

ON AIR



HBATM
Hospital Broadcasting Association

Issue 140
Winter 2012

The Official Journal of the Hospital Broadcasting Association

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in this issue ...

Board Report	2
HBA National Training Day	4
Andrew Volunteers at Harrogate	5
Bristol Celebrate 60 Years of Broadcasting	6
News Round-Up	8
HBA Conference News	10
Spring Conference Booking Form	12
HBA Conference Booking Terms & Conditions	13
Mid Downs Radio: Music to our ears	15
Rookwood's Silver Celebrations	18
Countrywide – News from the Stations	20
Southampton Celebrations	23
Regional Reps Details	24
Who To Contact on the Executive Committee	IRC

FRONT COVER STORY:

Downton Abbey star Hugh Bonneville sent a special video message to this year's Compass Community Awards held at Grimsby's Humber Royal Hotel. The Awards recognise outstanding work and extraordinary achievement by individuals, groups and communities in North East Lincolnshire. Grimsby Hospital Radio scooped Team of the Year as it approaches almost 60 years of entertaining hospital patients. NE Lincolnshire's Mayor, Cllr Mike Burton and Mayoress Audrey Burton presented the Awards.



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Hi Everyone.

Another year gone and time to reflect... Has your station achieved all it wanted this year and what are your plans for 2013? We'd love to hear if you reached your targets and also what your highlights were in 2012. Please send in your stories and photographs for the first issue of On Air in 2013.

We'd also be delighted to hear about any special Christmas events at your station and photographs would be an added bonus.

In this issue are details of the 2013 Conference in Blackpool together with a Booking form; please get your bookings in as soon as possible as demand is bound to be high.

I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year and thank everyone who sent in articles for the magazine. It is much appreciated ... please keep sending them in!!

Michelle

DIARY DATES

Livingston Mercure Hotel
2013 Conference, Blackpool

Hospital Broadcasting Week 2013
Saturday 23rd March to Monday 1st April 2013

Our Ambassadors



Alan Dediccoat



Ken Bruce



Dr Chris Steele, MBE



Alex Lester

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Board Report

Future strategy and direction of the Association

Thanks to the 151 respondents to our membership survey on the HBA's future strategy and direction. The results were collated by Jim and are being considered by the Trustees and other post-holders. Working groups considered internal and external communications, and conferences between the September and November Trustee Board meetings, and further working groups will consider training, benefits of membership and the provision of advice and guidance ahead of the January Trustee Board meeting. This meeting will be extended into a second day to allow the Trustees time to discuss and agree the proposed way forward, ahead of the conference and AGM in March.

What is clear is that members want the HBA to be doing more, raising the profile of hospital broadcasting, representing hospital broadcasting at a national level and supporting members on a day-to-day basis. Many ideas have been proposed, some simple, some radical but generally all constructive.

The Trustees would love to be in a position where HBA was able to do all that is being asked of it. However, what is less clear is where the resources are going to come from to enable HBA to do all that our members want us to do and that we would like to do. Realistically, there are going to have to be some tough decisions made in January. What are we going to, reluctantly, say that we don't have the resources to undertake? Do we have to employ someone (or some people) to do some or all of these tasks? Can we find a number of additional volunteers to assist at a national level?

HBA Training Network

The last of the HBA training events for 2012 took place in Stourport-on-Severn and



by Nigel Dallard, Secretary

Livingston in October. Although I was unable to attend these events, feedback from delegates was very good. The Training Committee are now in the process of planning events for next year. More details will be available from our website – www.hbauk.com/training – as soon as they have been agreed.

In the meantime, if you have any suggestions for either topics or venues, please get in touch with Jim Simpson (chair@hbauk.com, 0870 321 6000).

Hospital Broadcasting Week

I said last time that a working group has been set up to focus on Hospital Broadcasting Week. Next year, HBW will start with the awards ceremony on Saturday 23rd March and finish on Easter Monday, 1st April. Already the group has a plan for a higher-profile week next year; more details as soon as we can release them.

If you have any suggestions or would like to get involved with the planning of the week, please contact Jim Simpson (chair@hbauk.com, 0870 321 6000).

Charity Commission Partnership Programme

HBA is to be one of the launch partners in the Charity Commission for England and Wales's Partnership Programme. As part of this programme, HBA will be working with the Commission to update our model constitution, to create a set of 'Charity Commission approved' answers to frequently-asked questions and to pass on other key messages from the Commission about charity law.

The Commission will include HBA in its online list of umbrella organisations and will encourage non-member hospital broadcasters to consider joining HBA.

It is planned that a representative of the Commission will attend our conference in Blackpool in March to talk about the Charitable Incorporated Organisation, a new form of charity that gives all the benefits of being a company limited by guarantee without the need to register with Companies House or understand company law and to answer any other questions that members have about the Commission and their relationship with it.

Hospital Broadcasting in Parliament

The Shadow Minister for Civil Society, Gareth Thomas MP, quoted extensively from HBA's written evidence to the House of Commons Committee scrutinising the Small Charitable Donations Bill during October.

Mr Thomas, who volunteered at Radio Northwick Park a number of years ago, asked for a verbal briefing and I was able to supply him with a number of case studies based on the responses to the survey that I asked members to complete earlier in the year.

As a result, Chichester Hospital Radio, Hospital Radio Stafford, Radio Nightingale, Radio

Board Report

Northwick Park, Roch Valley Radio, and Winchester Hospital Radio were all mentioned in the committee debate. The Government conceded little during the Committee stage debate, although it did amend one clause as requested by HBA, allowing charities that merge or change their legal form to retain their claims history after the restructuring.

At the time of writing, the Bill is just about to return to the main chamber of the House of Commons for the Report Stage, at which, as a result of the written evidence submitted by HBA and other stakeholders and the debate in committee, the Government are proposing a number of further changes that will make the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme, which the bill authorises HMRC to run, much more accessible to small charities like hospital radio stations.

All-in-all, much hard work, over a number of months, went in to preparing HBA's written submission, from reading draft proposals from HMRC and

responding to [consultations](#), to submitting a Freedom of Information request to HMRC (the answer to which was picked up by some of the specialist sector press and also used extensively during the parliamentary committee debate), to surveying members, to reading the Bill as introduced into the House of Commons, submitting evidence to the Committee and following the debate in Hansard.

I think, however, it was well worth the effort; not only has the Government made some significant concessions making the bill much more useful for hospital radio stations (although HBA was far from the only organisation asking for similar changes) but the profile of hospital broadcasting has been raised within Parliament and we've found out that the Shadow Minister is an alumnus of hospital radio!

HBA has also recently submitted written evidence to the House of Commons Public Administration Select Committee, as part of its inquiry into the impact and implementation of the Charities Act 2006. Our evidence can be

found on the Committee's pages within the parliament.uk website.

And finally, HBA's Chairman, Jim Simpson, attended a parliamentary reception to launch the Hospedia Partnership Programme.

Jim tells me that HBA and hospital broadcasting were mentioned in both the opening and closing speeches, that he had the opportunity to discuss the value of hospital radio during the evening and that he has a number of contacts to follow-up as a result.

If you have a particular interest in government/parliamentary affairs, please contact Nigel Dallard (secretary@hbauk.com, 0870 321 6003).

Radio Academy Affiliate Membership

This is just a quick reminder that all volunteers at HBA member stations are eligible for free affiliate membership of the Radio Academy. This entitles you to free or concessionary access to all Radio Academy events.

See www.radioacademy.org/join for more details.

Long Distance Travel



Radio presenters are often accused of spouting hot air – but that helped eight-year-old Kate Mallett win a £100 Co-operative Travel holiday voucher in HWD Hospital Radio's annual balloon race.

Kate was shopping in the West Yorkshire town of Dewsbury with her grandparents, Sue and Barry Moore, when she bought her balloon and let it fly. Her balloon travelled the 870 miles from Dewsbury town centre, landing in Kalisz, near Warsaw in Poland. The ticket attached to the balloon was returned by its finder, which clinched the first prize.

Kate's mum Michelle says the voucher will go towards paying for a family holiday to Majorca.

HWD Hospital Radio chairman Mike Binns said, 'We've run the balloon race now for 20 years and it never ceases to amaze me how far the balloons travel.'

'Other prize winners had balloon tickets returned from other parts of Poland, Germany and nearer home in the Hull area. If the wind is in the right direction they can really go a long way.'

This year's event raised around £550 for the registered charity, which celebrated its 60th year on air this year.

The money will be used to ensure the station continues to stay on air and entertain the patients and staff of Dewsbury and District Hospital. It is also hoping to expand its programmes to Pontefract and Pinderfields Hospitals in 2013.

HBA National Training Day

The 2012 HBA National Training Day was held on Saturday 6th October. Scott Wall from Harrogate Hospital Radio attended and now writes this article from a delegate's perspective.

Having recently attended the HBA National Training Day, I wanted to let you all know what a fantastic day it was. From the moment I arrived I was given the usual warm welcome by the HBA Training Team, who, as the day progressed had done a sterling job in arranging such a well-organised training day.

I was well catered for as a day delegate, with ample refreshments throughout the day and also a great lunch too. The facilities were perfect for the training and, as thankfully it was a lovely sunny October day, we also got to enjoy the fabulous hotel gardens.

As for the training itself, I had a superb day and learnt so much that will be of benefit to me as a presenter. Having been a hospital radio volunteer for just 12 months, it felt like perfect timing to attend Training Track 1 – Presentation and Interview Techniques. There was also a choice of Track 2 – an insight in to Myriad and Autotrack.

The session I attended, Presentation and Interview Techniques, was hosted by Andy Carter and he made the day extremely interesting, sharing his own experiences and knowledge at will.

Andy was very open to questions throughout the day, which really enhanced the opportunity to learn as much as possible in the time available. Andy covered a great range of topics, including effective show preparation, the use of the format clock, careful consideration of the ebb and flow of music played, as well as interview questioning techniques.

The sessions were very interactive, giving everyone the chance to become actively involved, to practice the theory of what Andy was demonstrating, as well as having the added bonus of being able to learn more about fellow hospital radio stations. We were given the opportunity to practice our interview skills and using technology, were able to

Saturday 6th October, 2012



listen and constructively feedback to our fellow delegates.

The training was delivered at a good pace, covered loads of content, had a good range of activities for all delegates to engage in and also included a good mix of resources. Andy kept the sessions fun and made fantastic use of audio clips to illustrate the points he was making.

Personally, I gained so much from the day and, thanks to Andy, I now have a range of resources I can access to further enhance my learning over the coming weeks and months.

I am very grateful to The HBA Training Team who did such a superb job in arranging this brilliant training day. I would actively encourage anybody else who is thinking of attending future events to do so. At a subsidised cost of just £15.00 for the day, this represents outstanding value for such an event – anybody attending would not be disappointed! I didn't know I'd be presented with a Training Certificate!

As well as being a great training day, it was also a superb opportunity to network with fellow HBA members from stations across the country. It is great to chat to like-minded friends and



learn from each other in such a supportive way.

Thanks ever so to Andy Carter and the HBA Training Team for such a cracking day – I really enjoyed it and appreciate the effort that went in to making it such a huge success.

Scott Wall
Harrogate Hospital Radio

Andrew Volunteers at Harrogate

In his first year in office Andrew Jones, the MP for Harrogate and Knaresborough, decided to start a volunteer week where he would help out at various charitable organisations in his constituency.

Andrew wanted to publicise the important role of the volunteer in the community and raise the profile of Harrogate, Knaresborough and Boroughbridge based charities and organisations from the voluntary sector.

His aim was to motivate more people to volunteer. He wanted to make the point that anyone can regardless of their background, career or origin.

'I have always enjoyed volunteering and believe it is a vital part of our society.

'Every volunteer makes a difference and I hope to make a difference to the people and groups for which I volunteer throughout the week,' he said.

So in 2010, Andrew spent five days with different organisations getting a taste of life as a volunteer ... and it was a success. He got hands-on with a wide range of work from cleaning bird boxes, helping the homeless, supervising hand hygiene in a hospital to litter picking, delivering furniture to less well-off families and helping those with a disability.

'The week was a big success, the charities I went to got much-needed publicity which I hope encouraged more volunteers to sign up.'

He ran a second Volunteer Week in 2011 and in 2012, as part of his third, Andrew spent time at Harrogate Hospital Radio, collecting requests and presenting.

Andrew chose to help at hospital radio because he wanted to see what it took to be a volunteer there, to meet the people who give up their time and to encourage others to volunteer.

'Sometimes listeners don't realise that without the help of volunteers, there wouldn't be a radio station,' Andrew said.

Harrogate Hospital Radio first took to the air on October 22, 1977. In those early days, there were two shows per week, totalling three hours of live broadcasting.

Before all hospital services were carried out from the District Hospital, patients from the town's General and Royal Bath Hospitals



were able to tune in and enjoy the shows.

Thanks to a significant programme of fund-raising activity – and with the help and support of the Hospital Trust – Harrogate Hospital Radio has undergone a major transformation.

It is now based in three rooms – two of these being studios – and boasts some of the most up-to-date broadcasting equipment in the country.

The Harrogate Hospital radio team works closely with hospital management, staff and the wider community in Harrogate to broadcast other programmes of direct interest to patients. These include weekly Sunday Services by the Chaplaincy Team and the local Talking Newspaper.

'Having a radio station at Harrogate Hospital is important for so many people, patients and staff, it can help to take someone's mind off what can often be a very stressful environment,' Andrew said.

At the start of the day Andrew met with patients who listen to the radio station to ask for requests for the evening show.

'At first it felt quite intrusive to go onto the wards and ask people but I soon realised that they were happy to have the visit and some were even waiting to give their request.'

Later he was a guest presenter on the station where he played the songs that had been requested earlier in the day.

'It was great fun to get a go presenting, we talked about my volunteer week and how I got into politics, in between the requests to people on the wards.'

Volunteering at hospital radio stations like Harrogate isn't just beneficial to those who listen, it is also a great way for anyone interested in broadcasting and journalism to gain practical, hands-on experience.

Recently local press has been full of the charitable exploits of two Harrogate Hospital Radio DJs who have been raising funds to buy a new studio set for the station.

'The dieting DJs have been a great example for people who want to volunteer or get involved in charitable work in the constituency. They are raising the money so that this much-loved service can continue and they have huge support from the local area.'

Andrew said that after spending time at the radio station it is evident how essential it is that people volunteer at organisations like this and for all kind of voluntary organisations to keep them running.

'The volunteers here and in hospital radio stations across the UK can feel rightly proud of the part they play in comforting and entertaining so many people during their hospital stay.'

One point Andrew is trying to get across with his volunteer week is that the image of the volunteer is an out of date stereotype and needs to be dispelled.

'Volunteers come from all walks of life: anyone can be a volunteer. And volunteers often find the donation of their time and energy a meaningful experience for themselves as well as for the organization with which they volunteer. It's a real win-win situation.'

'Often they don't get the recognition they deserve and that is why I support Harrogate and District Volunteering Oscars Awards to honour those people who do so much to help others, and give their time freely to so many good causes.'

'I certainly hope the publicity my Volunteer Week has given to Harrogate Hospital Radio will encourage more people to come down and volunteer, that is the aim of my week,' Andrew said.

Mike Renton
Press and media officer to
Andrew Jones MP

Bristol Celebrate 60 Years of Broadcasting



Bristol Hospital Broadcasting Service

Hospital broadcasts started with an idea by TOC H, a charitable organisation, that it should endeavour to help patients in hospital; the idea was further promoted by Rediffusion who had installed and controlled the landline distribution of radio programmes around the City of Bristol. They saw the provision of hospital radio in the City's hospitals as a natural progression of their service and in a letter sent by their General Manager to TOC H proposed the start of a service, which was duly reported in the Bristol Evening Post on 28th January 1952.

In Bristol, members of TOC H, led by Laurie Lucena, went cap in hand to the two local soccer clubs and playing one against the other managed to come away with not



only facilities at the respective grounds but also a donation of £50 from each club. So it was that when the 1952/53 season opened, six of Bristol's hospitals were linked to the Bristol Rovers ground by Post Office land lines.

The first programme broadcast was the match between Bristol Rovers and Shrewsbury Town on August 23rd 1952. The original idea had been gleaned from an incident at Fratton Park, the home of Portsmouth Town Football Club. When the ground became overcrowded, the gates were locked leaving many thousands of



fans outside the ground unable to see the match. A young police sergeant, sensing impending trouble, climbed onto a wall and gave a running commentary to the crowd outside the ground. This act gave the policeman and a few of his friends the idea of relaying commentaries to patients in hospital. And so hospital broadcasts were born.

In July 1954, the GPO put up the rent on landlines that connected Bristol City and Rovers Football Clubs to Rediffusion and 12 hospitals. The increase, to £400 a year, posed serious challenge to the TOC H members of the Bristol Hospital Broadcasting Society. After some deliberation they decided to make more use of the landlines by starting to record other programmes where interviews with celebrities visiting Bristol were recorded and also interviews with nurses and patients.

Once word got around, spectators at the football grounds would approach our commentators and ask them to say 'hello' to a friend or relative in hospital. By 1956, the match intervals were choc a bloc with dedications and it seemed to Laurie Lucena a natural progression to start a record

request programme. After all, they were paying for the Post Office land lines for seven days a week and only using them on Saturdays.

On 13th April 1956, BHBS broadcast its first scoop. The Queen was to visit Bristol on her way to open the Chew Valley Reservoir. The BBC was covering the event but because television did not start until 6.30 each evening, they would record it for later use. They offered the live commentary to BHBS and, with Laurie Lucena perched high on the old Co-op building at Narrow Quay to link the BBC commentary, the live BHBS broadcast scooped the national media.

In 1959 hospital radio at last moved out of its members' living rooms where the programmes had been taped and edited and moved into studio premises in Broad Plain in premises owned by Rediffusion.

Rediffusion was the cable service of its day and supplied a service to most houses in Bristol.

At the rear of the Rediffusion show room, the studio enabled us to expand our request programmes and although there was only one turntable, which meant very long links between records, regular weekly programmes were produced.

In the new studio, all of the

Bristol Celebrate 60 Years of Broadcasting



programmers came together for the first time. Prior to this the Wednesday night programmes had been recorded the previous evening in the small studio in Colston Hall and then taken over to Broad Plain for transmission the following evening. Now with everyone together we were able to expand.

The first move was to design and build a studio console. The first custom built BHBS mixer had ten channels, used quadrant faders and contained a Ferrograph tape recorder, Quad tuner and amplifier, two Thorens TD124 turntables and a talkback system built in. The desk was custom built in the control room and when the time came to move in 1972 it had to be torn apart to get it through the door.

On 23rd November 1972 the last programme was relayed from our Victoria Street studio. The new Cottage Block studio complex was opened on 12th January 1974 by the then Lord Mayor of Bristol, Alderman W.W.Jenkins, who said in his opening address, that as a recent patient, he fully appreciated the service that we gave and that if he could be of help, not just as a name on note paper but as a worker, then do not hesitate to call on him.

In 1974 it was decided that the constitution needed updating. Until then BHBS had stood for Bristol Hospital Broadcasting Society and although there were 50-60 helpers there were only 12 members, the committee! With

Wally Jenkins' help and experience, the new constitution was drafted and accepted by the committee and we became Bristol Hospital Broadcasting Service.

Laurie Lucena was forced to resign his position as chairman of the service in 1975, due to ill health. Wally Jenkins stepped into the helmsman's position and occupied the chair until 1985 when our present chairman Iain Elliott was elected. Iain had joined the service in 1965 and had been the station engineer for the past 15 years.

Another move was then on the cards as the buildings used for the studio were to be used for other means. The designs for our new studio, which was to be based on level five of the old BRI building, were sketched out in March 1994 and we moved in on May 23rd 1994. The speed of the move was such that we did not have time to build any of our new equipment.

The Special Trustees of United Bristol Hospitals provided the funds to build the studio and provided one of the new mixing desks. We have had to raise the money for all of the ancillary items such as chairs, cables, curtains and many of the more mundane items needed to make a studio work, we also had to raise the money for a second new mixing desk.

Our programmes are now mainly record request programmes from our studio in the BRI with sports commentaries from Bristol Rovers at The Memorial Stadium, Bristol City

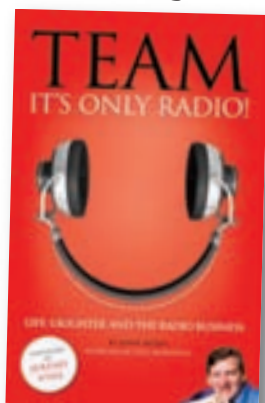
from Ashton Gate and Bristol Rugby from The Memorial Stadium. We ceased broadcasting cricket from the County Ground in 2002. Our outside broadcast repertoire is completed with classical concerts from the Colston Hall.

In 2012, instead of broadcasting to six hospitals, we broadcast to two Trusts: North Bristol and United Bristol Hospitals. Technically things are very different. The hospitals now have a multimedia entertainment system provided by each bedside. Each patient can select upwards of 18 channels and use the internet if they wish. To compete with this vast array of entertainment hospital radio has several immediate advantages. First we, along with all the radio channels are free, whereas patients have to pay for television and the internet, also we can provide locally orientated programmes and patient's requests.

On August 23rd 2012, BHBS celebrated its 60th anniversary and this was covered by the BBC, a link to the news item is here <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KIMAaGBhjok> and the BBC News website link is <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-bristol-19355469>.

We celebrated in style with a meal in a city centre restaurant and the evening was attended by members new and old. Our President, Chris Searle, attended and a good night was had by all.

It's Only Radio



It's approaching that time of year when John Myers likes to shake up the radio industry. This time, he's doing it with his own book about the radio business. **TEAM – It's Only Radio**, was published

in October and many people in radio get a mention and some would rather they weren't. It's expected to reveal secrets and explode myths about his long career in radio both in the studio and in the board room.

John is Chairman of the Sony Radio Academy Awards, former CEO of GMG Radio and the brains behind Century, Real, Smooth, Rock, CFM and more. He says this book is his total recall of the radio world, where screaming callers won competitions at 8.15am on a Friday, fictitious people won comps, characters ruled the day, personalities were in demand, local radio was local, research was for idiots, jocks played what they wanted and callers were told to sod off. He tells us the secrets behind those multi-million pound deals, the people he dealt with, how a religious advisor was fired on Trouble at the Top and Degsy got a job while others lost out after just a week.

The 380 page dossier reveals two sides to Myers. The hard-nosed businessman driving new radio stations to success while his appearance on air as Morgan caused hundreds of complaints and the anger of his competitors.

A revealing insight into how business was conducted in the crazy high priced days of the 80s and 90s and the true inside story of those BBC reports and the many characters we know and love.

Proceeds of John's book will be split between three charities.

Joining Forces

Three local amateur organisations in Reading came together to celebrate National Short Story Week which took place in November. This is a nationwide event where local writers' groups submit short stories to a local radio station, who chose some of the stories to be recorded by members of a local acting group and then broadcast to their listeners.

In Reading stories were submitted by members of the Thames Valley

Writers' Circle, which were then read by members of the Progress Theatre. Recordings were played on-air during National Short Story week by Hospital Radio Reading for their nightly bedtime story feature.



Geoff Dallimore and Jules Lunness of Progress record a story in Hospital Radio Reading studios

Chairman of Hospital Radio Reading, Gerard Rocks, said, 'We are delighted to take part in this joint effort, which I am sure our listeners will enjoy as part of what is one of our most popular features'.

Dick Sawdon Smith

Stations Win Year's Free Membership

HBA offered members the opportunity to win a year's free membership for their station. By completing the HBA strategy questionnaire, published on the HBA website, issued at Conference and published in 'On Air' and returned before the end of June, station details were entered into a draw.

The draw took place at the National Training Day in October at Stourbridge and Avril Bonner from Wycombe Radio drew three winners from the many entries received. The lucky stations to receive a year's free membership are Causeway HR, Cotswold HR and Radio Wexham. Congratulations. The Trustees thank members and member stations who returned completed questionnaires. Your views and opinions have been collated and the Trustees are evaluating all comments and suggestions. Your views and opinions will allow the Trustees to structure the HBA to meet the needs and expectations of its members.



Avril and Jim drawing the free membership winners

Following the AGM at the 2013 Conference in Blackpool, there will be an informal meeting where an interim report on progress on the future and strategy of HBA made to date will be discussed – yet another great reason to attend conference.

Long Service Certificates

HBA welcome applications from stations for the issue of Long Service certificates for their members. President June will be delighted to issue them and if possible come to the station to present them. If she cannot, possibly one of the HBA Board would come in her place. Alternatively they can be forwarded to you by post at an address quoted.

Applications should be as an email attachment or by post on station headed notepaper and signed by one of the current station committee. Certificates are available for 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55 years' service

Please advise June of the address to which certificates should be sent and remember we are all volunteers so it may take a few days to get them to you. If sending by post please send to:

**June Snowden, HBA President,
PO Box 76, Ely Cambs CB6 3ET**

Hospital Radio Request Chart

Mark Snowden of Radio General, Warrington is planning a special radio programme to unite hospital radio stations in one cause ... requests and dedications. He's planning is a 'request chart' with information from hospital radios to produce a definitive chart for the UK. He is also producing a 1 hour programme containing the top 15 most requested songs in 2012.

He currently requires your approval of participation to the scheme which will then involve transfer of data of your collected 2012 requests (deadline Thursday 10 January 2013), details of any customisation to the schedule of the show, and, of course, your approval of the finalised product.

Previous charts have reflected the personality and persona of all our patients. This will be the ninth National Request Chart he has produced and he anticipates more participants than ever as word seems to have got around!

I hope you can join him in helping to provide this light entertainment in a united front for this special event.

Please reply as soon as you have made a decision so he can make the appropriate preparations.

Mark Snowden
<http://www.requestcharts.org.uk>

Fairytale Christmas

The organisation that represents 95,000 UK songwriters and composers has just published the top 50 most played Christmas songs in the past year. Topping the chart is the much loved 'Fairytale of New York' by The Pogues featuring Kirsty MacColl, followed by Mariah Carey's 'All I Want for Christmas is You'.

The enormous 1980s hit, 'Do They Know It's Christmas?' by Bob Geldof and Midge Ure's project Band Aid still proved a favourite coming a close third place.

John & Yoko's 'Happy Christmas (War is Over)' released in 1971 was ranked equal seventh to Paul McCartney's 'Wonderful Christmas', originally released in 1979.

Barney Hooper, PRS for Music said, 'It's fantastic to see so many British songwriters, new and established, consistently loved and played across our airwaves. A well crafted Christmas tune will be enjoyed for decades.'

1 Fairytale of New York

The Pogues feat. Kirsty MacColl 1987 (written by Jem Finer and Shane MacGowan)

2 All I Want For Christmas Is You

Mariah Carey 1994 Mariah Carey, (Walter Afanasieff)

3 Do They Know It's Christmas?

Band Aid 1984 (Bob Geldof, Midge Ure)

4 Last Christmas

Wham! 1984 (George Michael)

5 Santa Claus is Coming to Town

Harry Reser 1934 (John Fredrick Coots and Haven Gillespie)

6 Do You Hear What I Hear?

Bing Crosby 1962 (Noel Regney and Gloria Shayne)

7 Happy Christmas (War Is Over)

John & Yoko/Plastic Ono Band with the Harlem Community Choir 1971 (John Lennon and Yoko Ono)

7 Wonderful Christmas Time

Paul McCartney 1979 (Paul McCartney)

9 I Wish It Could Be Christmas

Every Day Wizzard 1973 (Roy Wood)

10 Merry Xmas Everybody

Slade 1973 (Noddy Holder and Jim Lea)

11 Merry Christmas Everyone

Shakin' Stevens 1985 (Bob Heatlie)

12 Sleigh Ride

Leroy Anderson 1950 (Leroy Anderson)

13 Stay Another Day

East 17 1994 (Tony Mortimer)

14 Driving Home For Christmas

Chris Rea 1988 (Chris Rea)

15 Rockin Around The Christmas

Tree Brenda Lee 1958 (Johnny Marks)

16 Step Into Christmas

Elton John 1973 (Elton John and Bernie Taupin)

17 2000 Miles

The Pretenders 1983 (Chrissie Hynde)

18 I'm Gonna Be Warm This Winter

Connie Francis/Gabriella Cilmi 1962/2008 (Hank Hunter and Mark Barkan)

19 Christmas (Baby Please Come Home)

Darlene Love 1963 (Jeff Barry, Ellie Greenwich, Phil Spector)

20 Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!

Vaughn Monroe/Dean Martin /Smokey Robinson & The Miracles 1945/1959/1963 (Sammy Cahn, Jule Styne)

21 Stop The Cavalry

Jona Lewie 1980 (Jona Lewie)

22 Frosty The Snowman

Gene Autry & The Cass Country Boys/Perry Como/Johnny Mathis/Kimberley Locke 1950/1957/2003/2007 (Walter 'Jack' Rollins, Steve Nelson)

23 White Christmas

Bing Crosby 1942 (Irving Berlin)

24 I Believe In Father Christmas

Greg Lake/Toyah Wilcox/Elaine Paige 1975/1982/1986 (Greg Lake/Peter Sinfield)

25 Christmas Lights

Coldplay 2010 (Guy Berryman, Johnny Buckland, Will Champion, Chris Martin)

26 Christmas Song (Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire)

The Nat King Cole Trio 1946 (Mel Tormé, Bob Wells)

27 Thank God It's Christmas

Queen 1984 (Brian May, Roger Taylor)

28 It's The Most Wonderful Time of Year

Andy Williams 1963 (Edward Pola, George Wyle)

29 Santa Baby

Eartha Kitt 1953 (Joahn Javits, Phillip Springer)

30 Christmas Wrapping

The Waitresses 1981 (Chris Butler)

31 Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas

Frank Sinatra 1957 (Ralph Blane, Hugh Martin)

32 Please Come Home For Christmas

Charles Brown, The Eagles, Jon Bon Jovi 1961/1978/1995 (Charles Brown, Gene Redd)

33 A Spaceman Came Travelling

Chris de Burgh 1976 (Chris de Burgh)

34 A Winter's Tale

David Essex 1982 (Mike Batt/Tim Rice)

35 Lonely This Christmas

MUD 1974 (Nicky Chinn, Mike Chapman)

36 Cold December Night

Michael Bublé 2011 (Michael Bublé, Alan Chang, Bob Rock)

37 Mistletoe And Wine

Cliff Richard 1988 (Jeremy Paul, Leslie Stewart, Keith Strachan)

38 Merry Christmas

Bryan Adams 2011 (Bryan Adams)

39 Christmas Time - Don't Let The Bells End

The Darkness 2003 (Justin Hawkins, Dan Hawkins, Frankie Poullain, Ed Graham)

40 Mary's Boy Child - Oh My Lord

Boney M 1978 (Jester Hairston, Frank Farian, Fred Jay, Lorin)

41 Power Of Love

Frankie Goes to Hollywood 1984 (Peter Gill, Holly Johnson, Mark O'Toole)

42 Blue Christmas

Elvis Presley 1957 (Billy Hayes, Jay W. Johnson)

43 When A Child Is Born (Soleado)

Johnny Mathis 1976 (Ciro Dammiccom, Fred Jay)

44 Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer

Gene Autry 1949 (Johnny Marks)

45 Winter Wonderland

Perry Como 1934 (Felix Bernard, Richard B. Smith)

46 I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus

Jimmy Boyd 1952 (Tommie Connor)

47 Mary's Boy Child

Harry Belafonte 1957 (Jester Hairston)

48 It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas

Perry Como & The Fontana Sisters 1951 (Meredith Wilson)

49 The Little Drummer Boy

Harry Simeone Chorale 1958 (Harry Simeone, K. K. Davis, Henry Onorati)

50 We Wish You A Merry Christmas

- - -

Obituary



Adi Andrews passed away on 22nd October 2012. In the four short years Adi has been a member of Hereford Hospital Radio, we realised he was a diamond volunteer. His natural charm made our patients feel at ease and he was an excellent communicator on the radio.

Adi used these skills to train other volunteers and helped and coached many who have gone on to further their careers in broadcasting.

The team at Hereford will miss him greatly but have fond memories of him: his wit and laughter, the banter we had on air and the way he put people at their ease.

For the many people around the county who attended Adi's discos at Young Farmers events or welcomed him as the DJ on the day they tied the knot, we know Adi would ensure everyone had fun and a great evening to remember.

Nikki, Adi's widow, is also a member at Hereford and through Adi's encouragement has been on air regularly over the last year. We send our condolences to Nikki and her family.



IT'S BACK TO BLACKPOOL FOR 2013

Enjoy all the fun of the seaside at next year's HBA's Annual Conference as we return to Blackpool for a weekend of sun, sea and scintillating discussion!

Running from Friday March 22nd to Sunday March 24th we're again returning to the Hilton Hotel, right on the seafront.

Help Make The Weekend A Towering Success

The HBA Annual Conference would be nothing without YOU – our delegates. It's a chance to network, make new friends, catch up with old acquaintances and share tips and advice that could help make your service even better. The Conference Team is busy, right now, working on seminar ideas with fund-raising, volunteering and social networking among the suggestions currently being looked at – more information will follow in our next Conference News and in the On Air Magazine.

The Weekend is also a great chance to mark the start of Hospital Broadcasting Week, running from March 24th through to Sunday April 1st

MARCH 22ND –24TH 2013

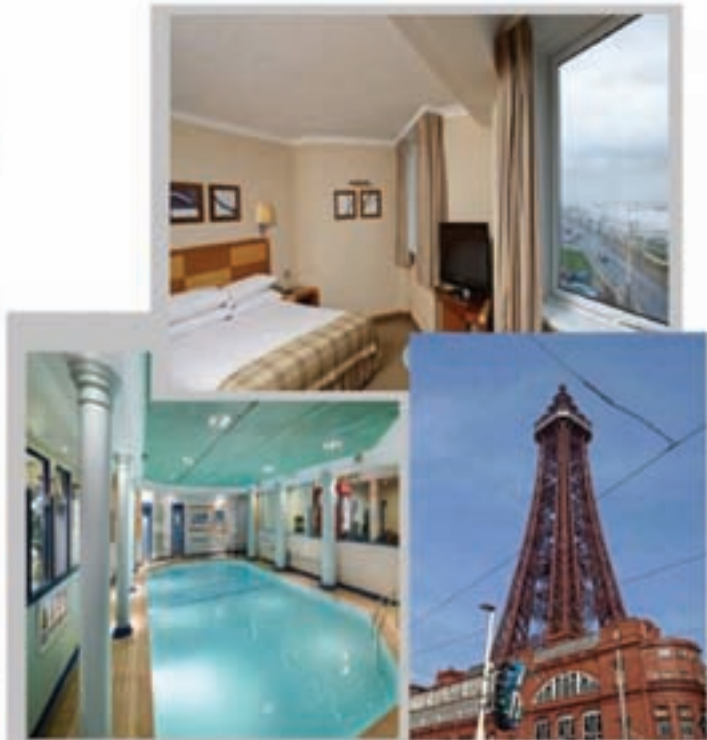
WE ALL LIKE TO BE BESIDE THE SEASIDE!

The ideal conference venue:

Located on Blackpool's famous Promenade, take in delightful sea views and enjoy easy access to many of the resort's most popular attractions.

This central Blackpool hotel near Blackpool Tower offers excellent transport links and ample onsite parking for private cars.

Delegates will also be able enjoy access to the LivingWell Health Club. Swim in the heated pool, work out in the 24-hour fitness center or de-stress in the relaxing sauna. The hotel's beauty suite offers a range of luxurious treatments including facials and massages for a spot of pampering.



A Conference weekend packed full of events:

Friday:

Guests arrive. A chance to try out the hotel's facilities (see left) or take a trip out on one of our organised visits to local radio stations and other places of interest. * Then, after your evening meal, a chance to network with others and take part in our Friday night quiz.

Saturday:

They'll be Seminars*, Trips out*, the Trade Exhibition, plus the HBA AGM and IGM. In the evening there's the Gala Dinner, launch of Hospital Broadcasting Week 2013 and the National Hospital Radio Awards.;

Sunday:

A chance to meet and hear from the judges of the National Hospital Radio Awards, perhaps take see the local area and win a prize on the President's lunchtime raffle before heading safely home.

***Seminars and trips to be confirmed**

Join us and celebrate Hospital Broadcasting across the UK

HBA Spring Conference 22nd – 24th March 2013 - Residential Booking Form

Details About The Person Making The Booking								Contact Address				
Your Name Your Station Or Company Telephone No E-Mail Address								It is a condition of booking that you have read and accept the HBA Conference Booking Terms and Conditions				
Your booking will be acknowledged using the e-mail address above. If you require written acknowledgment please supply a stamped addressed envelope.												
Full Weekend per person			Saturday Arrival per person			Tick if	Age if			Sharing Arrangements	Total	
Name	Single Room £185	Double Room £155	Twin Room £155	Single Room £142	Double Room £127	Twin Room £127	Vegetarian meals required			Under 18		£
Party Leader As Above												
If booking after 1st February 2013 full payment will be required at time of booking								Total Cost		£		
Residential bookings close 1st March 2013								Less deposit £40 per person		£		
Please make cheques payable to "Hospital Broadcasting Association"								Balance payable		£		

Send your completed booking form and payment to Spring Conference, HBA, 65 Brimmond View, Bucksburn, Aberdeen. AB21 9JR

Booking Queries to Brenda Massie, Telephone 0870 321 6017, e-mail conferences@hbauk.com

If you require Thursday or Sunday night accommodation please contact us for details. Rates shown include VAT at 20%.

Payments may be made either by cheque or Bank Transfer – If you wish to pay by bank transfer please contact us for the bank details.

Please attach any dietary requirements or special needs – e.g. you may need a room on the ground floor or close to a lift.

We regret that whilst the HBA will endeavour to deal with Special Dietary Requirements it is unable to offer a choice of menu for the Gala Dinner as it is a fixed menu.

Most of the weekend is informal so T-shirt and jeans are quite acceptable. The only exception to this is the Saturday Night Gala Dinner which is a formal event

HBA Conference Booking Terms & Conditions

1 Definitions

Conference	The HBA Spring 2013 Conference
We/Us/HBA	The Hospital Broadcasting Association.
You/Your	The delegate whose name appears on the booking form.
Party Leader	The delegate submitting the booking form.
Booking Form	The "official" HBA conference booking form which has been sent to you or your organisation, or downloaded from the HBA website.
Full Weekend	A conference package which includes Friday dinner, Friday night accommodation, Saturday breakfast and lunch, Saturday night gala dinner, Saturday night accommodation, Sunday breakfast and lunch, entry to trade show and all seminars/workshops, plus tea/coffee during the day, where served.
Saturday Arrival	A conference package which includes Saturday lunch, Saturday night gala dinner, Saturday night accommodation, Sunday breakfast and lunch, entry to trade show and all seminars/workshops, plus tea/coffee during the day, where served.
Sunday Stopover	Sunday night accommodation and Monday breakfast. Sunday night dinner is not included unless stated on the booking form.
Thursday Night	Thursday night accommodation and Friday breakfast. Thursday night dinner is not included unless stated on the booking form.
Day Delegate	A conference package that includes entry to trade show, Saturday seminars/workshops, Saturday lunch plus tea/coffee during the day, where served. The Saturday night gala dinner is not included.
Gala Dinner Only	Attendance at the Saturday night gala dinner only.
Trade Show	An exhibition of goods and services of interest to delegates.
Trips/Visits	Visits to radio stations and/or other local places of interest. Generally speaking these are free and we will provide a minibus. Where the venue makes a charge, you will be advised of this in advance.

2 Bookings

Where accommodation is limited bookings are accepted on a "first come first served" basis.

All bookings must be made using a booking form and accompanied by a deposit. Deposits are non-refundable.

If you need to cancel your booking please let us know as soon as possible. We will do our best to re-let your room. If we are successful then we will refund your payment less the deposit. If we are unable to re-let your room then you will be liable for the full amount.

Any bookings submitted later than eight weeks before the start of the conference must be accompanied by full payment. Deposits are non-refundable. No residential bookings can be accepted later than four weeks before the start of the conference. No non-residential bookings can be accepted later than two weeks before the start of the conference.

You will be invoiced for the balance of your booking approximately six weeks before the conference. If your balance has not been paid fourteen days before the start of the conference, we reserve the right to cancel your booking.

Your payment to us includes:

- Accommodation as booked (see definitions above).
- Meals as booked (see definitions above).
- The cost of attending seminars, workshops and the trade show.

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 operating 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: Avelbury House, St Peter Street, Winchester, SO23 8BN

- Trips and visits (unless otherwise advised of an admission charge).
- Any entertainment organised as part of the conference.

Your payment does not include:

- Transport to/from the conference venue.
- Parking at the conference venue, where this is not free.
- Any "extras" you may charge to your room, e.g. drinks and room service.

The price quoted on the booking form is a guaranteed maximum price except that, if the standard rate of VAT increases, the cost to you may increase accordingly. The price may reduce subject to us obtaining any sponsorship/subsidies.

The HBA reserves the right to refuse to accept any booking.

3 Information

Information given by you will be handled in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

- We will pass your name and any special requirements to the conference hotel.
- We will publish an attendance list (consisting of delegates' names and hospital radio station) which will be given to all delegates and trade show exhibitors attending the conference. If you do not want your name to be published on the attendance list please let us know at least 8 weeks prior to the conference.
- We will use your e-mail address (if provided) to acknowledge your booking and also to keep you informed about this and future conferences. If you do not wish to be sent further e-mails, please contact us.
- Subject to the above we will not pass your details to any other person or organisation.

4 Special Requirements

Please advise us of any special requirements as soon as possible, preferably at the time of booking. Any dietary needs (e.g. vegetarian, gluten-free etc.) must be advised no later than seven days before the start of the conference.

5 Conduct

It is a condition of booking that you will behave in a manner that does not bring the HBA and Hospital Broadcasting in general into disrepute. This includes settling your "extras" account with the hotel on departure. There may be non-HBA guests in the hotel and they should not be inconvenienced by your presence.

Where delegates' behaviour is considered inappropriate, they will be informed and asked to refrain from further such behaviour. Further complaints may result in delegates being excluded from further participation in this and future conferences. In all cases, the HBA's decision is final.

Most of the weekend is informal so T-shirt and jeans are quite acceptable. The only exception to this is the Saturday Night Gala Dinner which is a formal event and Gentlemen should wear a dinner suit (or lounge suit or kilt) and Ladies a cocktail dress, prom dress or similar.

6 Children and Young Persons

Any children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. The parent or guardian will retain full responsibility for the children whilst they attend conference.

Young persons between the ages of 16 and 18 must provide signed parental consent to their attendance. The party leader will assume full responsibility for any young persons included on their booking form whilst they attend conference.

7 Seminars, Trips and Visits

All seminars, trips and visits are advertised in good faith but circumstances beyond our control may result in amendments or cancellations. Where spaces are limited all seminars, trips and visits are offered on a first come, first serve basis. Please note that where trips and visits take place outdoors it is your responsibility to be prepared for inclement weather.

8 Force Majeure

Whilst we will do all in our power to ensure that the conference takes place as described there will be occasions where we need to make changes to the published itinerary. All advertised seminars and visits are provisional and subject to change. Should it be necessary, due to events beyond our control, to cancel the conference we will refund all monies paid by you. Neither the HBA nor its conference organising sub-committee can accept any further liability beyond this.

9 This agreement is governed by English Law.

Mid Downs Radio: *Music to our ears*



by Steve Ranney

From a converted store cupboard on the first floor of the Princess Royal Hospital in Haywards Heath, Mid Downs Radio (MDR) broadcasts all day, every day. Patients can listen on their bedside TV/radio units, staff and visitor on speakers throughout the hospital. Everyone else should tune in on 1350AM.

Years ago, Wendy Swinton-Eagle (pictured above), a charismatic type with a mass of red hair, was one of the few female Arabic interpreters in the British Army. Nowadays, she presents 'Simply Redhead', a Wednesday afternoon chat show on MDR. As the 3 o'clock news finishes, she plays her signature tune *Ride of the Valkyries*, which she uses to get herself in right mood. Then she's off: "Hello! Today we've got a busy show: an artist, a singer, a writer, and to start off with, a dancer!"

Star guest Rosie Langhorn talks about her rise to fame with Logs & Co, dance troupe on Top of The Pops in the late 1970s, and her passion for teaching music and performing arts

in Mid Sussex. Also in the studio is Clara Hurtado (pictured above right), a 16-year-old singer and a promising contender in a UK-wide talent contest, who sings live in the studio. At the other microphone is self-taught painter Tom Allen, who's been nominated for the National Open Art Competition, having been a finalist in last year's Sunday Times Watercolour Competition. He says he likes to use 'universal imagery', so his work could be understood by someone from centuries ago, or from a remote tribe. Wendy's fourth guest is me. I'm not sure I'm worth interviewing, but I do my best, hopefully not causing any long-term damage to audience figures.

Earlier, I went around the hospital wards with Louisa and Cathy, asking

continued on next page 31

patients for requests. Louisa Bradburn is MDR's first junior volunteer; Cathy Barnett is an MDR veteran and also the radio station's Chair. She is another exuberant redhead. "They broadcast MDR in the maternity wards, so just about the first thing newborn babies hear is Mid Downs Radio," she smiles.

Patients usually request easy listening, but Cathy remembers one elderly lady, lying with her blanket right up to her neck, who wanted to hear heavy rock: Meatloaf's *Bat out of Hell*.

Founded in 1976 in the Cuckfield Hospital postroom, the radio station moved to the Princess Royal when Cuckfield Hospital closed in 1991. As well as specialist shows for jazz, musicals, swing, the 1950s, and classical, there's a popular sports show on Saturday afternoons. On Wednesday evening, after Wendy's show, Sol Mead takes over.

Sol, a Des Lynam lookalike with a vast knowledge of blues and soul, looks down his frameless glasses at the computer, lining up the next song. "People like me have been doing this for ages, and I know these artists. I can talk for England, really," he says to his trainee Laura, a slightly nervous 20-something. He puts her in charge for a couple of songs, pretending he has to leave the studio for a bit of fresh air.



Veteran radio presenters:
Linda Wishart (above), Sol Mead (right).

"As well as specialist shows for jazz, swing, musicals, the 1950s, and classical, there's a popular sports show on Saturdays."



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Many Hospital Stations have already invested in ACCESS Codecs, finding that "Leagues of Friends" are often happy to purchase this type of equipment as it brings the outside world right into the hospital. Connection data charges, capped at a couple of pounds per day, can often be sponsored by local businesses. It may be worth asking no-win no-fee solicitors or the florist next door to contribute the odd tenner in return for an OB.

Vortex has a number of ex-rental and demo kits available. Email - info@vtx.co.uk



"Patients usually request easy listening, but Cathy remembers one elderly lady who wanted to hear Meatloaf's 'Bat out of Hell'."

Sol has been with MDR a little over three years, but he's been a pub and club DJ since 1968, and has been buying records since the late 1950s. Off-air, he sometimes sings and dances to the music. On-air, he gives background information from memory: about 1950s dance crazes; why one pressing of Beatles classic *Love Me Do* is worth much more than the others; and the stage manner of James Brown. "This is *Please, Please, Please*. I remember it as a young lad. It was very typical of James Brown's style. He had a big band behind him, and he really used to act out the whole song. Another thing about James Brown, he always loved encores."

The MDR studio is fully equipped with up-to-date computerised systems, and there's a wall of well loved LPs, and another full wall of 7-inch singles, mostly donated over the years. By the main control panel is a hi-fi, turntable, a cardboard photo of Elvis, and a landline phone which occasionally rings. "We really like it when people phone in with requests," Sol says.

Mid Downs Radio is celebrating 35 years of non-stop broadcasting this year – which is a huge achievement for all those who freely give their time and energy to the Haywards Heath hospital community. With pre-recorded programmes joining the live shows, and an Outside Broadcasting Unit available too, MDR is on-air all day, every day. ■

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Rookwood's Silver Celebrations



Rookwood Sound Hospital Broadcasting reached an important milestone and celebrated in style on 20th October 2012.

It was back on 31st October 1987 at 7pm that Rookwood Sound went on air for the first time with founder member Julian Brinkworth at the helm while our then engineer was laying under the desk holding two cables together to ensure it all worked on the night. Sadly these founder members are no longer with us but we know that their legacy continues as we move forward into a new era for the station.

It was decided to hold an event which included past, present and possible future members and most of all our listeners. We all congregated at the recreation hall at Rookwood Hospital and held a quiz and disco. A number of patients who attended commented 'this is the best night we have ever had. We listen all the time to Rookwood Sound on the ward and it's great to meet the presenters and be part of this special event'.

The night also acknowledged the members who have served a number of years at the station and a presentation was made of HBA long service awards to: Richard

Davies 25 years, Steve Allen 20 years (actually 23 years), Charlie and Debbie Brown 15 years (actually 18 years), Richard Baxter 10 years.

Unfortunately, two members were unable to be with us on the night namely Sybil Fowler 10 years and Graham Allen 10 years their certificates will be presented at a later date.

We also acknowledged the hard work and dedication by bestowing the honour of Life Membership on Lesley Jennings. Lesley not only presents a show on a weekly basis but also heads up the fundraising team and provides training and support to new members.

Rookwood Sound is entering a new era as we move our studios to Llandough Hospital in Penarth due to the closure of Rookwood Hospital due in 2013/14.

We already have built one studio and our current studio at Rookwood will stop broadcasting when the hospital closes.

On the night we also presented our Jeff Lyons Award (presented in memory of our late engineer) to John Bingham, our current engineer, who single-handedly built the new studio at Llandough to a very tight timescale and also to Richard Davies on his achievement of reaching 25 years of service.

We also welcomed some past presenters of the station to our event: Chris Cope, Kerry Bassett and Les Allen who undertook the presentations of certificates and awards. They were also presented trophies for the loyal service to Rookwood Sound in the past.

Rookwood Sound are now looking forward to the next 25 years which promises to be an exciting time as new developments are planned for the Llandough Hospital site over the next few years which will increase our potential audience to 1000 beds.

Stephen Allen
Chief Executive



Rookwood's Silver Celebrations



Charlie Brown receives his 15 years Certificate



Debbie Brown is presented with her 15 years Certificate



Chris Cope presents Richard Davies with the Jeff Lyons Award



Les Allen is presented with his trophy by Richard Davies



Richard Baxter is presented with a 10 year Certificate



Lesley Jennings with her Life Membership certificate



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Celebrations for Coventry



Pictured, from left to right, back row: Neil Wilkes, Andrew Smith, Lee Baker, John O'Farrell, Vic Minnett, Peter Fitzgerald, Martin Kahan; front row: Aloka Sudiwala, Alka Gandhi, Tara Court and Gary Davies

The team at Coventry Hospital Radio celebrated 40 years of broadcasting to University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire in October and held a party when they announced their new Patron and Ambassadors

Their new patron is Barnie

Choudry, who started off with Coventry Hospital Radio.

The ambassadors are BBC Coventry and Warwickshire presenter Vic Minnett, Touch FM presenter Brody Swain and singers Hazel O'Connor and Pauline Black.

Diamond Champion



An 89 year old hospital radio volunteer from Plymouth has been named as one of the country's 480 'Diamond Champions'.

Connal Cather has received the accolade for his work entertaining patients of Derriford Hospital and its predecessors with his programmes on Hospital Radio Plymouth for the past 42 years.

Holidays and occasional illness aside, Connal has broadcast a weekly show featuring dance bands of the pre and post wartime

era since joining the station in its inaugural year way back in 1970.

Station manager, Andrew Hill, said, 'I am absolutely delighted Connal has received this award. He is an inspirational example of what volunteering is all about, someone who can be relied on to turn out for his duties whatever the weather, someone who has been willing to muck in behind the scenes and a source of wise counsel when the need has arisen.'

Andrew added, 'His programmes also add a valuable dimension to our output. Indeed when we used to be at Greenbank Hospital there was a hospital porter who would stay on after his shift just to be able to hear Connal's show because he enjoyed that type of music which isn't often heard on radio these days.'

Diamond Champions has been established by the WRVS to mark the Queen's Diamond jubilee and to recognise the role volunteers over the age of 60 play in their communities.

Over 620 nominations were received in the south west region

with 60 being chosen for the award along with 60 from each of seven other regions of the UK.

The south west winners were invited to Bristol in October, where they were presented with a specially designed Diamond Champions pin. They will also receive a certificate signed by Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall. A selection of winners will attend an event at St James's Palace to meet Their Royal Highnesses.

It is the second high profile accolade for Connal in recent years. In 2008 he was the winner of the HBA's John Whitney Award.

Sprinkling of Stardust



A hospital radio has stepped up a gear with a new live Sunday afternoon showbiz presenter – all the way from Welling.

The weekly

Crave On Music show sees local lass Tina Campbell bring a host of celebrity interviews and showbiz gossip to Meridian Radio, which serves patients and staff at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Woolwich.

Campbell had never hit the airwaves – despite appearing in front of 65,000 people as the main stage host at last year's Danson Festival in Danson Park.

Tina comes from a long line of Charlton Athletic supporters and runs the Crave On Music website from her parents' Welling home. She recently brought Meridian an exclusive interview with Jedward and was the first to play their latest hit Luminous. Ed Sheeran, The Wanted, Alexandra Burke and Pixie Lott have also given their support to Meridian Radio by recording shout outs.

'Meridian Radio is right on my doorstep and since the station got permission to go online in July, we've seen a real boost in audience interaction,' she says. 'People are really taking to the show – one listener even sent in a comic they'd drawn of me interviewing Jedward and another made a doll of me!'

Stars Join Campaign



Holly Willoughby, Phillip Schofield and Ken Bruce have joined the campaign to save Radio Marsden.

Radio Marsden, based at the Royal Marsden cancer hospital in Sutton, needs £50,000 to replace ageing equipment.

Radio 2 broadcaster Ken Bruce joined Radio Marsden's Chairman Jason Reynolds recently to launch an appeal to save the station.

Holly Willoughby and Phillip Schofield have already shown their support for the charity and a host of celebrities are expected to follow their example by tweeting about the appeal.

Ken Bruce said, 'Hospital radio is so important to people who have to spend time in a ward and Radio Marsden has been, quite simply, one of the best for almost 44 years.'

'Please join me in doing everything we can to keep them broadcasting.'

The equipment is nearly 15 years-old and can only stand so many short term repairs.

The station's chairman, Jason Reynolds, described Radio Marsden as vital for both patients and staff at the hospital.

He said, 'With Radio Marsden we do it a bit different we get people going round to every patient and asking them if they want to request their favourite songs.'

'A lot of our volunteers are ex-cancer sufferers as well and we can offer some real company.'

'The studio is getting older and older and getting worse for wear. I

have been a volunteer for 20 years and as Chairman now – for it to fall on my watch – depresses and saddens me.

'It will be a devastating blow to patients, hospital staff and of course the Radio Marsden team if we have to shut down.'

The Radio Marsden bear will be meeting and greeting celebrities to help raise the profile of the campaign called: 'Can you bear to see Radio Marsden close?'

To donate visit justgiving.com/RMBear, or radiomarsden.co.uk.

Donations can also be sent directly to Radio Marsden, Royal Marsden Hospital, Downs Road, Sutton, Surrey, SM2 5PQ.

From Junk Room to Studio 2

Over the past few months, we have turned a room which main use was 'Oh put that in Studio 2'. When we could get no more in there, someone said 'why do you call that studio 2? We can't even get in there!' It was time to have a sort out, after removing box after box we can now proudly call it a studio again.

NH Sound is based in Nevill Hall Hospital, Abergavenny which nestles on the edge of the beautiful Brecon Beacons in South Wales. Serving the hospital and the local community, NH Sound is not only enjoyed by patients staying on the wards, it connects patients with family and friends who can also enjoy the music outside the building via our LPAM transmissions on 1287am.

Like many other hospital radio stations, our volunteers are constantly changing and our numbers rise and fall. We have a number of students who have gone off to university, who we wish a very successful future. We hope when they have finished their studies they return to hospital radio where they can share their skills and experience with our listeners. We would like to also welcome our new volunteers who have recently completed our in-house training programme all passing with flying colours. We hope they all enjoy a rewarding time with us at NH Sound.

We have developed bespoke training courses, which are delivered in our new studio 2, specifically designed for our new

and existing volunteers to encourage and advance their skills and promote a friendly and professional environment for everybody to enjoy working in.

Although we have benefited from some highly valued volunteers who have bolstered our numbers and have been producing excellent live and recorded shows, we would also like to send a big thank you to Steve Brown, Richard Todd, Phil Osborne and Richard Smith who have been providing us with many excellent recorded shows on a weekly basis, which have proved helpful in enhancing our radio schedule.

David Finch
NH Sound

Wishing You Well



Metro Chairman, David Harrop makes a presentation to Radio Wishing Well Chairman, Richard Parkinson, surrounded by members of both radio stations

Metro Radio for many years used to transmit to the airwaves of Leigh Hospital, which was forced to cease broadcasting due to circumstances beyond their control. Their committee decided to give Radio Wishing Well first refusal on the radio equipment plus a cash donation of £500.

Richard, who next May celebrates 20 years with Radio Wishing Well, becoming the station's longest ever member, says, 'Radio Wishing Well is most grateful to David and his radio station for their generosity but it comes with a tinge of sadness that a radio station has been forced to shut down. The cash injection will go towards the restructuring of our second studio. This will help in the training up of new presenters and recording of shows without interrupting live broadcasting.'

Richard Parkinson
Chairman
Radio Wishing Well

Staff and visitors are wire for sound

Grimsby Hospital Radio is now heard by visitors and staff – as well as patients – around Grimsby's Diana Princess of Wales Hospital.

For the first time the volunteer-run station is broadcasting not only direct to patient's bedsides but also in the concourse and restaurant areas of the hospital.

The move was prompted by Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Trust which asked the station if it could help to promote health related messages across the hospital site.

Trust Chief Nurse Dr Karen Dunderdale said, 'We recognise the power of radio in communicating important key messages to an audience. What better way of spreading the news about important health related messages, such as awareness weeks and common signs and symptoms to look out for, than by airing them on our own hospital radio?'

Chairman and Station Manager Jeff Todd said 'We acknowledge the Trust's faith in the station and are happy to help. This is fabulous news and will increase our listener numbers many fold.'

The League of Friends of Grimsby Hospital has paid the PRS Licence fees for the concourse and restaurant areas. Mr Todd said 'We also thank the League of Friends for their generosity.'

Grimsby Hospital Radio is a registered charity and needs more volunteers to help run the station. If you can or for more information call the station on (01472) 875288 and leave a message.

Freeway Reunion

During the summer, out of the blue, I received an invitation to a re-union for ex-members of the hospital radio service at Morriston Hospital in Swansea. As I had only been a member of the station from 1983 to 1986 I was very flattered to be invited.

Radio LF, as it was then called, was my first experience in hospital radio. Paul Rees, who was then Programme Controller, spent many hours training me and obviously passing on his enthusiasm. Without his



Pictured, from left to right, Adam Court, Phil Hoyles, Dave Easterbrook, Louise Thomas, Wyn Thomas, Neil Davies, Paul Rees, Angela Jay, Eleanor Preece, Danni Boyce, Leigh Jones, Shaun Tilley, Dave Duford and Tony Dibbin

dedication I would have probably moved on from hospital radio many years ago. I was genuinely pleased to learn that he had received an honour in the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Honours List.

The evening was spent at a restaurant in the Mumbles in Swansea and it was a good excuse to catch up with some old friends and make some new ones. It was such a good night we are planning to do it again some time!

Dave Duford
Chair, Merthyr HB

Hospital Radio Gets a Welcome Helping Hand

Radio Phoenix have been showing off their talents outside the studio recently, raising more than £250 for the station.

Organised by Radio Phoenix chief engineer Nathan Watters, a charity fundraising evening was held at the Four Winds, Sandfields, on Sunday.

Head of programming, Gareth Bailey, thanked those who attended and helped raise the important much-needed funds.

'Thank you for supporting us. It's something we're all really involved in and enjoy doing and something I am very passionate about,' he said. 'The money raised will help us to keep broadcasting to the patients and staff of Neath Port Talbot Hospital.'

'We don't get funding from elsewhere and we all do it for the patients and staff, so thank you.'

Entertainment was provided by crooner Bill Bennett and young talent from Neath-based LX Theatre Company, who danced and sang for the crowd.

Also performing was long-standing Radio Phoenix member and Head of IT, Alan Morgan, who surprised fellow members with his talent on the guitar while performing self-penned tunes.

The station's most recent addition, presenter John Morgans, donned a St Bernard suit for the evening, collecting funds from generous concert-goers, while other members helped sell tickets.

Station Chief Executive Ann Tawe Jones added her thanks for support for the evening.

Fire Stopping works at Hospital Radio Studios

Northumberland Hospital Radio's studios have been brought up to the latest standard in fire stopping thanks to Pro Fire Systems and Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust.

During a routine survey of NHR's facility, gaps between rooms were found above the false ceiling level which had been left during construction of the building. In addition, oversize holes had been cut for the studio ventilation system as the ducting passed from one studio to the next.

Due to the value and amount of electrical equipment in the facility, Northumbria Healthcare arranged for work to be carried out.

Raffe and Max from Pro Fire Systems were on site for three days installing intumescent sealing material with special fire-stopping board installed to cover larger gaps. The entire system is designed to prevent and reduce the spread of fire between rooms but has also had the advantage of dramatically improving the soundproofing.

Station Director Iain Miles said, 'The rooms were designed and built as a radio facility, even down to the triple glazing between studios and acoustic seals on the studio doors but you could still pick up voices and music from adjacent rooms. We noticed this when listening back to recordings of local writers. However, since the fire stopping work, the soundproofing is so much better than before and we have the knowledge that the whole facility is safer. We are indebted to Pro Fire Systems for the quality and manner of their work and to Northumbria Healthcare for looking after us.'

Mel & Steve Mullane at Winchester Cathedral

The Service of Thanksgiving on 27th May 2012
to Celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's Diamond Jubilee



HRH The Earl of Wessex
KG GCVO
asking Steve...
'Where are you from?'



Steve Mullane – Chairman of
Southampton Hospital Radio



Mel Mullane – Head
of Hospital Visiting



Steve tells Alan Titchmarsh that he is
probably the best broadcaster ever ...

THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE YEAR – 2012

Southampton Hospital Radio shares with the Queen her Jubilee Year. Sixty years of broadcasting to the patients in Southampton Hospitals. The first broadcast was a live commentary from 'The Dell' on the Saints football match – 18th October 1952. The music section was formed in the early Sixties and the first 'live' music programme was transmitted on 2nd January 1966 from our studio located in the basement of the Toc H Building in Winchester Road.



Chairmen Past and Present cutting the cake (made in the image of an Operating Desk) to celebrate 60 Years Broadcasting to Southampton's Hospitals.

Left to right and period in office:

Bryan Dowding	1985 – 1988
Peter Pritchett-Brown	1971 – 1978
Roy Stubbs	1991 – 2009
John Stranger	1963 – 1970
Steve Mullane	2009 – present day



The magnificent huge diamond presented to Southampton Hospital Radio by The General Hospital Management in 2012 as recognition of 60 years Broadcasting Service

CROWNING ACHIEVEMENT IN 2012



The M B E for Volunteer Groups
Presented to Southampton Hospital Radio
in October 2012 at a very Special Event
by The Queen's Lieutenant at
The Southampton General Hospital.

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All members of the EC and Regional Reps are volunteers and will respond to any contact as quickly as possible. Please understand however, that work or family commitments mean that availability may not always be immediate and may be limited to evenings and weekends.

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