

ON AIR



HBATM
Hospital Broadcasters Association

*Issue 141
Spring 2013*

The Official Journal of the Hospital Broadcasting Association

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FRONT COVER STORY:

Radio Cherwell Chairman, Neil Stockton, welcomed Jason Donovan to their studios in October 2012, after Neil had been awarded the Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action Awards for 2012. See full story on page 11 of the magazine.

Congratulations to Neil.



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Hi Everyone.

There are plenty of heartwarming stories in this issue ... from Hospital Radio stations celebrating their sixtieth birthdays to those members who devote every possible minute of their spare time to ensure stations are run well and most importantly for the benefit and enjoyment of the patients. This really must show that we are, without doubt, part of the caring 'profession'.

Many of you will be reading this magazine for the first time at Conference; do make sure you see every issue and if you have something you want to say, or perhaps sell, or indeed something you would like to shout about that your station has done, please get in touch, the details are at the bottom of the page.

I would like to offer my congratulations to all those shortlisted for the Hospital Radio Awards you will meet all the winners next time.

And just before I go, an apology, the article about MDR in the previous issue tated the article came from Sussex Life, it should have said Sussex Living magazine.

Michelle

DIARY DATES

22nd March-24th March
2013 Conference, Blackpool
Livingston Mercure Hotel

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

Our Ambassadors



Alan Dediccoat



Ken Bruce



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Board Report

Future strategy and direction of the Association

Fifteen of the Trustees and other HBA post-holders have recently spent a busy and very productive, day and a half discussing the strategy for, and future direction of, the Association. We met in Greenwich on a very cold and snowy January weekend. Despite the weather, all those planning to attend managed to arrive and depart without significant problems! Discussions started at 11am on Saturday and continued throughout the day and over dinner. Some of us were given 'homework' and were still discussing some of the finer details at gone 11pm that evening! We then reconvened at 9:30 on Sunday morning and continued through to lunchtime.

It is clear 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. Our discussions covered all these issues and at how the HBA communicates and engages with its members. In some areas, we're proposing relatively modest changes, in others our proposals are more radical.

The more difficult discussions centred on just where HBA was going to find the resources to do all that its members want and which those around the table thought that it should be providing. The discussions are not yet complete – they will continue at the next Trustee Board meeting a week before conference – but the feeling is that, particularly in the area of supporting member stations, we will need to recruit more volunteers from the hospital radio community who are willing and able to help provide advice and guidance to others; in most cases, those of us already volunteering for HBA simply do not have any more time to give and in some cases would like to reduce their time commitment to something more sustainable. The immediate next steps are for the Trustee Board to agree what areas we need expertise in and to put together role descriptions and



by Nigel Dallard, Secretary

person specifications. We will then be inviting volunteers; please don't be shy in coming forward!

The major aspects of our strategy for communicating better with our members are a redeveloped website, an improved membership database, a monthly electronic newsletter, increased use of social media and a reinvigorated network of Regional Reps. We hear so many times that individual hospital radio volunteers (and even station committee members!) don't see 'On Air' magazine or emails we send via our 'HBA Announce' list. To alleviate this problem, we plan to put the technology in place to allow individual volunteers at member stations to opt-in to receive communications from HBA aligned with their personal interests and responsibilities.

Many stations also say that they would welcome greater visibility of the HBA Trustees, with us visiting individual stations and events across the country. If we can cut down on the amount of other work that currently falls to HBA's Trustees, we would welcome the opportunity to get out and about more than we do today.

When it comes to representing hospital broadcasters to the NHS, government departments and agencies and generally raising the profile of HBA and hospital broadcasting, we are concerned that there may not be anyone with the necessary skills and, just as importantly, the time to devote to

this task, within the hospital radio community and we are of the opinion that professional help of some form may be needed, either in the short or longer-term.

Our next steps are to further develop our thoughts on our external communications strategy and put together role descriptions and person specifications. We then intend to invite those within the hospital radio community to assist us, before seeking external help.

I have the task of summarising the outcome of the Trustee Board's discussions and agreements to date in a paper that will be circulated to all members ahead of the conference and AGM. Those present at the conference will have the opportunity to debate, amongst themselves and with members of the Trustee Board, the contents of the paper and the results of our further discussions before conference. Those of you not attending the conference must not, however, feel that you have no voice. Please do read the paper when it is circulated and please do let us know your views.

Appointment of Webmaster

As an important first step towards addressing HBA's communications needs, the Trustee Board have appointed Andy Carter as HBA's new webmaster. Andy was a volunteer at Winchester Hospital Radio many years ago, before setting out on a career in radio broadcasting and, more recently, communications and public relations. Many of you will recognise Andy from recent HBA Training Network events, where he has kindly provided radio presentation training.

The plan is to develop HBA's new website using industry-standard open-source technology wherever possible, tailored to HBA's needs if necessary. This will allow Andy to use his communications skills to help HBA get its messages out to their intended audiences, rather than us having to find someone with deep technical expertise in web standards and programming to develop a website that meets our complex requirements.

Board Report

National Conference & AGM

Conference returns to Blackpool this year, from Friday 22nd to Sunday 24th March. As well as the National Hospital Radio Awards ceremony, there will be a number of seminars and workshops, a tradeshow where you can talk to suppliers about your needs, the Annual General Meeting and plenty of opportunities to network and exchange views and ideas with fellow hospital broadcasters.

Booking forms are available from the website (www.hbauk.com/conference) or by contacting Brenda Massie (conferences@hbauk.com, 0870 321 6017).

The formal Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday afternoon. This year, the terms-of-office as Trustees of the Association of Jim Simpson (Chairman), myself (Secretary), and Dave Lockyer (Regional Manager) come to an end.

Jim and I are seeking re-election but Dave has indicated that he will not be seeking a further term.

Further details of the AGM, together with Role Descriptions for the Trustee positions subject to election and a nomination form are available on the website at www.hbauk.com/agm.

If you are interested in standing for any of these positions or

volunteering for HBA at a national level in any role, please do get in contact with myself (secretary@hbauk.com, 0870 321 6003) or any of the other Trustees.

At the time of writing, the Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts had just been approved by the Trustee Board. They will be published on the website and sent to all members who have requested to receive correspondence in hardcopy form, along with the finalised agenda for the meeting, at least 2 weeks prior to the AGM.

Please note that whilst there are delegate fees payable to attend the conference, attendance at the AGM and the following informal members' meeting (only) is free of charge to representatives of all HBA members.

If you wish to participate in the meeting, you will need to bring along signed authorisation to represent your station. If your station is unable to be represented, you can still participate in the votes, by appointing a proxy. The forms to appoint a representative or a proxy and to instruct your proxy (who can be the chairman of the meeting) how to vote, will be placed on the website and distributed along with the agenda.

If you have any questions about

any of the above, please do get in touch (secretary@hbauk.com, 0870 321 6003).

National Hospital Radio Awards

By the time you read this, the nominations for the National Hospital Radio Awards will have been announced. Congratulations to all those shortlisted and good luck in the next stage.

If you weren't successful this year, please don't feel too downhearted, and resolve to do better next year.

The winning entries will be available online shortly after the ceremony. Whether you entered the awards or not, do take the time to listen; we can all always learn something new from others.

Hospital Broadcasting Week

This year, Hospital Broadcasting Week will start with the awards ceremony on Saturday 23rd March and finish on Easter Monday, 1st April.

Plans are afoot for a higher profile week this year – more details as soon as we can release them. A section has been added to our website and, if you email details of any events that you are holding during the week to webmaster@hbauk.com, they will be added to the listing.



SURPRISE SOMEONE SPECIAL WITH A HOLLYWOOD TREAT....

- Is there someone you work, live or socialise with who deserves their home being turned into a heavenly retreat by our designer to the stars?
- Do you know someone who could do with a surprise pampering with a red carpet styling worthy of the Oscars?

A brand new series for Channel 4 is looking to add glamour to someone's life with a true Hollywood make-over.

If you know the perfect hard-working and well-deserving person and want to show them how appreciated they truly are, give them the glamour of Hollywood and add a bit of sparkle to their life.

If you want to nominate a special person to receive this remarkable treat in 2013 then contact us at: deservingpeople@ricochet.co.uk or on 01273 224 800. We will consider every suggestion for our series due to go into production in early 2013. Remember to leave your contact number so we can talk to you in private about your nomination.

Please don't nominate yourself.

DO NOT TELL THE PERSON YOU ARE NOMINATING

Hospital Radio Awards 2013, Blackpool

Meet the Judges



Susan Lowson



Nicola Hill



Vicki Blight



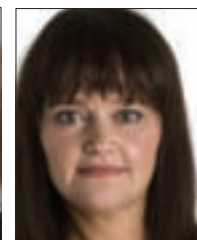
Jane Crofts



Simon Pattern



Sandy Warr



Jo Russell

Judging is now complete for this year's National Hospital Awards, with the winners due to be announced at the ceremony in Blackpool on Saturday March 23.

New judges have joined the list this year, with awards co-ordinator Sean Dunderdale, keen to include more people from within the health service itself – not just radio industry 'experts'.

Sean told On Air, 'Our judges are looking not necessarily for the best broadcasters but for the best HOSPITAL RADIO broadcasters – those volunteers who engage with the patients, involve themselves with the hospital community and understand the difference between simply wanting to be a 'radio DJ' and genuinely wanting to provide friendship, much-needed company and comfort to the person in the bed at the other end of the radio.

'Certainly, although not the only judging factor but patient interactivity always scores highly – especially in the presenter, newcomer and station of the year categories'.

Each judge listens to the entries and scores them out of a total of fifty – looking at each entry's originality, relevance to the target audience, variety of material presented and overall entertainment value. These scores are then put together with the scores of two other judges per category to find the overall bronze, silver and gold winners.

Each category is judged by at

least one health professional, plus radio industry people (usually someone with a knowledge or background in hospital radio.)

This years judges include ...

Susan Lowson, lead clinician for the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman

Katie Pringle, Senior Communications Officer, the Care Quality Commission

Jane Crofts, former PR Manager, NHS

Marc Wilson, NHS Business Support Manager

Andrew Bogg, health service worker for 20 years.

Katherine Anderson, Registered Nurse and consultant to Private and Independent Healthcare Provider. Former Healthcare Commission Inspector in the UK and Australia.

Nicola Hill, former Health Correspondent and Presenter of Healthwatch, Sky News.

Chris Stevens, founder of Devaweb

Nick Beer, Managing Director and owner of West Country Broadcast.

Mike Skinner, Chairman of Uckfield Community Radio. Former PR Manager for the HBA.

Jim Gellatly, presenter Amazing Radio and writer for the Scottish Sun

Sean McGinty, presenter BBC Lancashire and Guardian Newspaper Podcaster

Mark Forrest, presenter of the new BBC Local Radio nationwide evening show. Former member of

Harrogate Hospital Radio.

Vicki Blight, presenter Absolute Radio

Barnie Choudhury, Principal Lecturer Lincoln School of Journalism, former reporter BBC Radio 4 Today, former BBC Social Affairs Editor.

Paul Sylvester, Head of Presentation, Absolute Radio

Roy Martin, founder and Managing Editor of Radiotoday.co.uk

Charlie Partridge, Managing Editor of BBC Radio Lincolnshire

Simon Patten, Managing Editor, BBC Local Radio. Has worked within both BBC and Commercial Radio York, Newcastle, Manchester, Humberside. Was Ed The Duck's Director when on Children's BBC!

Louise Hastings, Editor of Sky News Radio

Jo Russell, presenter Free Radio, Birmingham.

Jeremy Buxton, BBC Big Screen Manger, presenter BBC Radio York

Paul Easton, Radio Consultant and former Programming advisor to HBA

Sandy Warr, Journalist and Broadcaster. Co-presenter with Chris Tarrant, Simon Bates and Tony Blackburn. Presenter BBC Radio 4 Today Programme, former presenter LBC, Talk Radio, Five Live.

Kirsty Ward, Editor BBC Wiltshire

Polly Sharpe, producer BBC Breakfast.



Andrew Bogg



Barnie Choudhury



Chris Stevens



Mark Forrest



Mike Skinner



Charlie Partridge



Louise Hastings

Hospital Radio Awards 2013, Blackpool

We are pleased to announce the shortlists in the 2013 National Hospital Radio Awards

Congratulations to everyone who has moved forward to the next stage of the judging process.

Certificates will be sent out to the top tens shortly and will be sent to the address for trophies declared on the entry form. If you want to change this please e-mail awards@hbauk.com Please also check that the spelling is correct on the shortlist and notify me of any errors as soon as possible.

Whilst we understand that if you entered and have not made the Top Ten you will be disappointed, we are unable to respond with judges comments, the judges do not provide us with specific comments on the entries that do not make the top ten. Judges comments will be available for the shortlisted entries after the Awards ceremony has taken place.

Gold, Silver and Bronze Award winners will be announced at the Awards Ceremony in Blackpool on Saturday 23rd March at the Hilton Hotel. If you are on the shortlist and have not yet booked to attend the ceremony and/or the conference book now to avoid disappointment! Booking Forms are available on the HBA website www.hbauk.com

Best Station Promotion

Hospital Broadcasting Service
Hospital Radio Reading
Kingstown Radio
NHR (Nottingham)
Radio Northwick Park
Radio Warneford
Radio West Middlesex
Radio Wexham
Radio Wey
Sunshine Radio

Best Specialist Music Programme:

Apple AM: Golden Delicious
Citybeat: I'm In The Mood For Love: The Story of Jimmy McHugh (1894-1969)
Hospital Broadcasting Service: The Billy Joel Story
Hospital Radio Plymouth: Cover Me
HWD: Classic Rock Show
NHR: The Country Store
Radio Fox: The Indigo Club
Radio Hillingdon: Essential Country
Radio Northwick Park: London Calling
Radio Tyneside: The Geordie Hour

Best Speech Package

Castle Mead Radio: Past Times in Earl Shilton
Epsom Hospital Radio: Interview with Rabbi Lionel Blue
Hospital Broadcasting Service: Opening of the Calman Centre
Hospital Radio Basingstoke: Interview with Dawn Green
Hospital Radio Bedside - Interview with Sarah Greene
Hospital Radio Plymouth: Casper the Commuting Cat
Hospital Radio Reading: Katherine Grainger goes for Gold
Radio Brockley: The Buttercup Walk
Scunthorpe Hospital Radio: Stargazing Live 2012
Whipps Cross Hospital Radio: Chingford Model Railway

Best Special Event

Harrogate Hospital Radio: Treadmill Transmission
Hospital Radio Chelmsford: Olympic Torch Relay
Hospital Radio Lion: Dolmetsch Memorial Plaque
Hospital Radio Reading: League of Friends Fete 2012
Radio Broadgreen: Radio Broadgreen Sport
Radio Brockley: Paralympic Torch Relay
Radio Redhill: 2012 Veteran Car Run
Radio Tyneside: Diamond Jubilee Party
Radio Warneford: Olympic Highlights
Winchester Hospital Radio: Clarendon Marathon 2012

Best Newcomer

Ajay Ramtohl, Northern Air
Argyll Duffy, Hospital Broadcasting Service
Charlie Still, Hospital Radio Chelmsford
Dan Burton, Harrogate Hospital Radio
Darren Wood, Apple AM
Jenn Holden, Harlow Hospital Radio
Jeremy Miles, Hospital Radio Basingstoke
Leon Gower, Radio North Kent
Rachael Dodd, Hospital Radio Plymouth
Wendy Sherer, Radio Northwick Park

Fundraiser of the Year

We don't publish a shortlist for this award – the winner will be announced in Blackpool.

Best Programme with Multiple Presenters

Apple AM, Jason and Craig
Bridge FM, Ronny and Joe's Wee Show

Hospital Radio Bedside, iKidz
Hospital Radio Plymouth, Requestline
Hospital Radio Reading, Wednesday Request Show
Inverness Hospital Radio, The Dave and Joey Show
NHR, Your Choice
Radio Cherwell, Weekend for Everything Show
Radio Stitch, Jamie and Leni
Scunthorpe Hospital Radio, Monday Miscellany

Best Female Presenter

Anita Hepple, HWD
Christine Rowley, Hospital Radio Basingstoke
Ellie Jackson, Harrogate Hospital Radio
Faye Grantham, Hospital Radio Chelmsford
Laura Tremelling, Sunshine Radio
Lauren Rich, Radio Northwick Park
Louise Croombs, Hospital Radio Reading
Mandy Morrow, Radio Wey
Peggy Mack, Hospital Broadcasting Service
Sam Jenkins, Hospital Radio Chelmsford

Best Male Presenter

Aaron Rice, Radio Northwick Park
Adam Ravenscroft, Hospital Radio Chelmsford
Andy Brown, Radio Wey
Dave Warren, Hospital Radio Basingstoke
John Murray, Victoria Radio Network
Keith Jolley, Hospital Radio Plymouth
Mark Grantham, Hospital Radio Chelmsford
Neil Wilkes, Coventry Hospital Radio
Pete Phillips - Choice Radio
Rhodri Buttrick - Hospital Radio Reading

John Witney Award

We don't publish a shortlist for this award – the winner will be announced in Blackpool.

Station Of The Year

Hospital Broadcasting Service
Hospital Radio Chelmsford
Hospital Radio Plymouth
Hospital Radio Reading
NHR
Radio Brockley
Radio Cherwell
Radio Redhill
Scunthorpe Hospital Radio
Whipps Cross Hospital Radio
Iain Lee
Deputy Chief Executive

hospital radio publications

delighted to support the
2013 Hospital Radio Awards

*Congratulations
to the Winners*

AND THE
WINNER IS!....

*Hospital Radio Publications firmly established as
THE producers of Hospital Radio magazines*

contact Michelle on 01245 465246
for further information

The A to Z of Pop Big Broadcast



When Richard first asked about the Big Broadcast, we thought, why not, how hard can a 27 hour non-stop broadcast be? Very, as it turns out: 27 hours broadcasting is in fact 41 hours awake. You get up at the normal time, have breakfast, do the final prep work; make sure the online feed is working alright. And you're off.

Richard is talking and playing requests and the running of the programme is brilliant. But don't forget the background people. There's Paul keeping the feed going to Auckland HR and Bay Trust Radio, as they send it out to all the stations taking the broadcast, without them it would not happen. Checking everything is OK and running to time and talking to Richard and the listeners and waving to them too! Standing up when you talk to the Chairman on the phone and lots more besides. Then there's Emma,

keeping an eye on emails and Twitter, phone calls and text messages. None of it would work without the sterling work of the catering team, well, Mrs A to Z, who does the work of a team. If the sausage rolls hadn't arrived at around 6am, I don't think we would have even been able to finish.

But we made it. So when sitting in the hot-tub, having a well-earned relax later, Richard looks round to Mrs A to Z, Emma and Paul 'do you reckon we could do that again?' to somewhat astounded faces.

But the idea never left and so began the planning for a New Years Eve Big Broadcast. Twenty hours this time, from 4pm New Years Eve to 12 noon New Years Day. But bigger and more spectacular than ever before. A quiz, with presenters representing patients; the local jazz band to play live, some guest presenters with music that is special to them, a live June's travels; an hour from the hot-tub. Why not run a New Years Eve party alongside the broadcast. How hard can it be?

So with Ian Gornall from CPR Radio, Ellie Jackson, Chairman Ian Wighton and Steve Pexton from Harrogate Hospital Radio (or is that 'arrogate 'ospital radio?) Matt Holden from HR Blackburn, Emma and Paul Sysum from Devizes HCR, Neil Ogden from Basingstoke HR on the phone and Richard Smith; you have a presenting team. Include Rob Watson to read the news. Over 30 separate hospital radio stations from across the UK and Ireland would take the

Big Broadcast. It was going to be a packed night.

The quiz went without a hitch, with these results; Neil Ogden 3, Emma Sysum 4, Ian 8, Ellie 10, Paul 10, Chairman Ian 11, Steve winning with 12. Maybe were not as good at music trivia as Richard thought! The Pendle Jazzmen performed live in the front room, a bit of a squash but it sounded really good. June Snowden rang from Malta at midnight, 11pm for us. Who knew Emma's first record ever bought would have been Itsy Bitsy Teeny Weeny Yellow Polka Dot Bikini! Rob reading bespoke news bulletins; the choir for Delilah and Auld Lang Syne and party hats. Again Mrs A to Z's catering team provided all our needs.

So to the next BIG Broadcast, it starts at midday on Sunday 31st of March for 24 hours, give your playout system the day off and join in! For more info please email Richard at theatozofpop@aol.com www.theatozofpop.com

Don't just take my word for it, here are a selection of comments from the stations from both previous Big Broadcasts.

Emma Sysum

On behalf of us all at C.U.H. FM Hospital Radio 102fm our best wishes on what will no doubt be a hugely successful and historical hospital radio event. We are delighted to be associated with the Big Broadcast and I am aware John Lynch has worked tirelessly with you on our behalf to ensure its success at our end. We have also conducted a promotional campaign of awareness amongst our target audiences at Cork University and Cork University Maternity Hospitals and the Cardiac Renal Centre to capture maximum listenership. Again congratulations and thank you for providing this unique opportunity.

**Thomas Browne,
C.U.H. FM Hospital Radio**

We've had an email from Olesya Krylova who lives in Verhnjaja Pyshma in the Russian Federation. They are loving the show! How you pronounce this one is up to you!

Craig

Just a short message to say well done for the past 27 hours. It's been really good listening.

Stephen, HR Reading



The A to Z of Pop Big Broadcast

Just to say thanks again for being mad enough to complete the full A to Z of Pop, giving an hour to each letter. Proper marathon stuff and exceptionally well executed!

Hope you're getting some well earned and deserved rest now. Just a thought for next time, how about 'leasing out' individual letters to different stations, they could then take the stream and broadcast their hour (using your tried and tested format), similar to Children in Need on the Beeb, where they have an anchor (you) at the main studio and then keep going off and connecting to other studios to do their bits. All live, all real, so requests, shout-outs etc, can be dealt with.

I'm in the 'tech' side of things, so I'll talk to some colleagues and see how feasible it could be. Or you could just dis-regard and keep doing what you're doing, cause I loved it. Well done again and as ever, if there's anything I can do, just give me a shout.

**Ross Lee, Studio Manager
Harrogate Hospital Radio**

An excellent show and well prepared. It went down extremely well and from what I heard, there was a lot of planning and prep went in. If you do decide to do another, I've an idea how we can get an NHS N3 feed to those stations on intranets connected.

Here are our figures from Hospedia for the big broadcast.

Channel Name	Total Hours
--------------	-------------

1: Hospital Radio	531.34
3: ITV 1	428.30
1: BBC 1	248.81
4: LOCAL RADIO	111.32
4: Channel 4	100.26

Craig, Auckland HR

I could tell by listening you were really enjoying yourself. I think it would be a great idea to make this an annual event. It meant we could offer something different for a Bank Holiday. So if you do decide to do another let us know.

Paul, Castle Mead Radio

On behalf of the Programme Committee at CUH FM, congratulations on a job well done. It certainly was very well organised and executed. The ground is hopefully set for 'joined-up' broadcasts in future. Hope you are well rested at this stage!

Shay Bowen

I am sure I'm speaking on behalf of our members and committee. It is always refreshing that we can offer a wide variety of programming to patients and it was a welcome idea to offer something different in the way of the Big Broadcast. I'm sure we will support it again if and when you are brave enough to do it.

The A-Z of Pop is a very popular show with our listeners and is always getting good reviews when we go on the wards. My family and I enjoyed listening to the stream and had it on whenever I could.

**Dave Peacock
Radio Hospitals Blackburn**

I'm glad it all went well. I did manage to listen in at various points and it sounded good and you seemed to have plenty of support as well. As you may recall, we did have concerns about our internet connection being able to stream for so long. It only cut out for about ten minutes. I did hear you mention you were planning another, please keep us informed.

**David McWilliam
Radio Frimley Park**

Congratulations on the success of the Big Broadcast. It was obvious a huge amount of prep went into the production. I was home Monday morning and listened online, that's how much I enjoyed it. Your musical taste is very similar to my own. Keep me informed of your plans it certainly something we would do again

**Tom
St Itas Hospital Radio, Portrane**

We took the full broadcast, listened to quite a bit of it and it sounded absolutely brilliant. I'm sure our listeners agreed. I am gonna get the entire broadcast off our logger for historical purposes.

Well done, I hope you had a lie down afterwards, I would probably have given up after four hours! Did any listeners from Hastings phone in, would be interested to know.

**Steve Wilson
Hospital Radio Hastings**

I thoroughly enjoyed listening at home to the show and I'm sure the listeners enjoyed it as well. I hope the requests came in handy.

It was a pleasure to relay the show to our listeners in Darlington Memorial Hospital and I'd like to

repeat the thanks I made on the phone just before your show came to an end. What are you doing next year?

Keep up the good work and congratulations.

John Forbes, Radio Skerne

Well done on such a great achievement, we were proud to be part of it. I hope you've been resting and recovering since!

**Scott Young
Bridge FM, Dundee**

Congratulations from all of us at Radio Starlion on your marathon broadcast – very enjoyable, with a good variety of music and features which will have to keep people listening.

We heard our station message – interesting to hear the different styles of presentation of other stations taking part A jolly good show! Thanks for the opportunity to be part of it

**Mike Wallbank
Radio Starlion, Stockport**

Hope you're fully recovered from last weekend! It's us who should be thanking you really. The hard work in producing and presenting the programme and the amount of time you put into it was obvious to all listeners, you certainly didn't let them down.

Thanks for letting us carry it and I look forward to another Big Broadcast in the future.

**Simon. Temby
Auckland Hospital Radio**

Congratulations on a truly successful Big Broadcast. I have spoken with most of our team who were able to listen in at various times and everyone said that it was a job well done. I hope you are fully recovered. We look forward to the next one! Thanks again,

**Terry Clough
Durham Hospitals Radio**

Hope you are well and have recovered from your marathon broadcast. From everyone here at CHBN I would like to say thank you for hosting such a wonderful broadcast. The presenters who took over from you on the Monday enjoyed listening and I am sure the patients enjoyed the special broadcast too.

**Mark Sanders
Cornwall HBN**

The A to Z of Pop Big Broadcast

Radio Grapevine were the only Scottish station to relay the The A to Z's Big Broadcast in May 2012. This was an achievement for the station and a delight for the patients and community served by Radio Grapevine.

As always, Richard delivers his own unique uplifting style. Feedback from the wards was positive and encouraging – which just goes to show hospital radio ready does make a difference. The marathon event demonstrated the community feel that is hospital radio with great interaction from fellow stations, presenters and patients, it was a privilege to be able to bring this wonderful entertainment to the patients in West Lothian.

The technical side was not challenging as you may have thought and Richards's pre-broadcast information provided clear and concise details on how to receive – even going as far as to broadcast test streams. Richard provided the options of a news stream for stations who relay the news and a separate stream for those who don't. This worked exceptionally well and continued the feel of our station's normal output. Radio Grapevine would have no hesitation to relay further national programmes or shows should they meet the need of the hospital community.

Richard's Big Broadcast. Well what can I say. The first I heard about Richard's plans for the Big

Broadcast was at Conference in Northampton and immediately thought he was mad. I adjusted that opinion a little when I thought it's a bit rich thinking Richard's mad when you've had an involvement in more than one Up Helly Aa in Shetland (a celebration of the end of winter) and that regularly lasts at least 27 hours.

Anyway, I tuned in for pretty much most of the broadcast (although I recall hour 'O' was a tad on the hazy side) enjoying the music Richard chose and the little bits of information he shared.

There were frequent funny moments, some of which made me smile, others had me wiping the tears away. Hopefully the perfect tonic for listeners!

As time worked it's way towards hour number 27, there were silly moments, where you really had to be there but I reckon they helped Richard through the early hours.

Some stations who chose to simultaneously broadcast the marathon, had prepared messages of support for Richard. As a fellow hospital broadcaster, I felt very proud of my colleagues and a little humbled hearing about how the stations had originally come about.

A huge thank you to Emma and Paul Sysum, whose assistance I'm sure Richard appreciated and not forgetting Mrs A to Z and Charlie, whose nightly routine was totally disrupted during the broadcasting.

Brenda Massie

Happy New Year! Just opted out of the stream – delay only about 30 seconds at the end. Thanks for all of your efforts and those of your supporters there. The stream didn't fail and sound was pretty good. Same time next year eh? Have good rest now – thanks again!

Trevor White, Millside Radio

A big thank you for the last 20 hours from Hospital Radio Yare. We've had the stream live since 4pm! Many thanks

Shane Carson, HR Yare

From everyone at Radio Tyneside well done for the Big Broadcast and Happy New Year all.

Dave Nicholson

I hope its not too long before there is big broadcast again 2013.

Colin Binns and everyone at Grimsby Hospital Radio

Just to say great show and happy new year

Darren Shaw, Radio Grapevine

Just before the email melt down, can I wish all in the studio a happy New Year and also to all the listeners and patients of the hospitals hoping they get home soon in 2013 plus all the hospital radio volunteers everywhere.

Listening to you bringing in the New Year.

Dave Peacock, Chairman Radio Hospitals Blackburn



UPDATE

Add, Amend or Delete!

Full member stations of the Hospital Broadcasting Association are reminded to ensure that their details are correct.

The HBA website offers the facility for member organisations to amend, add or delete details currently held by the HBA. Administrators of organisations can access their own details easily via hbauk.com. It is vital that contact details are always updated as this information informs the way HBA communicate with its member stations.

Your organisation is encouraged to check that your information is correct and amend as necessary. As we approach the new membership year it is vital that correspondence is addressed to the correct individual and address.

If you have any concerns regarding this request then please do not hesitate to contact membership@hbauk.com

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION 2013/14

There are many benefits to HBA membership and as you will know the membership year runs from 1st April until 31st March.

This year, following a recent Trustee Board meeting, we set the budget for the period 1st September 2012 to 31st August 2013. Whilst we are taking efforts to reduce expenditure where possible, our costs are inevitably increasing. It was, therefore, reluctantly agreed that an increase to the membership fee is required. The increase of £2.50 brings full membership to £45.00 for 2013/14.

For the first time, representatives attending the National Conference in Blackpool in March 2013 will be able to pay their Full Membership Subscription or Associate Subscription during registration, and receive their certificate and receipt during Conference. This is good news for both members and HBA and not only offers convenience but reduces expenditure too.

Look out for more details on the HBA website soon.

Grant McNaughton
HBA Membership Manager
membership@hbauk.com

HBA
HOSPITAL BROADCASTING ASSOCIATION



Radio Cherwell's Birthday Bash

2012 was the year Radio Cherwell in Oxford celebrated its 45th Birthday!
29th and 30th September - our Birthday Weekend!

The celebrations started on the Saturday with one of our local MPs, Andrew Smith visiting the Children's Hospital at the John Radcliffe where he took part in our award winning weekly Children's Show where we entertain the kid's and their families with games, quizzes and playing their favourite piece of music.



The Kids Show team

The day continued with our presenters being out and about within the Oxford's Hospitals chatting to patients, their visitors, members of staff and our studios were open to invited guests (past members, members of the hospital staff and local charity volunteers).



Studio guest



.. and more studio guests

Sunday, our official birthday, kicked off with an audio message of good wishes from the Prime Minister, the Rt Hon Mr David Cameron MP:

'Happy Birthday Radio Cherwell, 45 years of entertaining the patients of Oxford's Hospitals.

'The tremendous work of your volunteers is a real asset to your 45 years on the air and I know it is very much appreciated not only the patients but the staff and all those involved at Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust.

'As modern technology has evolved, you have used it to enable even more patients to be involved in programmes, from presenting live on the Wards of the Oxford Children's Hospital, to putting wards and hospitals head-to-head in your Weekly Quizzes.

'Hospital Radio in Oxford is still as relevant today, as it was when it started way back in 1967. Your volunteers have embraced new technologies and have gone on to do things within the local Oxfordshire community but the patients have always been at the forefront of your output and you still provide that personal service to listeners that only a hospital radio station can.

'You have been a friend at the bedside for thousands, if not millions of patients throughout the years and have always brought a smile to patients in their time of need.

'All of your volunteers should be incredibly proud of what they have achieved and I would like to give my heartfelt thanks to your team, and wish you all the very best for the future.'

Our Chairman, Neil Stockton, then give a formal welcome to our guests who consisted of past and present members of the association, members of staff from the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust, members of the Hospital Broadcasting Association (HBA), colleagues from fellow hospital radio stations and also friends and supporters of the station who we have gained over the years.



During the afternoon, June Snowden, President of the HBA, presented the station with its Long Service Award certificate along with a number of our members who have accumulated some 190 years worth of membership – members include Neil and Marion Stockton (40 years); Barbara Cook, Sean Brown (25 years); Kevin Crouch (20 years); Nick Saunders, Marion Powell (15 years) and Andy Self (10 years).



Chairman Neil Stockton receives Radio Cherwell's 45 year Certificate from June Snowden

Radio Cherwell's Birthday Bash



Radio Cherwell members receive their Long Service Awards from June Snowden: from the top: Neil Stockton, Marion Stockton, Peter Clift and Kevin Crouch



Andy Self receives his ten year Long Service certificate

Following this one of our newer members, Mark Goodman, was presented with 'The Peter Baker Award 2012' for his dedication and commitment to the well-being of the patients in the Oxford Hospitals.



Neil Stockton presents Mark Goodman with the Peter Baker Award 2012

The formal celebration concluded with the cutting of the birthday cake!



Oxfordshire Community & Voluntary Action Awards 2012

Awarded to
Neil Stockton
Radio Cherwell

Award organiser of Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action (OCVA) was overwhelmed by the number of nominations for the 2012 celebration of the contribution made by local volunteers and organisations.

OCVA's Kate Hill said: 'We received over 140 nominations for volunteers, charities and community projects working to help people across Oxfordshire. The panel of independent judges had their work cut out short-listing from such a wide range of outstanding entries and were extremely impressed by the wide range of beneficial activities going on around the county.'

'With the generous help of sponsors from Oxfordshire's business community and our main sponsor Integration Technology, we will be announcing the winners and runners up at a special event at Oxford Town Hall on 23 October. OCVA wants to thank everyone who nominated an organisation or individual volunteer for an Award.'



Oxfordshire Community & Voluntary Action Awards

In 2012 Neil Stockton will have given 40 Years of voluntary service to Radio Cherwell, Oxford's Hospital's Broadcasting Association (OHBA). Over the years he has gained huge respect from the association's members and staff within the Oxford University Hospitals (OUH) NHS Trust.

During these years Neil has offered his knowledge and experience to help make Radio Cherwell, the hospital radio station, the success it is today and in 2006 he was awarded the Certificate of Honour for 'exceptional services to the City of Oxford'.

From initially helping behind the scenes, broadcasting the football commentaries, through to serving on the Committee as a Trustee and current Chairman, Neil has dedicated the majority of his spare time to the association.

From installing broadcasting equipment, to developing new ways of broadcasting our programmes live from wards via new Wi-Fi technologies, Neil actively seeks solutions to make broadcasting easier for new and existing members.

Having established training programmes for our Presenters and Technical Operators, he spends hours both in the studios and on the wards training new recruits, which has increased the success rate of retaining new members.

Since his early retirement from Ofcom in 2005, Neil has increased the number of hours he volunteers at the station to pretty much full-time.

Neil has never agreed with 'shaking cans' to raise funds but strongly believes in using knowledge and skills to provide a service for donations. With this in mind, Neil co-ordinates event bookings and running the majority of public addresses and live concert recordings Radio Cherwell does within the Oxford Area.

'Strategic Planning for the Future' and 'Increasing the Profile of the Station' are two projects that have been Neil's key objectives over the last 12 months. He feels that it is vital that hospital staff, executives and patients within the OUH are aware of us, not to mention the wider community.

In an effort to encourage staff to become involved in Radio Cherwell a new programme, 'Hospital News', was introduced, inviting guests into the studio to co-present the show. Amongst those who have taken part: Colin Dexter, Rosemary Conley, Jason Donovan, The Lord Mayor of Oxford, Graham Brogden, Charitable Funds, Elaine Strachan-Hall, Chief Nurse, Dame Fiona Caldicott, Chairman and Sir Jonathan Michael, Chief Executive, OUH.



Neil with the Lord Mayor of Oxford



Sir Jonathan Michael is interviewed by Neil



Neil welcomes Jason Donovan to the studio

Neil not only gives a lot to the station but he puts back into the hospital. In 2010 he abseiled 100m down the outside of the Women's Centre raising over £250 for the 'Funds for the Children' campaign.

He also gets involved with local charities and groups including: OXTALK (Talking Newspaper for the Blind), League of Friends and Oxford Isis Lions.

In 2009 he was made an Honorary Member of the Oxford Association for the Blind (OAB) in recognition of the dedicated service and support he has given through Radio Cherwell.



Neil, we thank you for all your hard work, your generosity and your passion and drive to make the station what it is today.

It is greatly appreciated by all members of Radio Cherwell, and, of course our listeners!



Hospital Broadcasting Week

Saturday 23rd March to Monday 1st April 2013

Will your station be celebrating Hospital Broadcasting Week 2013?

Do you want to be part of something BIG at the end of Hospital Broadcasting Week?

Do you want to take part in the HBA's Big Broadcast which will bring Hospital Broadcasting Week 2013 to a close on Easter Sunday?

The HBA have teamed up with A to Z of Pop's Richard Smith to provide Hospital Radio Stations with a 24 hour Easter programme full of fun and entertainment 'live' from the A to Z of Pop's studios in Lancashire!

Here's a chance for your station to get involved in the event and let the nation know what you've been up to during Hospital Broadcasting Week 2013.

All you have to do is to send me a two or three minute MP3 telling me what you've done and how you've done it – we'll put it together as part of the 24 hour broadcast and share it with everyone else!

Whether you've done anything special or not, you are still quite welcome to join in with the broadcast as it is open to any Hospital Radio Station in the country! In fact, why not send an MP3 in to me anyway telling the nation about your station.

All you need to take part in this special Hospital Broadcasting Week Celebration is the ability to link your desk to the internet, connect to our streaming service and that's it – your playout system gets some time off and your listeners benefit from the entertainment on offer, which includes an interview with Voice of the Balls, HBA Patron, Alan Dedicoat, a re-run of this year's HBA awards ceremony in Blackpool, some special guest presenters as well as a special A to Z of Pop Trivia Challenge where we aim to pit station against station to find those Hospital Radio presenters with the best music trivia knowledge.

To find out more and to get your station involved with the first event of this kind that has been run during Hospital Broadcasting Week, simply contact Jim Simpson at chair@hbauk.com or Richard Smith via theatozofpop@aol.com

Hospital Broadcasting Week

Hospital Broadcasting Week (#HBW2013) commences with the start of the National Hospital Radio Awards on Saturday 23rd March 2013 and ends on Easter Monday 1st April 2013.

Hospital Broadcasting Week is the time we celebrate all that is good about hospital broadcasting and it is your opportunity to raise the profile of your station in your local community. Exactly what you do is up to you but included here is a list of suggested events that may help to inspire you. The list also includes advice on getting publicity and a fact sheet to tell potential volunteers and supporters more about Hospital Broadcasting.

Please note: it's Hospital Broadcasting Week and not Hospital Radio Week because HBA members include hospital television as well as hospital radio stations.

So, why have a Hospital Broadcasting Week? There are lots of reasons but the main aims of the week are to raise awareness of Hospital Broadcasting throughout the UK and what we do; for stations to raise their profile in their hospitals and communities and to encourage potential volunteers and supporters to get involved!

Some years ago, Amelia Yeodal wrote quite an interesting and informative article which was published in On Air and with both apologies and thanks to Amelia, I have lifted much of what she wrote in this article. My Excuse? – Why re-invent the wheel when there is a perfectly good set of wheels and chassis to build the vehicle on!

Hospital Broadcasting Week lasts for just over a week! The reason for this is that we currently launch it at the HBA's Annual Conference and Awards and it also means that stations have several options when it comes to organising events: basically two weekends and weekday evenings, this year there is also the advantage of the Easter Holiday as well!

I know that every station is different; some are well into fundraising and raising awareness, others are not so able or simply do not have the membership or resources to do anything other than keep the station going. So

23rd March to 1st April 2013

by Jim Simpson
HBA Chairman & Chief
Executive with grateful thanks to
Amelia Yeodal

even if you only have a small team, don't get discouraged because others have more members and resources than you. It's what you do for your listeners that really matters! Whatever you do to promote 'Hospital Broadcasting', not only during Hospital Broadcasting Week but throughout the year, I wish you good luck with your events and don't forget to send details of what you are planning to do to me (chair@hbauk.com) in time for the HBA Big Broadcast team to highlight it during the 24 hour programme which will round off the week. The Editor of On Air would also like you to tell her about your events and experiences as well, so please also copy any text you send to me (along with photographs) to Michelle (onair@hbauk.com). Every station is different..

A simple definition of Hospital Broadcasting – All over the UK, patients can hear music, news and information from their local hospital radio service. Hospital radio aims to provide comfort and entertainment to patients in hospital with a special mix of music and chat. The service also keeps patients in touch with their family and friends with music requests and local news items. There are also a handful of hospital television services and TV programmes, where they are provided, report on events in the community and keep patients informed.

All hospital stations are run entirely by volunteers. To my knowledge they have no paid staff and get no regular income from the National Health Service or other government sources. The biggest reward for a hospital broadcasting volunteer is a letter from a patient who says thank you for keeping them company at a difficult time. Most stations keep their service on-air for 24 hours a day.

The Hospital Broadcasting Association is the national body, representing over 200+ local stations.

I said earlier in this article that Amelia Yeodal had some years ago written a very interesting and informative article about hospital broadcasting and I thought with Hospital Broadcasting Week just over the horizon, it might be useful to visit some of the things she commented on as they are just as relevant today as they were then and Hospital Broadcasting Week is a good time to shout loudly from the roof tops (or the high level helipad) about all that is good about hospital broadcasting and what we do.

What we tell prospective members is important and I am going to repeat Amelia's article virtually word for word:

So, what's involved in being a volunteer in hospital broadcasting and what skills does a 'Volunteer' need?

Volunteers provide a special service to hospital patients but it's not just about presenting programmes! Keeping the station running takes a lot of work and most stations expect volunteers to help with a range of the jobs involved. That includes ward visiting and request collecting, fundraising activities and cleaning the studio, as well as operating the studio equipment and presenting programmes.

It definitely helps if volunteers are good communicators, it's also useful to have an outgoing personality and enjoy meeting people, especially for collecting requests on the wards or fundraising for your station. Hospital radio volunteers don't need expert knowledge of music, nor any technical expertise either: All they really need is a willingness to learn!

Most new station members want to be involved in programmes but no one is forced to speak on-air if they don't want to, members will be equally as welcome if they just want to visit the wards, chat to the patients and collect requests and in many cases this is part of the 'apprenticeship!' Many stations are also on the lookout for

Hospital Broadcasting Week

members who just want to work on the technical side of broadcasting.

How much time will a volunteer be expected to give?

Volunteers are expected to make a regular commitment, such as one evening a week or a fortnight if you're involved with a programme. Plus, there may be fundraising events or outside broadcasts at weekends. (Because stations are run by volunteers, most activities happen in the evenings or at weekends.) Presenting a show doesn't just mean turning up at the studio and going on-air. It also means visiting the wards to collect requests, finding the music in the stations electronic or physical library, doing the programme, and putting everything away afterwards.

Is there an age limit?

Hospital radio volunteers range in age from their mid-teens to retirement and beyond! Many hospitals have a minimum age limit for volunteers; or the hospital station will set its own limit, often for insurance purposes and/or the necessity to stay within the legal framework which covers young and vulnerable people.

What will it cost?

Annual membership fees vary but typically it's somewhere in the region of £15-£20 a year. Some stations have reduced fees for students and the unwaged, others don't. Volunteers pay their own travel costs to get to the studio and events and may need a station T-shirt for visiting hospital wards and fundraising.

Are there any reasons why volunteers might not be accepted?

Patients in hospital are vulnerable people; consequently most hospital radio stations have policies in place to protect them. Volunteers are usually asked for references and most hospitals will want to carry out a 'disclosure' checks. Because of the sensitive nature of volunteer work in hospitals, the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act does not normally apply and all convictions, whether 'spent' or not, must be declared. Having said that, volunteers are not normally refused membership because of things like parking fines! The best advice that can be given is that if there is any concern, it is best to consult the

Volunteer Services Co-ordinator.

What training is there?

Training at station level varies but normally new members first visit the wards with a more experienced member. Then as they become more experienced in the way the station operates they tend to get an introduction to presenting and/or a technical course for the equipment. Most stations have an audition for all would-be presenters. Even people who've done hospital, student or professional broadcasting before are expected to take it!

The HBA also provides training both regionally and nationally on may topics, the most popular of which is programme structure presenting.

Will hospital broadcasting help 'my' career?

Any voluntary work can be put on a CV to impress a future employer (and that applies to any job, not just the media). Many professional broadcasters started in hospital radio but nothing is guaranteed and for everyone who's gone on into a 'broadcasting career' there are hundreds who haven't. Remember too, that hospital stations exist to benefit the patients; not as a training academy for would-be journalists and presenters! However, it's all good experience and from many years of personal knowledge, the vast majority of hospital radio and TV station members are normally happy to share their skills with new members as long as they support a range of station activities.

Getting publicity for Hospital Broadcasting Week General advice

Don't just tell people what your station does, bring your words to life by using examples of how the service works and how the patients benefit. For example, you might be able to use (anonymously!) quotes from patients who have written to say 'thank you' because of the difference hospital broadcasting made to their stay.

If you are setting up a photo for a press release, leaflet or a display, make sure it shows activity. That means organising people so it looks like they're doing something, not just standing in a line. For

example, if someone's donated money for a new piece of kit, don't have them handing over a cheque, instead, if it is at all possible, set up a photo shoot that shows them watching how the equipment works or seeing the benefits it will bring.

Pictures should show happy faces and activity. Make sure your publicity photos are clear and sharp and that the subject fills the frame. No-one will be interested in a photo of a distant crowd or the backs of heads even if one of them is the famous celebrity you managed to interview.

If you have a good relationship with your hospitals management or senior medical staff, ask them for a quote or endorsement that you can use to promote your service.

Reporters and photographers are busy people. If they come to your event, don't keep them hanging about; make sure they can get the photos and interviews they need as quickly as possible.

Themes for Hospital Broadcasting Week

These are the main themes for the week. Include them in your publicity if you can:

- Hospital Broadcasting provides patients with music and entertainment to make their stay in hospital easier. Evidence is gradually emerging which points to music being a significant aid to the recovery process. I also understand that the health service is looking at the benefits of music for patients suffering with dementia.

- The aims of hospital broadcasting are still the same: we offer comfort for patients at a stressful time; easy listening music and good company to keep their spirits up; a link with family and friends; programmes for a specialist audience; the personal touch; and keep patients informed about what is happening in the community outside.

- Hospital broadcasting puts patients first in programmes and requests. If a patient asks for a song that has special memories for them, then that's exactly the song the presenter will try to play.

- Most hospital broadcasting stations play a wide range of music to suit the diverse tastes of their audience and many stations

Hospital Broadcasting Week

provide a 24 hours service all year round. Night-time programmes in particular are appreciated by patients when they cannot sleep.

- Hospital Broadcasting volunteers range in age from late teens to people in retirement. You don't have to be technically minded or an expert in music but it does help if you have a cheerful outgoing personality and enjoy meeting new people.

Writing a press release

It's the role of a press release to sell your story to the media and to get them to run it but you don't have much time to make a good impression! The first three paragraphs may be all the journalist reads before deciding whether to use your story or not. Writing a press release to these guidelines will help you to get your message across:

- Use headed paper for your press release and put the words 'press release' at the top, so the journalist knows what to do with it.
- Give your press release a short, snappy title that grabs reader's attention.
- Sell your story. In the first two paragraphs, tell the reader WHO's involved, WHAT's happening and WHY it's important. Explain HOW and WHEN it's going to happen, and HOW MUCH money or HOW MANY people are involved. Then use the next few paragraphs to give background details. Limit each paragraph to about 30 words.
- Include quotes to bring your story to life, for example a quote from your station chairman about what the station is doing and a quote from a third party saying what good work the service does.
- The lines of text should be double-spaced. Don't use more than two pages of A4 paper and only put text on one side of each sheet.
- At the bottom of the release, put your daytime contact phone number so they can get back in touch with you if they want further details.
- If you are inviting the press to an event or photo opportunity, put the details in a separate paragraph in bold at the top of the first page of the release.
- You could phone the News Desk to tell them about your event as well (but journalists are busy

people so they'll probably ask you to send in a press release rather than listen to your explanation over the phone).

- Send off your press release! Address it to the News Editor of the publication or programme and make sure it arrives far enough in advance for them to be able to use the press release or to get the date into their news diary. For a weekly paper that means at least a week before their publication day. Some media have a special e-mail address for press releases but check with them because some may still prefer to receive it on paper.

- Some papers have community news correspondents, who specialise in news about voluntary groups, or a local reporter who is responsible for covering news in your area. If you find a journalist who is particularly interested in your work, cultivate them as a contact. Phone them when you have something to publicise, and address your press releases to them by name.

Some suggested activities

Here are ideas for activities for your station for Hospital Broadcasting Week. The list aims to offer something for every station, whatever the size and number of volunteers. But you don't have to take our suggestions: if you think you have a better idea, do it!

FOR YOUR STATION

Raise your profile in your hospital(s)

Organise a ward Outside Broadcast, or a special request programme. You could take a voice recorder around the wards to collect requests to play into the show.

Hold a 'prize draw'. Every patient's request during the week is entered into the draw. Persuade local businesses to donate prizes.

Set up a stand in the hospital foyer(s) with display about your station, hand out programme guides along with station magazines if you have them; collect requests from visitors as they arrive and have leaflets available for potential volunteers.

If you have good access, open your studios to patients and visitors for an afternoon.

Contact the Trust's PR

department and ask them to help you publicise your station – find out how to get articles in the staff newsletter or on the staff website. In return, offer to broadcast hospital information announcements.

Make sure your station is included in the Hospital's phone directory, so that staff know where to find you if they're asked. And make contact with the Voluntary Services Organiser so they know who you are.

PR Opportunities

Ask your local paper to do an article on your station or one of the events you are holding as part of the week.

If you are an HBA Award winner, make the most of the publicity opportunity. Even if you're not an award winner, think about how you can use your entry (especially if nominated in the top ten) to promote your station.

Make sure your station's Long Service Awards are up to date. Organise a formal presentation, get your HBA Regional Rep or an HBA Post Holder or even better an HBA Trustee to make the presentation and invite the local press to cover it. If they don't turn up, take your own photo and send it to them (as well as to the Editor of On Air!).

Make contact with any ex-members who work in the media. You could interview them about what hospital broadcasting meant to them, quote them in your publicity and get them to record some voiceovers for jingles.

Invite a group of people you want to impress to an evening reception at your studio. Serve simple refreshments and give them the chance to see the service in action.

You could invite the hospital management; your local MP the editor of the local paper, the manager of your local radio station or local business people. Thank them for supporting you in the past, and impress them so they support you in the future.

Offer evening studio tours to social groups like the WI, Rotary, Round Table, Scouts and Guides, or business groups like the Chamber of Commerce. Their members may be potential volunteers, or looking for a local charity to support.

Hospital Broadcasting Week

Get out and about

Organise an OB in a local store, shopping centre or at a local event.

Say 'thank you'

Hold a social event to bring all your members together and thank them for making the station and Hospital Broadcasting Week a success. It could be an evening event after your OB or fundraising event, or for your station's anniversary, or to present long service awards, or even just an excuse to have a meal out or go to the pub!

(Note: any social event for your members should be financed by them. Sell tickets or ask members to pay for or donate food and drink. You should not spend money given to support the work of your station on benefits for the members).

Recruitment drive

Visit your local volunteer bureau. Make sure they have up-to-date information about your station and

tell them about your work and about the type of volunteers you need. Hold an open evening for potential volunteers and advertise it through the local press.

Regional

Join other stations in your region for an event or linked broadcast – a larger or novelty event will have a higher profile and be more likely to get publicity - and there'll be more people to help out.

National

Hospital Broadcasting week ends, etc...

The HBA have teamed up with A to Z of Pop's Richard Smith to provide Hospital Radio Stations with a 24 hour Easter programme full of fun and entertainment 'live' from the A to Z of Pop's studios in Lancashire!

The HBA's Big Broadcast celebrating Hospital Broadcasting Week which will commence on Sunday 31st March at midday and

will continue through to midday on Monday 1st April (which of course is Easter Monday).

All you need to take part in this special Hospital Broadcasting Week Celebration is the ability to link your desk to the internet, connect to our streaming service and that's it.

To find out more and to get your station involved with the first event of this kind that has been run during Hospital Broadcasting Week, simply contact **Jim Simpson** at chair@hbauk.com or email **Richard Smith** theatozofpop@aol.com.

And finally, I'd just like to take this opportunity to wish every hospital station member every success in hospital broadcasting, I know from letters and telephone calls I've received from patients that we make a difference to patients' lives, so let's carry on the good work and take every opportunity we can to publicise the good work that we do!

RemoteMix 4 - OB Mixer / Hybrid

RemoteMix-4 is much more than just a field mixer; it is a full-blown communications interface. You can connect upto 4 mics with switchable phantom power - two inputs are also mic/line switchable - and 4 headphones all with individual level controls. For universal connectivity, RemoteMix-4 incorporates a PSTN hybrid with keypad for dialling, a PBX curly-cord handset interface, a cabled

mobile phone connection plus **Bluetooth** connectivity making it perfect for OB use. It is also ideal as a front-end mixer for your **POTS, ISDN or IP Audio Codec**.

Connections Matter

RemoteMix 4 - News / Sport / OB Mixer

Connects to:

- PSTN Line
- Telephone Handset
- Mobile Phone
(Incl Bluetooth)



4x Mic ins 4x Headphone outs 4-Wire 4-Channel Mixer

Another thought - if you connect via Bluetooth to your computer, you get 4-way live mixing!

RemoteMix-4 is designed for live OBs, using 2x 9V batteries which can be changed whilst still "live". It also comes with a mains power supply. The Bass Boost adds some low end before sending the signal down the phone line and a soft limiter prevents over-driving the phone interfaces while the mixer XLR output is pre-limited. The various elements are all designed to work together and save setup time in the field.



If you would like to get connected

Tel: 020-8579 2743 or E-mail: info@vtx.co.uk

Vortex Communications 75 The Grove, Ealing, London, W5 5LL www.vtx.co.uk

If you would like to get your hands on a RemoteMix-4, call **Vortex 020-8579 2743**.

THE RADIO ACADEMY

Network and socialise with people who love radio | Learn from skilled professionals | Attend events with big names and big ideas | Keep up with all the latest radio industry

Did you know...?

If you're an active volunteer member of a hospital radio station which is a member of the HBA, you qualify for **FREE** affiliate membership of The Radio Academy!

What is The Radio Academy?

The Radio Academy is a registered charity dedicated to the encouragement, recognition and promotion of excellence in UK radio broadcasting and audio production.

Through an extensive programme of conferences, debates, masterclasses and other networking events, we offer opportunities for everyone from the national networks to individual podcasters to discuss the broadcasting, production, marketing and promotion of radio and audio.



RadioFestival2013
Manchester | #radfest13
14th - 16th October

What's in it for me?

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Robert 'Iain' Elliott



Robert Iain Elliott, who was Chairman of Bristol Hospital Broadcasting Service for more than thirty years, sadly passed away on Saturday 19th January 2013.

Iain joined the Bristol Hospital Broadcasting Service in 1963. Bristol is the oldest Hospital Broadcasting service in the world having been in existence for sixty years.

Iain became Chairman of the service in 1981 and was Chairman for 31 years.

In 2003 Iain was honoured by the Mayor of Bristol for services to Hospital broadcasting.

Iain was an active member of the National Hospital Broadcasting Association and succeeded in winning many awards for Bristol Hospital Radio.

Iain used his engineering and electrical skills to mend, make and build equipment in order to keep the service running.

Iain handled the recruitment of new members and the induction and training of members as well as driving fund raising for the service.

If the service was not going out to one of the Hospitals in Bristol, Iain would be at the hospital every day until the problem was fixed.

Iain will be sadly missed by all the members of Bristol Hospital Broadcasting Service.

A Tribute from Iain's sister in law:

Born in Redland, Bristol on 20th December 1942 to Scottish parents, Robert Iain Elliott was always known as Iain. He attended

Cotham Grammar School. All his working life was spent at Bristol University as a Lab Technician in the 1960s and, prior to retirement, as an electronics engineer.

Iain received a Chancellor's Medal in 2005 in recognition of over 40 years' service.

He was nominated for a Bristol University Centenary Honorary Degree in 2009 for his contribution to the community and tireless work for Bristol Hospital Broadcasting Service.

Involved with BHBS for over 50 years and Chairman for more than 30, Iain spent the early days begging, borrowing and modifying equipment to build not just the two studios but various outside broadcast units. He went on to raise thousands of pounds through letters and fund raising events.

He set up training programmes and was always shaking a tin at various venues and events.

Every Wednesday he spent at the studio as Studio Manager.

In 1978, he met Pauline and in 2009 celebrated their Pearl (30th) wedding anniversary with a boat trip to Beese's Tea Gardens with friends and family.

Iain was a keen steam train enthusiast and he and Pauline enjoyed many UK steam train trips. Iain also took to the footplate of his favourite train and drove the Flying Scotsman.

Other hobbies included squash, cycling, jazz and big band music. An accomplished monochrome photographer, he won numerous competitions over the years.

Iain loved the sun and his favourite holiday destination for over thirty years was Barbados.

He was planning on revisiting this island following good progress after his stroke.

Pauline said, 'Iain's determination, optimism and bravery throughout his ordeal made me so very proud.'

'I am blessed to have had 34 wonderful years with this special man who has spent most of his life helping other people.'

Iain's funeral was held on 6th February at Canford Crematorium.

Donations in his memory are welcome via Co-operative Funeralcare in Westbury on Trym to either Bristol Hospital Broadcasting Service or Bristol Stroke Foundation.

Thank You

Thank you for the music

During my stay in hospital, I listened to some great music which helped me relax and get me through the night.

During the early hours one time, I could imagine all the different instruments playing in an orchestra. This was in the early hours of either 22nd December for which you kindly sent me the Play List. **Hospital Radio Norwich** really did help me through such a traumatic time and especially at times keeping my legs and feet moving to the music whilst confined to my bed. Keep up the good work and many thanks.

Alf

Sometimes, something happens to put a big smile on your face!

That was the case on 27th January when members of the Wednesday night team opened a plain white envelope that had been sent to the station. What they found inside made all the radio station volunteers realise just how much their service is appreciated. The envelope contained £250 ... no letter or address.

Normally the station sends a receipt and letter of thanks to people who are kind enough to make such donations, obviously in this case the person wanted to remain anonymous and therefore all we can do is to say a BIG THANK YOU from everybody at **Hospital Radio Ipswich**.

Andy Holmes has just released his first e-book 'Always the DJ', available on Amazon via the Kindle Direct Publishing Scheme.

Andy is a member of Stoke Mandeville HR and began his broadcasting career with more than three years at Worcester HR in the 1990s before embarking on professional broadcasting at stations in the Midlands and the South West.

The book is the story of a mobile DJ trying to find love happiness as he approaches his thirties. The story also touches on mental illness, the modern family and the positive role music pays in our lives.

The e-book costs £3.09 and is available to try or buy here: <http://www.amazon.co.uk/Always-the-DJ-ebook/dp/B009XRNO3Q>

Twitter: @andyholmesmedia

Noel Antliff



Noel Antliff, winner of last year's 2012 Hospital Radio Awards Off Air Volunteer of the Year Award passed away on 20th December 2012.

Here is why he was awarded this award. Noel was an exceptional guy and a great friend and colleague to all at Radio Wey. He was diagnosed with cancer in 2011. Despite this, he remained positive and ready for the challenge ahead of him and he responded well to the treatment in the early part of 2012. However, his condition worsened in the summer.

He had been a member of the station for over six years. Three years ago he bought an ex-Royal Mail transit van and kitted it out, at his own expense, with audio and

power equipment and had it stencilled with the Radio Wey logo and details.

He attended events with his van, often times setting up alone or with the help of one other volunteer.

He worked tirelessly with the promotion of the station and never asked for a penny towards the cost of running the generator or petrol expenses for attending the events.

In addition to all the added work he had taken on with outside events, Noel had two shows on Radio Wey: The Big Band show on a Sunday afternoon and a Wurlitzer and Organ show on a Wednesday night.

His sunny nature was always endearing and although he faced

one of the most difficult challenges of his life, he remained positive and his wicked sense of humour never failed.

I accepted the award, on Noel's behalf, at the awards ceremony in Northampton and had great pleasure in presenting it to him the following day when he came off air at our studios.

As a station, we owe Noel a tremendous debt for the time and dedication he gave and as he has passed the ownership of the van over to the station, we will now have a lasting legacy of him.

We send our condolences to his two sons, Peter and Robin and their families.

Andy Brown
Chairman, Radio Wey

Where Are You Now?

Martin Rosen of Hospital Radio Barnet is aiming to reunite former presenters and producers who worked at Friern Hospital Radio in the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s. He is hoping to hold a reunion celebration.

Radio Friern ran from 1971 until 1993 when the former psychiatric hospital in Friern Barnet Road was closed.

Martin, who now presents an evening show at Hospital Radio Barnet, volunteered at the station until its closure and is keen to meet up with former colleagues.

'They were a great bunch of guys and it would be nice to meet up and see what they have been doing,' he said.

If you were a member of Frier Hospital Radio you can contact Martin at martin@hrb.org.uk.

Christmas Cheer in Wrexham



Radio Maelor organises selection boxes and toys for the pupils at St Christophers School in Wrexham and patients at the Children's Ward of the Maelor Hospital in Wrexham

Radio Maelor Secretary, Catherine Ollier, organises this event with one of the teachers at the school Bhupinder Virdee-Lace every year. The Christmas Appeal is in its eighth year.

On 5th December, Catherine and Jimmy Smith, Programme Manager, delivered selection boxes to pupils at St Christophers School and would both like to say a very big thank you to Asda Wrexham and The Rotary Club of Wrexham Erddig. Also attending the event were the Deputy Mayor, David Bithell and Deputy Mayoress Virginia Bithell. We must mention the man himself Father Christmas along with Mrs Christmas, who both had a busy time delivering all the presents.

Toys and selection boxes were also provided for patients in the Children's Ward at the Maelor Hospital.

Catherine would like to thank everyone who was involved. Without their support none of this would happen.

Radio Maelor hope to work with St Christopher's School on other projects in the future.

Catherine Ollier
Secretary, Radio Maelor



Radio Redhill's Xmas Outside Broadcast

Radio Redhill held its annual Christmas outside broadcast from the Dorking Gala Night, when all the shops stay open late and the streets are filled with entertainment of all festive sorts.

The two-hour live outside broadcast included many items from the station's roving reporters, plus interviews in the temporary studio set up inside Lloyds TSB in the High Street.

Those who visited the studio included the cast of the local panto 'Peter Pan'.

The photo shows the Radio Redhill members recovering after a busy (and cold) evening. Left to right: Andrew Elliott, Ian Wilson, Nigel Gray, Mel Ellis, Sophie Scowen, Nick Hutchings and Sian Wallis. Dave King was also there but he was the photographer!

Nigel Gray

Southern Sound Christmas Crackers



Preparations for Christmas at Southern Sound at the Southern General Hospital in Glasgow kicked off on 13th December even before decorations went up in the studios when a Southern Sound team of seven braved sub-zero temperatures at the ASDA Super Store in Govan to collect for the radio station.

Several of the team were recovering from heavy colds and one presenter, Alan Robertson, collected even though he had one leg in a brace and in crutches!

The team set up an outside broadcast unit playing festive music in one of the trolley bays despite the freezing weather.

A good time was had by all of the team with some dance practice taking place during the collection! After a couple of hours the team had collected £251 thanks to the generosity of the people of Govan and ASDA Govan for the opportunity to do the collection at the site. Plans are underway to do a joint bag pack in the not too distant future.

Broadcasting continued into Christmas Day; on Christmas Eve the station had made preparation for a Christmas Eve Bonanza of uninterrupted music from 8am through to 10pm. Presenters took turns with special Christmas Shows with different music to keep the festive spirit. Santa took time off to visit the hospital wards with requests played for patients and staff who were in hospital over the festive period.

Members did an excellent job; this sets the bar for future festive programmes and was a fitting end to a great year that saw Southern Sound broadcasting once again.

Alan Taylor
Southern Sound Hospital Radio

Wave Radio Internet Launch



Wave Radio took to the road on last year and headed into Elgin to provide a musical background to an Easter Eggstravaganza event organised by Elgin Business Improvement District. The OB unit, recently repainted in a tasteful shade of high visibility orange, set up shop on the Plainstones, the city's historical market place.

Through the magic of 21st century technology, the volunteers on the Plainstones were able to link into the programmes being broadcast from the studio in Dr Gray's hospital. There was also the obligatory fundraising opportunity.

Following a lot of hard work and preparation, a day of special Volunteers intended celebrating 15 years on air in style and Wave Radio launched online (www.waveradio.org.uk).

Gary Robertson, presenter of the flagship programme Good Morning Scotland on BBC Radio Scotland and station patron dropped in to say hello. Gary, a native of Elgin can trace his interest in broadcasting back to his school days when he worked at the local station on a voluntary basis.

Station chairman, Stewart Kennedy, said, 'Wave Radio aims to bring the hospital and the Moray community closer together. By expanding Wave Radio into the community we hope to make the patients feel more involved in local community events while they're in hospital.'

Volunteers at Wave Radio would like to thank all their corporate supporters, Elgin BID, Mike for the computer wizardry and the members of the public who so generously parted with their cash on the Plainstones.

New Voices On Ayr



Ayr Hospitals Radio, which broadcasts 24 hours a day to patients at University Hospital Ayr, Ailsa Hospital and Biggart Hospital, has welcomed two new presenters – veteran former WestSound presenter Lou Grant and the NHS Board's own chairman, Dr Martin Cheyne.

Lou Grant first approached Ayr HR manager Mike Manley to ask if he could publicise a Scottish Night in which he was involved. Never one to miss an opportunity, Mike immediately invited Lou to visit the radio studio in the hospital.

Mike explains, 'When I introduced Lou to our studio, he was delighted with the broadcasting system. I convinced him to join our radio team, he agreed and joined me a few days later to get used to our way of broadcasting.'

'With his years of experience in WestSound, he slotted in quickly and now presents his own weekly programme and enjoys every minute playing music and talking to the listeners.'

Mike's persistence also paid off when it came to persuading Dr Cheyne to get behind the mic. The two first met when Martin was Chairman of Ayrshire and Arran's General Hospitals Division. Following the creation of a single NHS Ayrshire & Arran, Martin went on to become vice chair of Ayrshire and Arran NHS Board and was appointed Chairman in January 2012.

Mike adds, 'Martin was always interested in what was going on at our radio studio and was very supportive. Whenever we met at functions I would ask him to come along and join us whenever he got the time. When he became Chairman that didn't stop me asking, though it was always tongue in cheek. One evening we

were supplying the sound system for the Ayr Hospital Volunteers' AGM, where he was speaking on behalf of the Board. Surprisingly he approached me to say he was ready to join our broadcasting team. After some training sessions, he now has his very own programme and loves broadcasting to the patients and staff in the three hospitals.'

Dr Cheyne comments, 'Joining the broadcasting team at Ayr Hospitals Radio has been a complete pleasure. I'm very grateful to Mike and his colleagues for giving me the opportunity to talk to staff and patients and I hope that they will take the opportunity to contact me, too, to let me know what they think of the programme and to tell me about the kind of topics they would like to hear discussed on the radio.'

Ayr HR recently welcomed more volunteers to the team including Alan Cochrane, who joined the football commentary team.

New Forest Invite

HBA Southern Region representative Neil Ogden was invited to the AGM of New Forest Hospital Radio, who broadcast to Lymington New Forest Hospital with live request shows every evening and a range of other shows on air the rest of the time.

Ian Bradbury was elected the station's new Chairman with six other committee members chosen. Steve Clark from Wave 105, the local commercial radio station was guest speaker, passing on some of his 20 years of experience in radio.

Steve started off at Radio Nene Valley in Northampton and spoke about some of his memorable experiences on radio including the night the radio station he was working for in Birmingham found out the value of a 'standby' studio. While their competitors had to watch from afar (having been evacuated themselves) when the centre of Birmingham was evacuated following the events in London of 7 July 2005, Steve and his team were able to carry on broadcasting live through the night with up to the minute news and information about what was happening.

Neil also presented long service awards to Marea Leake (20), Mike Robinson (10), Pauline Crow (10) and Shirley Matthews 15 years' service.

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Rosie is the Radio Star



Rosie Davis (centre) with the finalists and judges of the HHR Radio Star competition

Rosie Davis, a member of Harlow Hospital Radio, has won the first Harlow Hospital Radio Star competition.

The competition commenced in the summer of 2012, when initial auditions were held at the radio's studios in Princess Alexandra Hospital.

A short list of eight contestants competed in a live final at the Victoria Hall Theatre in Old Harlow early in the New Year. Five judges then whittled that down to a final four and the audience of nearly 100 people voted for their favourites.

'Radio Star was the idea of one of our members – Jenn Holden – and it's been a fascinating journey' said HHR Chair Andy Meadows.

'We were amazed by the quality and variety of musical styles that all of our contestants brought to the competition. We'll definitely be doing it again'

Rosie is a first year student at Warwick University and her clear singing voice – accompanying herself on the guitar – clearly won over both the judges and the audience.

'I loved taking part in the competition' said Rosie, 'it was a brilliant evening and well put together. I met a lot of lovely people with immense talent and it was such a wonderful surprise to win.'

Rosie has won a recording session at Riverway Studios in Harlow. 'We'll definitely be playing her recordings' added Meadows.

Second place went to Lauren Simister, Harrison Taylor came third and the fourth place finalist was Finesse Fonseca.

Harrogate's Superb Studio Thanks to Freemasons



Pictured, back row, from left to right: Freemasons Dave Marshall, Michael Walker, Gordon Pearson, Roger Newhouse and Harrogate Hospital Radio Chairman Ian Wighton with (front row) HHR presenter Ellie Jackson and John Clayton, The Provincial Grand Master of the Province of Yorkshire, West Riding

Harrogate Hospital Radio can now boast to having some of the best broadcasting facilities in the region, thanks to Yorkshire Freemasons.

A £9,000 grant from the Fraternity has enabled the charity – which first took to the airwaves in 1977 – to refurbish its second studio with a state-of-the art mixing desk and associated furniture.

The donation was part of a £223,500 pot of money the Freemasons' Province of Yorkshire West Riding awarded to a variety of regional good causes to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

And the first person to be interviewed in the newly-refurbished studio was John Clayton, the Province's head freemason.

Harrogate Hospital Radio Chairman Ian Wighton said, 'We are indebted to the Freemasons for their incredibly generous gift. In particular, I'd like to thank members of Pateley Bridge's Vale of Nidd Lodge for nominating us in the first place.'

'Thanks to this donation and that of a number of other organisations, we have been able to upgrade our second studio to the same standard as our main, on-air studio.'

Mr Wighton added, 'Harrogate Hospital Radio's first broadcast was 35 years ago and our

equipment then consisted of one record player, one reel to reel tape recorder and a microphone.

'Thanks to successive appeals, the support of numerous local organisations and members' own fund-raising activities, we can now justifiably boast to having some of the best broadcasting facilities anywhere in the Yorkshire region.'

Mr Clayton said, 'Harrogate Hospital Radio is a wonderful charity and I'm delighted we have been able to support this worthwhile cause. It is highly regarded by patients and staff alike and plays an import role in hospital life.'

Celtic Invasion



Patient David Farmer accepts his prize of Scottish goodies from volunteers Paul Blitz and Ron Venturi

Bagpipes, kilts, haggis, neeps and tatties all featured in a special Burn's Night offering from Winchester Hospital Radio's (WHR) request programme recently and patients were able to fully participate in the programme and chat with presenters.

WHR's Paul Blitz presented the show and Scottish volunteer, Ron Venturi, delivered the traditional Immortal Memory speech, bringing to life the history behind Burn's Night.

Scottish goodies, including traditional porridge oats, Scotch Broth and Highland shortbread, were up for grabs on the night, with patient David Farmer winning the draw.

Mr Farmer said 'I'm delighted to win and look forward to tucking in to these highland goodies.'

Winchester Hospital Radio will celebrate 30 years of voluntary service to patients at the RHCH next year.

... Double Celebrations for Inverness ...



Inverness Hospital Radio members at the Award ceremony

Volunteers from Inverness Hospital Radio turned out for a Civic Reception to mark 42 years of dedicated service to patients in the Inverness Area on 2 November 2012.

Inverness Hospital Radio, which operates from the City's main hospital, Raigmore was invited to a Highland Council hosted reception to mark The Queen's Award for Volunteering Award announced during Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations. The award is the highest given to a voluntary organisation and is the equivalent of an MBE, given to the group rather than an individual.

The Jubilee Award was presented in June by the Lord Lieutenant of Inverness – Donald Cameron of Lochiel at a ceremony in the radio studio.

The organisation's certificate, signed by the Queen and a crystal to commemorate the award, were on display during the evening at Inverness Town House.

Co-Founder Donnie Aird received a replica of the Queen's Award from members of the Service from Provost Alex Graham at the Civic Reception.

It was on 2 November 1970, that Donnie Aird and the late Alistair Gardner first went on air to broadcast a pre-recorded show for the radio station.

Receiving the award, Donnie told his members, 'I am as overawed by receiving this as any of you. I know Alistair and I set this up 40 plus

years ago but without the continuing support and enthusiasm of original, past, oncoming and present members, the organisation would not be where it is today.

'It has around 40 volunteers who give up their time every week to make a hospital stay just that bit better.

'Patients can get a mention on radio and have their favourite

music played. It also has a small team which visits wards to help patients choose their favourite music.'

The first show was broadcast in the Royal Northern Infirmary and Raigmore Hospital. Five years later in 1975, a small room in the RNI became the first studio of Radio Inverness, the name at that time.

But years of fundraising, helped by many donations from local businesses in particular Highland Cross 1997 and the North British Hotels Trust, along with hard work by the members, established new studios at Raigmore Hospital opened in 1998 by TV presenter Lorraine Kelly who became our patron.

From the humble beginnings of one broadcast a week, the organisation has now progressed to a 24-hour service with new equipment (Myriad), dedicated schedule, the formation of a website and improved communications.

Main office-bearers are:

Hon President – Donnie Aird;
Chairman – David Robertson;
Vice-Chairman – Gerald Holdsworth; Secretary – Christine MacKenzie and Treasurer – Duncan Fraser.



Co-founder Donnie Aird is presented with a replica of the Queen's Award by the Provost of Inverness, Alex Graham

Sixty Years of Football Commentaries

Preston Hospital Radio's first commentary was broadcast on 1st January 1953 from Deepdale and Preston played Blackpool and North End won 4-2. Two of the original commentators on that day were John Wilkinson and Norman Sutcliffe.

The commentary was relayed back over the telephone line to the studio above Rediffusion on Lancaster Road in the middle of Preston and went out to the wards of Preston Royal Infirmary, Sharoe Green, Deepdale, Longsands and Ribbleton Hospitals.

A lot has changed since then but the outcome is still the same ... patients in hospital are still able to listen to live commentary of a PNE home game.

The commentary position has changed a few times since 1953. Originally commentators had to climb a ladder halfway up the floodlight pole in the North East corner of the Deepdale ground ... Health and Safety wouldn't let them get away with that today!

In the late 1960s or early 1970s the commentary position was moved to the top left corner of the pavilion stand near to where it met the town end. It stayed there until work was completed on the new Tom Finney stand and was then moved to the right hand edge of the press box where it is located today.

The view today is a lot better than any of the previous locations as it is in a central position. The original position up the floodlight pole was at one end of the ground, so it was quite difficult seeing the other end and the top of the pavilion stand had a large concrete post in front of it!

The studio location has also

changed many times. Originally above Rediffusion in Lancaster Road in the heart of Preston, it moved to the grounds of Deepdale Hospital and then in 1988 it moved to the older part of Sharoe Green Hospital. In 2002, as part of the Sharoe Green close down, it moved to its current location in Royal Preston Hospital.

Until 2003 only patients in Preston hospitals could hear the commentaries but when the hospital trust was formed, it allowed the patients in Chorley to hear them as well and that continues to this day.

Originally there were about seven commentators for each game. I did the pre-match half time and end of game and the other six did 15 minutes each. As space in the press box is limited there are now just two commentators per game.

Originally all the commentators shared one microphone but with the advances in technology two headset microphones are used, when on cold days keep your ears warm as well!

The commentaries don't just go to the hospital wards, they also go onto the loop system at North End. This service allows the blind or partially sighted to sit in a specific part of the Bill Shankly Kop and receive them through earpiece units which are available from North End.

Commentators past and present have remembered various games from the past. Cup ties with Arsenal and Liverpool ... the penalty shoot-out against Birmingham City that went on till nearly 11pm one night, various promotions and saddening relegations.

I have also managed to do two commentaries from outside Deepdale, one from Elland Road in Leeds for a play-off match and the PNE v West Ham match for the playoff final from Cardiff.

One other recollection was broadcasting the return of the 1964 PNE team through the streets of Preston, when the commentators were on top of the ABC Cinema on Fishergate and then moved to be able to see the players on the balcony of the Harris building.

Some have commented on the 'plastic pitch', some in favour, some not as it seemed to not get a consistent bounce!

Preston and District Hospital Welfare Society ran the commentaries through till the formation of the Friends of Preston Acute Hospitals NHS Trust was set up. This carried on till the 'Friends' disbanded and then Preston Hospital Radio was formed.

When Preston and Chorley Hospital Radios combined, CPR Radio (Chorley and Preston Radio) broadcasts the commentaries to the wards.

It is hoped in the near future to ask supporters if they have a friend or relative in one of the hospitals to get in touch so that a mention can be made for them during the game.

Thanks to Greg Billington, Malcolm Rae, Roger Hough and Syd Kayley for their input.

Hospital Radio doesn't just cover football now, cricket, rugby league, rugby union, horse racing and even ice hockey match reports are broadcast.

Ian Gornall
Sports Co-Ordinator
CPR Radio



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Sunday Service Is Resumed

At the end of December, 2012, BridgeFM in Dundee started relaying Sunday Church Services live to patients in Dundee's hospitals. Although some stations relay services from the hospital chapel and occasionally from a church nearby, we think that BridgeFM is the first to relay a live service week-by-week from a church which is not otherwise connected with the hospital.

BridgeFM is the hospital radio station based at Ninewells Hospital in Dundee, which started life in 1952 as a Toc-H group. It serves two main hospital sites in Dundee, plus a number of smaller remote healthcare locations throughout the city.

BridgeFM broadcasts to the bedside handsets at Ninewells Hospital, on LPFM on 87.7MHz at both hospital sites and is one of three volunteer-based local stations sharing a DAB channel on the Dundee digital radio multiplex.

Until a few years ago, the station used to broadcast a short recording of bible readings and prayers on Sunday mornings. This half-hour programme was pre-recorded during the preceding week by one of the hospital chaplains together with one of the station's volunteers who came in to the studio to do the recording. It was initially replayed on cassette on Sunday morning but in later years the recording was uploaded to the playout system each week.

In September 2010, a fire broke out at the hospital and BridgeFM's studios suffered severe smoke damage. Although two of BridgeFM's volunteers were able to build a new playout computer and locate it in the transmitter room at Ninewells, the station was unable to do any live programmes for nearly a year.

Station Manager, Scott Young, explained, 'during that time, some of our members left and others were no longer available at their regular time, so when we resumed live broadcasts we were running a shorter live schedule with fewer presenters. Unfortunately we were no longer able to pre-record the Sunday services.'

However, the station felt that the Sunday Service was an important part of its programming and wondered whether one of the local churches might wish to become involved.

One of BridgeFM's volunteers, Ken Anton, is a member of Dundee Parish Church (St. Mary's), which is the city kirk of Dundee and also one of the five 'high kirks' of the Church of Scotland. The Church has a traditional service of worship on Sunday mornings, of readings and prayers, a sermon, plus hymn-singing led by the organist and choir.

Ken made an initial approach to the minister, the Rev. Keith F. Hall, and the Kirk Session of St. Mary's, and agreement was given.

The church was already equipped with a PA system with fixed and roving radio microphones, and there was also some wiring which had been used some time before to record services for the housebound. The plan was to use as much of the existing infrastructure as possible, without disrupting or being intrusive.

The final implementation was to connect a small mixer to the line-output from the PA system, plus two small microphones near the choir to record the music and singing. The output from the mixer was fed to a Barix InStreamer: a device which converts audio input to a digital stream, encoded as an mp3 stream in this case. All of this equipment is powered together, so that it is switched on before the service and off again afterwards – the only human intervention required each week.

A standard ADSL broadband connection with a fixed IP address was installed at the Church to allow the stream to be uploaded to BridgeFM. BridgeFM uses the free radio automation software, ZaraRadio, both for the Playout PC and for presenter-assist in the studios. The Playout PC schedule was changed to incorporate the Sunday Service.

On Sunday mornings, BridgeFM relays Heartland FM, the volunteer-based local radio station service for Perthshire and at 10:58 plays an announcement which introduces the Church Service. After that, the Playout PC connects in to the InStreamer at the church and pulls the audio stream, encoded as mp3, 44kbps stereo.

ZaraRadio is configured such that if the stream fails to connect by 11am, then a standby service will be broadcast instead. The

standby services were recorded periodically over summer 2012 during the initial tests and edited to remove any date/time/seasonal references. One of these would be selected randomly if required and others will be added over the coming months.

During the service, if the stream fails, then ZaraRadio will attempt a reconnection twice and fall-back to suitable music if it fails completely. So far, we haven't had such a problem.

The Service is usually finished around 11:55. Being a city-centre church, some members are dependent on public transport, so the minister ensures the Service does not overrun. After the Service, the PA system is switched off. This causes the audio stream from the InStreamer to be disconnected and ZaraRadio detects this and plays a random playlist of music similar to that in the Service. Finally, at 15 seconds before noon, the schedule plays BridgeFM's news intro jingle, followed by the news and then Sunday afternoon programming.

Implementation was straightforward from a technical viewpoint. Some concerns were raised but so far have not been realised. One worry was that the levels would be variable: however ZaraRadio has an inbuilt auto-level control feature, which we leave on permanently to even out the levels of the mp3 files played out; this also benefits the church services, so the audio level is fairly uniform.

The other main concern would be that the silence detector would trip and move ZaraRadio on to the next item. This hasn't been an issue to date. There are few long silences during the service and the background noise keeps the level just above the threshold of the silence detector.

The first service to be broadcast live was on the last Sunday before Christmas, 2012, which was well-received. Subsequent Sunday services have been broadcast without a hitch and will now continue each week to bring together the local community with patients, staff and visitors.

The station was named BridgeFM to build a bridge to link hospital patients with their friends and family outside the hospital and this new partnership continues that bridge.

The Road to Victoria Radio Network

Hi, I'm Mark Sadgrove and was born in Essex in the mid sixties. My Mum recalls the following:

Even as a toddler I began showing an interest in electrical things. Mum said that before I could walk she caught me trying to poke knitting needles in the old 15 amp round pin sockets! That could have been the end of me if I hadn't been stopped in time.

Aged two or three, I was going around with a battery, bulb and a piece of wire in my pocket and by holding the components together I could make the bulb glow.

My earliest memories are as a young child my dad had a battery powered reel-to-reel tape recorder and he would mock up interviews and record me. At about seven, I was allowed to operate it myself but soon discovered batteries lasted no time at all and was told I would need to buy them out of my own pocket money! So I would connect the output from this battery powered reel-to-reel to the phonograph input of an old valve radio and connect extra speakers around the garden, put the tape recorder into record mode without a tape and make announcements through the microphone. When I wasn't speaking, I had a portable radiogram wired through this setup playing records such as Rock Around the Clock and Chirpy, Chirpy, Cheep, Cheep. Oh boy, this must have really annoyed our neighbours but they never complained!

At the Queen's Silver Jubilee celebrations, I was asked if I could provide the PA for the daytime entertainment. When the Big Day arrived I loaded the equipment



into dad's wheelbarrow and set off to the woods across the road. Unfortunately, the valve radiogram did not fair too well on its bumpy journey and when I switched on the power I got a burning smell of enamel covered copper wire. Not the sort of smell you associate with a normal working valve radio with worm wax capacitors. There was nothing I could do but switch it off and take it home again. My first ambitious attempt into the world of a DJ had failed.

Undeterred, my next project was to rig up a stage in dad's garage. I used a crystal microphone my grandparents bought me after months of pestering. The mike looked like a shiny metal body but was crystal sounding and prone to feedback. It came with a holder which I fitted on to the end of some dowel rod and as the cable was very short, I opened it up and fitted a longer screened cable. The output wasn't balanced and with a long cable it worked as an excellent radio antenna.

I had (and still do) have a friend, Chris Wickers, who lives in Chelmsford. We met through our parents and as we shared similar interests, spent many happy days together rigging equipment and visiting Maplin, when their only store was in Southend.

When Chris was about 12, he became involved in Hospital Radio Chelmsford. Unfortunately, it was too far away for me to attend on a regular basis but whenever I got the opportunity to stay with Chris, I went along. This sparked my interest in hospital radio but our nearest hospital was Orsett which was also too far away and under threat of closure.

During my final years of high school I attended college one afternoon a week to learn electronic principles. On finishing school, I went to technical college to study electrical Installations and electronics.

When I first moved to Fife, I discovered Victoria Hospital had a radio station but as I wasn't working, I didn't have the money to get there and when I found a job I was doing a lot of overtime.

As the years went by, I would occasionally think about hospital radio but was always busy with other projects. About two years ago, whilst in hospital for a minor operation, I saw VRN's details and a few months later met Keith Poole, a VRN presenter and we got talking about hospital radio. By the end of the night, we had exchanged telephone numbers and in January 2011, Keith phoned to see if I wanted to go along. On 20th January I joined Keith in the studio. The rest is for another day.

Award for Bay Trust Radio manager

Kendal-based Lakeland Radio has given an award to the Station Manager of the local hospital radio station, Bay Trust Radio.

John Williamson took home the People's Champion award from the Pride of Lakeland Awards held in Windermere at the end of last year. The event celebrates people whose incredible achievements make life special.

The evening was hosted by Lakeland Radio presenters Tony James and Simon Yaxley.

Mr Williamson said, 'May I take this opportunity to thank Lakeland Radio listeners for voting for me in the Pride of Lakeland people's champion 2012. I was overwhelmed to have won.'

Bay Trust Radio is based at Westmorland General Hospital in Kendal but is broadcast across the University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS.

Can You Help?

I am grateful to Emma Sysum and Michelle Newstead for giving me this opportunity to explain about the wonderful school I've got to know and support in St. Lucia – the Dunnottar School for Students with Special Needs.

The school takes students aged 5 to 25 years who all have special needs including the complete range of autism, Downs syndrome and various physical disabilities, although it is not possible to take students in wheel chairs as the building is situated on a mountain side.

The reason for having students up to 25 is that many will not be able to work and staying until that age helps them to try to learn how to at least look after themselves. There is no unemployment pay or social system to support them. Funding for the school is mostly found by charities and sponsors as the only thing the government pays for is the teachers' and teaching assistants' salaries. On the other hand general education is free to all.

Students do not always begin at the school at the age of five – in the case of one young boy he did not start to attend until he was nine as his mother could not afford for him to go to school as well as his siblings. Lunches have to be paid for as well as everything required to send students there including uniforms, bus fares and other facilities, so if they cannot afford it the school tries to find a way. In the case of lunches £50 provides lunches for a student for a whole year and sponsorship for these is sought where possible, including from guests of the hotel and other visitors to the island.

St Lucia is a wonderful island with the lovely friendly people but like many other Caribbean islands it is not anywhere as wealthy as you would imagine with high unemployment and needing to import most goods and food. Pay is also low in comparison to the UK. Tourism is important but a lot of the funds we pay for holidays does not go into the island, although it does provide much needed employment.

I became involved with Saga Charitable Trust, a Trust set up by Saga the holiday travel company, whose aim is to support communities in more than 30 of its holiday destinations. It invites guests to apply to take part in



volunteering in local projects for the duration of their holidays – normally Monday to Friday while staying at one of the Saga organised hotels. These projects support local villages or as in my case the nearest local school.

I had always wanted to help at an overseas project and so I applied, as it happens to Nepal but the co-ordinator suggested with the skills I had I might like to consider St Lucia, which is the project I now support.

I help by looking after their accounting system, created a photo library which helps promote the school, designing notelets and Christmas cards which are sold at the hotel and in the UK wherever I can find to sell them, helping teachers with whatever they need including some of the admin and much more. I also go and talk to organisations who want to know more about the project in an effort to raise funds and awareness, as well as collect much-needed items from a very long list. I feel very privileged to be able to get to know so many amazing students, teachers and the principal who grew up in York.

On my first visit I could see the eight plus year old computer was ready to crash and so I swam 100 lengths of the hotel pool seeking sponsorship from hotel guests and raised enough to purchase a new one. The sponsored swim has become an annual event now.

When the school emailed to say items had broken beyond repair, I sought sponsors and took out new ones. On each visit I take an extra suitcase full of items I know the school needs. I have also been able to encourage friends to take items for me if they go out. One friend is

a doctor on a cruise ship and has promised to take a suitcase out next time her destinations include St Lucia.

Volunteers go out, sometimes two or three at a time and since Saga's involvement over 40 people with a variety of skills have helped in some way but volunteers, goods and funds are always needed.

Thank you

June Snowden, President, HBA

So here are some of the items which will be very welcome ...

Primary school children's books
Pens, Pencils, Coloured pencils
Black ball pens, Fibre tip pens
Dry pallets of paints (not liquid)
Small artwork paint brushes
Jigsaws need to be ones which cut in large pieces for the children to handle)

Double knit wool – any colour
Exercise books
Blank DVDs, CDs, Memory sticks
Play toys for all age groups but particularly younger children

Children's song books – with CD – they do not have a piano so the CD version is vital to play to them

Children's story books for primary age group

Beads for jewellery making BUT – these need to have a large hole in the middle as it is difficult to thread the small ones

Plasticine
Stickers of all shapes and sizes
Painting books of any kind

Children's toys/cuddly toys – not too large as they need to go into a suitcase

Paper, envelopes – both C5 & C6
Fluorescent paper

Stick it/post it note pads
Books to do with the Alphabet and Number counting

Colouring books, Notebooks
Bouncy balls

Stencils, Building blocks
Boxes of latex gloves

Small folding storage boxes

I hope this gives you some idea, as I say the list is not endless. It should be borne in mind that I have added things which do not soil easily – the climate is so humid, some things go rusty very quickly and glue fails to stick after a while.

If you feel you would like to help by bringing much-needed items to Conference – from the list – I know it will be appreciated and put to very good use.

View from the Basement

Our columnist, Brett Ellis, says we must adapt



'Those who can, do, those who can't teach'. Sadly, I fall into the latter category. That said, my wisdom of choice which I impart on impressionable young minds is on the subject of 'Business Studies'. My job is to link everything in the outside world to that of commerce. From Profit and Loss accounts to human resources to customer service legislation, I, along with the majority of teachers, are jack of all trades, yet master of none.

As I write, I am coming to terms with the recent move into administration by the doyen of the high street, HMV. 'Coming to terms' may be a bit strong but as a shareholder who has now been left high and dry, I believe the phrase covers my current level of self-pity. As I said, master of none.

The recent closures and downward spirals that have affected such big shots as HMV, Comet, Woolworths, Borders and the like are not down to bad luck or unfortunate circumstance; they are down to one thing: inability to change. 'Adapt or die'. They chose not to adapt in time and thus died. Why did HMV not foresee the problems coming? In the golden years imitation was the sincerest form of flattery. Companies such as Play.com saw profits being made by HMV and literally imitated their moves with one huge unique selling point: by taking away the retailer in the chain you can sell directly to the customer and thus offer the products cheaper. Not rocket science, just basic business sense. Why HMV didn't invest in online sales or place download 'pods' in their stores I am unsure. Another case of a member of the establishment thinking they are untouchable and taking their eye off the ball.

The same goes for Woolworths (copycats in the high street and lack of property did for them), Comet (destroyed by online challenges). Blockbuster could also not deal with such a cyber-attack and during a recession loyalty flies out the window. We are all price sensitive.

So Ellis, why the business lecture? Well, I see similar challenges facing hospital radio. We are in a double, triple, quadruple recession (delete according to whether you read the Mail or Guardian). In turn, we have less disposable income. Therefore we have less money to spend in hospital shops or to give to charities. This will invariably affect funding and strike at the heart of a number of hospital radios; 'Adapt or die' is the simple, yet serious, message.

So how to adapt? Well, entertainment mediums are now prevalent in hospital. Radio and TV are easily accessible as are mobile smart phones. The use of cheap wire headphones on which to listen to HR for a few hours a day is dying as the quality and abundance of available entertainments continues unbound.

From my experience, some HRs are more concerned with the DJs and the show output and not where they should concentrate their efforts: Promotion and the availability of headsets with which to listen to the output. How many times have you visited the wards lately? How many times have you actively promoted your show to the staff and patients? How many times have you checked that all bedsides have headphones? You can have the best product, or show, in the world but if no one is listening then eventually you will cease to matter and when funding issues are discussed you will be at the front of the culling line.

So, again I say it 'adapt or die'. Sentiment and longevity (as in the cases of HMV) are no defenders of establishment figures. Fulfilling customer's wants and needs, whatever they may be, are. Mark my words and don't let one of my future columns be entitled 'I told you so'...

I am dedicating this column to an old radio friend, Simon Astrop (1960-2012). Simon was a true radio stalwart. After joining London Network Radio, he moved to Hospital Radio Barnet in 1994 and was Head of Programmes from 2004-2007. Although suffering with medical problems, in the years I knew Simon, I never heard him complain. He was enthusiastic about his two main loves, Arsenal FC and radio. I remember when I joined HRB; my first conversation with Simon was about music, as a cocky young upstart I thought I knew it all. It turns out I didn't but Simon certainly did, he was a walking almanac of all styles and genres of music and he had a passion for radio that I have not seen before or since. To be blunt hospital radio could do with more Simons and his passing will prove to be a huge loss to all who knew him. I will never again hear 'Sweet home Alabama' without thinking of Simon. I used to pronounce the singer's name as Leo-nard Skinner. Simon taught me how to say 'Linnard Skinnard' with a smile on his face and a sparkle in his eye.

RIP Simon, you will be missed.

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