* and our news programmes as well as seeing him reporting on ITV from the Troubles in Northern Ireland in the 1970s and the civil war in Beirut in 1976, Geoffrey was an accomplished journalist, one of few allowed to travel in a Polaris nuclear submarine! He eventually became Defence Correspondent for ITN and drew on his journalistic experience to publish novels with military and spy themes. Here Geoffrey describes his links with CaTN.

“My wife and I bought a house in Chichester in 2011. As keen theatre goers, we’d been attracted to the city by the presence of the Festival Theatre, as well as by its wonderful location at the foot of the South Downs and its proximity to the splendid coastline and harbour.



“A couple of years after our arrival, I decided I would like to dig beneath the obvious attractions of the area and discover more of what goes on locally. One day I was chatting to a friend who told me about the Talking News organization he had worked with in Farnham. Talking Books I certainly knew about – my own father had lost his sight and had benefited greatly from them – but the existence of Talking Newspapers was news to me. I resorted to Google and discovered CATN.

“Having worked as a broadcaster and writer for most of my adult life, I rang up and asked if I could help. John Holloway, then the head of production, invited me into the studio for a chat. We hit it off immediately when we discovered we had both started our careers in broadcasting at Southern Television, the ITV company in Southampton, although at different times.

Hired by Southern as a production trainee, I was a very green nineteen-year-old then, totally out of my depth, but I loved the buzz of the place and the enthusiasm with which the production teams went about their work. It was the early 1960s and the company produced very successful pop music shows amongst other things. One of my jobs was to help look after the stars of the day who came in to perform – the likes of Sandie Shaw, Marianne Faithful and Françoise Hardy. It felt at the time like being at the centre of the universe. My career soon moved on from that world of light entertainment to factual programmes and later to reporting for the ITN news on dramatic world events. That in turn led to a second career as a writer of spy and adventure novels, which I have also now retired from.

“After our chat ten years ago, John Holloway invited me to join the reader team for Talking News, which I gladly accepted, and I quickly came to admire the professionalism of all involved. As listeners will know, the programme has a bonus track, covering some topic outside the weekly news. One day I asked John if he’d be interested in my writing a piece about another role that I’d volunteered for locally, being an Independent Monitor at Ford prison near Arundel. He agreed and that piece went on air in the summer of 2014. It led before long to my doing regular interviews and feature reports for the Insight programme, which really fulfilled my wish to learn more about what goes on in this lovely area.

Sadly my wife and I have recently moved away from Chichester to live closer to our family, but I hope to continue to contribute to Insight, now produced by Alicia Denny, if I can.”

We hope we will be fortunate enough to hear Geoffrey’s voice on CaTN recordings again in the future.

Listener’s Lunch

Another local organisation that gives preferential treatment for CaTN is the Park Hotel, Chichester where we are able to book a three-course lunch for Listeners at a price which is well below the standard menu price.

Libbie will be sending further details in the very near future but make sure you’ve popped the date now into your diary and look out further details from Libbie. The date to keep is the Sunday 3rd September.

Future editions of Team Talk

We are always looking for items to include in Team Talk. All of our volunteers were introduced to CaTN in some way, and everyone has a story to tell. If you would like to have a short item included in a future edition of Team Talk about a special event you attended, or a memorable time in your life then please let Libbie know and we’ll help you to turn it into a short article. There’s lots to learn about each other and how we grew to volunteer with CaTN. Maybe some parts of forthcoming holidays could provide a very rich vein to quarry!

Talking News Federation (TNF) AGM and Annual Conference.

The TNF Annual Conference takes place in Coventry this coming October, from Friday 13th - Sunday 15th. Ken, Chairman, and Bob, Vice Chairman, attended last year and found it very useful. Not only are there engaging speakers but there are also opportunities to meet representatives from TNs across the country which is a good opportunity to find out how other TNs work and what they find are their most successful activities. Last year, Ken and Bob reported back to Trustees on several issues which have since been taken up. We can have up to two delegates.

If any volunteer wishes to find out more about the conference with a view to attending it then please contact Libbie who will provide you with further information.

And finally

We are now entering the holiday season. Whether you are just taking it quietly, catching up on jobs at home and in the garden, having a break in this beautiful and varied country of ours or exploring foreign parts we all hope that you have a refreshing and restorative break.