

Issue 123
July/August 2008

ON AIR



HBATM
HOSPITAL BROADCASTING ASSOCIATION

**What is Kenny Ball doing at
Radio Addenbrooke's?
Read all about it on page 8**

The Last Autumn Conference ... Ever

This is your chance to be present when history is made. Due to changes taking place within the HBA, the HBA Executive have decided not to hold any more Autumn conference so the last one will be held 10th-12th October 2008 at the four star St Johns Hotel (formerly the Marriott Renaissance) in Solihull.



The first Autumn Conference was held at Durham in 1970 ...
thirty eight years ago.

The last will be at Solihull from 10th – 12th October 2008.

The hotel is five miles from Birmingham International Airport and Rail station and is less than two miles from the M42 motorway. Birmingham City Centre is eight miles away and for chocolate lovers, Cadbury World is just six miles away.

The hotel has all the facilities you would expect from a modern four star hotel, including a leisure centre with a swimming pool and a whirlpool/jacuzzi/hot tub.

You can find more details of the hotel at:

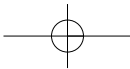
<http://www.principal-haley.com/birmingham/the-st-johns-hotel/index.asp>

We have a full programme of seminars and visits planned plus the AGM and an after dinner speaker for Saturday night.

All this can be yours for just £135.

There are NO single room supplements.

You can download a booking form from the HBA website www.hbauk.com or if you prefer, call or e-mail Marie Harper on 0870 321 6017 conferences@hbauk.com



ON AIRTM

July/August 2008 Issue 123



**The Official Journal of the
Hospital Broadcasting Association**

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FRONT COVER STORY:
Kenny Ball uncovers Radio
Addenbrooke's new logo.
See page 8 for full story



hi everyone,

My sincere thanks to everyone who has taken the trouble to send in articles and photographs – this is what makes for a great magazine. But I always need more features, so please try and send in a report of your station's latest activities.

On page 11 you can read the report of a meeting between Technical Officer Geoff Fairburn, Regional Manager Dave Lockyer and Patientline. But all this has been blown out of the water by the news that Patientline has been bought by newly formed company Hospedia, who are also buying rival company Premier Telesolutions. Let us hope this will save the concern of many stations who are dependent on Patientline – watch this space for updates.

Do make sure you get your bookings in for our last ever Autumn Conference and make your own bit of history.

Enjoy your summer and may the sun keep shining on your station.

Michelle

DIARY DATES
10th-12th October 2008
AUTUMN CONFERENCE
RENAISSANCE HOTEL, SOLIHULL
11th October 2008
HBA AGM
27th-29th March 2008
SPRING CONFERENCE 2009
HILTON HOTEL, BLACKPOOL
HOSPITAL BROADCASTING WEEK
28th March-5th, April 2009

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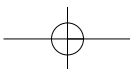
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COPY DATE NEXT ISSUE 16th August, 2008



Committee Report

Welcome

Once again I'm pleased to say I can start by welcoming another lapsed member back to the fold. This time it's Radio Lollipop in Southampton.

Membership Subscriptions

Thanks for renewing your membership subscriptions. By the time you read this, all Full Members should have received their membership certificates. At the time of writing, the paper and envelopes arrived a few hours ago, I'm awaiting a final list of those who renewed from Julie Cox, our Treasurer and will hopefully be able to get everything printed and stuffed in envelopes by the end of the week.

A number of membership subscriptions will, undoubtedly have lapsed – it happens every year, some die, unfortunately, to stations closing but mostly due to administrative failings. I'm sure that we'll hear from many of these lapsed stations in the coming weeks and months wondering why we're not talking to them any more. Myself and Julie have already dealt with any number of queries about the renewals process; members complaining about not receiving invitations to renew or mail going to the wrong person.

Could I please ask that you check that at least one of your station's management committee has an account on our website with the necessary administrative privileges to update your station's details and that they update the details whenever there are any changes on your station's committee?

A small number of stations have asked if we could send the renewal invitation to a different person than other correspondence – for example the Treasurer. The simple answer is 'no' – our membership database only has the capability to hold one main contact person.

Yes, I suppose we could change the database but I'm not convinced that doing so won't create further problems. What's the chances that the contact details of this new contact person are still going to be correct by the time we come to send the annual renewal invitation out? At least if we use the same address for all correspondence there's some chance of the database getting corrected within weeks or months, rather than years!



by Nigel Dallard, Secretary

Changes to Autumn Conferences

At its meeting in May, as promised, the Executive Committee reviewed the comments made during the Informal Meeting in Leeds about its plans to replace the Autumn Conference with regional training events.

The EC is legally obliged to spend the Association's resources in the most effective way to further its charitable objects. The EC feels that there are more effective uses of HBA's money than to subsidise Autumn conferences in the way that has been necessary over recent years.

Recent trial training events in the Wales & West and South regions have shown how popular such events can be, both in attracting good numbers of delegates and in attracting delegates who would not normally avail themselves of HBA's services. The cost per delegate to the HBA of such events is much smaller than the cost of staging a traditional-style Autumn conference and there is the additional bonus of there being more external funding opportunities that may further reduce the cost to HBA.

The EC, therefore, unanimously agreed that the proposed transitional conference/training event in Autumn 2009 should continue as planned. A review will be undertaken after that event to judge its success or failure and a decision made at that point as to the format of future events.

The Events subcommittee were investigating venues in the Leicester and Birmingham areas to maximise the accessibility. It is planned that accommodation will be available on the Friday and Saturday night for those delegates who wish to stay over. The idea is that the cost of a residential weekend should be comparable with the cost of attending a current Autumn conference but there will be more options for those wishing to simply attend the training. Local stations will still be encouraged to offer and arrange trips to those staying over.

Revised Governing Documents

You will, by now, have received copies of the proposed revised governing documents for the HBA – its Memorandum & Articles of Association. Electronic copies can be found at www.hbauk.co.uk/agm2008. I have now received support for debating the adoption of these documents at the meeting from the necessary ten per cent of the Full Members; thank you to those who took the time to provide their support.

Please do take the time to read the documents. Whilst the revisions do not change the fundamental purpose of the HBA, there are significant changes.

Firstly the documents are made compatible with current Charity and Company Law; the Charities Act 2006 and the Companies Act 2006 brought in significant changes, some of which override provisions in the current Mem & Arts, plus there are a number of long-standing incompatibilities with legislation that were identified during a thorough review in 2003.

Secondly, the documents are worded to allow the HBA the maximum flexibility afforded to charities under the new legislation.

And thirdly, the documents have been drafted to allow the management structure of the HBA to be changed; currently the structure is pretty much fixed by the Articles requiring an Executive Committee of Trustees including some with specific roles. Please note that the revised documents do not require or assume that the proposed restructuring of the Association happens. The changes are, however, necessary to allow any such restructuring to happen.

If you'd like to propose an amendment to the proposals, I would

Committee Report

encourage you to, first of all, contact me to discuss your concerns with the current wording. Under Clause 82 of the existing Articles, formal amendments must be submitted to me by 16th August and each must be supported by 10% of Full Members.

However, the EC has the ability, under that same clause to submit its own amendments and it may be that your concerns can be addressed via this mechanism rather than you having to find other members to support you.

The same mechanism will be used to incorporate any amendments requested by the Charity Commission, which has been asked to approve the draft documents.

I'm afraid that you cannot propose an amendment at the AGM; the precise wording must be circulated to all members at least 21 days ahead of the meeting.

I will endeavour to keep the AGM page on the website updated with the latest state of the proposed revised Mem & Arts, together with the proposed Bylaws and draft Regulations that will be needed to complete the set of governing documents.

The final AGM agenda and all supporting documents will be available on the website by 20th September and posted to members (who have not opted to receive communications electronically) to arrive by that date.

Revised Regional Bylaws

At its May meeting, the EC adopted some minor revisions to the regional bylaws. These bylaws set out the process under which regional AGMs are called and Regional Reps elected.

These bylaws have now been aligned with the revised Company Law that requires companies to allow members to appoint proxies to represent them, and vote on their behalf, at all general meetings.

Members will be asked to formally ratify these revisions at the AGM in October.

**COPY DATE
NEXT ISSUE
16th August
2008**

June's Travels



Well it is June's travels and I am writing them in June – and yes, I was born in June, so have just celebrated a birthday, not a significant one but it was a very pleasant day and it was one of those few days when it did not rain so the BBQ I went to was excellent.

I belong to a local twinning association as we are twinned with a town in Denmark and I am really looking forward to meeting my host family some time hopefully later this year in their town.

I was very pleased I could make it to Chelmsford for their AGM where I was able to present some very well deserved Long Service Certificates. The same week I also went to York for our AGM and presented more Long service certificates.

I was delighted to be able to join in a phone-in with Radio Fox on the last day of their RSL – well done Radio Fox, it sounded as though you had a really successful time. I wish I could have been with you but it was just not possible but we did have a good chat on air.

I have managed to get away for a few days on a narrow boat trip and thankfully the weather was reasonable.

I will be shortly attending Radio Addenbrookes AGM where again I will be delighted to be able to present lots of Long Service Certificates and again, before the end of this month, my travels take me to Nuneaton to Anker Radio, my first visit to the station, where I will also be presenting certificates. It is unfortunate but has not been possible to sort out a date for a visit to Kettering

but I hope that will be resolved in the not too distant future and I look forward to seeing you all again when it can be arranged.

A lovely visit which took place this week was to BBC Radio 2. Chief Executive Phil Moon and I went to see Sir Terry Wogan, our superb Patron, for the last half hour of his programme. It was good to see him again and he made several comments on air about hospital radio – and gave everyone a great mention and praise for the hard work you all do.

Ken Bruce also popped into the studio so it was good to briefly catch up with Ken who I had not seen for some years since he came to one of our conferences.

I am looking forward to going to Hospital Radio Hastings next month, my first visit to the station and two other visits for July will hopefully be in the pipeline including Grimsby and Seaside.

I already have pencilled in other visits in August, September and the plans for those include the Scottish AGM where I hope lots of stations will not only be attending but also hope to hear that you have lots of people who are eligible for Long Service Certificates.

It is absolutely amazing that the number of certificates issued so far this year have exceeded the numbers issued for any of the previous four years since I started producing the certificates and keeping records of those issued – we are now up to 196. Last year at this stage I had issued 166 and in 2006 it was 175. So, please do keep those requests coming, there must be a lot of you who deserve the certificates.

Station Secretaries or Station Managers should send me their list of names of those eligible on headed notepaper and please, do give me enough notice to ensure they reach you in time for any special occasion you may have organised. I usually ask for one month's notice please.

Certificates are issued for 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 and so on ... and yes I have issued certificates for 45 and 50 years. We at the HBA believe very strongly that it is important to recognise the hard work, dedication and commitment everyone gives to hospital radio. Please also see the list of those for whom I have recently issued certificates – now regularly published in On Air.

Have a good summer
**Best wishes,
June**

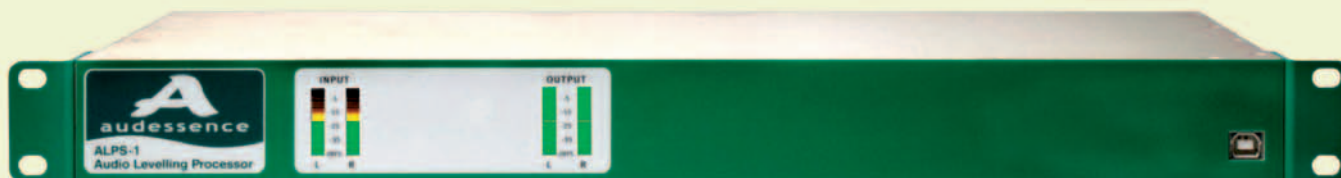


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HBA – LONG SERVICE CERTIFICATES ISSUED April to June 2008

We now list members who have received or are about to receive Long Service Certificates in the two months, since the last copy of On Air and will be a regular feature.

Many congratulations and thanks to all whose names are below and whose hard work, dedication and commitment to hospital radio is acknowledged by these certificates

Dave Wheeler	Radio Tyneside	30
Gordon Brown	Radio Tyneside	30
Richard Finch	Radio Tyneside	25
Ian Hornsby	Radio Tyneside	25
Max Taylor	Radio Tyneside	25
Jonathan Morrell	Radio Tyneside	20
Steve Emerson	Radio Tyneside	15
David Agnew	Radio Tyneside	15
Martin Green	Radio Tyneside	10
Brian Lee	Radio Tyneside	10
Phil Still	Hospital Radio Maidstone	20
Carol Walford	Hospital Radio Maidstone	20
Nigel Ashton	Hospital Radio Maidstone	15
Steve Catchpole	Hospital Radio Maidstone	35
Ron Greenfield	Hospital Radio Maidstone	10
Gill Hardwell	Hospital Radio Maidstone	20
Brian Jones	Hospital Radio Maidstone	10
Mary Judd	Hospital Radio Maidstone	30
Vincent Judd	Hospital Radio Maidstone	40
Rachel Judd	Hospital Radio Maidstone	20
Lisa Ann Judd	Hospital Radio Maidstone	25
Jim Lakeland	Hospital Radio Maidstone	40
Ian Tucker	Hospital Radio Maidstone	10
Martin Haskell	Hospital Radio Maidstone	10
Steve Wood	Hospital Radio Maidstone	10
Damian Wood	Hospital Radio Maidstone	10
Reg Mansfield	Hospital Radio Maidstone	10
Steve Totman	Radio Lion Guildford	20
Angela Boxall	Radio Lion Guildford	10
Shelagh Godwin	Radio Lion Guildford	10
Jim Reid	Hospital Radio Perth	10
Caroline Reid	Hospital Radio Perth	15
Diana MacIntyre	Hospital Radio Perth	15
Alistair Smith	Hospital Radio Perth	15
Alan Downton	Radio Camelot Yeovil	10
Val Deacon	Radio Camelot Yeovil	15
Mike Evans	Radio Camelot Yeovil	35
Garry Drew	Radio Robin, Ilkeston	15
Richard Smith	Radio Robin, Ilkeston	15
Jason Clark	Whitechapel AM	15
Alex Grundon	Whitechapel AM	10
Gary Kekeke	Whitechapel AM	10
Catherine Ayre	Whitechapel AM	10
Geoffrey Ogunleye	Whitechapel AM	10
Dan Ayre	Huddersfield Hospital Radio	25
Phil Daniel	Huddersfield Hospital Radio	25
David Falkingham	Huddersfield Hospital Radio	25
Richard Parry	Huddersfield Hospital Radio	25
Trevor Horn	Huddersfield Hospital Radio	25
Sheila Skilleter	Huddersfield Hospital Radio	25
Phil Marshall	Huddersfield Hospital Radio	20
Anne Stephenson	Huddersfield Hospital Radio	20
Gareth Hughes	Huddersfield Hospital Radio	20
Granville Colbeck	Huddersfield Hospital Radio	15
Lynne Barrow	Huddersfield Hospital Radio	15
Matthew Foster	Huddersfield Hospital Radio	15
Terry Ryan	Huddersfield Hospital Radio	10
Wally Valentine	Kettering Hospital Radio	25
Steven Hardisty	Hospital Radio Fox	15
Johnny Bance	Hospital Radio Fox	15
Mike Brown	Radio Addenbrookes Cambridge	35
Mike Turnbull	Radio Addenbrookes Cambridge	25
Phil Rowe	Radio Addenbrookes Cambridge	25
Michelle Rowe	Radio Addenbrookes Cambridge	20
Richard Saunders	Radio Addenbrookes Cambridge	15
Barry Jones	Radio North Tees	15



Technology for today and tomorrow

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www.sbes2008.com
for more information

WEDNESDAY 5 AND THURSDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2008 - NEC, Birmingham



SOUND BROADCASTING EQUIPMENT SHOW What is it all about?

Thirty years ago it was easy to define the SBES. Independent commercial radio was in its infancy and controlled by a government body called the IBA. This authority specified not just who should broadcast and what style of programming they should use but also the technical specification of the studios, the equipment and even the competency of the engineering staff.

BBC too was growing. As well as their main four network radio programmes there were BBC Local Radio Stations everywhere. All these too had to meet stringent technical specifications.

Now all has changed and is still changing. But still SBES is here. Much of the equipment has become software. Studios and stations have become smaller. Independent local radio stations have become independent national groups and the BBC seems to be shrinking with every next governmental or BBC Board edict.

We are not a large industry though we do entertain and inform many millions of people in the UK.

Community Broadcasting and Hospital Broadcasting has grown. Maybe because it is now easier and cheaper to get on air so to speak. However, both are growth areas as far as our industry is concerned and both are extremely important to the future of the sound broadcasting industry as this is where the station staff of the future learn their trade.

Small is beautiful some say. And thus it is with SBES.

There are, around the world, many very big 'broadcasting' exhibitions and conventions. These now are becoming more about integrated media; about not just the making and delivery of programmes but also about how the consumers will 'receive' their entertainment. By mobile phone, by the internet, by cable, by satellite and so the list expands.

But SBES is not large. SBES is often referred to as a niche event. Small by some standards but specific in what it is and to whom it is addressing itself.

In 2008 the SBES will again be held at the NEC. The dates chosen are Wednesday and Thursday 5/6 November, thus avoiding The BBC's Children In Need Appeal which seemed to use every member of BBC staff in the country and a quite a few independents as well.

HBA will, of course, be represented and we hope that you too will come along and meet with your mates and industry peers to get updated on all that is new and all that is happening in sound broadcasting

NEWS BRIEF ROOKWOOD SOUND ON TV

Some of you will be aware that Rookwood Sound is also the Community Radio Station featured in the S4C soap 'Pobol-y-Cwm'. Filming is currently taking place at the studios for the daily programme, shown nightly at 8pm. You can see scenes featuring Rookwood Sound's Studios on 26-28 July. For viewers from outside Wales the programme is shown on Satellite Channel 134.

Charlie Brown

60th Anniversary Celebrations

Grampian Hospital Radio's Chairman for over ten years, John Graham had a lunch he will never forget in July when he ended up sitting next to Her Majesty the Queen.

John, who has over 30 years' service in the NHS, was nominated to attend the luncheon at Beardsmore Hotel in Glasgow as part of the NHS 60th birthday celebrations not only in recognition of his 30 plus years' service in the NHS but also to recognise the volunteer work he does as Chairman of Grampian Hospital Radio.

There were about 200 guests who comprised Health Care workers from all over Scotland at the lunch in the Beardsmore Hotel in Clydebank in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen, Prince Philip and Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing, Nicola Sturgeon.

John said, 'It was an incredible experience. I knew the day before I would be at the same table as the Queen and we had all met her and Prince Philip before lunch; when we were ushered into the dining room I realised I would be sitting next to Her Majesty. It was a great honour, not just in recognising my time in the NHS but also for Grampian Hospital Radio as well. John summed up his experience saying that The Queen was delightful and charming as we ate our lunch and time passed all too quickly as she was off on her next engagement.

Definitely a day John Graham will never forget!

Pinehurst Lodge Hotel helps GHR

The congenial surroundings of the Pinehurst Lodge Hotel in Dyce was the venue for Grampian Hospital Radio's Quiz Night on 6th June 2008. The Hotel sponsors GHR's Vintage Years programme and kindly offered the use of their Hotel to help us raise funds to upgrade and improve our music playout system. Quizmaster Jim Simpson welcomed the 18 teams before tackling the first round of questions. Having got into the swing of the things, Films was the subject under scrutiny for round two. The break between rounds two and three provided an opportunity for selling raffle tickets and the assembled company were very willing to take their chance to win various bottles of alcohol and a number of prizes donated by local businesses ranging from meals to beauty treatments. Round three was for the history buffs, many of whom need to improve their Scottish history knowledge. Angus the Bull, mascot for Aberdeen FC and our celebrity guest for the evening popped in at half-time. Patrons of the Pinehurst have been donating their loose change to a charity bottle on the bar, the bottle had been filled and Angus accepted it on our behalf from Drew Crawford, owner of the Hotel. In addition to providing the venue, the Pinehurst kindly supplied an excellent buffet. Rivalry between the teams was hotting up and the remaining rounds were Pop Music, Sport and Pot Luck. While the scores were being added to the score sheet between rounds the raffle was held. This was followed by an auction for a bottle of 12 year old Glenfiddich donated by the local Asda, £100 voucher from Slater Menswear and a ten year old signed Aberdeen FC football donated by the Hotel. The football was the surprise of the evening – it went for £101! Quiz Night winners were presented with two bottles of whisky and two bottles of vodka, while the lowest scoring team earned themselves the obligatory wooden spoons. Including the contents of the bottle (which I am reliably informed is back on the bar at the Pinehurst) we raised £942.60 which we are very pleased about. However, it would not have been possible without the continued support of Drew and Lorna Crawford and their team at the Pinehurst Lodge Hotel, something which we are very grateful for.

Brenda Massie Secretary Grampian Hospital Radio

Trumpet Fanfare Launches New Logo



Pictured above Dr Gareth Goodier with June Snowden and below: Lady Mary Archer, Radio Addenbrooke's Chairman Richard Saunders and Kenny Ball



On Wednesday, 12th March, veteran international jazz trumpeter Kenny Ball unveiled the new Radio Addenbrooke's logo and presented winning designer Stefan Strichen with a framed signed certificate and 'logo' teshirt.

This was the result of a community led project with the Arts Faculty of Anglia Ruskin University co-ordinated by Radio Addenbrooke's Secretary, Jim Carrington. Students used the logo design as a college project.

Stefan's winning design was chosen by Radio Addenbrooke's from six finalists whose designs were displayed at the hospital.

The unveiling ceremony in the Boardroom at Addenbrooke's Hospital was attended by Lady Mary Archer, Board Chairman, Dr Gareth Goodier, Chief Executive, representatives from companies supporting Radio Addenbrooke's, June Snowden, HBA President, Andy Harper of BBC Radio Cambridgeshire and, of course, the members of Radio Addenbrooke's.

Radio Addenbrooke's Chairman, Richard Saunders declared the evening a huge success and was immensely proud of the effort made by all his colleagues, especially from the organising team, PR Officer, Tanya Mercer and project co-ordinator, Jim Carrington.



Winning logo designer Stefan Strichen

View from the Basement

More comments from our columnist, Brett Ellis, and his unique view on life ...



Having become a father for the first time in December, I have noticed how my language has changed unintentionally. From being a foul mouthed mockney swearbox, I am now a fully paid up member of the daddy talk brigade, speaking to my daughter, who cannot as yet respond, as though I were a four year old. 'Say hello to mummy' and 'you've done stinky poo poos' have now become an integral part of my vocabulary.

A recent month long break to bond with my daughter has given me time to reflect on how I and fellow presenters talk to patients and indeed each other, whilst in the studio and on air. I used to present with a guy who took to speaking like a Roman guardsman every time he crossed the studio threshold. 'I am joined in the studio by Brettus Ellicus from Potters Barbicus'. He would make me feel like a Potters Barbarian who wanted to rip his head off and inspect his internal organs with extreme brutality every time he addressed me in such a manner. But analysing my own speech patterns when presenting was equally as revealing. 'Indeed' seems to be an old favourite. As does 'yes indeedy'. Maybe these are offshoots from the smashie and nicey era of yesterday or maybe it was an attempt by all of us to make ourselves seem a little more interesting.

We all want love and to feel as if we are different. This is why we have the influx of comedy ties around Christmas time. No one seriously believes it makes the wearer look more attractive to the opposite sex (do they?). Maybe it's because all the attention at this time of year is shifted toward Jesus, the Xmas TV schedule and the preparations made for friends and family who only visit and seem to have any interest in any one besides themselves at this one time in year. So how to detract attention away from Jesus and the hangers on? Buy yourself a novelty light up comedy reindeer tie old chap ... the girls will come a running!

Other linguistic techniques I have heard over the years include 'c'mon' after every sentence. 'Yeeees...' at the beginning of every piece of prose and the old favourite 'alreety'. I myself was criticised for my overuse of the term 'uuuummmmm' before each link. Gladly I have now banished that from my repertoire, to be replaced by 'OOOOOKKKKK', like a poor mans Lenny Henry (if that's possible...?).


So it's an attention craving tool then and it's not just linguistic. I have seen many vain attempts on air to seem more interesting and crazy than the other presenters. Horns and noise producing items, crazy competitions and the attempt to shock. One presenter who will remain nameless used to have such a slot on their show. 'Celebrity Sick Person', which basically consisted of the ailing celebrity being talked about and then having a song played for

them. This was stopped in its tracks after Frank Sinatra's untimely demise where he had the Prodigy's 'Breathe' played for him as he lay on life support. More recently I have heard of a 'name the Sudanese teddy bear competition', where contestants had to pay a pound to enter, with the winner getting to take the bear home as a prize. It's one way for the station to make a profit, I suppose ...


Other proposals to promote 'wackiness' have included an attempt at the world broadcasting record. Currently held by Malaysian DJ, Maverick Teh who spinned the steely wheels for an astonishing 79 hours and 5 minutes before collapsing one hour short of the unofficial 80 hour record set by American 'Buddy Love' (sounds like a 'friend' I 'met' in Amsterdam many moons ago). Mr Teh was duly placed on a drip suffering from severe dehydration. He was quoted as telling the BBC he was 'extremely tired'. This was enough to stop a hospital radio attempt at such a record. Talk about suffering for your art.

Other wacky ideas include presenting a show naked, a 'Hospital Radio trivia questionathon'... has a ring to it, doesn't it? Not. And a proposed smokeathon where the presenter would be sponsored to chain smoke throughout a 12 hour broadcast. Various committees over the years have gladly had the sense to urinate on any such money spinning bonfires. I believe the trick to becoming a respected presenter at any level is to be yourself. Speak to the listener as if they are your friend and stop the wackiness. Failing that present an 81 hour show naked whilst wearing a Rudolph tie and speaking like a Gladiator. That should do the trick ... yes indeedy.

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Two Heads Better than One



Tony's Top Tracks

1. 'Hello Old Friend' (James Taylor)
2. 'My Little One' (Marmalade)
3. 'There ain't 'arf been some clever bastards' (Ian Dury and the Blockheads)
4. 'Runaway' (Gallagher and Lyle)
5. 'Roll With It' (Oasis)
6. 'Roll Me Away' (Bob Seger)



Another radio first for Hospital Radio Hillingdon!

The volunteers at Radio Hillingdon are always dreaming up new ways to entertain their listening public, so following the recent successful revival of the game show 'Mr & Mrs', someone came up with the idea of a very special edition featuring two people quite well known in the hospital.

Our exclusive game show 'Mr & Mrs' featured not one but two Trust Board Executives – Chief Executive, David McVittie vs. Chairman, Tony Valentine. The idea being to find out who knew more about the other person.

With some help from our spies (?), secrets were unearthed and tricky questions designed to confuse were devised.

Our top man, Station Director, Gordon Baxter who was volunteered for this special job, set them at their ease with some easy questions about redevelopment of the hospital and MRSI controls, then just when they thought they were safe, we sprung our surprise quiz on them!

We learnt quite a lot about their pastimes and also some interesting fashion choices but above all we learnt that they both had a great sense of humour, got on together brilliantly and had surprisingly good taste in music.

Radio Hillingdon thanks everyone at Hillingdon Hospital who supports us; don't forget to keep checking the website for the latest information, news and photos of what we're up to!

www.radiohillington.com
PS The final score was 3-4 to Tony Valentine but David McVittie asked for a recount!

HBA Meets with PatientLine

In mid-May, the HBA attended a meeting with our new contact at Patientline. The HBA was represented by Geoff Fairbairn, HBA Technical Adviser and David Lockyer, HBA Regional Manager. Both are members of the HBA Patient Entertainment System Subcommittee. Queries and comments that had been received from member stations were put to Patientline. This is a summary of the responses, drafted from notes of the meeting and augmented with information already known.

Unsurprisingly, three stations enquired about the company's finances and future prospects. These were the subject of the article in Issue 122. The company was not able to provide further information.

Two stations reported that many of the bedside units (BSUs) in their hospital were not operational, despite them being the most up-to-date model. The problem with the T2D BSUs was due to a bug in the digital systems (most sites have analogue systems). A fix was being tested and was to be rolled out in the near future.

Two stations reported problems with the supply of headphones to patients. Conversely, two other stations reported having no problems with headphone availability. Patientline said the company faced increased costs for headphones because some Trusts insist headphones are disposed of for infection control reasons as soon as a patient leaves hospital and some Trusts no longer allow the re-issue of cleaned headphones as the company had done previously. The company has consequently had to change to issuing headphones on demand rather than leaving a pair on each BSU as in the past. The company said this is done by members of their staff who visit each bed at least once a week and that the nursing station in each ward is given a stock of headphones. Patientline is happy for stations to ask their local site manager for a stock of headphones for stations' ward visitors to issue.

One station asked if Patientline is planning to replace the original T1 BSUs. Patientline is considering ways to upgrade T1 sites.

One station that broadcasts to a T1 site had been forewarned by their Patientline Site Manager that patients were to be asked their day and month of birth by Patientline Customer Service Advisers (CSAs) when being registered and was concerned this would discourage patients from registering. Another station reported patients were

being asked their age, whilst a third said that CSAs had recently started to ask for dates of birth and considered this to be infringement of the Data Protection Act.

We were assured that only information needed by the company for the provision of its service is asked of patients and that a Data Protection Officer on the staff ensures there are no infringements of legislation.

Patientline has never asked patients for their ages or dates of birth. Patients are asked if they are under or over 65 and – for T2 sites where they have the option of self-registering using the keyboard and screen – they are asked for their day and month of birth but not the year. In effect they are being asked their birthday. There is no reason why patients cannot register even if they are not comfortable disclosing one or other of these items of information – after all, there are some that cannot remember their postcode or (as one station ward visitor pointed out in correspondence prior to the meeting) which planet they're on!

Two stations asked if listening figures could be made available, one of them reporting their site office was able to produce statistics only for the previous day. One suggested that – with appropriate password protection – they could be made accessible to stations over the internet.

Patientline has always been happy for stations to ask their local site manager for listening statistics. If the site office does not know how to produce these, instructions can be sought by them from Patientline head office. As far as we are aware, the system that produces the figures is not very versatile and can merely provide viewing and listening hours for all channels between two specified dates and times. Producing them is a manual procedure, which has to be fitted in with other work, so it would seem reasonable for stations to ask for the figures for each preceding calendar month. In view of this we didn't ask if access to the figures could be provided over the internet.

We thought there was little prospect of this as not only would it require development effort (thereby incurring cost) but there would undoubtedly be concerns about the security of the facility – not because these data are particularly confidential but due more to the risk of hackers gaining access to other parts of the company's systems.

One station asked what Patientline's policy is on new installations. In general, new installation has been on

hold since July 2005 when Ofcom opened its own-initiative investigation into the prices charged (by Patientline and by Premier) for making telephone calls to hospital patients. Some new provision has been made at new developments on existing sites, usually involving redeployment of plant from areas of the hospital that have been made redundant, but otherwise installation remains suspended pending the restructuring of the company's debt. The company does remove BSUs that are not earning revenue, following negotiations with the Trust. Sometimes this is dictated by the Trust because of ward refurbishments or discipline changes.

One station suggested the radio should be accessible without the need to register, and that this would stimulate sales for Patientline because patients would become accustomed to using BSUs and thereby be more amenable to using the paid-for services.

The Patientline service that generates more revenue than any other is friends and relatives making calls directly to patients. It is therefore crucial to Patientline that they know which bed each patient is in. This is why every patient is required to register before using any service.

Providing access to radio without registration would require a significant – and therefore costly – development of each of the BSU operating systems and as 70% of all BSUs are on average registered at any time, it appears to Patientline that such a change would be unlikely to generate sufficient additional revenue to cover the cost of the change and replace that lost from incoming calls. The company has debated registration on many occasions but has never concluded whether or not it is a barrier to usage.

At sites where the Patientline system is used for patients' menu ordering it is obviously necessary for every patient to be registered on the system.

One station raised the subject of promoting Patientline's revenue generating services in order to stimulate more usage.

Patientline has leaflets describing the services available and how to use the BSU. Stations can obtain stocks of these from the Patientline local site office and can liaise with the site manager about being supplied with TV cards for on-air prizes. The HBA is hoping to acquire the copy for the leaflets in electronic form for stations that wish to incorporate it in their programme guides.

Tyneside on the Move

Radio Tyneside is one of the oldest hospital radio stations, starting off as a football commentary service back in 1951.

It has only had two studio bases in that time, one in the centre of town in the late fifties, early sixties and then in 1968 it moved to the General Hospital, one of four hospitals it broadcasts to. There we have stayed for 40 years until last month!

Back in 2003, rumour had it that the then Health Authority, planned to move all services from the General into both the RVI and Freeman Hospitals. First to move would be those Departments at the front of the hospital which included Radio Tyneside.

Dates were discussed and then put back time and time again.

At the beginning of 2007, a visit was made to Tyneside by the head of Estates to look at what our requirements would be when the move happened. We had until then been very lucky with our premises, having plenty of room allowing us two studios, a control room, record library and office. Following this visit, we were told that it may be difficult to find another site with as much room but Estates would do what they could and that it was certain we would relocate to the RVI on the edge of town.

At this point we thought we should get our fingers out and raise money for this move. One of our members, John Griffen, was given the task of approaching companies and trusts to try and raise £40,000, which we estimated it would cost to move. To our surprise within three months we had raised half this total.

In March 2007, we received a telephone call from the RVI Estates asking us to meet them as they may have found us new premises. Expecting a basement somewhere in the hospital, we were surprised to be offered the Gate House, a Grade 2 listed building, which was currently occupied by Speech Therapy. The building was ideal although quite a lot of money would be needed spent on it to make it suitable for broadcast purposes but it offered us about the same space we currently had and was all on the ground floor. We accepted the building and to our surprise the hospital agreed to carry out the necessary alterations and at their cost. You can imagine we were over the moon. The only problem was that Speech Therapy was not due to be relocated until summer



2009 and we were told we would have to vacate our present premises by the beginning of that year.

Nothing else happened after that ... it was common knowledge this would be our new home and we had plenty of time to continue with our fund raising.

In the autumn of last year, news reached us that the Head of Estates was retiring and a new person had been taken on, so we decided that we should have a meeting with this gentleman to introduce ourselves and confirm he was happy with the agreed move. Yes he was, he thought the location was ideal and would help us as much as they could. In the meantime, they were looking for a temporary location for us until the Lodge was available. Temporary! Did they realise the cost of moving us twice and what was involved? When it was explained it was decided that the Head of Estates would visit us and see what was required.

Things went quiet, Christmas came and went, still no visit. We were starting to worry so an email was sent asking when the visit would take place.

In March it happened, he came along to the studios with head of buildings at the General, who was tasked with relocating many departments. When they saw the studios, they agreed that it was going to be a big job and then the fatal words 'As soon as we find you somewhere we will help you all we can'.

What has happened to the Lodge? we asked. Apparently there had been a change of plan and it was no longer available.

When do we have to move? By the end of the year at the latest, was the reply. (Remember it is now the second week of March).

They left; we were now starting to worry. Where were we going to be rehoused, the idea of a basement was in our minds again.

Seven days later a telephone call was received from the head of building at the General, 'found two possible places' he said. One was a basement and the other was a house but not on a hospital site. 'Let's have a look at the house please', was our reply.

So the following week we visited this terraced house in Spital Tongues near the rear of the RVI. Shock hit us all, they were offering us a two storey house which had been previously used as offices and had been empty for some time.

It was amazing, carpeted throughout we couldn't believe what we were seeing.

With us at this meeting was the Engineer from Century Radio who had agreed to rebuild the studios in the new premises and after a lengthy meeting with the head of building, it was estimated that to turn it into a broadcast building would cost around £15,000 before we added our cost of moving. So who pays?

This would be raised with Head of Estates and we'll get back to you.

That afternoon a phone call was received, we will pay and work on converting it will start next week and you can move in June. Only 12 weeks time.

From here on I can tell you that

Tyneside on the Move

Radio Tyneside have been the luckiest hospital station I have known.

What was on offer was this self contained two storey house which downstairs was offering us a reception area, store room, kitchen and office come meeting room.

Upstairs there was to be one large studio, a smaller one (still bigger than what we had), a production studio and control room and small preparation room that would also house records and CDs.

The Trust put in studio windows, a second lot of double glazing (it was already double glazed), moved doors, new alarm system, new window blinds and completely re-decorated.

A meeting was held with the IT section to help us get our signal to Patientline in the other hospitals and to our AM transmitter. This was to be done via the Trust network and to do it a wireless link was installed.

It was decided to move on 8th June and it was estimated it would take two weeks to rebuild the studios and get back on air; in the meantime a service of non stop music would be provided to our listeners.

On Saturday 7th June we presented our last show from the General Hospital: a three hour party featuring guests and past and present members.

To be able to accommodate everyone, we presented the show from both in the studios and from a marquee outside ... fortunately the sun shone. It was great to see again some of the volunteers who had worked in the building over the previous 40 years. Some travelled from afar and others talked to us on the telephone. ITV Tyne Tees turned up and recorded material that gave us a four minute piece on their early evening news and the local newspaper, the Evening Chronicle, devoted a two page spread about us.

After an exhausting Saturday afternoon, everyone was back the next morning at ten o'clock to move everything three miles down the road. Most of the move went without a hitch and we didn't realise how much equipment we had. More than we really needed, so some has gone to a couple of other local stations in the area.

On the Monday morning the technical guys moved into our new building and started the rebuild. I wasn't convinced we would be ready in two weeks but I was proved wrong. Just about all the equipment was in



place, some brand new, by the Thursday of the second week, only the wireless link and connection to the Trust network was required. That happened on the Friday and on Sunday 22nd June we returned to the air with our regular programmes.

We are a very lucky station and thanks to the Trust it didn't cost us anywhere near the £40,000 we

originally estimated, so we have put some little treats into the building including having all the studios lined with a foam backed material to help with the acoustics.

Hopefully we're here for a very long time and I don't think I will see another move.

Dave Nicholson
Station Director

The Twenty-Eight Day Celebration

During May and June, Leicester's Radio Fox undertook a 28 day RSL to celebrate the station's 20th birthday. Station Director Steve Hack looks back at the many highlights of Fox's month on 107.5FM.

It all began on a gloriously sunny May morning, Saturday May 10th to be precise and for the first time in over nine years Radio Fox was broadcasting to the whole of Leicester and surrounding areas.

The idea of the RSL was to celebrate our 20th year on air and also give the wider public an opportunity to sample our programmes. We also wanted to give other volunteers working within the hospitals and the staff themselves the chance to talk about their work and in the case of the volunteer groups, attract new helpers.

Work on the RSL began several months earlier with the raising of funds to cover the costs (around £7000, much of which was met through sponsorship and advertising). As the person responsible for programme, I also had the 'pleasurable' task of filling in the many forms required for the broadcast to go ahead. PPL, PRS, transmitter hire, licence application form ... there's a lot of paperwork!

In fact work continued right up until the night before we were due to go live to Leicester, recording adverts, finalising guests and taking a long trip to Stratford to pick up a transmitter. There was also a late change of frequency after a technical glitch meant we were 'relocated' thirty miles away from our studios, meaning another station had the same frequency as us. Fortunately it was all sorted out and we were ready to begin a test broadcast on 107.5FM.

It was certainly odd waking up on Saturday morning to a Radio Fox test transmission and odder still being able to listen to Radio Fox in the car, in the kitchen or in the garden. For me the first day was a very long one, I was in the station at 5.30 to help breakfast presenter Matt Dobson with his first show, then at a wedding in the afternoon fifty miles away, where trying to stay awake during the speeches was quite a challenge!

We decided early on that all our usual live programmes would continue as normal during the RSL and the request shows would be the exclusive preserve of listeners within the hospitals. But there were loads of opportunities for outside listeners to join in, particularly during the daytime shows, where new fans of Fox kept us busy requesting all sorts of songs and trying to outsmart our record library with bizarre songs, which most of the



Celebrating the end of the RSL

time we had. Popular choices included Godley & Creme's Under Your Thumb and Nickelback's Rockstar (every couple of hours it seemed but then we are here to play requests!)

From the feedback we received, it seemed the things listeners liked most about Radio Fox were the wide range of music played and the friendliness of the presenters. Several listeners said they found us by accident and were hooked, others said it was refreshing that they could phone up for a request and actually have it played, sometimes within minutes of their call. We were also complimented for the professionalism of the presenters, with one listener saying she 'was amazed by the standard of (our) presenters ... they were warm, friendly and natural'.

Another highlight was all the guests who joined us to talk about their work, including the Chairman of the University Hospitals of Leicester Trust who turned the tables on presenter Kris Bramwell by interviewing him, author Sue Townsend who revealed that she was writing a brand new Adrian Mole book and the lead singer of Cornershop. June Snowden joined us on the phone and chatted to Caren Chamberlain about hospital radio and the great work stations all round the country do for their hospitals. There was also live music in the form of acoustic sessions from local singers and many guests from within the Trust, covering everything from fitness to the trolley service available to patients.

Obviously there's a lot of work involved with running a hospital radio station under normal circumstances but turning Radio Fox into a 24 hour a day

operation for a month was quite a feat. Several members took time off work in order to present daily shows; our Chairman, Steven Hardisty, did the breakfast show every weekday and I did the afternoon show for a whole month. Unfortunately I was an hour late for one of my shows, a combination of having to visit Brentwood with work and getting stuck in horrendous traffic on the M1, meaning a frantic call to the studio half an hour before I was due on air and fifty miles away from Leicester!

So was the RSL a worthwhile experiment? We certainly raised our profile within Leicester and gained lots of new friends within the hospitals. The postroom, staff restaurants and many admin areas were tuned in and several staff have asked if we can be made available on the hospitals intranet site. We also forged improved relations with some departments who had often wondered what that 'weird lot in the old nurses home' did.

And amazingly, our notoriously fickle and temperamental play out system pretty much behaved itself! Well, apart from the occasion went it crashed at 4am in the morning on our overnight presenter and when it tired of playing 'My Way' during the request chart on my show and produced a noise somewhat like a record player being switched off midway through a song. Still, it was all part of the fun!

Now the RSL is over it's back to the day job. Over the next few months our daytime output is being revamped with some brand new shows, a promotional campaign needs to be put together around the wards, there's PAs to man. It's going to be a busy summer.

Out and About with Radio Fox

Summer has finally arrived and for many hospital radio stations across the country this means dusting down those PA kits and heading off into the wider community.

Kris Bramwell of Radio Fox in Leicester gives On Air a flavour of the station's summer activities.

Public Announcements are a major source of funding for Radio Fox and this year we are lucky to have more than ever before.

Soon after our RSL, it wasn't long before we were out and about all over Leicester.

This, we find is a great way of raising the station's profile, already on a high after our stint on FM ended on June 6th.

The first stop on Radio Fox's PA tour was to assist with 'Love Parks' taking place at a pleasantly sunny Abbey Park, just a week later. The national event, aimed to help promote parks as a place for children to exercise and have fun.

Our very own Scott McLaren provided the technical support and was even soaked as part of the day's entertainment, while Richard Fox gave out the announcements. As child dancers strutted their stuff on stage in amongst a funfair of colourful bouncy castles, spinning teacups and ice cream van's which our presenter Cliff Wheatcroft was only too willing to take advantage of; he, Marc Monamy and I set off to see what the event had to offer.

As we walked, we could see children of all ages taking part in relay courses and throwing plastic rockets into the air, the competition fierce as everyone wanted theirs to reach the furthest distance. We mingled with the locals who had taken to the very picturesque location for a grand day out. We could not resist taking a tour of the park in a fire engine, admiring the model railway and chatting to the goats in Pets Corner. The big kid inside us all was racing to the surface.

The day ended all too soon but not to worry, the next day the fun began all over again. Bright and early on Sunday morning the Radio Fox team made their way to Ratcliffe College to take part in the Leicester Hospitals Charity Kidney Care Appeal.

The colourful bouncy castles and ice cream vans were again out in force amongst the activities which included; a tombola, 'Splat a Rat' and covers band, 'The Rhythm Revellers.' These were just some of the things to enjoy either side of the main event: a Fox Trot.

The Fox Trot sees hundreds of people raise money to walk the mile



long course around the college in aid of the Kidney Care Appeal every year, lead by a 7 foot Fox. No joke, named

Dr. Fox, he is the Leicester NHS trust's fundraising mascot; how fitting then that Radio Fox should provide the music for the day. And once the walk was over, Dr. Fox could not resist a snap shot for the family album with fellow fox's Steve Hack, Pete Bracey and David Rowe.

The event has raised a massive £28,000 so far which will go towards the Leicester Trust's Renal Unit. Radio Fox are just delighted to have played their small part in what is a very worthy cause.

Throughout August and September, the Radio Fox presenters armed with their trusty old PA kit will get many an outing; our aim, to bring hospital radio to the masses and spread the good word of Radio Fox.

Countrywide ... news from the stations

Trio Honoured with Freedom of Aberdeen



George Donald, William 'Buff' Hardie and Steve Robertson of 'Scotland the What?' arrive at His Majesty's Theatre,

Buff Hardie, George Donald and Stephen Robertson, more commonly known as popular local trio 'Scotland the What?', received the Freedom of Aberdeen City in April, 2008.

The trio got together as students at Aberdeen University and were members of the Aberdeen Revue Group when Steve persuaded the other two and director James Logan to make their stage debut as 'Scotland the What?' at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in 1969. They returned to the Festival the following year and spent the next 13 years entertaining audiences across Scotland while still holding down full-time jobs. Buff was the Secretary of Grampian Health Board, Steve a lawyer and George was a language teacher.

Much of 'Scotland the What?' repertoire was based around Doric, the local dialect of North-East Scotland.

In 1983, Buff, George and Steve turned professional. Not an easy decision to make, as the trio were now in their fifties. They performed in various venues across Scotland, made numerous performances in front of the Royal Family and performed in England at The Duke of York Theatre in 1975, The Queen Elizabeth Hall in 1985 and Bloomsbury Theatre, London in 1987. Their final fling was at His Majesty's Theatre, Aberdeen in 1995, the year they received their MBEs for services to entertainment in Scotland.

Former city councillor Ramsay Milne made the proposal for the comedy group to be given the freedom of the city, in recognition of their services to fine arts and, primarily, for making people laugh.

Now in their seventies, the boys took time out from the hectic schedule to speak to Grampian Hospital Radio at the City's Town House. Buff, George and Stephen spoke about their own experiences of hospitals and recounted their most outstanding memory as 'Scotland The What?' before wishing

the patients well. A pipe band led the procession from the Town House down the city's busiest shopping street towards His Majesty's Theatre. 'Scotland the What?' followed in a vintage car which had previously transported the Queen on a tour of Shetland.

The caskets they received have sterling silver replicas of the coat-of-arms of the City of Aberdeen. All three have long since retired, John, Buff's son continues the Hardie comedy dynasty as a member of local comedy group Flying Pig Productions, George still plays the piano both as a soloist and accompanist and Steve was elected as rector of Aberdeen University in May.

Brenda Massie
Grampian Hospital Radio

HR Swindon Presents Award

HRS presented their most consistent Player of the Year award to Miguel Comminges. Previous winners of the Award were David Duke 2003/4, Rhys Evans 2005/6 and Phil Smith 2006/07. HR Swindon look forward to presenting the Award again next year.

Glynn Hopkins

Equipment for Sale



Last year Radio Wey in Chertsey refitted one of their studios and are now refitting the other and have reused very little. As a result they have a surplus of used equipment they need to dispose of and also have other equipment in store to dispose of. They would like to offer this to other hospital

radios and their members.

The equipment includes CD players, cassette recorders, mini disks, DT 100 headphones (8 ohm), speakers, microphone arms. We also have a surplus OB unit, consisting of an 8 channel mixer build into a 19" transport unit plus a Sonifex HY-02 telephone unit with ring detector. Prices will be based on what similar items sell for on e-bay, so very affordable. Please contact the studio on 01932 874433 or Peter Harman on 01483 760161.

Peter Harman
Hospital Radio Wey

A Sad Day

On Saturday, 7th June, Radio Hospitals Blackburn's longest serving volunteer and honorary member of many decades John Aitken passed away. He will be hugely missed by all his family and all who knew him at RHB. He was also a much respected familiar face around the Royal Blackburn Hospital.

David Peacock-Seddon
Radio Hospitals Blackburn

Uckfield's Big Day Out



Cathy Barnett, Vice Chair of Mid Downs Radio in Haywards Heath, mans the hospital radio stall at Uckfield's Big Day Out in East Sussex held recently together with Richard Lee, a presenter on MDR. mdr used the event to launch their giant raffle.

Also pictured is Phil Moon, HBA Chief Executive, who was visiting the event.

Countrywide ... news from the stations

Warrington Hospital Radio at Downing Street Reception



Keith Inman, secretary of Radio General, the hospital radio service at Warrington Hospital took a rare break from broadcasting on June 4th to attend a special reception for health service volunteers at 10 Downing Street.

The reception was part of events marking the role of volunteers to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the NHS. Keith was nominated by the Hospital's Chief Executive Catherine Beardshaw to represent volunteers from Warrington at the VIP event hosted by Prime Minister Gordon Brown.

Keith, who is secretary of Radio General and has been part of the team for 34 years, was escorted by Warrington South MP Helen Southworth and given a tour around the Houses of Parliament before going through the famous door to No 10.

Keith had the chance to chat with the Prime Minister who revealed he had been a listener to hospital radio when in hospital himself in the past. Around 50 volunteers from hospitals, hospices and other organisations were invited and had the chance to chat with the Prime Minister.

Radio broadcasting at the hospital is almost as old as the NHS itself having recently celebrated its 50th anniversary. It began in 1953 with regular rugby commentaries and request shows started in 1957 before Radio General was formed in 1976 to bring together the different areas of broadcasting.

It's gone from strength to strength and the station broadcasts from studios within the hospital for 24 hours a day. The programme line-up consists of record requests, easy listening and chat shows, together with specialist music programmes, hospital information and relaxation music, all provided daily along with rugby commentaries from Warrington Wolves and Widnes Vikings home games and outside broadcasts around the town.

Radio Redhill at South of England Show



A team of five Radio Redhill reporters attended the recent South of England Show at Ardingly to record interviews with the farmers and other people taking part in the show's many activities. These were broadcast during a special programme hosted by presenter Warren Selwood on the Sunday afternoon. Radio Redhill's team included Ian Wilson, Nick Hutchings, Charlotte Freeman, Nigel Gray and Dave King.

Station Chairman, Nigel Gray, said, 'Radio Redhill is committed to bringing a taster of as many events as we can back to the patients and staff at the East Surrey Hospital, events that our listeners may have normally have liked to have been able to visit for themselves. We even interviewed one farmer who was the choreographer for a herd of dancing sheep!'

Train on the Tracks

Another first for Hospital Radio in Kendal Bay Trust Radio, Hospital Radio for Morecambe Bay, based in Kendal, is pleased to announce the completion of the training centre within its studio complex at the Westmorland General Hospital. The training centre is a complete studio with a 37" training LCD screen, which was made possible with funds donated from the Hospital League of Friends. The studio rebuild was decided upon when equipment used to broadcast around the hospital became due for replacement. A donation towards the cost was made by Mrs M Woodcock. Volunteers at the station helped to dismantle the old studio and re-fit the new one over a weekend.

Bay Trust Radio is now able to offer training in all aspects of broadcasting from presenting to production and news reading. Chairman Tony Park said that the station now boasts the first hospital radio-training centre in the UK and without the help of our supporters and the hard working members of the station who worked all weekend, this would not have been possible.

Clatterbridge Reports



Many thousands of people have been given a special behind-the-scenes tour of a Wirral charity – from the comfort of their living rooms when Radio Clatterbridge featured on ITV's flagship regional news programme Granada Reports recently.

Wirral-born journalist Andy Bonner showed viewers around the hospital radio station as part of a series of reports, called I Love The North West.

Andy has been a volunteer at the station for 17 years and says he still enjoys every minute:

'It is incredible how a simple action like playing a patient's favourite song can really improve their well-being'.

The report also took viewers on to the wards, where Radio Clatterbridge's request collectors meet listeners face-to-face. 'It never fails to amaze me how up-beat the patients can be. I think this is testament to the good work carried out in the various parts of the hospital'.

Tin Rattles Dos & Don'ts

DO wear a T-shirt or Polo shirt that identifies your station

DO mentally target a person moving towards you.

DO make EYE CONTACT with that person.

DO SMILE at them.

DO say 'Morning/Afternoon'

DO keep your tin above waist height. It makes it easier for the punter to identify what they are contributing to

DON'T congregate with other station members 'chatting'.

DON'T stand too close to other station Tin Rattlers, it will intimidate punters.

DON'T be afraid to make visual/verbal contact with a potential punter.

DON'T actually 'rattle' the tin, it's against the rules.

SOME people will walk past head down, they WILL NOT donate.

SOME people will seek you out and put money in you tin.

MOST people MIGHT respond if you make the EFFORT provided you are aware of the 'DON'Ts' as well.

Paul Turner, HR Basingstoke

Who Did You Say?

The Hospital Broadcasting Service

For more than a decade, The Hospital Broadcasting Service (which covers hospitals in Glasgow and Paisley) has been attending the annual Beasden & Milngavie Highland Games, held on the second Saturday in June. This is one of the major fund-raising events on our calendar and in recent years we have not only been providing the PA services for the event but also running additional fund-raising ventures such as a tombola stand and quiz sheet sales.

Just a few weeks before this year's event, the Highland Games organising committee contacted us, to ask if we would be interested in helping them out by running a photo portrait stall instead of our planned activity.

The hook for running the portrait event was that people would be posing with a Dalek, one of a number that would be coming along. After some debate about the pros and cons, we decided that it would be worth trying, although as with everything at an event to be held in an open field, the weather could well prove to be our downfall.

We don't have any professional photographers in our membership and none of us had ever run this sort of event. We also had to organise everything ourselves, so it was an interesting challenge. To make it even more interesting, just days after we agreed to do it, the episode of The Apprentice, where the contestants had to run a portrait event, was screened.

Undaunted, we quickly researched the 'event photography' business, found suppliers for the printing equipment and figured out a process on how to control the flow of people in a marquee. As well as us having a static Dalek for photographs, other Daleks were to be



David Bannerman, Niall Anderson, John McGowne and Patricia Travers after the event

moving around the floored areas, so it was clearly going to take some careful planning.

We managed to secure the assistance of a keen amateur photographer who turned out to be more professional than many of the people the Dalek enthusiasts had worked with previously. They were also complimentary about the quality of the printed product we produced, saying it was far better than anything they had seen before.

The Dalek enthusiasts came into our studios with their 'voice box', a few days ahead of the event. This allowed us to record various cuts of Dalek voices, for the main site PA system, promoting not only the photo opportunity, but also some of the

competitive sporting events happening at the Highland Games.

On the day, despite a few minor hitches, we were ready to take our first pictures about fifteen minutes after the events gates opened but this was still almost three hours ahead of the official opening ceremony.

Although quiet at first, the queue for photographs quickly built up by lunchtime and everything was going well until early afternoon when the skies opened. Although the rain lasted less than thirty minutes, it meant that many people left early and others certainly decided not to come along at all. Although business became a slow trickle after this, we still managed to make a profit of just under five hundred pounds, so the effort wasn't in vain.

Choir and Wire to the Rescue



Last Christmas the Highfield Male Voice Choir had an appeal from Radio Halton, the Hospital Radio in Halton Hospital, Runcorn for a donation to help to fund repairs to their broadcast system needed to keep them on air for patients. The Highfield Choir responded by donating the £1,000 proceeds from their Christmas Charity Concerts at The Brindley in Runcorn.

In February, Alan Mercer from the Choir fundraising group, made enquiries to see if their donation had been useful. Alan found that in spite of many efforts the radio volunteers had been unable to find anybody to carry out the repairs.

A complete systems failure at Easter meant that Radio Halton was off air for three weeks until help arrived in the form of Ian Hilton, a broadcast engineer from Wire FM in Warrington. He diagnosed and fixed the fault and restored the service to patients, with a view to correcting any other faults.

Alan, on behalf of the Highfield Choir said, 'I'm delighted that the donation had been put to good use. The Choir donates the proceeds of their Christmas Charity Concerts to needy causes, and in recent years many local organisations have benefited.' This year's proceeds will go to "Help for Heroes" towards a Hydrotherapy Pool to aid recovery of service personnel injured while on active service.

Valley Park Radio On the Move

Valley Park Radio was pleased to have their new studio officially opened.

The opening show was hosted by Dave Lockyer and then just after 3.30pm was linked in live from the common room/outer studio by our Chairman Neil White, who said a few words before it was passed over to June Snowden, HBA President and Andrea Foulkes from ITV2 who together cut the ribbon over the new studio door.

It was a fun packed afternoon with just over 50 people attending the party, from executives of the Trust, to local councillors, The Deputy Mayor, together with many friends and supporters of VPR.

Moving the studio was a costly project and we would like to thank those that supported us with donations, especially the Royal Bank of Scotland for their support.

The project would not have been possible without the hard work from the Valley Park Radio team and a special thanks goes out to Dave, our engineer and Geoff who converted an empty room into a fully working studio.

Neil White
Chairman, Valley Park Radio



BERT TAYLOR

It is with great sadness that I have to tell you of the sudden death of our friend and volunteer Bert Taylor at the age of 85.

Bert had been a valued member of the Northern Air for the past eight years and will be remembered for always being so cheerful and full of life.

On his many visits to the wards, he always looked for a patient without visitors. He would sit and chat and crack his corny jokes and always leave them with a smile on their face.

Bert was never afraid to embrace new technology, getting to grips with the mysteries of the mixing desk far quicker than folk half his age and what he couldn't do with a mobile phone left us all in the shade!

He was a prolific poet, having his work published in two volumes, which have sold hundreds over the past five years, raising much needed funds for the station.

Our sympathy goes to Bert's family, especially Marion, who he was proud to tell everyone he was 'courting'.

He will be sadly and greatly missed by everyone at Northern Air.

Joe Sambrook , Station Manager, Northern Air Hospital Radio

Patients Get a Tuneful Start to the Party

The official launch of the UK's newest hospital radio station is giving patients in Bury and Rochdale a tuneful way to mark the 60th anniversary of the NHS, which started in 1948.

Roch Valley Radio provides hospital radio for patients at Rochdale Infirmary and Bury's Fairfield General Hospital, as well as Rochdale's Springhill Hospice. The state-of-the-art studio at Fairfield was developed through a £35,000 investment by Pennine Acute Trust, which runs both hospitals. In addition, the station received a £10,000 National Lottery grant and £7,000 from development organisation New Heart for Heywood.

The new station was officially launched on the evening of Thursday, 12th June, with the Mayor of Bury, Councillor Peter Ashworth and the Mayor of Rochdale, Councillor Robin Parker joining BBC Radio Manchester presenter Eamonn O'Neal.

Bob Chadwick, station manager, said 'We are absolutely delighted to be officially launching the station at such a significant time. We've got a great bunch of volunteers who will be giving everything they've got to keep patients entertained'.

Roch Valley Radio is a joint venture between Birch Radio, who previously ran the hospital radio service for the Infirmary and the former Birch Hill Hospital and Bury Lions, who provided the service at Fairfield. It is also supported by HFM, a community radio group from Heywood.

Roch Valley Radio will broadcast to patients 24 hours a day, seven days a week, thanks to a state-of-the-art computerised system.

Eamonn O'Neal, the BBC Radio Manchester presenter, started his broadcasting career with hospital radio, and praised the efforts of everyone involved in developing the station.

He said, 'Hospital radio is an absolutely crucial and often underestimated medium. Out of all the media, radio is the closest that the broadcaster comes to the audience.'

'That's particularly true in hospital radio – it's almost as if you are by the bedside with the patients. That intimacy is essential to success and helps patients enormously. I'm very impressed with Roch Valley Radio and I'm sure that they'll be very successful'.

John Jesky, Chairman of Pennine Acute Trust, said, 'This new radio station will provide a valuable service to patients in both hospitals. Hospital radio really does make a difference – it lifts the spirits, beats boredom and can help patients take their mind off pain. While



Studio 1



Studio 2

Studio 3

hospital radio is not a therapy, these benefits are widely recognised as promoting a swift recovery.

'Many people are surprised to find that hospital radio stations are run by volunteers and are independent of the hospitals. We are very grateful for all the time they give up. I am sure that the

efforts of this involved in Roch Valley Radio will provide real benefits to thousands of patients'.

Anyone who wishes to join the Roch Valley Radio volunteers should contact station manager Bob Chadwick on 0161 764 9200 or email studio@rochvalleyradio.org.uk



HBA Grants

The HBA Grants programme was introduced in 2006 following the Executive Committee's suggestion to PPL that a proportion of their donations to the Association in 2004 and 2005 be allocated for grants to member stations.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE? – Applications are restricted to Full Members of the HBA.

THE PURPOSE – The grants are intended to enable hospital broadcasting organisations to purchase equipment or other materials required by them which they are unable to afford to purchase from their own funds.

HOW DO I APPLY? – Applicants should identify the equipment or other materials that meet(s) their needs and should obtain a quotation (ideally more than one) for the supply. They should then complete the attached application form and it, together with copies of the quotation(s), their constitution (or other governing document) and their latest annual report & accounts, to Julie Cox, HBA Treasurer, 37 Alford Street, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 8BX.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT? – Applications will be acknowledged on receipt. The subcommittee will meet bi-monthly to consider applications. As soon as possible after consideration, applicants will be informed as to the success or otherwise of their application. Successful applicants should expect to receive a cheque within 28 days of their application being granted. Copies of invoices confirming purchase of the equipment/materials should be forwarded to HBA within 6 months of the grant cheque being issued. Failure to provide such evidence of purchase may result in full repayment of the grant being requested.

Applications are judged on merit by the HBA's Grants Subcommittee, which consists of Julie Cox, Sean Dunderdale, Dave Lockyer and Mike Skinner. If an conflict of interest arises between a member of the subcommittee and an application, the conflicted member will withdraw from discussions surrounding the particular application and, if necessary, further temporary members will be co-opted to the subcommittee. The full terms of reference of the subcommittee can be found on the members-only section of the HBA website, or are available on request.

ARE DETAILS OF SUCCESSFUL APPLICATIONS PUBLISHED? – HBA would like to maximise the publicity obtained, both local to the recipient of the grant and nationally, and would expect successful applicants to work closely with the HBA's Public Relations Manager to achieve this.

HBA would anticipate providing details of all grants made in its Annual Report and Accounts.

PLEASE NOTE – The decision of the Grants Subcommittee is final and no correspondence will be entered into. The subcommittee may, at its sole discretion, provide unsuccessful applicants with an indication as to why their application failed - for instance, applicants can expect to be informed if they failed to provide all necessary supporting paperwork, or their application was deemed ineligible in other ways. However, applicants should understand that the funds available are limited and not all applications that meet all the required criteria are likely to be funded.

If you require further information or have any queries about the Grants , please contact Julie Cox by telephone on 0870 321 6004, or by e-mail at finance@hbauk.com.

HBA - supporting Hospital Broadcasting in the UK

For more information see www.hbauk.com, e-mail info@hbauk.com, or call 0870 321 6019.

HBA is the trading name of the National Association of Hospital Broadcasting Organisations.
Registered in England and Wales as a company limited by guarantee (No. 2750147) and a charity (No. 1015501).
Registered Office: Mariners House, 24 Nelsons Gardens, Hedge End, Southampton, SO30 2NE



HBA Grant Application Form

To be completed by a member of the governing body of an HBA Full Member, with the full knowledge and approval of the governing body.

Name:
Position:
Hospital Broadcasting Organisation:
HBA Membership Number:
Address:
.....
E-mail: Telephone:

On behalf of the above-named hospital broadcasting organisation, I would like to apply for an HBA Grant to cover the purchase of:

The justification for this application is:
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....













(explain why your station needs the equipment/materials and how its purchase would benefit the station and/or its listeners in 200 words or less)

I have attached the following documentation in support of my application:

- ☐ Details of the equipment/materials to be purchased
- ☐ Quotation(s) for supply of the equipment/materials
- ☐ Copy of our station's constitution (or other governing document)
- ☐ Copy of our station's latest Annual Report and Accounts

I understand that any grant awarded is restricted to be applied for the purchase of the above-mentioned equipment/materials. I agree to supply HBA with proof of purchase within 6 months of a successful application, and I agree, on behalf of the above-named organisation, to reimburse HBA the full amount granted if the equipment/materials have not been purchased within this period.

Signed:

Regional Reps details					
REGION		REP	ADDRESS	PHONE	E-MAIL
Regional Manager		Dave Lockyer	54 School Lane Higham Rochester Kent ME3 7JF	0870 321 6005	regions@hbauk.com
Anglia		Julie Cox	37 Alford Street Grantham NG31 8BX	0870 765 9601	anglia@hbauk.com
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