

ON-AIR

The Quarterly Hospital Radio Magazine



In this issue:

- > Radio Tyneside & The Queen's Award
- > Renuka commentates
- > John Joyce raises money for Headway
- > More of your stories & contributions

Don't forget to check the back page of this edition as it's a wraparound cover.

Words from your editor, Ian Pinnell.

Welcome to your latest edition of **ON-AIR** Magazine. In fact, this is Issue 159, and my twelfth since taking over as Editor almost three years ago. I think you'll agree, the magazine has changed quite substantially over the past few of years, notably over the last few issues. I hope you're enjoying the new bolder, brighter and fresher look.

But this magazine wouldn't be around if it wasn't for you and the tremendous work you do day in, day out, to support patients, staff and visitors of your hospitals and work within your wider community.

There's lots to celebrate in this edition and let's not forget the NHS is 70 years old this July. Hospital Radio, and hospital broadcasting in general, has been around for just as long and is still as strong today as it ever has been. If you're interested in finding out more about Hospital Radio or finding your nearest station, details follow in the magazine.

Continue sending in your stories for the next edition of On-Air, which is due to be released towards the end of August 2018. [Submit your stories via our website.](#)

Ian Pinnell

Editor, **ON-AIR** Magazine



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For Your Information:

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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 rounded 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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RADIO TYNESIDE & THE QUEEN'S AWARD

Also soon to be heard on FM across Newcastle & Gateshead

2018 is turning out to be a special year for Radio Tyneside

Following winning three awards at the National Hospital radio awards in March the station has just been awarded the Queens award for voluntary service, this is the MBE for voluntary organisations.

Also, next month the station is to launch on FM across Newcastle and Gateshead as a Hospital and Community station, promoting health and well-being.

The Chairman of Radio Tyneside said: "This year is turning out to be an amazing period for hospital radio in Newcastle and Gateshead and especially for our volunteers who have worked extremely hard to achieve this award. It comes at a time when the station is to begin broadcasting on FM after being awarded a frequency by OFCOM. We are launching on the 5th of July which is the 70th anniversary of the NHS and will be promoting health and well-being across our area."

Radio Tyneside will be heard on 93.6fm.



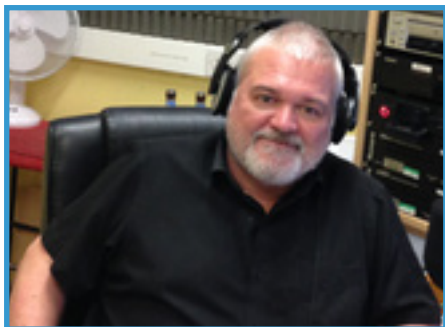
**The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service**

The MBE for volunteer groups

CHIEF EXEC JOINS HRB

Hampshire Hospitals Chief Exec on air in Basingstoke.

JOHN JOYCE RAISES MONEY FOR HEADWAY



Mid Downs Radio veteran presenter John Joyce hosted a non-stop 24-hour fund raising show on 9/10 March in support of the charity Headway's 30th Anniversary.

The show, called "24 for 24" (based on funding 24 weeks of counselling sessions) was a remarkable piece of live broadcasting and raised by the end of the show £1460, which, with gift aid, gives a total of £1743.75.

There were over 70 donors ranging from individuals to local businesses.

HRB NAMED TOP 5 RADIO STATION IN THE UK



Hospital Radio Basingstoke (HRB) finished top 5 in the 'Station of the Year' category at the National Hospital Radio Awards in March. They also finished top 5 in the 'Station Promotion' and top 10 in 3 other categories including 'Female Presenter of the Year'.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF HAMPSHIRE HOSPITALS TRUST
ALEX WHITFIELD JOINS DAVE LEONARD AT HRB.

Chief Executive of Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Alex Whitfield, joined presenter and Hospital Radio Basingstoke Chairman, Dave Leonard, to co-host a radio show last month.

Alex joined Dave in the studio on Wednesday 4th April 2018 to help read out requests and reflect on her first year in the position of Chief Executive of the Basingstoke & North Hampshire Hospital. She was interested in how the radio station provides a 24-hour service to the patients and staff of the hospital.

Alex follows in the footsteps of Liz Padmore, Chairman of the Hampshire Hospitals HNS Foundation Trust who co-hosted a show in October 2017. This show will also be followed by another similar show with Donna Green, Deputy Chief Executive in the next few months.



LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE

Radio Clatterbridge say tatty-bye to patron Sir Ken Dodd

Radio Clatterbridge hit the headlines when the Merseyside station celebrated the life of its patron, Sir Ken Dodd.

The comedian died at home in March after being treated in hospital for a chest infection. He was 90.

The station marked his passing with an affectionate celebration of his life on the day of his funeral at Liverpool's Anglican Cathedral.

The specially-themed Doddy Day featured comedy clips, music and memories of the legendary comic and singer.

Paul Johnston, programme controller, said: "Sir Ken Dodd had a long history of supporting our station. So, in tribute, as family, friends and fans gathered to remember him, we thought this was the best way to celebrate his life."

And while listeners heard stories from some of his friends, the TV cameras were also recording the proceedings.

A crew from ITV's regional news programme Granada Reports filmed in the studio and on the wards.

Reporter Ann O'Connor interviewed presenter Di Gaskell and station chairman Steve Evans

before speaking to nursing staff and patients about their memories of Sir Ken.

Steve said: "He supported many charities here at the health park and he was always willing to come in and give an interview to us."

Sir Ken became a patron of the station in 2004 after receiving a formal request from the Radio Clatterbridge committee.

Meanwhile, Mark Wilson, a former volunteer at the charity, unearthed an interview he did with Sir Ken during the Knotty Ash garden fete in about 1984.

Listeners to the Coffee Club were amongst the first to hear it in more than three decades.

Mark said: "It was my very first interview and I was a badge nervous. I hardly got a word in edgeways as Ken was just so brilliant."

Doddy Day also featured on local radio and in the local press, but it wasn't the only reason for the media to visit the Radio Clatterbridge studios that week.

TV presenter Dominic Littlewood and the team from the programme *Right On The Money* were also filming at the station.

The programme will be broadcast on BBC One this summer.



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RENUKA COMMENTATES

At the King Power Stadium through Radio Gwendolen

Renuka Odedra, 21, from Evington, provides live match reports from the King Power Stadium direct to Leicester General patients' bedsides, alongside other volunteers, and also has her own sports show on the station on Friday mornings.

She was inspired to get into sports radio after speaking to former Match of the Day presenter Jacqui Oatley, and is now in the middle of her second year studying journalism at De Montfort University.

"I contacted Jacqui after coming home from Manchester Metropolitan University, where I studied Digital Media, and feeling unsure what my next step should be", recalls Renuka. "She was so helpful, and told me she started her broadcast career in radio, so I started contacting local radio stations."

Renuka spoke to Radio Gwendolen's management and discovered the station was looking for a volunteer sports reporter, and following an interview and some trial runs she was covering matches from the ground while rubbing shoulders with professional sports journalists – sometimes literally.

"All the reporters from the different media sit together on the same bench watching the games," says Renuka, "so it can be pretty hectic

and loud, especially when City score!"

Renuka continues, "Looking at the sports journalism industry, there's still not that many women represented, and certainly not many Asian women, so at first I found it a bit daunting, but there are lots of people to learn from and encourage me, and I'm picking up things about the industry all the time while sharpening my skills as a commentator and reporter."

Ian Green, Station Manager at Hospital Radio Gwendolen, said, "We met with Renuka and immediately realised she had talent and wanted to learn while volunteering with us, so we trained her up and she is now one of our regular match day reporters. As well as providing a service to the patients and staff, hospital radio is a vital way for budding journalists to get into broadcasting."

Radio Gwendolen is always looking for potential volunteers and donations. To listen to the station tune into 1287AM, or online at www.radiogwendolen.co.uk (match commentary is not provided online due to licencing restrictions).



STUDIO RENAME IS A RACING CERT

Scunthorpe Hospital Radio honour two stalwarts

Two stalwarts of Scunthorpe Hospital Radio (SHR) have been remembered, with a studio at the station named in their honour.

Alan Ellis died last year – just months after his co-presenter Brian Tock also passed away. The pair had been with the station since its early days.

As well as hosting individual shows, the two presenters became well known on the wards of Scunthorpe General for their Saturday morning Racing Ahead programme, in which they shared with patients their horse racing tips on that days televised race meetings.

Now, to ensure their contribution to the station is never forgotten, the studio they broadcast the programme from at the hospital, has been named the Racing Ahead Studio.

Both Alan and Brian's widows Hazel Ellis and Margaret Tock attended a special unveiling ceremony, pulling the cord to reveal a plaque bearing the studios new name before then sitting in the seats their late husbands would have sat in, in the studio where many a racing tip was discussed.

SHR's Sean Dunderdale was asked to say a few words before the unveiling. He said he believed the Racing Ahead Studio would do

more than just remember the two men – but act as an inspiration for others:

"I hope that new volunteers joining the station will ask who Alan and Brian were and why the studio is so-called, and we'll be able to explain how they managed to put together a popular programme, yet never forgot the listener they were talking too. That's why they only discussed the days televised racing, knowing patients could then watch the exact race on their TV later that afternoon and see how they did. They also understood the importance of Hospital Radio, from getting out on the wards collecting requests, to fundraising – standing in the street on a cold December day at the annual station bed push – to promoting the station at every opportunity. I'd also like to think that one or two listeners might have phoned home on a Saturday and asked their family or friends to put a pound or two on one of the tips, and left hospital a little richer than when they arrived."



CELEBRATING 70 YEARS OF OUR NHS

The NHS is celebrating its 70th birthday this year, and your local hospital radio station will be celebrating.

You may see them out and about across your hospital or the wider community, joining in the celebrations of NHS Trusts across the country. You may also hear them broadcast special programmes or interviews with NHS Staff and patients alike.

Find your closest HBA Member station via [the interactive map on our website](#) and join in the celebrations.

And, if you're a volunteer of a hospital radio station, or have seen your local station out and about, send us your stories and photos to be included in the next edition of *On-Air*.

#NHS70

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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JADE HITS THE AIRWAVES

Former *"The Voice"* contestant joined Hospital Radio Ipswich



A fabulous night's entertainment from Jade MayJean live on Hospital Radio Ipswich took place on the 12th June.

Mark Eley, who previously interviewed Jade four years ago, was the programme host. Jade took part in the 2014 episode of *'The Voice'* and quickly made her mark on the music scene.

From being unknown she will appear as the headline act at the 'Ipswich Music Day' this year. Jade will take to the stage at 7pm on the 1st July before travelling north to appear at 'Butefest' in Scotland. Her debut album '20SIXTY' continues to sell widely and is available for purchase on all the main music platforms.

Jade told Mark Eley that Ella Fitzgerald, Amy Winehouse and Dusty Springfield have been big influences on her life and the naming of her album reflects the eras influence upon her.

Social media was buzzing with comments and praise throughout the show and Jade thanked Hospital Radio Ipswich for having been supportive over the years.

Mark Eley praised Jade for all she has achieved and wished her the very best from all at HRI and also those that had listened online.

Chairman of the charity Moira Burt also thanked Jade for all her time and on behalf of HRI wished her every success.

SHARE YOUR STORIES

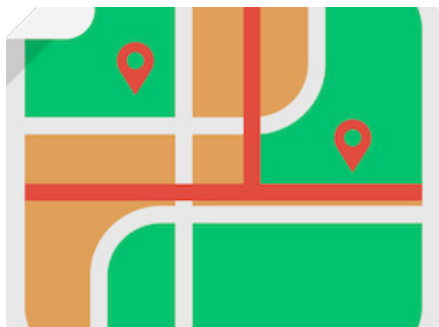
Your next edition of **ON-AIR** arrives late August 2018

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FIND YOUR NEAREST HBA MEMBER STATION



Want to find out more about your local Hospital Radio station? There's lots of information about hospital broadcasting, what we do at the Hospital Broadcasting Association and a full list of our member stations available online.

Visit our website, www.hbauk.com

ON-AIR is the Hospital Broadcasting Association's quarterly magazine that celebrates the work of hospital broadcasters and their volunteers from across the country.

If you're a volunteer of a member station, a committee member or publicity manager, we'd love to hear from you.

Your story could make it to the next edition of this magazine. Submit your press release, stories and photographs [via our website](#). Please ensure your photographs are high quality and a mixture of portrait and landscape.

You can also email your stories to onair@hbauk.com

Not suitable for On-Air?
Occasionally, stories you send for inclusion in On-Air may be diverted away to other HBA communication channels, including our website, social media channels and members newsletter.

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THE RADIO TYNESIDE TEAM
Photograph Courtesy Radio Tyneside.