

# ON-AIR

The hospital, health & wellbeing broadcasting magazine



## In this issue:

- > 48 hours, 47 stations - The BIG Broadcast
- > Celebrating 40 years of Hospital Radio in Aylesbury
- > Getting ready for #hbauk2019
- > Radio Horton receives festive boost



## Welcome to your first **ON-AIR** of 2019!

We're one month into 2019, so let me wish you a bleated Happy New Year.  
How are your New Year's resolutions going, are you keeping them?

This is the first edition of On-Air for the year and we're continuing the festive feel, ever so slightly. We've got festive fundraising, a big broadcast and a 40th birthday all on the way in this magazine, along with news of the HBA's Annual Conference and National Hospital Radio Awards, being held in March.

Speaking of which, we're hoping to bring you a very special edition of On-Air for the Annual Conference. Keep an eye out on our social media channels for more information.

As always, we'd love for you to get involved, details below.

See you at Conference,

**Ian Pinnell**  
Editor



## Inside Issue 162

Stoke Mandeville Celebrate 40 Years	Page 4
Royal Free Radio's £1,000 Grant	Page 5
2019 Annual Conference	Page 6
48 Hours, 47 Stations. The Big Broadcast	Page 8
Record Breaking Fundraiser	Page 10
Radio Cherwell Chair on BBC Radio Oxford	Page 12
Prince Bishops Hospital Radio Expands	Page 12
Got a Story?	Page 12

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### For Your Information:

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# Latest From Vortex

## NEWS FROM VORTEX - Comrex ACCESS-NX, CallMe Low-Cost Codecs and the Great Summer of Sport, Music and Outside Broadcast

**Of course**, everyone would like to be able to afford the Industry-standard Comrex ACCESS - and indeed, many Hospital Stations have been fortunate enough to raise sufficient funds through their Leagues of Friends, gifts, sponsorship, grants and so-on, to invest in this technology.

**The ACCESS-NX** has been completely re-designed and engineered and truly is the next generation of the industry-standard ACCESS. It provides 2x Mic/Line Inputs as standard plus tape and there is an add-on mixer to provide a total of six channels. It still includes all the clever forward error correction and error masking which, with its CrossLock multi-streaming capabilities, gives rock-steady audio even over poor connections. With much-increased processing power and capacitive touch-screen, the NX provides enhanced performance and operational capability.



With OPUS codecs now included in all ACCESS and now BricLink-II (which is a cut-down version of the ACCESS-R Rackmount), a lower-cost back-end solution is now available, with NX as the remote codec and BricLink-II at the studio. SORTED

**So what is CallMe ?** Our CallMe Click-and-Connect cloud-based codec was originally developed as a low-cost add-on for the industry-standard range of Comrex codecs, as way to put guest contributors on-air without the need to download special software. Stations soon realised that it was also a useful tool for reporters who by clicking on a web link using a browser on a smartphone, desktop, laptop or tablet, have live 2-way 15kHz audio back to the studio. It is already in daily use including a major commitment by the BBC and Inrix Traffic News.

It became clear however, that some Community and smaller stations simply cannot afford to have a full-featured Comrex hardware codec at their station and we therefore decided to develop CallMe-TS (Studio Version) as a low-cost back-end for CallMe Click-and-Connect. It has no buttons but a simple web interface to set it all up.

**The next step** came after requests to use two hardware CallMe-Ts as an OB kit - in particular for using the huge installed base of Glensound ISDN mixers over IP. Users needed some form of dialling rather than having to use the browser interface so CallMe-TR (Remote Version) was born – now with four buttons on the front panel for quick preset dialling – and USB connectivity. Both versions have balanced Stereo Audio In-and-Out and provide live two-way Broadcast Audio up to 20kHz using Opus, G.711, G.722 codecs plus PCM.

**And now for the good bit . . . we really want to get you guys on-the-air “Live” and are pleased to confirm that the discounted package announced at the HBA Conference will continue to run until the end of the summer . . . PLUS we will have ex-hire kit with special pricing from September (subject to availability)**

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STOKE MANDEVILLE HOSPITAL RADIO  
VOLUNTEERS CELEBRATE 40 YEARS OF  
HOSPITAL RADIO IN AYLESBURY

Stoke  
Mandeville  
Hospital Radio

# 40 years of hospital radio in Aylesbury

Stars including Tony Hadley joined in with the celebrations at SMHR

**It was a night of celebration for the team at Stoke Mandeville Hospital Radio who, on 4th December 2018, celebrated 40 years of hospital radio in Aylesbury.**

With a special programme broadcasting throughout the evening, to the time the station officially launched back in 1978 at 19:30, the studio was full of volunteers, staff from the Royal Berkshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and stars including Spandau Ballet's Tony Hadley, X-Factor's Peter Dickson and BBC Radio 2's Ken Bruce, who is the stations patron.

Speaking at the event, held at Stoke Mandeville's studios, Chairman Simon Daniels, thanked the stations volunteers for their continued support, as well as the support of staff from Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust.

Ken Bruce, the stations patron and BBC Radio 2 presenter, relived some of his highlights during his career and continued to endorse hospital broadcasting.

Neil MacDonald, Chief Executive of Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust also attended the event, along with members of the Trusts Communications Team. Neil commented on the importance of the radio

station, which broadcasts across the wards and in some public areas of the hospital.

Ian Pinnell, Communications Executive from the Hospital Broadcasting Association, was on hand to deliver long service certificates to volunteers and the stations 40th year certificate, on behalf of June Snowden.

Martin Kinch was a recipient of one of those certificates, for 40 years dedicated service to the station.

Starting out in 1979, Martin has hosted a variety of programmes on the station, including 'Introquiz' and his current programme, 'Solid Gold', which he presents every Monday.

He has interviewed the likes of Colin Baker, Noel Edmunds and Norman Tebbit.

Speaking to The Oxford Mail, Martin said "I enjoy music, presenting and the radio. It has always been a big part of my life. Going round the wards to see how people are doing in the hospital is one the best things and receiving nice letters from patients, makes me realise how much the radio station cheers them up."



# Royal Free grant boost

The station receives £1000 from supermarket giant Tesco

**Royal Free Radio, previously known as Radio Enfield, has relocated and purchased new equipment following a £1000 grant from supermarket giant Tesco.**

The station, which broadcasts to patients in the Royal Free Hospital in Hampstead and North Middlesex University Hospital, was established in 1970.

Chairman, David Scarff, told the Enfield Independent: "When we calculated the cost of replacing our ageing studio equipment – some of which dated back to the 1980s with no spare parts available – it looked a daunting task to raise the funds to achieve this."

"The Tesco Bags of Help grant was therefore a great help in getting the project off the ground and we very much appreciate the support and interest shown by Tesco customers in helping us achieve our aim.

"We're pleased to be able to give our listeners an even better listening experience."

The radio station embarked on the fundraising drive to purchase new equipment as a result of their relocation.

Alec Brown, Tesco's Head of Community said: "Bags of Help has been a fantastic

success and we've been overwhelmed by the response from customers. It's such a special scheme because it's local people who decide how the money will be spent in their community."

The supermarket chain offers funding to community groups and charities looking to fund local projects that bring benefits to communities.

You can find out more about the Bags of Help scheme offered by Tesco by [clicking here](#).

# 2019 Annual Conference

Including the National Hospital Radio Awards | #hbauk2019

**We're looking forward to welcoming you to Stoke-on-Trent for our Annual Conference and the National Hospital Radio Awards.**

It's been a whole fifteen years since we were last in Stoke and we're sure that this year's annual conference will be jam packed and full of interesting and insightful information.

Our seminars, workshops and panel sessions have been carefully considered following our analysis of our members training needs survey. You have helped shape this year's annual conference and future training events held by the HBA, including our Roadshows.

Back to Conference though, where this year our focus lies on fundraising, charity management, conversion to a CIO, patient entertainment systems and the future of hospital radio.

Some of the seminars and sessions to look out for include:

## **Beyond the Bucket**

Taking a look at strategic fundraising tips to enable your charity to go further.

## **Moving your charity to a CIO**

Help, advice and guidance on converting your charity to a Charity Incorporated Organisation.

## **Meet The Chief Executive Officer**

A chance to find out what your NHS Trust wants from your hospital radio station.

## **NHS Wi-Fi Project Update**

An update from the NHS on its Wi-Fi Network project across hospitals.

Along with the HBA Annual General Meeting, tradeshow and exhibition and the HBA specialist advisor's surgery, there's something for everyone at this year's conference.

We've not forgotten about trips out either, there will be a range of trips to local commercial, community and hospital radio stations in the area.

On Saturday night, you are invited to join us for a night of celebration as the National Hospital Radio Awards take place, celebrating the great work and dedication of hospital radio volunteers from across the country.

You can view the shortlist of this year's entries on the [HBA website here](#).

As for the venue, all of this will take place at the Best Western Plus, The Moat House Hotel in Stoke-on-Trent.

The facilities in the hotel include an indoor heated pool, sauna, spa pool and an air-conditioned gym, along with each bedroom offering comfort cooling and free, unlimited Wi-Fi.

Bookings have now closed for our Annual Conference, so for those who have booked, we look forward to seeing you there.

If you haven't booked this year, you can follow updates from our Annual Conference and the National Hospital Radio Awards on our social media channels.



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THE FLAT CAP PACK JOINED  
THE BIG BROADCAST

# 48 hours, 47 hospitals

Richard Smith and the team held their annual New Year's Eve broadcast

**The New Years Big Broadcast helped to end 2018 in style and welcome in 2019 to 47 hospital radio stations across the UK and Ireland with a 48 hour programme.**

The A to Z of Pop's Richard Smith was joined on the most ambitious New Year's version of the show from Lancashire, by Prince Bishops Hospital Radio's Ruth Stapleton, Harrogate Hospital Radio's Oliver Stables and Hospital Radio Reading's Jonathan Sawyer and Matthew Rolland, as well as an awesome cast of contributors from as far afield as Plymouth and Elgin, Nottingham and Aberdeen.

The likes of Tony Hadley, Sarah Greene, Angela Griffin, Marcella Detroit, Jon Culshaw, Carol Decker and Brian Conley took part in our very own Room 101 feature where their least favourite song was voted on and in some cases never to be heard again!

Almost 100 requests were played out for listeners to many of those 47 stations over the weekend, very nearly 70 phone calls were taken as well as hundreds of e-mails, Facebook and twitter messages too, so the team were kept very busy.

Live music was provided by Musical Theatre student, the wonderful Jess McGlinchey and The Flat Cap Pack were also in The BIG Broadcast Live Lounge putting the Lancashire into Las Vegas.

The Big Broadcast pantomime 'Cinderella' was another highlight of the show on New Year's Eve, all captured on our studio webcams which, considering it was radio, gained almost 1200 unique hits, some of whom told the team that as the TV wasn't great, we were their entertainment of choice.

Once again, the shows Trivia Challengers had been out-and-about on the wards of some of the Hospitals taking part asking some, not so difficult questions, so patients could 'win' vouchers for either free TV, courtesy of Hospedia, or shopping vouchers from Tesco and Sainsbury's, with the winner being someone who had listened to the majority of the show from his bed!

But all this was overshadowed by a first for UK Hospital Radio in that the team were able to link up live to the wards of The Royal Blackburn, The Diana Princess of Wales in Grimsby as well as the Basingstoke and North





# tal radio stations

## New Years Big Broadcast to end 2018 in style

Hampshire Hospital to chat live to patients and staff on New Year's Eve morning, all of whom made requests for their favourite music to be heard on the wards.

Speaking to On-Air, Richard Smith said:

"None of this would be possible without the co-operation and input from those stations and their members who all deserve lots of credit when it would be a whole lot easier to just leave us to it, but it makes a huge difference if we can have that interaction with patients, staff and listeners, whether it be live, recorded or as a request phoned, emailed or messaged into us."

"The team and I feel that we continue to push the boundaries of what can be achieved by Hospital Radio, and with the ever-changing face of the NHS and how small the window of opportunity to meet patients and listeners has become, it's important to us to still be relevant and appreciated by those who do choose to listen to The BIG Broadcast when there are so many other things they could be doing with their time."

"There are so many people who give their time, expertise and talent for free and if I were to make

a list, we'd run out of space (and I'd probably forget someone as well), so, needless to say my thanks go out to everyone who got involved in, listened (or watched), sponsored or took part in any way in this year's show, without you, it simply wouldn't have happened - thank you."

The BIG Broadcast team will be returning for more of the same on New Year's Eve 2019 for 24 hours of fun and frolics to see in the new decade in their own inimitable fashion and planning is already well underway for the event.

If you are interested in finding out more about The BIG Broadcast or how your station can get involved, [visit the website here](#). Alternatively, contact the team on social media @bigbroadcastuk.



# Record breaking festive fundraiser

Radio Horton raises record breaking amount at annual fundraiser

**North Oxfordshire's Hospital Radio station, Radio Horton has accomplished a record-breaking number of donations, raising £800.00 at its annual festive fundraiser which took place at the Oxford Road branch of Sainsbury's on 22nd December 2018.**

Intrepid volunteers from the station provided entertainment to shoppers as they entered the supermarket, helping to spread festive cheer to shoppers and staff. Santa Claus (Radio Horton's Bill Warren) was also on hand to help make sure public spirits were high in time for Christmas.

Speaking after the event and on notification of the amount received, Radio Horton's Outside Events Coordinator and Trustee, Bill Warren commented: "We are overwhelmed by the support from the local community and shoppers of Sainsbury's once again for their generosity before Christmas. Eight hundred pounds is a fantastic amount and we really cannot thank the public enough for their charitableness."

"We would also like to thank the staff of Sainsbury's Banbury for their excellent hospitality and for welcoming us back. We look forward to more fundraising events with

the store this year."

The donations received from the festive fundraiser will contribute towards purchasing a new generator and new equipment for Radio Horton's outside events, after theft and vandalism was caused to its Outside Broadcast Vehicles last summer following a break-in, as well as helping the station to expand its listener reach beyond the Horton General Hospital to health, care and wellbeing organisations in Banburyshire.

Warren continues: "These funds will go a long way in replenishing and replacing vital equipment the station needs to continue its outside events well into 2019, after the vehicles were broken into in the summer."

"We are hoping to attract new listeners as we expand into care homes and health centres in the region and these funds will significantly support us in overseeing this project, by allowing us to continue to invest in Wi-Fi radios and digital technology."



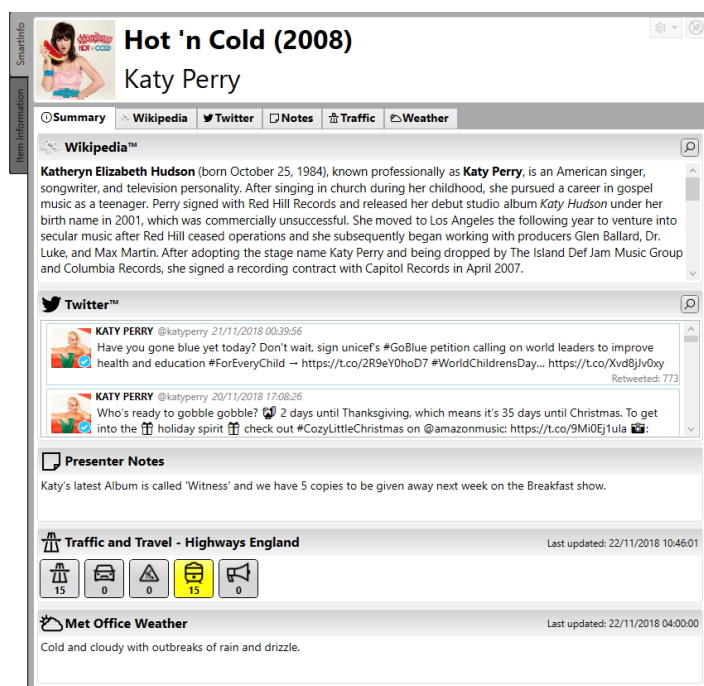
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For more info visit: [www.broadcastradio.com/capitol](http://www.broadcastradio.com/capitol)

## RADIO CHERWELL CHAIR GUESTS ON BBC OXFORD



Radio Cherwell's Chairman, Neil Stockton, appeared as a guest on BBC Radio Oxford in January.

Speaking to the BBC's Al Ryan, Neil re-lived the station's history, where some of BBC Oxford's best-known personalities started, and gave an overview of the station as it is today.

## PRINCE BISHOPS HOSPITAL RADIO EXPANDS



PRINCE BISHOPS  
HOSPITAL RADIO

LISTEN LIVE

Prince Bishops Hospital Radio (Formerly Auckland Hospital Radio) has expanded its service to now broadcast to patients at Darlington Memorial Hospital.

The team have been broadcasting from Bishop Auckland Hospital for 40 years and later expanded the service in 2005 to include listeners at The Richardson Hospital, Barnard Castle.

# Got a story?

For inclusion in the next edition

**ON-AIR** is the Hospital Broadcasting Association's quarterly magazine that celebrates the work of hospital, health and wellbeing broadcasters and organisations from across the country.

If you've got a story that you would like featured in the next edition of the magazine, [please get in touch via the website.](#)

When submitting your story, please ensure you submit high quality photographs too, a mixture of portrait and landscape. Our bolder, brighter, fresher look focuses as much of the images as well as the text that helps tell your story.

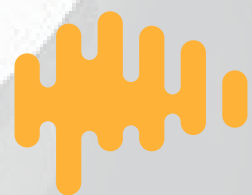
Got any questions or concerns? [Please email the editor.](#)



A grayscale background image of a radio studio. A person is visible on the right, wearing a headset and holding a microphone. In the center, a large, stylized orange hand graphic is superimposed. The hand has five fingers, each with a small notch at the tip. The text 'The Bionic Studio is here.' is written in a bold, dark blue font across the middle of the hand.

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- heart disease
- kidney disease
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- diabetes
- COPD (e.g. bronchitis or emphysema)

Flu can be serious and lead to hospitalisation.

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**HELP US  
HELP YOU**

STAY WELL THIS WINTER

[nhs.uk/flu vaccine](https://nhs.uk/flu vaccine)

This is not a full list of conditions. If you have a long-term health condition, talk to your GP surgery or local pharmacist to see if you are eligible for a flu jab.

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**Cheril Sowell,  
Registered Nurse**



# Missed an issue?

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 @thehbauk #HBAOnAir

 Hospital Broadcasting Association

**HBA**  
HOSPITAL BROADCASTING ASSOCIATION

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