

ON AIR

Issue 126
Spring 2009
AWARDS ISSUE

HBATM
HOSPITAL BROADCASTING ASSOCIATION

Do you need a **higher regular annual income** for your radio station?

heartbeat Publications publish high quality fund raising magazines for hospital based charities and other local charitable organisations.

This is done at no cost whatsoever to the charity concerned, but does help generate substantial revenue for them.

We undertake the entire project from beginning to end, including local distribution of the magazine. The client will also have a generous amount of magazines for their own use.

As a commitment to completion a pre-payment of part of the anticipated donation is made in advance of commencement.

Heartbeat Publications is a family run business borne out of extensive experience in the field of charitable fundraising within publishing. We pride ourselves on our ethical and personal approach to both our charity clients and the advertisers who 'enable' the magazines. We understand that we are representatives of the charity whilst producing the magazine, and respect the trust put in us to fulfil any obligations with regard to the production and distribution of each edition. This means that the charity receive an excellent donation based on revenue, and is also why we are confident enough to offer an advance donation based on anticipated revenue, the balance payable after publication.



For further information please do not hesitate to contact us:

Heartbeat Publications Ltd.
Essex Enterprise Centre
1-2 Davy Road, Gorse Lane Ind Est
Clacton on Sea CO15 4XD
Tel: 01255 433350
Fax: 01255 424434
info@heartbeatpublications.co.uk

Don't just take our word for it, visit our website at
www.heartbeatpublications.co.uk
and see for yourself.

ON AIR™

Spring 2009

Issue 126



The Official Journal of the Hospital Broadcasting Association

in this issue ...

In A Spin with our 'Spin Doctor'	2
All About Awards	3
National Hospital Radio Awards – The Winners	4
All About Awards	5
Committee Report	8
Charity Law Update	9
Awards for All	9
June's Travels	10
National Training Day	13
Hospital Broadcasting Week	14
View from the Basement	16
Radio Warneford's 35 Hour Marathon	17
Greetings from Glamorgan	18
What I've Learnt	19
Countrywide – News from the Stations	20
Obituaries	24
The HBA Grants Programme	25
HBA Grant Application Form	26
Regional Rep Details	27
Who To Contact	28

FRONT COVER STORY:

Ena Montgomery receives her
John Whitney Award from
Dr Chris Steele at the recent
National Hospital Radio Awards
See full story page 5



hi everyone,

Heroes – we salute them all in this issue; whether it is the winners of the Hospital Radio Awards (you can find the full results on page 4), the heroes that Brett discusses in his column or indeed, Matt's hero – let's raise a glass to them all.

But we must not forget the back room heroes either as without their hard work and dedication, Awards and Conference just would not happen. So thank you Sean, Iain, John, Marie and every member of the team – we really do appreciate all you have done. And also sincere thanks to Andy Langford for the photographs.

What would you like to see in On Air? We really do need your feedback – it's the only way we are going to get it right. Would you like to see more technical articles, maybe quizzes or puzzles, we really do need to know. Suggestions, please (try and keep them clean) to the address below.

I look forward to hearing from you

Michelle

DIARY DATES THE NATIONAL VOLUNTEERS WEEK

1st-7th June, 2009

SBES

3rd November, 2009

2010 CONFERENCE

Normandy Hotel, Renfrew

26th-28th March 2010

2011 CONFERENCE

Ramada Hotel, Maidstone

25th-27th March 2011

On Air is the Official Journal of the HBA which is the trading name of the National Association of Hospital Broadcasting Organisations, a Company limited by guarantee.

Registered in England No. 2750147. A Registered Charity No. 1015501.

Registered office: Mariners House, 24 Nelsons Gardens, Hedge End, Southampton, SO30 2NE.

On Air is distributed free of charge to all member stations of the Association plus interested parties.

All material is ©2009 of HBA and may not be reproduced in any form without the written authority of the Editor.
Views expressed in the magazine are not necessarily those of HBA, or the Editor but are the personal opinion of the contributor.
Whilst every effort is taken to ensure the accuracy of the publication, all advertisements and articles appear in good faith and HBA and the Editor accept no responsibility for any errors or inaccuracies.

Address for On-Air: The Editor, On Air, 2 Falkland Close, Boreham, Chelmsford, Essex CM3 3DD

Tel: 0870 321 6011 Email: onair@hbauk.com

COPY DATE NEXT ISSUE 9th June 2009

In a Spin with our 'Spin Doctor'

So that was Blackpool and what a long weekend it proved to be – especially those who stayed up through the night chatting and drinking and going straight to breakfast at 7am the next morning – you know who you are and I hope you're either proud or ashamed of yourselves! (For the record, I climbed into bed at 6.30am.)

Foolishly I thought organising the awards would get easier once the first one, in Leeds last year, was over with. Little did I realise that each year is a completely different beast with its own set of challenges and potential banana skins to avoid slipping on. Dave never mentioned this, when he handed the baton on!

Thanks to those of you who noticed that it was a slightly slimmer Sean at Blackpool this year. I promise the two stones lost since last year is down to a change in my health regime and not because of stress brought on by co-organising the awards ceremony! At least that's my story and I'm sticking to it.

Overall, I believe it worked for our second attempt. There are still 'tweaks' I'd like to make to make it even better and I have pages and pages of notes which hopefully will be reflected in next year's event. That is one of the problems of the annual awards – if something isn't quite right it takes a whole year before you can try it again!

This year we added clips of the nominees, although I must apologise to Valley Park Radio. There is a highly technical reason why your clips didn't play and – even though I've now been told forty-three times why – it's still way over my head. Suffice to say it wasn't a technical hitch we could have predicted happening but it is one we'll be looking out for next year to ensure it doesn't happen again. You can, at least, hear the entries on the HBA website – and they're well worth a listen.

Money this year was tighter than ever, apparently there's a credit crunch on (though not according to the Hilton's bar bill!!) so finding sponsors proved extremely tough this year, so I'd like to thank all who did get involved – offering either money or other services to ensure the ceremony went ahead. So thanks to Nick Beer at West Country Broadcast, Natalie Thomas at PPL, June Snowden at Hospital Radio Goodies, David Ware at Blackpool Tower, Chris Stevens at Devaweb, the team at Warwick Corporate Events and, of course, everyone at the HBA too.



Thanks too, to Jon Godel, our host once again. His own input – even that pink hat – ensured he made the ceremony his own and from the kind comments I've received since Blackpool it appears most of you like the more informal approach we've taken to the event. The aim is to have fun, hand out the awards and just have a good night, in good company.

Jon, rightly, described Dr Chris Steele as one of the nicest guys in the country. He is, as anyone who posed for a photograph with him afterwards will know. Despite being very ill just a couple of days before the event, Dr Chris was insistent on attending and even paid for his own car and driver to bring him to Blackpool from his home in Manchester – at no expense to the HBA. At one stage I even offered to drive him myself but obviously someone had tipped him off about my driving!

Our two live acts were great too. Lizzy Spit and Katlow have both since been in touch to say how much they enjoyed performing for you. If you want to find out more about them then you can find them, and their music, by doing a search on MySpace.

Special thanks too to the entire team at Scunthorpe Hospital Radio; Keith, Kath, Paul, Serena, Andy, Marie and Ant. Naturally, thanks too to my co-producer (HBA Deputy Chief Executive) Iain Lee, who took on even

more work this year to make the awards a success, despite the event happening over his birthday weekend. The ceremony couldn't have happened without Iain, so thank you for all that you did.

I've got to thank our judges too, without their efforts we'd have no winners. Thanks also to everyone who entered the awards this year, the numbers keep on growing.

Finally, thanks to Sir Terry Wogan and to the Prime Minister Gordon Brown for their contributions. As Jon Godel said on the night, whatever your politics to have the Prime Minister on screen promoting and celebrating Hospital Broadcasting is something we should rightly be proud of.

So, as I said at the start of this article, that's Blackpool over with. Now all eyes look north for next year's event in Glasgow. Iain and I are full of ideas, how much of which will make it to the stage? Well, you'll have to be there to find out.

Well done to the winners, congratulations too to all the nominees. If you haven't started yet, there's no time like the present to start working on your categories for this year. As Iain and I know, only too well, the Awards come round far, far, quicker than you think!

Sean Dunderdale.
HBA Publicity Manager

All About Awards

PM Praise for Hospital Radio

Gordon Brown paid tribute to Hospital Broadcasters in the UK saying they make time spent in hospital just that little bit easier for the patients.

The Prime Minister said he wanted to pass on his personal thanks and appreciation for what they do, up and down the country, easing trauma and loneliness of days spent away from home, building a sense of community and bringing comfort and company at what can be an incredibly worrying time for many.

The PM's video message was played during this year's National Hospital Radio Awards Ceremony, held at the Hilton Hotel in Blackpool. Here's the transcript of what the Prime Minister had to say to those attending the event.

'I'm very pleased to have this opportunity to send my congratulations to all of the nominees of this year's National Hospital Radio Awards and to pass on my personal thanks and appreciation for the fantastic work that you do. In more than two hundred hospitals up and down the country you, and others like you, are easing the trauma and loneliness of days spent away from home. You're building a sense of community, bringing comfort and company at what can be an incredibly worrying time.

'It's no co-incidence that some stations see themselves as the friend at the bedside because I know that, for many, that is exactly what you have become, passing on messages from loved ones, playing favourite songs, making time spent in hospital just that little bit easier. It's your passion, your commitment and your enthusiasm that makes hospital radio in Britain so unique. So regardless who wins an award, I commend you all for your achievements and, of course, the real winners are the hospital patients the length and breadth of Britain who gain so much from the time you give so generously.'

Just what the Doctor ordered

Dr Chris Steele again attended the awards ceremony, helping Jon Godel in revealing the winners.

The Doctor, from ITV's popular This Morning programme, said he was delighted to be invited back, after first



attending last year's event in Leeds.

In a message to volunteers across the country, Dr Chris told On Air: 'I find it just awesome that so many people give up their time with no pay, to run the hospital radio services across the country. They are the unsung heroes of the radio world! It was fitting to see so many of them receive awards for their generous work. Best wishes to you and all members of the Hospital Broadcasting Association.'



Sir Terry Toasts Success

HBA patron Sir Terry Wogan once again sent a personal message to those attending the awards ceremony in Blackpool.

Sir Terry said how tremendously proud how is to be patron of the Association: 'I am really honoured to be

patron of the Hospital Broadcasting Association. I receive loads of letters from people in hospital, or just out of hospital, telling me about the work that you do and the fun you get out of it doing it and the good that you're doing. You're doing it for nothing, you're doing it because you care but also because you love radio, you love broadcasting, and I hope that you'll continue doing it as you're all doing an enormous amount of good.'



Mayoral Memories of Hospital Radio

Blackpool's Mayor Mary Smith told diners at this year's Gala Dinner of her own personal experience of hospital radio – as a patient.

She explained how she'd spent a long period of time in the resort's Victoria Hospital in the late fifties, being treated for TB. By coincidence, Dr Chris Steele was also working at the Hospital at the same time.

Asked whether Dr Chris might have treated the Mayor, to laughter, he replied: 'I doubt it, she survived!'

The Mayor said how she had found Hospital Radio a crucial service during her time in hospital. She even used the airwaves to spark up a bit of flirtation with another patient on a different ward. Despite exchanging messages and songs dedicated to each other, the two never actually met – but as Councillor Smith put it: 'It did at least help take my mind off the hospital environment and it's for the best we didn't meet, as I was married at the time!'

All About Awards

Station of the Year

GOLD: Radio Fox
SILVER: Hospital Radio Plymouth
BRONZE: Hospital Radio Perth
HIGHLY COMMENDED:
Sunshine Hospital Radio, Weston
super Mare
Hospital Radio Basingstoke
Hospital Radio Hillingdon
Harrogate Hospital Radio
Hospital Radio Chelmsford
Radio Redhill
Whitechapel AM

Best Specialist Music Programme

GOLD: Radio Lion
SILVER: Radio Cherwell
BRONZE: Valley Park Radio
HIGHLY COMMENDED:
London Network Radio
Anker Radio
BHBS
Chorley Hospital Radio
Grimsby Hospital Radio
Radio Fox
Radio Grapevine

Station Promotion

GOLD: Radio Glamorgan
SILVER: Radio Northwick Park
BRONZE: Sunshine Radio, Isle of Wight
HIGHLY COMMENDED:
Radio Fox
Hospital Radio Barnet
Grimsby Hospital Radio
HWD Hospital Radio
Radio Cherwell
Radio Grapevine
Sunshine Hospital Radio, Weston
super Mare

Special Event

GOLD: Choice Radio
SILVER: Sunshine Hospital Radio,
Weston super Mare
BRONZE: Hospital Radio Chelmsford
HIGHLY COMMENDED:
Radio Northwick Park
Radio Fox
Kingstown Radio
Radio Lion
Radio Warneford
Radio West Suffolk
Rookwood Sound

Best Speech Package

GOLD: Radio Addenbrookes
SILVER: Hospital Radio Plymouth
BRONZE: Whitechapel AM

National Hospital Radio Awards 2009 The Winners



Male and Female Presenters of the Year

HIGHLY COMMENDED:
Harrogate Hospital Radio
Rookwood Sound
Hospital Radio Perth
HWD Hospital Radio
Radio Cherwell
Radio West Suffolk
Sunshine Hospital Radio, Weston
super Mare

Male Presenter of the Year

GOLD: Gerard Conway
Hospital Radio Hillingdon
SILVER: Ben Punter
Radio Northwick Park
BRONZE: Michael Roncone
Bridge FM
HIGHLY COMMENDED:
Dave Bee
Northern Air
John Murray
Victoria Radio Network
Adam Ravenscroft
Hospital Radio Chelmsford
Dave Lockyer
Valley Park Radio

Jamie Stangroom
Whitechapel AM
Jim Simpson
Grampian Hospital Radio
Mike Binns
HWD Hospital Radio

Female Presenter of the Year

GOLD: Diane Clarke
Hospital Radio Tunbridge Wells
SILVER: Lauren Rich
Radio Northwick Park
BRONZE: Biba Hunjan
Radio Northwick Park
HIGHLY COMMENDED:
Isobel King
Hospital Radio Plymouth
Vicky Pinder
HWD Hospital Radio
Alice Corp
Bath Hospital Radio
Brenda Massie
Grampian Hospital Radio
Ellie Jackson
Harrogate Hospital Radio
Julia Douglass
Kingstown Radio
Lesley Jennings
Rookwood Sound

Best Newcomer

GOLD: Anita Hepple
HWD Hospital Radio
SILVER: Asha Jhummu
Hospital Radio Chelmsford
BRONZE: Nicola Mills
Valley Park Radio
HIGHLY COMMENDED:
Nita Jhummu
Hospital Radio Chelmsford
Ben Richards
Whitechapel AM
Carl Richards
Harrogate Hospital Radio
Gillian Bell
Rookwood Sound
Helen Prowse
Grimsby Hospital Radio
Josh Andrews
Hospital Radio Plymouth
Paul Johnston
Victoria Radio Network

HBA Volunteer of the Year

Josh Andrews
Hospital Radio Plymouth

The John Whitney Award

Ena Montgomery

All About Awards



The Winners Hospital Radio Awards 2009



Gold Best Newcomer Anita Hepple with Dr Chris Steele



Silver Best Newcomer Asha Jhummu with awards sponsor Nick West of West Country Broadcast



Bronze Best Newcomer Nicola Mills of Valley Park Radio with Dr Chris Steele



Winner of the John Whitney Award, Ena Montgomery MBE, has devoted most of her life to Hospital Radio. Ena, now in her eighties, started at Preston hospital radio in the fifties and always has the interest of hospital radio at heart. One of the founding members of the HBA, she worked hard as President before handing over to June Snowden. Ena has seen many changes from 78 records to vinyl then CDs but encourages members at Chorley HR to keep up with new technology and anything that brings a better service to the patients. In 1966 she campaigned to get a studio at Chorley as the station then broadcast from Preston. She got local businesses to help with funding build a studio, although facing opposition but she never gave up and in 1968 Chorley Hospital Radio was born. At the station's recent 40 years celebration, Ena contacted members who were at the opening and a great night was had with over 180 people. Ena always has the wellbeing of the station in mind and still goes round the wards chatting and comforting patients and often you will find her in the studio interviewing and getting patients involved, she likes the interactive programmes like bingo or quizzes always maintaining the more the patients are involved the more it takes their minds off why they are in hospital. In the last forty years she has never missed taking the local mayor and MPs round the wards on Christmas morning ensuring a high profile for hospital radio in the community. Many younger volunteers are inspired with the pictures in the studio and stories she tell, of people she has got live on air and go round the wards from Matt Monroe to Liberty X.

All About Awards

Sister Act

It was a double celebration for Hospital Radio Chelmsford with sisters Asha and Nita Jhummu battling it out for the Best Newcomer this year.

In the end it was Asha who came out on top, taking Silver. Nita was Highly Commended.

It was a good year for the 'sisters' in the Best Newcomer, with Nicola Mills of Valley Park Radio taking Bronze and HWD's Anita Hepple scooping Gold.

Hillingdon's on a High

Three years after taking Gold as Best Newcomer, Radio Hillingdon's Gerard Conway has another Gold to his name – after being named Male Presenter of the Year. Gerard's connection and interaction with the patients impressed the judges, marking him out for the other nominees.

Radio Northwick Park's Ben Punter built on his Highly Commended from last year to scoop Silver.

Stations Out-foxed for Top Prize

Radio Fox enjoyed the most successful night in its 21 year history at this year's National Hospital Radio Awards.

The station was named Station of the Year on top of being Highly Commended in the Special Event and Station Promotion categories, and commended for Les Eastham's Sixties Scene in the Specialist Music category.

The judges said the entry for Radio Fox stood out because the presenters sounded like they were enjoying themselves and were clearly passionate about what they were doing.

Station Director Steve Hack said: 'Wow! I think none of us could really believe we had been awarded Gold in Station of the Year - I'm still taking it in!'

'This is a fantastic tribute to the hard work everyone at Radio Fox puts in to their programmes and it's a brilliant way to start our 21st year on air.'

Last year's Gold winner, Hospital Radio Plymouth, took Silver this time around. It was a double win for the station, after teenager Josh Andrews took the HBA Volunteer of the Year prize.



Something Old, Something New

Hospital Radio Plymouth celebrated for a second year running. Its youngest member, 16 year old, Josh Andrews took the HBA Volunteer of the Year Award, twelve months after the station's oldest member Connal Cather won the John Whitney Award. Josh was praised for his commitment to HR Plymouth over the past year, both on and off air, despite a busy final year at school. Josh was also commended in the best Newcomer Category.

In its 40th anniversary year, Plymouth also took Silver in the Station of the Year category, having scooped Gold last time around.

Station Manager, Andrew Hill said: 'This is a very successful start to our 40th anniversary year. To have our oldest member, Connal Cather, get the coveted John Whitney award last year and our youngest member, Josh Andrews, named as HBA Volunteer of the Year in 2009 is a clear reflection of the level of volunteer commitment we have across the spectrum of ages.'

Three Times a Lady

It was celebrations yet again for Hospital Radio Tunbridge Wells Volunteer Diane Clarke, holding on to her Gold award for Best Female Presenter.

It's the third time Diane's scooped the top prize for – in the judge's words – her unique, slightly eccentric, approach.

The judges said it was as if she was sat by the patient's bed, having a chat. The kind of person everyone wants to speak with at a party, a character full of interesting anecdotes.

Pictured, from the top:

Volunteer of the Year winner Josh Andrews with June Snowden
Best Female Presenter Diane Clarke with Dr Chris Steele
Gold Station of the Year, Radio Fox Station Director Steve Hack with Dr Chris Steele
Silver Station of the Year, HR Plymouth Station Manager Andrew Hill with Natalie Thomas of sponsors PPL
Bronze Station of the Year HR Perth's John Watson with Dr Chris Steele

All About Awards



Iain Lee with the team at Warwick Corporate Events get ready to go live

Two Sirs ... With Love!

Two Sirs, a Doctor and the Prime Minister all made this year's National Hospital Radio Awards one to remember.

The event in Blackpool, saw a record attendance packing the ballroom of the resort's Hilton Hotel as part of the annual HBA Spring Conference.

A quick welcome greeting from Sir Tom Jones was following by HBA Patron Sir Terry Wogan making his now annual video address to the ceremony, wishing the nominees well and thanking everyone in Hospital Broadcasting for the work that they do.

Former IRN Editor Jon Godel was host for a second year – back by popular request after making his awards host debut in Leeds last year.

He spiced up proceedings by arriving wearing a pink kiss me quick hat, bought from a seafront trader earlier in the day.

He was joined on stage for most of the ceremony by Dr Chris Steele, fresh from the sofa of ITV1's This Morning programme who said he was overwhelmed by the turn out and by the work that the volunteers do, right across the country.

His words were echoed, later in the ceremony, by a surprise video appearance from Number Ten, when Gordon Brown took the opportunity to also personally thank Hospital Radio Volunteers for bringing comfort and easing the trauma of patients time in hospital.

What the Judges Thought

The judges for this year's National Hospital Radio Awards were once again delighted with the quality and quantity, of excellent broadcasting taking place in hospitals right across the UK. What stood out most was the 'localness' of many hospital radio stations, the kind of listener interaction that other radio stations simply couldn't offer. It was that word 'interaction' that came out time and time again when the judges were deciding a winner. Stations and/or presenters that put patients first, engaging with them, generally came out on top.

Entries that also showed enthusiasm, people clearly enjoying themselves and having a real passion for hospital radio (not just wannabe DJs) also rated highly, as did the variety and breadth of programming on offer in the Station of the Year category.

Slick mixing of the entry wasn't judged on, it was purely its content, its relevance to its audience (the hospital patients) and its understanding of what hospital radio is really about is what mattered to the judges when making their decision.

So, if you didn't put in an entry this year because you don't have a volunteer (or the technology) to produce a carefully crafted entry, the advice is not to worry. As long as your content is packed full of great material, showing the best of what you do, then that's what will impress.



Start saving material NOW for next year's event. The closing date will be in December but that doesn't mean you have to leave it until November before thinking about entering.



Double Surprise for Ena

Ena Montgomery found herself on stage not once but twice during this year's awards ceremony in Blackpool – despite not even knowing she was nominated for a single award.

The former HBA president and founding member of the Association scooped the prestigious John Whitney Award for her life-time's commitment to Hospital Radio in the UK. Later Ena was given a second surprise by current HBA president June Snowden, who – to a standing ovation in the room – presented her with a 50 year long-service award too.

Committee Report

Congratulations

Congratulations to all those recognised in this year's National Hospital Radio Awards. I hope that those of you who were in Blackpool for the awards ceremony enjoyed yourselves. If your station hasn't entered the awards before or for a number of years, please do consider doing so; yes, it's a lot of work – I know as I usually get drafted in to edit together my own station's entries – but it's well worth it if you're recognised by the judges.

Blackpool Conference

I'm writing this shortly after having returned from another successful conference in Blackpool. I hope that, if you attended the event, you were both informed and entertained by the range of activities that our hard-working conference team arranged. Thanks and good wishes also go to the newly-combined hospital radio stations at Chorley and Preston for their hospitality; all too often I hear of stations struggling, so it was nice to hear good news from long-standing members with a new lease of life.

Membership Subscriptions

Thank you to those of you – roughly half the membership – who have already renewed your membership. You should, by now, have received your membership certificate and receipt. If you have yet to renew, please do so as soon as possible; chasing members for subscriptions is extremely time-consuming – time better spent doing more useful and fulfilling work for HBA – and costs HBA money.

Restructuring of the Association

You will be aware that we have been considering the best structure for the Association for the last two years. The Trustee Board's aspiration to recruit a paid Chief Executive of the Association, who would be charged with the



by Nigel Dallard, Secretary

management of the day-to-day operations of the Association (through a combination of his/her own activities and those of volunteers reporting to him/her, as explained in the last edition of this magazine) were presented to and discussed at the informal members' meeting at the conference in Blackpool. There was a general consensus that the Board had adopted the right approach, and we will now be progressing along this path, starting with drawing up role descriptions for the Chief Executive and the Trustees, investigating the likely cost of employing an appropriately-skilled person, drawing up a budget and completing the rest of the 'due diligence' necessary before we take any final decision.

Hospital and Community Radio

A comment by James Croft from Ofcom during his seminar at the Blackpool conference to the effect that there had been fewer applications for Community Radio licences from hospital radio stations than Ofcom had

expected, led to a debate in the later informal members' meeting.

A handful of HBA members have successfully applied for community radio licences but I think it is fair to say that HBA's official position, agreed when applications for the first round of community radio licences were about to be invited, is rather lukewarm towards the idea.

Comments have been made that Ofcom haven't really understood the legal barriers that prevent many hospital radio stations applying for a community radio licence and HBA will be following that up with Ofcom.

HBA itself is also limited, by its charitable objects, as to what support it can provide to community radio stations. However, following the debate in Blackpool, the Trustee Board will reconsider HBA's position, looking both at the scenario where an existing HBA member station applies for a community radio licence and at what the criteria would be for a community radio licensee being allowed membership of HBA.

If you have any views on this subject, please do get in touch.

HBA Training Network

Launched at the Blackpool conference, the HBA Training Network is intended to provide a series of events across the UK providing training in all aspects of running a hospital radio station.

After some successful trial regional events in Southern England and in Wales, our first National Hospital Radio Training Day will be staged on Saturday 17th October 2009, with a full day's training by professionals being offered for the bargain price of only £10. See the article on page 13 for more details.

If you have any ideas for subjects to be covered at future events, or suggestions as to suitable venues to hold training events in your area, please get in touch.

Our sincere thanks to the following companies, who supported our Spring Conference Trade Show:

- Sonifex • Eastern Electronics • Cunnings Recording Associates • Canford / Ash Distribution
- S-Connect • Media Hubb (Definitive Productions) • Audessence • Active Information Systems
- Westcountry Broadcast • Attend • P-Squared • Goodies • Devaweb • Access Underwriting
- The National Blood Service • The Radio Academy • The Radio Magazine

Emma Sysum, HBA Tradeshow Organiser

Charity Law Update

England and Wales

The Government has recently changed a number of the financial thresholds in the Charities Acts, for financial years that end on or after 1st April 2009.

The one that will most affect hospital radio stations is the raising of the current £10,000 annual income threshold to £25,000.

This is the threshold above which charities must have their Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts externally examined (unless their governing document sets a lower threshold) and submit the documents to the Charity Commission.

The introduction of the new incorporated form of charity with limited liability, the Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) has been delayed until April 2010 following a recent consultation exercise.

A number of respondents, including the HBA, expressed the view that the draft regulations relied too heavily on Company Law and would be too complicated for those running small charities to understand.

The Office of the Third Sector is now planning to rework the regulations.

Scotland

The Scottish Government has recently published 'The Charities and Benevolent Fundraising (Scotland) Regulations 2009' (available from http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/scotland/ssi2009/pdf/ssi_20090121_en.pdf) which come into force on 1st July 2009.

These regulations set out the rules under which charities can use professional fundraisers or other commercial organisations (called 'commercial participators') to raise money on their behalf, and bring the rules in Scotland very close to those that have been in existence in England and Wales since 1995.

Briefly, the regulations require:

- that a written agreement that meets certain criteria is in place between the charity and the commercial organisation;
- the so-called 'solicitation statement' made when requesting funds to include certain information;
- that money obtained by the commercial organisation be transferred to the charity as soon as possible, but in any event no later than 28 days after receipt; and

- that the commercial organisation make available to the charity all books and records associated with the agreement so that the charity can see that it is obtaining a fair deal.

The Scottish equivalent of the CIO, the imaginatively named SCIO, is delayed until late 2010, with the Scottish Government taking on board the comments made in response to the consultation on the draft CIO regulations for England and Wales.

Northern Ireland

The first parts of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 came into force on 27th March 2009. At the moment, there is no material change to charity law in Northern Ireland; these provisions simply create the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland and give it authority to issue guidance on the 'public benefit test' that will be one of two conditions that organisations must pass in order to be recognised as charities in Northern Ireland.

Only once the new Commission has created, consulted on and finally adopted the new guidance will it be in a position to be given the power to start registering and regulating charities.

Nigel Dallard, Secretary

Awards for All

The Big Lottery Fund has announced a number of changes to its small grants programme, 'Awards for All'. The rules are slightly different depending whether you are based in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland or Wales:

England

A total of £45 million is available in England, with grants of between £300 to £10,000 available to grass roots groups in the community and voluntary sector, health bodies, schools and parish or town councils.

Each applicant can apply for multiple grants up to a total of £10,000 in a two-year period. Each grant must be used within a year.

Northern Ireland

The Awards for All scheme in Northern Ireland has a budget of £3.5 million a year, and will accept applications from voluntary, community

or statutory organisations for between £500 and £10,000. Multiple applications can be made up to the £10,000 maximum in any 12-month period. Any grant awarded must be spent within 12 months.

Scotland

Supported by the Big Lottery Fund, the Scottish Arts Council and sportscotland, the Awards for All programme in Scotland has £10.5 million to give away in grants ranging in size from £500 to £10,000. Not-for-profit/voluntary and community sector groups, community councils, schools and health bodies can apply, with priority being given to smaller voluntary and community groups with an annual income of less than £20,000.

Multiple applications can be made up to the £10,000 maximum in any 12-month period.

Any grant awarded must be spent within 12 months.

Wales

In Wales, grants of between £500 and £5,000 are available with a total of £2.4 million available.

Applications are invited from community groups, not for profit groups, Community or Town Councils, health bodies and schools.

Organisations can receive up to a maximum of £5,000 from Awards for All in any 12-month period.

For more information, see www.awardsforall.org.uk or telephone 08454 10 20 30.

Nigel Dallard, Secretary

**PLEASE SEND IN YOUR
REPORTS BY 9TH JUNE
FOR INCLUSION IN THE
NEXT ISSUE OF ON AIR**

June's Travels



I was so pleased that Editor Michelle was able to include so many photographs of visits in 2008 and hopefully I will have quite a collection in 2009 too.

It is always wonderful to be invited to visit stations for whatever reason and 2009 has started very well indeed.

Apart from the HBA EC meeting in January, it was a pretty quiet month – perhaps just as well due to the weather catching us out. Visits started well in February, my first being at Hospital Radio Reading when I was welcomed to their AGM – and an excellent turn-out of members and I was delighted to present Long Service Certificates.

A couple of days later I was in Bournemouth for the Bedside Annual Fund raising Quiz, run by BBC & Radio 2's Alan Dedicoat and President of the station.

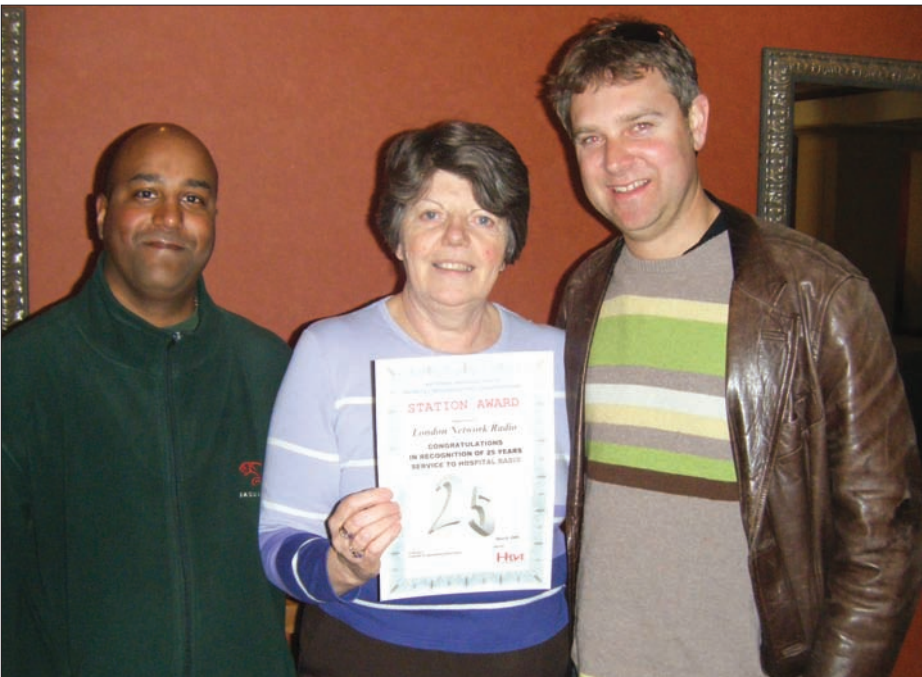
A week later I was in Harlow for their awards presentation evening which included Long Service certificates and a couple of days later, on 1st March, I was welcomed by Anker Radio at their equally well supported AGM – again an opportunity to present lots of Long Service Certificates.

March continued with a visit to Radio Wexham, Slough for their AGM and presentation of Long Service Certificates.

Then, at the end of March the conference took place in Blackpool – no-one could have left the Hilton Hotel hungry – the food was amazing and, of course, so was the company. It was a great pleasure for me to present some awards at the Gala Dinner – notably the Volunteer of the Year award to 16 year old Josh Andrews and a 50 year



Visiting Anker Radio



Presenting a 25 year certificate to Simon Sujewon and Darren Entwistle of London Network Radio

Long Service Certificate to Ena Montgomery – well she has always been and always will be Auntie Ena to me, having known her myself since 1974. Congratulations to ALL those who were successful in winning awards.

Many congratulations and thanks must also go to Iain Lee and Sean Dunderdale along with the team from Scunthorpe Hospital Radio who put so

much work into the awards. Equally a fantastic thank you once again to Marie and John Harper for their continued sterling work which they have put in for the conference. They never step outside the hotel for the whole weekend and take their responsibilities very seriously indeed – we are lucky to have such dedication. But, that is what hospital broadcasters do – they give their time, dedication and commitment

June's Travels

to their station, their community and to hospital radio.

It was also lovely to be able to welcome two visitors from Cork, to conference in Blackpool, where they have been involved in hospital radio for some years. I think they returned home with lots of ideas and hopefully I will have the chance to go and see them soon.

My most recent visit was to Radio North Tees in Stockton on Tees just a few days later – to visit the studio and surprise Norman with his 25 year certificate.

Long Service Certificates are there for you – to acknowledge the hard work, dedication and commitment everyone gives to Hospital Radio – locally, regionally and nationally. I thank you all and it delights me to be able to produce the certificates and present as many as possible so that I can personally thank members on behalf of the HBA.

This year so far I have already issued 120 certificates and the total years they alone represent is 2380 – which is the most incredible amount. With last year's total reaching over 400 certificates I am hoping we are well on the way to exceeding it this year.

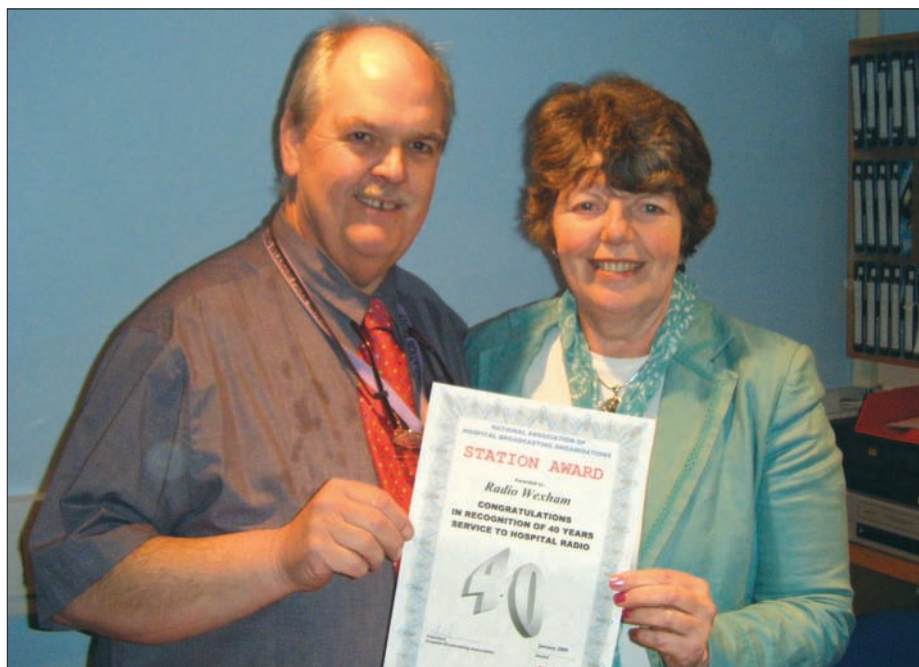
I am already looking forward to visits to Stafford Hospital Radio, Radio Fox, Leicester, Hospital Radio Hillingdon, Hospital Radio Chelmsford and hopefully Newcastle for their open day and to see their spanking new studios too. That takes me up to the middle of May and other potential visits are taking shape.

It is significant and pleasing that I am receiving invitations to stations who I have not had the opportunity to visit before or perhaps for a long time and I have now visited well over 200 stations – to many I am, happily, a regular visitor I enjoy seeing you all.

My thanks to you all for your wonderful greetings and hospitality – it is so much appreciated and I look forward to continuing my travels around the UK – possibly even further afield – in the coming weeks and months.

June Snowden, President, HBA

Pictured, from the top: Presenting a long service certificate to Norman Johnson of Radio North Tees; George McDowell of Radio Wexham receives the certificate in recognition of 40 years of the station's broadcasting. Also celebrating 40 years of broadcasting was Ian Bruce Savin and last, but not least, Charles Coultas receives his 15 year certificate; both are members of HR Reading



Here's a quick question ...

How's your station sounding?

**When your listeners flick between the stations on the dial,
do your jingles and sweepers sound as good as your competitors?**

Do they fit your station sound?

**Do they help your listeners understand who they're
listening to, and what they're likely to hear?**

**Does the voice sound right? Do the sung jingles work with your range of music?
If there are bleeps, zaps and wooshes, should there be?**

**Do the idents that your specialist shows use still work with your overall station sound?
Without restricting the mood of those shows, obviously.**

Do you have stuff to reflect the seasons?

**Can presenters purchase their own packages for their shows?
If so, can you be sure that they'll fit your station?**

That's why we're here ... and we're Devaweb

**We work with dozens of hospital radio stations across the UK to create a
station sound that keeps you sounding as professional as all the other
stations available in your hospital, while keeping within your budget.**

**From full station packages to sung jingles, our Christmas & summer packs
through to IDs for presenters and special occasions.**

Check out the audio on our site at www.devaweb.co.uk and get in touch.

**We're Devaweb... proud to be producing the
imaging for Hospital Broadcasting Week 2008
... and ready to produce imaging for your station.**

Email post@devaweb.co.uk or call 020 7193 3823

National Training Day



Details of the HBA's 2009 National Training Day are now available at www.hbauk.com/training, along with a booking form and promotional flyer.

The day will provide hospital radio volunteers with five hours of training in one of two aspects of running their station for a cost of just £10 each.

The two training tracks (see below for details) will run in parallel; delegates must select which track they wish to attend at the time of booking.

The venue is the Ramada Birmingham Hotel in Sutton Coldfield. It is close to the M6 / M6 Toll and M42 to the north-east of Birmingham and has ample free parking. Chester Road railway station with its rail line to Birmingham New Street (20 mins) is 1.5 miles away. Birmingham International Airport/railway station is just 10 miles away (40 mins by rail, 20 mins by taxi).

Want to stay overnight, or make a weekend of it? No problem. HBA has negotiated a special Dinner, Bed & Breakfast rate for the exclusive use of delegates: £40pppn for a double room, £58pppn for a single room. Of course, you're free to come just for the training, or to make your own accommodation arrangements.

Track One: Improve Your Presentation Skills How to talk on the radio

We all know what to do when we sit behind the microphone don't we? But how could we do it better and more professionally? How about reading out extracts from the newspaper or a book without it sounding like we are reading it? Does anyone in your station have the skills to

read the local news? If there is a VIP in the hospital or nearby, do you have the skills to interview them?

You can acquire these skills after years of practice or professional training. But this training day will accelerate that learning by giving you the tools to be a more professional presenter both on-air and off, confident in imparting information in a way which you will find useful in hospital broadcasting but also in your day-to-day life, whether it is you doing the interviewing or you are the one being interviewed about your station.

The day will equip you with the skills and knowledge to:

- gain increased interview confidence,
- impart information to your listeners lucidly,
- be a more professional on-air presenter,
- read the news confidently.

Training will be provided by Peter Stewart, an award-winning broadcaster, radio consultant and author with 20 years' experience in both speech and music radio, including at the BBC, talkSPORT, Virgin Radio and Kiss FM. For several years Peter worked for BBC Training & Development, coaching at all of the BBC's network radio stations and most of its regional radio and TV stations.

Track Two: Become A Better Committee Member

'How about joining the committee? – It's only one meeting a month.'

Many of us have been recruited as committee members in this way, and

spend months (or even years) either blissfully unaware of our responsibilities, or wishing we felt more confident and that we knew more about what we've taken on.

To enable you to understand your role in managing your station and to help you to help your committee to work more effectively, the training day will cover:

- The implications of being a charity
- The responsibilities of committee members
- The importance of the governing document
- The roles of the Chair, Treasurer and Secretary
- Effective decision-making
- How to plan for the future

Training will be provided by professional charity management trainer Lin Whitfield using a participative and interactive style. Lin has over 20 years' experience working in the voluntary sector at local, regional and national levels.

The session will begin with a short quiz and will include practical exercises undertaken either individually or in pairs, small group discussions and interactive tools that can be taken away.

It will be broken down into 'bite-sized' chunks and backed up with clear handouts.

At the end of the day, participants will be encouraged to consider how they can cascade their enhanced knowledge to their own committees, to maximise the impact of the training.

For further information, e-mail conferences@hbauk.com or telephone 0870 321 6017.

Hospital Broadcasting Week 2009

Grampian Hospital Radio Celebrates

To mark Hospital Broadcasting Week 2009 Grampian Hospital Radio put on a display in the 'Community Corner' area within the concourse of Aberdeen Royal Infirmary.

We were lucky enough to have the opportunity to prepare the display a few days before the start of the conference in Blackpool which ensured that both GHR and Hospital Broadcasting Week had the maximum coverage possible.

The display contained factual information in a bite sized format about Grampian Hospital Radio, Radio Rainbow and hospital broadcasting right across the UK. It also provided all the information required to enable patients as well as their friends and family to contact both GHR and Radio Rainbow for requests and also provided contact details for anyone interested in joining hospital radio.

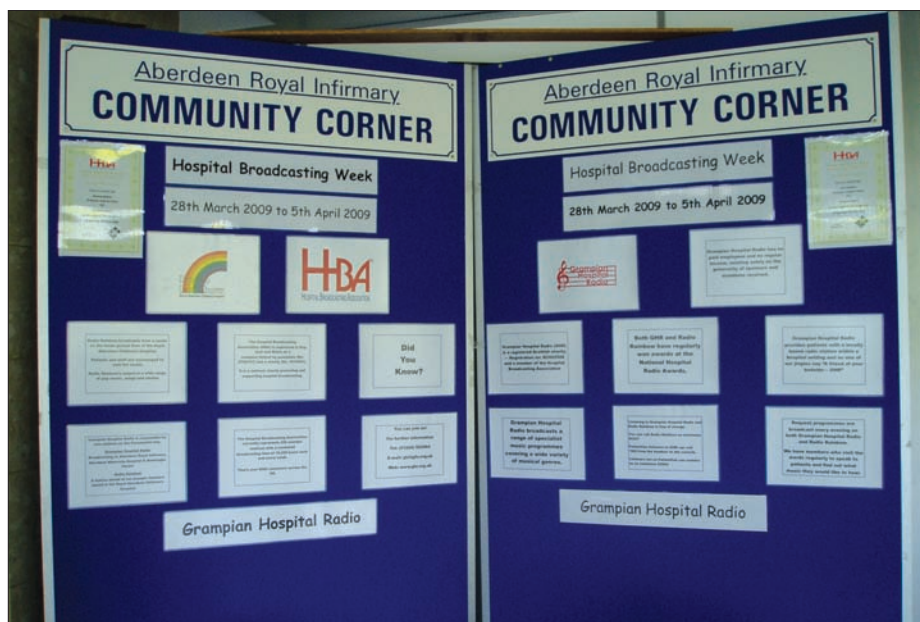
The concourse is the main thoroughfare at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary and provides access to many wards. It contains the hospital pharmacy, a coffee shop, a flower shop a newsagent and other retail outlets, therefore ideally positioned for staff, patients and visitors to view GHR's presentation.

Special Visitors for Sunderland

Radio Sunderland celebrated Hospital Broadcasting Week by inviting guests who have links to Sunderland to the studio to co-present the patient request programme, Ward Call. Ten fantastic guests joined us in the studio:

Sunday 29th March: Councillor Mary Smith, Mayor of Sunderland
Monday 30th March: Ken Bremner, Chief Exec of City Hospitals Sunderland
Tuesday 31st March: Paul Liddell, local singer song writer
Wednesday 1st April: Superintendent Kay Blyth, Northumbria Police
Thursday 2nd April: Jaff, bass player with The Futureheads, a band from Sunderland
Friday 3rd April: Chris Mullin, MP for Sunderland South
Saturday 4th April: Bill Etherington, MP for Sunderland North
Sunday 5th April: Denise Robertson, resident agony aunt from This Morning
Monday 6th April: Tony Jeffries, bronze medal for boxing winner at the 2008 Olympic games.

Guests read out patients' requests and dedications and answered questions from the presenters. Everyone commented on how much they enjoyed the experience and if asked would come back and do it



GHR sincerely thank NHS Grampian's Corporate Communications department for their help and co-operation, without which we would have been unable to use Community Corner to promote Hospital Broadcasting Week.

In addition to the display at the concourse, GHR also held a Pound to Work day on 3rd April 2009. A number of wards within Aberdeen Royal Infirmary were persuaded to take

part and Aberdeenshire Council were also very keen to support GHR and Radio Rainbow, organising the event in their work places across the North-East of Scotland. The figure from all of the participants is awaited; the interim figures show that well in excess of £200 has been raised by Aberdeenshire Council alone.

Brenda Massie
Secretary
Grampian Hospital Radio



again. Thank you everyone who gave up their busy time to help us celebrate Hospital Broadcasting Week 2009.

Anthony Usher
Public Relations, Radio Sunderland



Pictured, top left, Cllr Mary Smith, Mayor of Sunderland; top right: Bill Etherington visits the studio; bottom left, Supt Kay Blyth in the studio and bottom right, agony aunt Denise Robertson in residence

Hospital Broadcasting Week 2009

Calderdale Celebrate

All the volunteers at Radio Calderdale, based at The Royal Calderdale Hospital in Halifax have worked really hard to make this week a successful and entertaining one for patients and volunteers alike.

Jacksons Florist donated 250 bunches of daffodils to the station and on Mothers Day we visited all the female patients in the hospital and delivered a bunch of the daffodils to say Happy Mothers Day.

Open Day 28th March marked the start of National Hospital Radio Broadcasting Week for us. We advertised in the local paper and in local magazines prior to the event. The day was attended well by members of the public who wanted to find out more about hospital radio and volunteering. Visitors were shown around the studios and found out about all that hospital radio entails from ward visiting and chatting to patients to presenting the top 40 chart show!

Children from Luddenden Dene CE Primary School presented their own show on Thursday 2nd April. The children were from class 5, ten years old. They put the show content together themselves, choosing to read favourite poems, short stories and jokes to brighten the patients day. They even chose the five songs they wanted to play as part of their show. These included 'Be Happy Don't Worry' and 'You Are My Sunshine'. The children invited the deputy mayor down to meet them and to hear their live show. Class 5 also designed and made posters to advertise the show on the children's ward. Members from Radio Calderdale took the posters onto the children's ward so that the children would tune in to the special show.

The evening of Thursday 2nd April saw Radio Calderdale's first ever patients quiz night. A team of presenters and volunteers from the station went on the wards taking out quiz sheets to patients, then as a team, presented the quiz live on air. The team went back out on the wards collecting and collating answer sheets. Prizes were kindly donated by the following local businesses; Evolve Fitness, The Holistic Heath Clinic, The Watermill, Casa Pizza 2 and Skircoat Fishbar. We would like to say a big thank you to them for their support.

Lastly, we have another first for Radio Calderdale. We hosted a pub quiz at The Standard Of Freedom at



Skircoat Green. This was to raise awareness of the radio station and also to raise some funds for the children's ward. The evening was very successful, with the station working alongside Paula, the landlady to raise £250, which was recently presented to the children's ward.

Tracy Connor
Radio Calderdale

Pictured:

top: Jenna, Dave and Tracey delivered the donated daffodils to all the Mums and below Radio Calderdale's Open day, Tim Morsby with guests

View from the Basement

Our columnist, Brett Ellis and his unique view on life ... what makes a hero?



We all have our heroes. My wife was once assessed on her oral skills based on the Triple Wets' Marti Pellow ... for her GCSE English course, I hasten to add. King Kenny (Dalglish), although one of the dourest men on this God's earth, would cross the touchline and transform into a footballing icon. My CB handle read 'you have eyeballed Dalglish'. I was proud of my enforced association with the finest number 7 to ever play the beautiful game when it was at its most majestic.

Most heroes are well known so we can associate with their success and bask in the warm glow of our adulation for their perceived genius. This is the reason there are so many Man Utd fans. The oft trotted out reason of 'I have been a fan since I was five and watched a George Best video' is well documented and rarely true. You will never misunderstand a Southern red's accent, nor will they have ever travelled within 50 miles of the fabled city of Manchester. The truth is we want to associate with success and belong to a gang, group or tribe. We want something to cling to. We want to feel loved.

What has prompted me to write this as I sit here on a cold, dank Monday evening is Jade Goody. By the time you read this, the poor lady will undoubtedly have passed away. A tragedy played out before the public's eyes like a modern day freak show. A sad tale indeed. Jade Goody is not famous for her looks, her intellect or her physical prowess. She has never won any competitions to the best of my knowledge and had, by all accounts a tragic and dead end life before she auditioned one day for new reality show and her numbers came in. The producers placed her in as a 'Sarfi' London figure of fun. A wretched urchin of Dickensian proportions designed to improve viewing figures as we gawked with glee from afar. We should remember this was a woman who thought 'Portugal was in Spain'. Who said 'Rio de Janeiro, ain't that a person?', who asked 'Where is East Anglar? Is it abroad?'. She thought 'Saddam Hussain was a boxer' and asked 'who is Heinzstein? She also, whilst complaining in the BB house, claimed that others were trying to use her as an 'Escape Goat'.

Her escape was through luck however, not via a goat, which has been prevalent in education of late where the current ethos is that 'anyone can achieve'. If you are illiterate, don't worry, you too can be a leader. If you are intellectually challenged you can still gain a good career despite being totally and utterly inefficient. Teachers

have outrageous targets which they must achieve. Students are 'over marked'. They go onto A levels they cannot handle. The teacher spoon feeds them. They then go on to degrees and are hand reared, leaving with the same inabilities as they left school with. They then go into some unfortunate's employ, showing a lack of basic competence, along with a large proportion of their co-workers. They stay entrenched in said job with their crew, letting the other 50% do all the work as they cash in their undeserved pay cheques month on month. They are never told any different and are led to believe this is their right. We have created a culture where idiocy is celebrated and intellectual heroes such as the University Challenge winning Gail Trimble of Corpus Christie are derided for being arrogant and 'ugly' and threats are made online toward her. It is wrong but our equality, PC infatuated way would not stand for anything else. Intellect is derided. Incompetence encouraged and nurtured.

This is Jade Goody's legacy. To show children and young adults that yes, it's OK to have no decipherable talent or skill. It's OK to be stupid. It's fine to do little, make excuses and aim for the Promised Land of reality TV and page 3. These heroes are like us ... not an awful lot of intellect or much to give. If Jade made £4m in her short time on earth, so WILL I. Anyone can achieve.

Heroes used to be explorers, adventurers, racing car drivers and stunt bike riders. Along with Dalglish, my other heroes as a child were the stunt bike rider Eddie Kidd and my Grandfather. He was kind, considerate, authoritative and could put his hand to anything from making wonderful furniture to growing fantastic plants and vegetables. He had fought in the war, been shot, travelled the world and met my Grandmother in India when Britain wasn't the place to move your foreign bride to in the 1940s. He lived a decent and respectful life and died surrounded by his loving family. That to me is what a hero should be.

So as you read this, you may wonder why I gibber on so without any nod to radio. Well there is a point. If we can be a hero to just one person then our journey has been worthwhile. Maybe you will be a hero for a few minutes only. You may be the last voice a dying patient hears and you may crack a funny to put a final smile on their face as they await the ultimate journey. You may not be aware of your herodome. It is the knowledge that you have touched someone's life that should be the important thing, whether you are aware of it or not.

When I look back in years to come and my friends have died (if I outlive them) and maybe my family have passed and I sit for a while alone, I will look at pictures of my Grandfather, my CB handle badge and my signed Eddie Kidd poster, crack a smile and shed a tear. Maybe a patient is lying back and grinning contentedly as they breathe their last surrounded by their photos and reminiscences in hospital the next time you present your show. Maybe yours is the last voice they will hear on this earth.

It is not the length of time you achieve hero status nor the number of hero worshippers that count. Will people think back and remember Jade in 40 years? In the main, I doubt it. Two people however will never forget. To her boys she will always be a heroine and that is the finest epitaph the lady could ever wish for.

www.brett-ellis.net

brettellis99@yahoo.co.uk

COPY DATE FOR ISSUE 127 9th June, 2009

Radio Warneford's 35 Hour Marathon

A year of celebrations for Radio Warneford's 35th anniversary reached a climax at the end of November with a 35-hour non-stop broadcasting marathon.

The broadcast at Warwick Hospital was launched by Annie Othen, BBC Coventry & Warwickshire's mid-morning presenter and former member of Radio Warneford. Annie co-presented the first hour of the marathon with Station Manager Ley Bricknell and Communications Manager Andy Dowell and shared some of her hilarious memories of the time she spent at the station.

Ten minutes into the Marathon and we had our first phone call from the wards and from that moment, the phones rang all day and night. We gave away more than sixty anniversary mugs to patients and staff who had their favourite songs played.

Our competitions were big hits on the wards too with patients competing to win meals for two at local restaurants, Zizzi and Petit Gourmand, by trying to identify various famous voices in our Name That Name competition.

The Town Mayor of Kenilworth, Councillor Spencer Harrison and the Town Mayor of Warwick, Councillor Ann Mellor, both patrons of Radio Warneford, were our special guests and helped to collect requests from patients and later introduce them on air.

Our presenters worked really hard interviewing representatives from local Lions Clubs and our other sponsors, our Life President Graeme Meanley and members of the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford-upon-Avon in order to produce lots of features that were included throughout the Marathon.

Our Broadcast came to a close with the help of live music from flamenco guitarist Matt Hernandez and also Men In Caves who performed at a special Marathon Party for Radio Warneford's members and friends, parts of which were relayed to patients.

Station Manager Ley Bricknell praised members 'for really throwing themselves into the Marathon, producing high quality shows to keep the patients entertained. Members ensured we had a high profile on the wards and it was obvious that patients stayed with us through most of the 35 hours including the wee small hours which really made it all worthwhile.'

'With the sponsorship raised we can now enhance our technology and take Radio Warneford to the next level to reach our goal of being able to offer our hospital radio service 24 hours a day, every day of the year.'



Pictured: (from the top, clockwise): BBC Coventry & Warwickshire's Annie Othen (right) opens the Marathon Broadcast with Station Manager, Ley Bricknell. Councillor Spencer Harrison, Town Mayor of Kenilworth (right) and his wife (left) with Radio Warneford Chairman, Sara Lister. It's All Over Now! Presenter Clare Freeman prepares to bring the Marathon Broadcast to a close. Just some of Radio Warneford's



members at our Marathon Party. Happy Birthday Radio Warneford! An anniversary cake baked by member Doreen Chand. Press photograph of BBC Coventry & Warwickshire's Annie Othen (left) with Radio Warneford Station Manager Ley Bricknell (centre) and Communications Manager Andy Dowell. Councillor Ann Mellor, Town Mayor of Warwick, presents a 35th anniversary mug to a lucky patient at Warwick Hospital.

Glad Greetings from Glamorgan

St. David's Day DJ Bride



Congratulations are in order for dedicated Radio Glamorgan volunteer and presenter Zoé Clifford, who married her fiancé Tom O'Shea in a service at St Michael's Church, Cwmavon on St. David's Day.

Zoé's day was made even more special by the presence of Radio Glamorgan, who broadcast to patients at the University Hospital of Wales in Cardiff, of which Zoé has been a member for over ten years, since she was 16 years old.

The radio station has an outside broadcast unit, which it uses to perform mobile discos at a range of different types of functions across South Wales.

Radio Glamorgan presenter Gareth Rowlands provided the entertainment at the wedding reception but as Zoé is an experienced DJ herself she had loads of creative input into the song choices. In fact she couldn't resist taking to the decks at one point and going on mic herself!

'Radio Glamorgan has been a massive part of my life, so I really

wanted the station to be involved in the biggest day of my life so far – my wedding day! I've been on the fundraising committee for six years too, so I wanted to make sure that Radio Glamorgan benefited financially from the money we would spend on a wedding disco. The radio station relies totally on donations to operate, and the help of volunteers, so I'm really proud to be able to support the station in this way,' Zoé said.

Zoé added, 'The best thing was knowing that the entertainment at my wedding was going to be handled by someone I know and could really trust to make it special. And it was great being able to interfere and have a go myself!'

The St. David's Day ceremony was also made extra special for groom Tom, whose mother, Reverend Helen O'Shea, conducted the happy couple's wedding service.

First Live Outside Broadcast by Glamorgan

Hospital Radio Glamorgan passed a new milestone in its broadcasting history earlier this year with the station's first ever live outside transmission from the newly built Teenage Cancer Trust ward in University Hospital Wales, Cardiff.

Radio Glamorgan member Jamie Pritchard who presented the show between 3-6pm on Friday 23rd January said, 'Previously, when Radio Glamorgan wanted to cover an outside event, we had to go around with a microphone and a recorder and then broadcast the output later but, thanks to the kindness of a local Cardiff-based radio station who loaned us their equipment, I was able to link up with another presenter who remained in the radio studio to patch through the live broadcast. And so, for the first time, patients throughout the hospital were able to share in the excitement as it happened.'

The borrowed OB equipment enabled Jamie to link up with the studio via an ISDN telephone line which was then routed through the sound desk.

In between playing requests and dedications, Jamie was on-hand to interview several of the people instrumental in raising the £3.3m necessary to build the new specialist ward, which is nick-named the 'Skypad' because it can only be reached via a lift and the ceilings are painted to look like clouds.



Simon Davies, Chief Executive of the Teenage Cancer Trust, told listeners: 'We're really excited about this – it's not like a hospital, it's much closer to home. It's very vibrant, very colourful and it's got some amazing features that teenagers are going to really enjoy; but it's still going to do the business in treating people with cancer and making sure they get well.'

Davies added that, as far as he is aware, this is the first time any hospital radio station has done a live broadcast from the opening of a TCT Ward and congratulated Radio Glamorgan.

Andrew Jones, Radio Glamorgan's programme controller said, 'We hope this will be the first of many links between the radio station and patients in the Skypad.'

Radio Glamorgan's Chairwoman, Clare Sinclair said, 'Following the success of this outside broadcast, Radio Glamorgan is hoping to raise funds to purchase its own state-of-the-art outside broadcast equipment as it can be used for ward visits, concerts and coverage of other major Cardiff events.'

The well-equipped Skypad has adjustable digital lighting at each bedside to match the patient's mood; individual heating and air-conditioning controls; and web access where they can keep in touch with family and friends, or even download a film to watch. Upstairs there is a socialising area where the teenagers can play pool or snooker, watch a big screen TV, listen to music, or go into a quiet 'chill-out' room if they feel the need. Doors opened for viewing on 23rd January and it will be receiving its first patients sometime in the March after a clinical deep clean.

The official opening will take place later in the year.

What I've Learnt

Matthew Hulbert
Vice Chairman of Castle Mead Radio

It's good to have broadcasting heroes, as long as we're realistic



ONE OF my broadcasting heroes is the .U.S. TV/radio host and producer, Ryan Seacrest. You may know him best, here in the U.K., for his hosting of top-rated TV show (in the States, at least), American Idol ... seen here on ITV2.

But to think that that's where this bloke's career begins and ends would be to massively underestimate his talents and achievements. He spends most of his life on-air. Each morning he presents 'Live and On Air with Ryan Seacrest,' on KISS FM in Los Angeles. He then produces and co-presents 'E! News' the daily entertainment news programme, which can be seen here on E! on Virgin TV.

When 'Idol's' on-air, he then spends a couple of nights a week hosting that network show, live.

He also has interests in restaurants, a fashion line, etc, etc. And he's still only 34!

Why am I telling you all this?

Well, because I believe that whilst it's important to have people that we look up to in various aspects of our lives, including our careers, it's equally important that we don't judge our success against that of others.

If I was to judge my success against that of Mr Seacrest, I'd come out wanting. Not least because he's twice been voted one of People Magazine's Most Beautiful people. As you can tell from my picture, I may be many things but I certainly wouldn't win any Handsome Hunk contests!

Being serious for a moment, though, I admire Seacrest for his many achievements and I follow his career trajectory with interest. But I'm happy being me, with all the flaws that consists of.

I'm happy with my niche in local radio journalism and with my two shows a week on Castle Mead Radio.

So many times I get asked 'wouldn't you like to be on Radio One?' The honest answer is that I'm happy as I am. I love being involved with truly local radio stations, serving local communities.

I'll continue to take an interest in Mr Seacrest, along with other people I admire both inside and outside of the media but I'll also mark out my own path.

Hulbert out.*

* Sorry, I couldn't help myself, Ryan always ends his radio show with the phrase 'Seacrest Out.'

ITEMS FOR SALE

At London Chest Hospital Radio, we have the following items for sale. Anyone interested or wanting further information on these items please contact me and I will put you in contact with the right person. We have not get a set price on any items listed and will accept any reasonable offer from any other HR station or person. All items are in good condition and working until the day they come out of service. If the item you are looking for is not listed below, feel free to get in touch and ask and I will pass on your message to the people within our team that may be able to help source the item. We will have more items to follow soon

Items 1

A large number of brushed stainless steel double socket panel with double pole 6 way selector switch (program selector) 9 way switch (volume control) low voltage 6v loud speaker with panel adaptor mediteq or donvox stethoscope headphones plastic pipe. Panel also has hock for storing headphones. Also we have a large quantity of parts for simpler units.

Item 2


Wireless workshop – (Radica) MF transmitter system audio processor AP01
MF exciter MX01 846khz AM Power supply unit PS01 + 12 x Panel aerals=20

Andrew Stokes


London Chest Hospital Radio

The new station for the staff and patients of the London Chest Hospital.


London Chest Hospital Radio is currently made up from members of the now closed stations at St Andrews Airwaves at St Andrews Hospital Bow, London and Radio Moorfields at Moorfields Eye Hospital London and is looking to start broadcasting to the London Chest Hospital from early 2009.



quality digital audio
levellers via local dealers




Who controls
your audio levels?




Not something
Audessence customers
worry about!

Automatic gain control over incredible capture range of +/-20dB and
'brick wall' limiting provides consistent great sound.




PodBlaster –
super price; up to 4 channels in 1-µ

ALPS-3 – with IP, GPIO control



ALPS-2 – front panel control **ALPS-1 – tamper-proof, failsafe**

Call your local dealer for immediate trial of our 
compliant range with models to suit your need and budget!

www.audessence.com

... Countrywide ... news from the stations ...

NHS Fraud

A NHS fraud expert has been giving advice to patients at Medway Maritime Hospital, Gillingham.

Steffan Wilkinson, a counter fraud specialist for South Coast Audit, visited the studios of Hospital Radio Medway (HRM) to talk to listeners about fraud within the NHS.

The show was hosted by presenter and HRM studio manager Ian Whitmill.

He said, 'Although by no means wide-spread, Steffan told us all about the service he offers and said although the majority of people who work and use the NHS are honest, there is a minority who will seek to defraud the organisation of its valuable resources.'

During the show, Steffan talked about the NHS dentist from North Yorkshire who created hundreds of ghost patients and made more than 3,800 false claims for payment from the NHS. During his scam he appeared on Who Wants to be a Millionaire and won £64,000.

Steffan advised patients to be vigilant during their stay in hospital.

He said: 'I would rather people contacted me and my team in the first instance if they hear something on the ward that they don't think is quite right. It could be a nurse talking about a colleague who is off sick but also working at the same time elsewhere, or maybe another patient who is falsely claiming entitlement to free prescriptions.'

'The idea is to put a stop to fraud before it starts costing NHS Medway vital money which should go towards patient care.'

Patients can anonymously report their suspicions to the national NHS Fraud and Corruption Reporting Line on 0800 028 40 60 or contact Steffan direct on 07799 263 978 or email steffan.wilkinson@scaudit.org.

A Spicy Fundraiser for HHR

A big thank you to Derdre of Dee Spice Ltd and The Groves Public House in Knaresborough who hosted a Sri Lankan Curry and Quiz Night in aid of Harrogate Hospital Radio.

In return for £6, punters were treated to an authentic Sri Lankan curry made with spices from Dee Spice plus a free drink. This was followed by a fiendish pub quiz which had many folk scratching their heads particularly the

anagram PIMENTOS which could only make one English word – try it yourself!

A total of £350 was raised for HHR. Special mention to Cathie Hague, Fund raising Supremo, not forgetting all those who came along on the night.

Dancing the Night Away for Hospital Radio

A charity dance at Pateley Bridge Memorial Hall in February raised just under £500 for Harrogate HR. Brian organises weekly tea dances but once a month he also runs a well attended dance in aid of charity and £6000 was raised for various charities last year.

Thanks to Brian and to Jim for providing the music and the many helpers in the kitchen and hall.

Nicola Pollard

Harrogate Hospital Radio

As one chapter closes another one opens

Radio Haslar have moved to brand new studios based at Gosport Community Association's, Bury House. They began broadcasting from their new state of the art studios on Saturday 14 March at midday, their 16th anniversary.

Their former studios, Radio House, closed and ceased broadcasting at midday on Saturday, 21 February with a show called 'Goodbye to All That'. This featured a host of former members, memories and VIP guests, as well as a look back at some of their highlights of nearly 16 years of broadcasting to the Royal Hospital Haslar, which closes in July.

This is the UK's last military hospital. All acute services from this site will transfer to the new super hospital at Queen Alexandra Hospital, in Cosham.

Radio Haslar now broadcasts to the Gosport War Memorial Hospital providing a dedicated service, much the same as it has done since the station launched to the then Royal Naval Hospital Haslar back on Sunday March 14th at 10am 1993.

Chris Pearce, Radio Haslar

HR Basingstoke Opens New Studios

Hospital Radio Basingstoke's new studios at Basingstoke & North Hampshire Hospital have been officially opened in front of over 50

invited guests. TV presenter Simon Parkin helped former children's ward patient Sophie Hyde and her sister Rebecca cut the ribbon to declare the new £30,000 facility open. They were announced by Stan Whitcher, Town Cryer of Alton who has appeared on several HRB outside broadcasts including the gold award winning coverage of Yuletide in Alton 2006.

Sophie was a regular participant on the station's children's ward show G Floor Jukebox during her stays until she and her family moved away from the area last August. Phil Moon, Chief Executive of the HBA, presented the station with its certificate for being highly commended in the Station of the Year category at the National Hospital Radio Awards 2009 in Blackpool. The event was broadcast live on air on a show that featured interviews with many of those present and also featured Sophie singing a song she wrote herself especially for the day.

Neil Ogden

Hospital Radio Basingstoke

Radio Tyneside Relaunches

Radio Tyneside recently moved into new studios with better facilities than before. It now has three studios, one used mainly for production. Thanks to the help of Northumbrian Water a new logo was introduced at the beginning of February along with new schedules and the start of On-Line broadcasting. For further information log onto www.radiotyneside.co.uk

Dave Nicholson

Radio Tyneside Network

Eighty Years Young

Alan Thorpe joined Radio Wishing Well way back in 1992 and hosts the Monday evening teatime slot.

In August, Alan celebrates a momentous milestone, as he reaches the age of 80. He has never changed and has his own unique style.

He often talks about retirement from Radio Wishing Well, to which we reply 'You're goin' nowhere'.

It will be a sad day when he does decide to call it a day. It will be quite a void in not only the station's schedules but in our lives.

Alan once worked as a radio operator at the 1948 Olympic Games in London.

Richard Parkinson

Station Controller

Radio Wishing Well

... Countrywide ... news from the stations ...

Tunbridge Wells Receives Lottery Grant



Chris Reed, Treasurer, Charlotte Evans, Assistant Secretary and Station Manager and Programme Controller Chris Manser

Hospital Radio Tunbridge Wells has been awarded a £5,000 Lottery grant that will allow it to improve the service it provides to local hospital patients. The grant, from the Awards For All scheme, will be used to replace the outdated studio computer equipment and software that keeps the station running 24 hours a day.

It will also allow the station to add a computerised music playout system to the outside broadcast equipment it uses for fundraising events throughout the year. Hospital Radio Tunbridge Wells became a 24-hour service in 2004 after it won a Lottery grant to buy technology allowing it to broadcast around the clock.

Project manager Tony Finn, who oversaw the grant application, said, 'Five years on, the equipment is getting old and we did not want it to affect the quality of the service we provide to patients. We are delighted that Awards For All are helping us to upgrade the system and continue providing patients with music, information and entertainment at any time of the day or night. The grant also means we can have the same facilities at our fundraising and publicity events as we have in the studios, which will enhance the quality of the broadcasts.'

Cricket Week In Tunbridge Wells

Kent County Cricket fans who are unable to get the Nevill Ground for the Tunbridge Wells Cricket Week Festival won't have to miss the action as Hospital Radio Tunbridge Wells will be providing ball-by-ball commentary for the three matches taking place between

June 6th and 13th. Sponsored by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council.

Kent play Yorkshire in the County Championship from June 6-9th, followed by matches against Hampshire and Gloucestershire in the Friends Provident Trophy on June 10th and 13th.

The station's cricket commentary team of Chris Woodward, Chris Reed and Tim Godsalve will be at the matches, whilst Tim Addicott, Will Dunn and Chris Manser will be in the studio updating listeners with news from other matches around the country and the 3rd Test between England and West Indies.

The programmes will be heard by patients in the hospitals served by the station and will also be available online via their website. Stations in Yorkshire, Hampshire and Gloucestershire are welcome to listen in and update their listeners of the scores via this, or take extracts from the commentary. Visit <http://www.hrtw.org.uk/signpost.php?C> RICKETWEEK for details.

Chris Manser, Hospital Radio Tunbridge Wells

Pound to Work Day

Volunteers at Grampian Hospital Radio and its children's station 'Radio Rainbow' urged work places across the North East to take part in their Pound to Work Day on 3rd April 2009.

Grampian Hospital Radio hopes raise in excess of £7,500 during 2009 to continue the modernisation of the broadcasting systems at the GHR studios in Ashgrove House and the installation of the computer server system and the digitalisation programme started last year at Radio Rainbow's studio in The Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital.

Grampian Hospital radio's programme schedule includes a daily request show that receives and plays more than 4,000 requests and dedications every year.

NHR on the level as new audio processor installed

Northumberland Hospital Radio has recently upgraded its main transmission rack and took the opportunity to install a new audio level processor.

After much research and mindful of other demands on station funds, NHR opted for the ALPS-1 manufactured in the UK by Audessence. This neat 1U

high unit directly replaces a Behringer Ultra Dyne processor, bought when the station was on a tight budget following the major move to new studios in 2003.

Station Director Iain Miles said, 'Although the Behringer unit functioned well, providing limiting protection to our direct feed to Patientline on our main site and network feeds to other hospitals, it would never really lift quieter pieces of music (particularly classical music) and speech based items. Several technical volunteers had tweaked the Behringer over the years but we could never get the results we wanted.'

With rack space at a premium, NHR looked for a 1U solution, preferably from a UK manufacturer. Following advice from other stations, NHR approached Graham Sloggett at Audessence who provided technical information and software on CD for evaluation.

But the main advantage hasn't just been claiming back 1U of rack space! As Iain explained, 'If you didn't look at our transmission rack, you wouldn't notice we have any processing in the transmission path at all. But compared with how we sounded before, all of a sudden our output is brighter, quieter pieces of music and speech are lifted in a very subtle way. Jingles and trailers recorded in our studios at full level don't come crashing in any more.'

'However, the music still sounds the way it was intended to sound when it was originally recorded. It took us a while to raise the funds for the ALPS-1, but it was worth it'.

Audessence also supply a near-identical model, the ALPS-2, a little more expensive but incorporates front panel controls.

NHR opted for the ALPS-1 unit which is entirely set up using software supplied by Audessence running on a PC.

Once the unit is set up – NHR opted for one of the preset control options – the USB cable is removed and the ALPS-1 is then tamper proof.

If any station doesn't have any limiting protection at present, NHR is selling its Behringer Ultra Dyne (in immaculate condition with original box, packing etc and no nasty rack bolt rings) – please contact studio@nhr.org.uk.

The Ultra Dyne is no longer made by Behringer and obtains strong second hand values on the occasions units appear on ebay.

... Countrywide ... news from the stations ...

Mid Downs Radio AGM

Mid-Downs Radio held its AGM on 26th March with a respectable turn-out of members. The old Committee bowed out and the new voted in. All the seats were taken illustrating again the momentum of MDR. Awards were given and votes of appreciation for all the hard work put in by everyone. Please visit our facebook site to join in the discussion started at the AGM regarding Presenters attending RSLs!

Grant for MDR



Sarah Melhuish receives a cheque from Ken Thomas at the presentation ceremony

Mid Downs Hospital Radio has been given a grant of £1500 by Sussex 4 Sussex. Presentation of the award took place in Chichester on 23rd February.

Sarah Melhuish, Secretary of Mid Downs Radio in accepting the award from Ken Thomas, Grand Master for Sussex said, 'On behalf of all the patients, visitors and staff at the Princess Royal Hospital and all the people who work on the station can I thank Sussex 4 Sussex for their generosity'. Sarah confirmed that the money will be used to extend the radio service to more areas of the hospital.

Marathon Broadcast Of A Different Kind

Scunthorpe Hospital Radio is no stranger to presenting on air marathons but now one volunteer is planning to run one. Paul Coates, who is also a Clinical Governance Support Nurse at Scunthorpe General Hospital, is competing in this year's London Marathon, raising funds for the charitable-run station.

Paul's no stranger to running, having completed the Great North Run for the last five years and is hoping to complete the gruelling 26 mile course in around four and a half hours. His efforts will also be relayed back to patients at Scunthorpe General with a special programme being broadcast by the radio station he's raising funds for.

Presenters will be lining the course, broadcasting live from London in a special programme after being granted special permission and access from London Marathon organisers. All money raised by Paul will go to the station and anyone interested in sponsoring Paul can contact him, via the station, on 01724 387777.

Sean Dunderdale

Obituaries

Volunteers at Tarka Hospital Radio are mourning the death of two of its presenters.

David Bowes died on February 18 at the age of 69 and Eric Godfrey Balchin died on March 4 at the age of 90.

Acting chairman of Tarka Radio Richard Wright said, 'Eric and David will be greatly missed by all of the members and patients who have listened to them in the past.'

David Bowes was born on April 22 in 1939 in Aldbourne in Wiltshire. He attended Marlborough Grammar School and was a very keen scientist, particularly interested in chemistry. This led to him working for many years at Harwell Atomic Research and Development Establishment in Oxfordshire, which was part of the department of Trade and Industry.

During a slowdown in the industry in the seventies, David changed jobs and worked as a computer consultant and lecturer in London. He then worked as a freelance computer consultant, travelling all over the world.

In 1979 David met Carol through friends and they married in March 1992. For many years they lived in Highworth, near Swindon in Wiltshire, with Carol's daughter Lisa.

During this time, Carol and David worked at GWR, a local radio network, assisting at OBs. They then moved to Weymouth in Dorset. In 2001 Carol and David visited Berrynarbor Park and decided to obtain a lodge as a second home, to enable them to escape Weymouth at the height of the tourist season. It soon became apparent to them that Berrynarbor was a much more tranquil location than Weymouth and they eventually became full time residents at Berrynarbor.

David became involved in the local community videoing local events such as the annual Berrynarbor Show. He also joined Tarka Radio at the North Devon District Hospital and became Chairman. On the Friday before he died he did his show.

Widower Eric Godfrey Balchin was one of the oldest radio presenters in the

country, enjoying a broadcasting career with local hospital radio spanning 25 years.

Eric volunteered for hospital radio when he retired, preferring to do 'something for charity' rather than putting up his feet. He felt it was important to give a bit of time to a worthwhile cause and, having been associated with music all his life, he offered his services to Tarka Radio. He would play big band and jazz, genres with which he was most familiar.

He met a lot of musicians from that era while he toured music halls up and down the country before and after the Second World War.

Eric hailed from the Leeds area but lived in North Devon for 30 years, coming here during the war when he served with the Royal Engineers.

Following the Dunkirk landings, he returned to Britain and was stationed in Ilfracombe at the old Cliff Hydro for two months. From there he was shipped out to Burma with the 14th Army and remained there until October 1945.

Prior to the war he had been part of a theatrical act called the Godfrey Brothers along with his brother, Fred, and cousin, Harry and they got back together again after peace was declared.

When he was 28 Eric married Kathleen. Although she did not accompany him on tour she would join him if he did a summer season at a fixed location.

During his career he met and worked with many leading performers of the day – the Ted Heath Orchestra, Charlie Chester Gang, Wilfred Pickles, Violet Carson, Joe Loss and a young Julie Andrews.

After 17 years on the road, the trio split up when Eric's brother died. His death also coincided with the arrival of television which was virtually a death knell for music halls. Work was difficult to come by and Eric needed a more reliable income. So when Rentokil advertised a vacancy in this area, he jumped at the chance.

Eric and his wife settled in North Devon where Kathleen devoted much of her time to charity work. In later years she took over as warden of a sheltered housing scheme in Braunton and after eight years there, they retired to Wrafton. Kathleen was also involved with Tarka Radio and was treasurer for about four years.

Eric died suddenly at home on March 4. He leaves behind grandchildren Kathleen, Alison, Kevin and Christopher.

... Countrywide ... news from the stations ...

Mayor's Donation Keeps Skerne On Air

THE Mayor of Darlington, Councillor Ian Haszeldine, has helped secure another year of broadcasting at a local Hospital Radio station.

The Mayor's Charitable Fund has donated £800 to Radio Skerne to help keep the station on-air for at least another year.

Volunteers at Radio Skerne invited the Mayor to their studios to find out about their operation and to introduce some of the requests. Councillor Haszeldine was interviewed by Vice-Chairman, John Forbes.

Mr Forbes said that the small volunteer-based charities are really struggling at the moment. 'The donation from the Mayor's Charitable Fund has come at just the right time for our organisation and we would like to extend our thanks to him for his generosity.

'The Fund has always supported our charity over the years. A special note of thanks must be paid to the staff of the Mayor's Charity Shop on Duke Street in Darlington for their efforts to raise money for good causes in the town.'

Mayor Haszeldine appreciated the opportunity to be shown around: 'I think the operation at Radio Skerne is fantastic and they really do make the best out of the space and equipment they have.'

Mr Forbes added: 'Darlington Hospital Radio is a small charity. Our ward visitors can be a vital point of contact for patients who may not get any visitors. The majority of our live shows are request-driven and our presenters provide a unique service that you can't get from other local or national stations.

'We provide a free service that can be therapeutic for people of all ages and from all backgrounds. Sadly, this actually goes against us when we try to apply for funding. Many grants are only available to specific organisations and the money is ring-fenced for specific groups.

'Our studios could do with being refurbished and upgraded but our priority is to continue our service to the patients.'

Radio Skerne collect requests and present shows for the patients at Darlington Memorial Hospital. The charity has provided an entertainment service since 1985 and now broadcasts 24-hours a day with live shows each weeknight and on a Sunday.

Darlington Hospital Radio (Radio Skerne) was founded in January 1984

with help from the Hospital League of Friends and Darlington's Lions Club. After a year of intensive fundraising the station broadcast its first show from a temporary studio in the basement to the patients of Darlington Memorial Hospital on January 19, 1985.

The station stayed in their so-called temporary studio for a further seven years, until talks with the hospital management found a new location on the ground floor next to the Memorial's Entrance B.

At a cost of £20,000 the station made the move to the current location and the new complex was opened by the then Mayor of Darlington, Councillor David Lynette and Bill Steel of Tyne Tees Television.

In May 1998, the station opened a new studio – the 'Ivy Nixon Studio.' The studio is named after a prominent and much respected member of Radio Skerne – Ivy Nixon.

Kind Hearted Bikers Run Celebrates 15 Years at Ashford



19th April saw the annual bikers Easter Egg run to the Padua children's ward at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford.

Over 150 bikes and some 200 bikers from all over Kent and East Sussex joined Hothfield couple Brian and Eileen Johns to come together to bring cheer to young patients in hospital over the Easter holiday period.

For the last 15 years Brian and Eileen have organised the event which has grown from small beginnings to the 150-200 bikes which now take part. They also organise the Christmas present run each December.

Bikers meet from 1pm at the Halfway House Pub at Challock before leaving in convoy at 2pm, escorted by Kent Police. The route took them from Challock to Charing on the A252, from Charing along the A20 to A292

Maidstone Road/New Street into Ashford and on to the ring road before heading up Hythe Road to the hospital. People along the route watched and waved as the convoy snaked its way past.

They were welcomed to the hospital by a crowd of staff, patients and visitors who had gathered by the main entrance. They were met by hospital play specialist Jayne McCreadie and her team who provided a much welcome cup of tea to the bikers, before they took the Easter eggs, chocolate and presents to the ward.

AHBS, the hospital radio station for the William Harvey Hospital, broadcast a special programme and had presenters at Challock, live reports from the rear convoy, as well as coverage at the hospital.

Brian and Eileen visited children on the ward, including four and half year old Sam Hopkirk who had broken his leg, to hand out Easter eggs. Toys and games will be kept in the play room for children admitted to the ward to use and some of the sweets are used to reward children who have been brave when having injections, bloods taken or other procedures.

Brian and Eileen rounded off their visit to the hospital with a visit to the AHBS studios for a chat with Sunday afternoon presenter Bob Davidson and chose a couple of their favourite songs.



Patient Sam Hopkirk with mum Sally, Eileen and Brian Johns with some of the bikers, Padua Play Specialist Jayne McCreadie (yellow) and one of the police officers who helped escort the convoy

**COPY DATE FOR
ISSUE 127
9TH JUNE 2009**

... Countrywide ... news from the stations ...

May Day Celebrations

May 1st, 2009 was the fifth Birthday of Apple AM and on 2nd May, we celebrated not only this occasion but also the 40th birthday of Taunton Hospital Radio.

The Mayor and Mayoress of Taunton Deane and Jeremy Browne MP joined members plus many listeners for the celebration.

It was a very light hearted party, we even had the Mayor sitting in the hot seat presenting. He was a natural and it is hoped we might get him to do a regular show.

Jeremy Browne MP, a regular at the station, talked to Tony Soley and politics were nearly kept out of the chat! Many regular listeners made complimentary comments regarding the very mixed programmes presented by Apple and thought it very good to be entertained and not just have back to back music.



His Worship the Mayor Councillor Tim Slattery and the Mayoress Mrs Gill Slattery being welcomed by Tony Soley Chairman



Tony Soley interviews Jeremy Browne MP



Presenter Tracey Smith keeping an eye on the Mayor during his first programme

HRB AFCB OB

A string of meaningless letters? Not exactly ... it happens at least once every season and it normally involves an awful lot of nail-biting and stress.

So, what exactly is an 'HRB AFCB OB'? Well, 'HRB' is the station – Hospital Radio Bedside – which broadcasts to five local hospitals in Dorset: The Royal Bournemouth Hospital, Poole Hospital, Poole Maternity Unit, Wimborne Hospital and Christchurch Hospital. 'AFCB' is the local football club – AFC Bournemouth, otherwise known as The Cherries. They've been hitting the headlines after financial problems and managerial difficulties have left the club mired at the bottom of League Two and facing an uncertain future. As for 'OB' – well just stands for Outside Broadcast, which means that the sports programme goes out and about; in this case broadcasting live from The Fitness First Centre at Dean Court.



So what about the game? AFC Bournemouth against Grimsby Town with both sides needing a win or a draw. Neither side played for the draw and the match was thrilling to watch and commentate on, even more so because the Cherries emerged victorious with a 2-1 victory. These HRB AFCB OBs are always great fun to do and are just one more reason to tune in to Hospital Radio Bedside – the Best Music (and sports) Choice! Mark Venus, Hospital Radio Bedside

Dartford Thanks Valley Park Radio

Darent Valley Hospital's own radio station – Valley Park Radio – received the thanks of the Borough of Dartford and also a boost to its funds in the shape of £2,500.

Valley Park Radio was one of a selected few Dartford Charities who had been nominated by outgoing Dartford Mayor, Councillor Ian Armitt to be recipients of a monetary award from the Mayor's Charity fund.

Valley Park Radio Chairman Neil White, Secretary Dave Lockyer, Treasurer Dave Wilkes and Station Engineer Dave Lamb were invited to the Dartford Civic Centre to receive the cheque from Mayor Ian Armitt, one of his last official duties before standing down at the end of his year of office.

Cllr Armitt further surprised the Valley Park Radio team by awarding the station The Mayor's Civic Award as a thank you from the people of Dartford for all their voluntary work over the years. Mayor Armitt said that 'without the work of Dartford's volunteers, the borough would grind to a halt.'

Chairman Neil White said that receiving the cheque on behalf of VPR was an honour. Running a radio station is not a low cost operation and there are a number of projects we have plans for so the donation is very much appreciated, being presented with the Mayor's Civic Award for our members was a very nice surprise to top it all off.

Civic Award for Paul

The work of one of Chichester HR's longest serving members has been publicly recognised at Chichester City Council's annual Civic and Young Citizens' Award Ceremony, held at the Assembly Rooms.

Paul Morris, BSc, MICM, MBA, MA (Ed Mgmt), was presented with an engraved medal 'For service to the City of Chichester' by Cllr. David Siggs, the Mayor of Chichester after a citation from former Mayor and long standing City Councillor, Rob Campling.

Paul has been involved with Chichester Hospital Radio for over 21 years, having served two terms as Chairman. He has also lead several community programmes including raising in excess of £1 million towards the building of Chestnut Tree House, the first purpose-built children's hospice in Sussex.

Paul has been a lifelong champion of the medium of radio, running evening classes at Chichester College in radio production, presentation techniques and interviewing skills as well as heading up the bid to bring a community radio service to Chichester and its surrounding villages in 2010.

With several years as a professional radio presenter including time with the BBC and Spirit Fm, Paul brings a wealth of skills and experience to CHR and has contributed enormously to the well-earned reputation of CHR as an high quality professionally run volunteer radio station.

... Countrywide ... news from the stations ...

Invitation To Buckingham Palace



As part of last year's NHS 60th Anniversary celebrations in Scotland, Mags Higgins, one of the volunteers with Glasgow's Hospital Broadcasting Service, was invited to represent the organisation for the Royal visit by The Queen and Prince Philip in July. At this event she was officially introduced to Her Majesty twice and spoke at some length about the work of the radio service.

In November, Mags was invited to meet The Queen again, this time at a reception in Buckingham Palace, to honour NHS volunteers from around the UK.

As Mags says, 'The event took place in five huge rooms and the main hall – all very plush with the most amazing chandeliers I've ever seen! It was quite an experience walking up to the Palace and through the gates.'

New Logo



Glasgow's Hospital Broadcasting Service has just adopted a new logo, only the third logo to be used since the organisation was founded in 1970.

The new version, developed from an idea by Technical Director, David Bannerman, sees a compromise between the original 1970 three letter design and the 1987 version which

used both the organisation's full name and a separate graphic which shared concept similarities with the original NAHBO 'Percy' emblem.

The new logo will be progressively rolled out over the next year with stationery and web presence being the first objectives.

HBS – Scottish Parliamentary Motion



Niall Anderson with Bill Butler, MSP

In recognition of the work of Glasgow's Hospital Broadcasting Service, MSP Bill Butler lodged motion S3M-2842# with the Scottish Parliament. Bill, whose mother spent her last few months in Drumchapel Hospital came along to the Service's city centre studios to meet with HBS Chairman, Niall Anderson and discuss the Member's Motion.

The Motion states, 'That the Parliament recognises the work of the Hospital Broadcasting Service (HBS), which broadcasts to a number of hospitals in the NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde area; commends its commitment to providing a regular and varied selection of programmes to patients; praises the recent revamp of the service at Drumchapel Hospital through the relaunch of the request programme; salutes the efforts and hard work of HBS volunteers, who provide a vital link with and ongoing point of contact for patients through regular hospital visits; further recognises that HBS provides high quality training and encouragement to its members as well as the role that it has played in the development of the careers of several distinguished Scottish broadcasters, and wishes HBS continued success in the years ahead.'

As part of the Service's 40th anniversary celebrations, plans are underway to arrange a reception at the Scottish Parliament in Holyrood for current and former volunteers.

Atlanta Visit Glasgow



Local girl band 'Atlanta' popped in to say hello. Fresh off their tour round the UK with Cascada the girls were still in top shape and went up did a mini concert for all of the children in the wards with some fantastic acoustic singing. Big thank you once again to the girls and we hope to see them again soon

Radio Lollipop Celebrates 30 Years



The very first Radio Lollipop broadcast was made on May 5th 1979 at Queen Mary's Hospital in Carshalton, Surrey. And thirty years later, Radio Lollipop stations across the world celebrate our birthday. There were balloons, music, badges and delicious cakes on hand for all the children in hospital and our hard working volunteers. Here's looking forward to another excellent 30 years!!

Stephen Quinn
Radio Lollipop (Glasgow)

Radio Rocks

On 22nd January Radio Bedrock's studio was officially opened by HRH the Duchess of Cornwall, who spoke to members and visited the maternity unit. The Duchess unveiled a plaque officially calling our station the Cornwall Suite. The visit was also attended by the Mayor of Havering and members were pleased to take part in such a prestigious event.

... Countrywide ... news from the stations ...

Whipps Cross Celebrates 40 years

For those early volunteers who started it all off back in the summer of 69 (to quote Bryan Adams) from a tiny green hut in the grounds of Whipps Cross Hospital, when the only alternative radio for patients to listen to was the BBC, it would probably have been hard to imagine that the station would still be broadcasting some forty years later.

But from small beginnings, in what was actually a converted garden shed, the station now has modern, professional studios and was recently awarded a grant of £5,000 from the National Lottery to fund equipment for its regular football commentaries at Leyton Orient and West Ham.

Over the past four decades, Whipps Cross Hospital Radio has become a lively part of the hospital community, played requests for thousands of patients, interviewed many celebrities and local personalities, recorded local bands and won awards along the way.

The station has had several hundred volunteers helping to run the service, staying for anything from a few weeks to over thirty years.

To celebrate the landmark they are holding a '40th Anniversary' reunion on Saturday, 27th June and would like to invite ex-members to attend.

Station Manager Phil Hughes commented, 'We must be the longest running hospital radio station in the area and it's amazing some of us are still here from those early days. It would be wonderful to see old friends again'.

If you have been involved in Whipps Cross Hospital Radio over the last forty years, or know someone who has, and would like to join them as they 'turn back the years', please contact the station on 0208 535 6997.

Elgar and Elton for Mayor Lucy

As the Mayor of Worcester approaches the end of her year in office, she was a guest at Choice Hospital Radio recently to recount stories from the past months and select songs to represent her own personal choice of music.

Telling patients how she started working life in catering – having failed her O-level at the first attempt – and spending ten years at the BBC's Wood Norton, Lucy explained how it was the 1992 election which spurred her onto getting involved in local politics, firstly



Tony Deakin and Pete Phillips of Choice with Lucy Hodgson, Mayor of Worcester

by helping other people get elected before moving to Worcester and getting herself into office, beating her opponent by just 13 votes!

Interviewed by station presenter Tony Deakin, the Mayor told listeners how she is currently unique in being half of the only husband and wife team of councillors, with husband Stephen representing a neighbouring ward and that she never thought she would finish up as Mayor when she first entered the political arena.

She expressed her delight that her year included six Royal visits as well as meetings with many local volunteer organisations. One thing she would not be drawn on though was whether the number of official dinners she has attended, particularly at Christmas, has affected her figure, only to say that the meals were delicious!

Her eclectic musical selection varied from choices such as Carmina Burana (as an avid fan of the Worcester Warriors), Elgar's Nimrod and Carnival of the Animals through to Elton John's Goodbye Yellow Brick Road, with this decade represented by Duffy and Alesha Dixon, though she did confess to still being a great fan of Abba!

HR Fox turns 21!



Leicester's HR Fox celebrated their 21st birthday in style in April when June Snowden helped honour the station's long serving members as part of an evening of special programmes to mark the milestone on 23rd April.

Pete Bracey and Rob Macardle joined the station in being recognised for their 20 years service to hospital

radio. Steven Hardisty and Johnny Bance received 15 year certificates and lastly, Les Eastham, recently commended at the Hospital Radio Awards for his specialist music show the 'Sixties Scene' has been with Radio Fox for the past decade.

Radio Fox Station Director, Steve Hack paid tribute to Radio Fox's long-serving members and said: 'The station is only ever as good as its volunteers and Radio Fox has been lucky enough, not only to have a large number of committed members throughout its history but members who stay with us for years.' To celebrate, listeners took part in a golden ticket giveaway. Tickets were hidden in Radio Fox's magazines for listeners to find, ring in and claim a prize.

Radio Fox presenters interviewed fellow hospital volunteers at a thank you event to mark the dedication of all those who give up their time to help the Leicester NHS trust. Coverage of the OB was broadcast live back to the studio as part of a well-rounded evenings entertainment.

Awards All Round

Josh Andrew, 16, of HR Plymouth, won Volunteer of the Year at the Hospital Radio Awards and has now been invited to attend Parliament in June to address MPs as part of a delegation about youth volunteering. The Volunteer of the Year award was given to Josh predominantly for his work entertaining the children's wards in Plymouth's Derriford Hospital. He impressed the judges with his dedication for his age; he also received a Commended certificate in the best newcomer category.

HR Plymouth also won the silver award for Station of the Year, narrowly beaten by Leicester's Radio Fox. The station also received the silver award in the best speech category for Josie Scobling's documentary 'Shirley's Story', in which she recounted the devastating effects of a stroke suffered by her aunt.

Derriford Hospital nurse Isobel King, who volunteers for the station, also picked up a highly commended certificate for her entry into the best female presenter category.

Station Manager Andrew Hill, said, 'This is a very successful start to our 40th anniversary year. To have our oldest member, Connal Cather, get the coveted John Whitney award last year and our youngest member, Josh, named Volunteer of the Year 2009 is a clear reflection of the level of volunteer commitment we have across the spectrum of ages.'

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		0870 765 9601	anglia@hbauk.com
Home		Donald McFarlane		0870 765 9602	homecounties@hbauk.com
London		Ben Hart		0870 765 9603	london@hbauk.com
Midlands		David Tysoe		0870 765 9604	midlands@hbauk.com
North		Elliot Kennedy		0870 765 9605	north@hbauk.com
Northern Ireland		Davey Downes		0870 765 9606	nireland@hbauk.com
North West		David McGealy		0870 765 9607	northwest@hbauk.com
Scotland		Jim Simpson		0870 765 9608	scotland@hbauk.com
South		Neil Ogden		0870 765 9609	south@hbauk.com
South East		Dave Abrey		0870 765 9611	southeast@hbauk.com
Wales & West		Steve Allen		0870 765 9613	waleswest@hbauk.com
Yorkshire		Iain Lee		0870 765 9614	yorkshire@hbauk.com
Please address correspondence to the Regional Reps to: Hospital Broadcasting Association, PO Box 341, Messingham, Scunthorpe DN15 5EG					

Who to Contact on the Executive Committee



Chief Executive Phil Moon

82 Greenleaf Gardens, Polegate,
E Sussex BN26 6PH
Tel: **0870 321 6000**
e-mail: chief@hbauk.com
Main contact with statutory bodies.
Ambassadors



Deputy Chief Executive Iain Lee

Hospital Broadcasting Association,
PO Box 341, Messingham,
Scunthorpe DN15 5EG
Tel: **0870 321 6014**
e-mail: deputychief@hbauk.com
Sub committee chairman.
Special projects



Treasurer Julie Cox

Hospital Broadcasting Association,
PO Box 341, Messingham,
Scunthorpe DN15 5EG
Tel: **0870 321 6004**
e-mail: finance@hbauk.com
Financial matters (other than
subscriptions)



General Secretary Nigel Dallard

54 St. Annes Close, Badger Farm,
Winchester, Hampshire SO22 4LQ
Tel: **0870 321 6003**
e-mail: secretary@hbauk.com
General correspondence, Company
Secretary, annual review



President June Snowden

P.O. Box 76, Ely, CB6 3WH
Tel: **0870 321 6009**
e-mail: president@hbauk.com
Station visits, represent HBA
publicly, print and present long
service certificates



Regional Manager Dave Lockyer

Hospital Broadcasting Association,
PO Box 341, Messingham,
Scunthorpe DN15 5EG
Tel: **0870 321 6005**
e-mail: regions@hbauk.com
Regional meetings, contacts, setting
up a region etc.



Sales & Advertising Executive Mike Skinner

Hospital Broadcasting Association,
PO Box 341, Messingham,
Scunthorpe DN15 5EG
Tel: **0870 321 6026**
e-mail: advertising@hbauk.com
All Corporate sales for HBA



Programming Adviser Paul Easton

Hospital Broadcasting Association,
PO Box 341, Messingham,
Scunthorpe DN15 5EG
Tel: **0870 321 6002**
e-mail: programming@hbauk.com
Advice on programme content



Technical Adviser Geoff Fairbairn

Hospital Broadcasting Association,
PO Box 341, Messingham,
Scunthorpe DN15 5EG
Tel: **0870 321 6012**
e-mail: technical@hbauk.com
Technical matters



Editor Michelle Newstead

Hospital Broadcasting Association,
PO Box 341, Messingham,
Scunthorpe DN15 5EG
Tel: **0870 321 6011**
e-mail: onair@hbauk.com
On Air magazine



Acting Public Relations Manager Sean Dunderdale

Hospital Broadcasting Association,
PO Box 341, Messingham,
Scunthorpe DN15 5EG
Tel: **0870 321 6008**
e-mail: publicrelations@hbauk.com
Press and public relations,
charity profile



Webmaster Mark Venus

Hospital Broadcasting Association,
PO Box 341, Messingham,
Scunthorpe DN15 5EG
Tel: **0870 321 6018**
e-mail: webmaster@hbauk.com
Maintenance of HBA website



Conference Bookings Marie Harper

50 Neale Street, Sunderland
Tyne & Wear
SR6 9EZ
Tel: **0870 321 6017**
e-mail: conferences@hbauk.com

Membership Enquiries

Tel: **0870 321 6003**
e-mail: membership@hbauk.com

General Enquiries

Tel: **0870 321 6019**
e-mail: info@hbauk.com



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 Grants Committee, HBA, PO Box 341, Messingham, Scunthorpe, DN15 5EG.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT? – Applications will be acknowledged on receipt. The committee 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 Committee, which consists of Julie Cox, Sean Dunderdale, Dave Lockyer and Jim Simpson. 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 Committee is final and no correspondence will be entered into. The committee 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 bursary, 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

SONIFEX

Manufacturers of Audio & Video Broadcast Equipment

signal
LED

Studio Illuminated Signs

Designed for all kinds of studios, these elegant RGB LED signs contain the control electronics so that they can be simply configured onsite for colour and mode.

- Choose from white, green, red, blue, yellow, orange, cyan and magenta.
- Choose from a large range of different sign text.
- Four illumination modes: constant, flashing, pulsing and off.
- Two control pull-low inputs.
- Single or twin signs with separate controls.
- DC input power supply provided.
- Flush to the wall or end-mounting.
- Double sided end-mounting available for use in corridors.
- Simple to install.
- Custom signs can be made to order.



For further details of the Signalled range, visit our website at www.sonifex.co.uk

SONIFEX

www.sonifex.co.uk

01933 650 700
sales@sonifex.co.uk