

**HBA**<sup>TM</sup>  
HOSPITAL BROADCASTING ASSOCIATION

*ON*  
**AIR**

The Official Journal of the Hospital Broadcasting Association

**Issue 145**  
**Spring 2014**





# SONIFEX

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### FRONT COVER STORY:

Pupils from Gaywood Community Primary School in Kings Lynn swapped the classroom for the studio as they took over the airwaves on Lynn's Hospital Radio. A group of 15 children in years five and six went on air at the station at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital under the watchful eye of station volunteer Alistair Done.

The school already has its own studios and is planning to run programmes for pupils and parents.

Alistair said the session had been 'a great success' and hopes to hold a further session with the school later in the year.



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Hi Everyone.

Doesn't time fly ... it's Conference time again and this year Bristol promises to have something for everybody. The conference venue is right in the heart of Bristol and just a stone's throw from one of Bristol's main shopping areas.

You can now pay for conference by credit/debit card for a small payment processing fee. If you'd rather not pay the fee, you can still pay by cheque or bank transfer – contact Brenda Massie for more details.

There are two new features in this edition: firstly Sean Dunderdale, our Public Relations manager offers some tips and advice on gaining publicity for your station. And secondly, a return to the fold of Mathew Hulbert from Castle Mead Radio who keeps us up-to-date with what he has been doing. Good to have you back Mathew.

Enjoy Conference and well done to all those who have been shortlisted.

Michelle

## DIARY DATES

28th-30th March 2014 HBA Annual Conference

Marriott Hotel, Bristol

27th-29th March 2015 Conference

Marriott Hotel, Gosforth Park, Newcastle.

### Our Ambassadors



Alan Dediccoat



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# Board Report

## Conference News

Our national conference takes place in Bristol from Friday 28th to Sunday 30th March. By the time you read this, residential bookings will have closed. However, you can still join us as a non-residential delegate as long as you're quick – bookings close on 28th February. More details can be found on the website at [hbauk.com/conference](http://hbauk.com/conference).

You can now pay by card as well – although, because we keep our charges to an absolute minimum, we are passing on the transaction fee so, if you take up on this option, you'll pay slightly more than if you use an old-fashioned cheque or pay electronically via a BACS transfer.

The National Hospital Radio Awards ceremony will take place during the Saturday evening of conference. The shortlists are on the website at [hbauk.com/awards](http://hbauk.com/awards). Good luck to all those nominated.

## Annual General Meeting

The call for nominations for this year's round of Trustee elections was issued in early January, with the elections taking place at the AGM on Saturday, 29th March (at the conference in Bristol).

This year it's the turn of the Vice Chairman/Deputy Chief Executive and Regional Manager. Iain Lee has announced that he is not intending to seek re-election, so we are especially looking for someone to take on the Vice Chair/Deputy Chief Exec role. If you are interested, or know someone who might be, please feel free to contact Iain or any of the other Trustees for more information prior to completing the nomination form, which is available on the AGM page of our website ([hbauk.com/agm](http://hbauk.com/agm)) alongside the formal role description and other AGM paperwork.

Please note that Iain's role organising the National Hospital Radio Awards is separate to his current Trustee position and Iain has stated that he and Sean will



*by Nigel Dallard, Secretary*

organise the 2015 National Hospital Radio Awards (although that will, likely, be their last, as they feel that it is time for a creative refresh in the hands of a new team).

## Regional Changes

Also at the AGM, the Trustees will be proposing the adoption of a new set of Regional Bylaws to remove most of the administrative 'red tape' around regions, requiring them to hold formal AGMs, etc.

We'll also be opening up regional membership, so that regional boundaries become much more fuzzy than at the moment and allow members to join as many regions as they like – so volunteers who are willing and able to travel longer distances can be kept informed of activities in neighbouring regions (or even regions in another part of the country!).

The current and proposed Regional Bylaws are available now on the AGM webpage.

Starting in areas of the country without active Regional Reps, our recently-appointed Regional Manager, Mel Ive, is also going to try to find reps or co-ordinators for smaller geographic areas. If you're interested in acting as a rep or co-

ordinator, even if for only a relatively small cluster of stations in your immediate neighbourhood, please do get in touch with Mel ([regions@hbauk.com](mailto:regions@hbauk.com)).

## Members' Newsletter

Darren Whittenham-Gray is off to a flying start with the Members' Electronic Newsletter. It's being distributed to all our main contacts at member stations but any volunteer at a member station is eligible to subscribe for free.

If your HBA contact person is not forwarding the newsletter to you, please ask them to do so – there's a 'subscribe me' link in each one – or signup directly at <http://eepurl.com/DDMdj>.

## Football Dataco

Mike Sarre recently had a useful meeting with representatives of Football Dataco, who licence coverage of football games to all media outlets.

As a result, we hope that the Hospital Radio licence for football coverage will be rather more hospital-radio friendly without, for example, huge financial liabilities on the Trustees if the terms of the licence are broken.

## Membership Subscriptions

Membership subscriptions fall due again on 1st April. This year, to encourage early renewal, the Trustees have agreed that stations which renew before 1st April will be able to do so for the reduced fee of £40.

Renewals after 1st April will cost the same as last year – £45.

Associate Members' fees remain at £15 (with no discount for early renewal).

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# Alan's New Year Honours List



HBA Patron Alan Dedicoat kicked off 2014 in style, revealing the nominations for this year's National Hospital Radio Awards.

Alan, better known as the Voice of the Lottery Balls, is Radio 2's Head of Presentation and he kindly pre-recorded a special New Year greeting via the HBA website on January 1st and announced the top ten shortlist of nominations in nine of the eleven categories; Station of the Year, the Male and Female Presenters of the Year, Best Programme with Multiple Presenters, Best Speech Package, Best Special Event, Best Newcomer, Best Specialist Music Programme and Best Station Promo.

Awards Co-Producer, Sean Dunderdale, said, 'We wanted to try something a little different this year, having brought forward the deadline for entries.

'Usually the shortlist appears in written form but we thought it would be great to get Alan to announce the nominees, enabling stations – if they wish – to run the audio on air.'

Last year's Silver Station of the Year, Radio Redhill, is again nominated in the category, up against previous winners Hospital Radio Plymouth, which actually has seven nominations in total across the categories including



Best Speech Package and Best Newcomer for volunteer Becky Marlton, while its 'Requestline' is shortlisted for Best Programme with Multiple Presenters.

Radio Glamorgan comes out on top, with nine nominations in all, including Station of the Year, Best Special Event for its programme 'Remembering the War' and two nominations for Best Newcomer – as Laura Best and Mark Wright go up against each other for the Gold spot.

Radio Plymouth is close behind with seven nominations, while Radio Choice, Rookwood Sound, Hospital Radio Bedside and Radio Wey all have five nominations. The latter's Andy Brown is shortlisted, aiming to keep his title of Male Presenter of the Year for Radio Wey. His station also scooped Gold last year for Best Promo and is

again nominated in that category.

Radio Tyneside's 'Geordie Hour' will be looking to go one better, having clinched Silver in Best Specialist Music Programme last year. That station is also nominated again in the Best Special Event category which it won Gold for last year for its Jubilee Coverage. This time around it's short listed for the station's broadcast of the Great North Run.

The Bronze, Silver and Gold winners in each category will be revealed at the National Hospital Radio Awards Ceremony, which is being held in Bristol as part of our annual Conference at the end of March, along with the winners of the Fundraiser of the Year and the John Whitney Award for which there are no shortlist of nominations.



# 28 – 30 MARCH 2014 HBA Conference and Awards

## Bristol hosts the HBA Conference and Awards

If you haven't been to conference before then possibly this is a good time to think about making Bristol 2014 your first. Residential bookings closed on 31 January but non-residential bookings remain open until 28 February – so act now to avoid disappointment.

### What's going on?

The Conference and Awards Team have been working hard to ensure that this year's event has something for everyone. Our seminars and presentation are specific for the hospital broadcaster, whether your passion is presentation, technical or administration – we've got something for you. We're pleased to announce our subject line-up for 2014\*.

**Hospedia** – Ben Packman, Strategic Development Director at Hospedia Ltd, will present a seminar providing details of Hospedia's future plans, update on current activities and provide an opportunity for delegates to ask questions.

**The Radio Academy** – Paul Robinson, CEO of the Radio Academy, provides a session on exactly what the Radio Academy stands for, its aims and objectives and how the Radio Academy encourages, recognises and promotes the excellence in UK radio broadcasting and audio production.

**Radio Imaging** – Devaweb's Chris Stevens shares some great tips and tricks to make sure that your station stands out. Chris looks at the good and the bad of imaging with audio examples and the opportunity seek advice on your station's image, whether it be show, presenter or station specific.

**Interview Techniques** – Graham Seaman, BBC Wiltshire, will deliver this well sought after session dedicated to the skills and techniques of interviewing. Using examples of good and bad techniques, Graham will guide you through the process from preparation to application.

**The Future of Hospital Radio** – Join Nigel Dallard as he hosts a panel of representatives to discuss the future of hospital radio. This exciting session provides you with the opportunity to gather views and opinions from other hospital broadcasters and voice your own ideas on the future of hospital broadcasting.

**Presentation: a female perspective**, Join Jo Russell, presenter with Free Radio in Birmingham, as she speaks candidly about her experiences as a presenter within the industry. This session will be hosted by Absolute Radio's Head of Presentation, Paul Sylvester, and allows great audience participation through Q&A.

**Meet the Judges** – National Hospital Radio Awards co-producer Sean Dunderdale will be joined by a couple of judges from this year's awards to offer their tips and advice on preparing future entries, how the awards are judged and what the judges are looking for when they sit down to listen to entries.

**HBA Ambassador**, Alan Dedicoat, will deliver this special light hearted session based on Alan's experiences in the industry from his time in hospital radio to the present day where he is BBC Radio 2's Head of Presentation.

And if that's not enough to entice you to Bristol, take advantage of trips to local hospital radio, commercial or public broadcasters. HBA work closely with local stations within the region, and we're delighted to confirm that delegates will have the opportunity to visit several Hospital Radio stations, including BHBS (Bristol Hospital Broadcasting Service), Sunshine Radio, Radio Lollipop – Bristol, to name but a few.

Our Friday Entertainment will be delivered by Hospital Radio Plymouth. This is a great opportunity for a regional station to showcase and we are sure Hospital Radio Plymouth will have something special for us all on the Friday evening.



For more details visit: [hbauk.com/conference](http://hbauk.com/conference)

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BBC RADIO  
BRISTOL

Formal Gala  
Dinner and  
Awards Ceremony

HBA Annual General  
Meeting

Bristol Marriott Hotel  
City Centre  
2 Lower Castle Street  
Old Market  
Bristol  
BS1 3AD



# 28 – 30 MARCH 2014

## HBA Conference and Awards

### Bristol hosts the HBA Conference and Awards

Our Tradeshaw returns to Bristol with many exhibitors eager to demonstrate their products and services. Take advantage of one to one sessions or take the opportunity of a "hands on" demonstration. Our exhibitors fully support hospital broadcasting and are only too willing to meet and discuss your stations requirements.

#### Dress to impress!

The Conference weekend hosts the annual National Hospital Radio Awards. This ceremony is a prestigious black tie, formal event and the Hospital Broadcasting Association is proud to organise and support the award ceremony each year, an event which offers a unique opportunity for fellow broadcasters to meet, share ideas, and recognise volunteers for their achievements.

The awards are open to any HBA member station and are divided into different categories, each one recognising a specific area of excellence; some are awarded to individuals, others to stations. Most of the categories recognise gold, silver, and bronze winners; however, some prizes are awarded to only one individual with no runner-up places.

So as you can see we've got lots planned for the HBA Conference in Bristol and to make it slightly easier, there are several ways to pay. This year, by popular demand, the HBA are pleased to announce that you can now choose to pay for the HBA Conference by debit or credit card (a small surcharge applies).

#### Annual General Meeting & Informal Meeting

The Hospital Broadcasting Association Annual General Meeting will be held at 14:00 on Saturday 29 March at the Bristol Marriott Hotel (City Centre). Representatives from Member Stations are encouraged to attend the HBA Annual General Meeting and Informal Meeting. This is your opportunity to ask, discuss, propose or challenge the HBA Trustees – and an event that the Trustees look forward too.

This year the posts of the Deputy Chief Executive/Deputy Chairman and Regional Manager are up for election. Nominations Close Saturday 1st March - nomination forms and role descriptions are available from the HBA Website or for more information contact Nigel Dallard, HBA Secretary.

#### Great location - right in the City Centre

The venue for Conference, located in the centre of Bristol, offers many facilities for residential delegates including, swimming pool, spa, sauna, steam room, gym (cardiovascular equipment and free weights), beauty facilities and only a short walk to one of Bristol's main shopping areas.

#### Have you found the booking form

You can download the non residential booking form from the HBA Conference Page. We all look forward to seeing you in Bristol. \* please note that advertised events maybe subject to change.

HBA National Conference & Awards Team:

Chair: Grant McNaughton

Julie Cox, Iain Lee, Emma Sysum, Paul Sysum, Brenda Massie, Jim Simpson, Sean Dunderdale

For more details visit: [hbauk.com/conference](http://hbauk.com/conference)



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National Hospital  
Radio Awards  
2014

HBA Annual General  
Meeting

Bristol Marriott Hotel  
City Centre  
2 Lower Castle Street  
Old Market  
Bristol  
BS1 3AD

# National Hospital Radio Awards 2014

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## MEET THE JUDGES

Members of the Red Arrows, the Chief Executive of the Radio Academy along with England's Deputy Chief Medical Officer and the Chief Executive of the General Medical Council make up a host of new judges for this year's National Hospital Radio Awards.

Each year the judges' rota is refreshed and this year a number of new names are added to the list.

Professor David Walker was appointed Deputy Chief Medical Officer at the Department of Health in September last year and has been an Executive Director in the NHS for over twelve years, now working to the Chief Medical Officer, Dame Sally Davies.

Niall Dickson has been the Chief Executive of the GMC since 2009 and is, perhaps, better known as the BBC's former Social Affairs Editor and was also previously the broadcasters Health Correspondent, working on health related stories for BBC Radio 4 and BBC1's News at Ten.

Paul Robinson, meanwhile, was appointed Chief Executive of the Radio Academy last year. He's no stranger to hospital radio or the awards, having previously been a

host of the ceremony. Paul started at Radio Tyneside and has since worked for Radio 1, Talk Radio and most recently was the Senior Vice President at the Walt Disney Company and ABC Cable Networks, founding the global children's television channel KidsCo.

A more unusual part of the judging panel this year is the inclusion of members of the aerobatics display team the Red Arrows. They're celebrating they're 50th anniversary this year with a number of special displays across the UK.

Awards Co-Producer Sean Dunderdale said. 'We're keen to ensure new judges are added each year and for each category, there's a judge from the world of broadcasting, a second from the medical profession and a third who, if you like, represents our listeners, the patients. This year that role is being carried out by members of the Red Arrows. They're used to entertaining others and were delighted to support the awards and help play a part in the judging. I'm also delighted that Paul Robinson, Niall Dixon and Professor David Walker

have joined our panel too. All three are extremely experienced and will bring an exciting new element to the judging process this year.'

Paul Robinson is also hoping to attend the HBA Conference and Awards Ceremony in Bristol. Sean admits it will be strange, 'I remember sitting watching Paul on stage presenting the awards, including the unforgettable occasion in Blackpool when he crashed through a wall on a fake rollercoaster and the set caught fire!

Now, knowing he'll be sat watching me presenting the awards will be a little unnerving. At least if I lose my voice, we know there's someone in the room who could easily take over!'

Other judges this year include the new Editor of national news provider IRN, the presenter of the BBC Local Radio Evening show Mark Forest, a number of nurses, doctors and a former Health Minister.

A full list of judges will be made available in the delegate packs at the Bristol Conference and on the HBA website.

**Sean Dunderdale**

## AWARD TIME GETS EVER CLOSER

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The nominations are out and this year's National Hospital Radio Awards ceremony is getting ever nearer, though producers Iain Lee and Sean Dunderdale aren't giving anything away as to what to expect in Bristol this year.

Last year, Blackpool was treated to the sight of Sean in a dress with Iain posing as James Bond.

Sean told On Air, 'We really weren't sure whether to actually show the video of Iain and I spoofing the Queen's arrival at the 2012 Olympics.

'It came about as a joke at first and before we knew it Iain was in the back of a taxi and I was wearing a wig and a dress.'

This year it seems unlikely we'll see the pair dressing up. Iain explained, 'We never wanted the ceremony to be about us, we've always wanted to the focus to be on the volunteers – especially those nominated for an award.

'We almost, even at the eleventh hour, pulled the spoof video as we felt it wasn't really what the ceremony was about.'

Sean agreed, 'We do have three ideas for the opening sequence of this year's ceremony and we're not ruling out dressing up but the focus will definitely be on the work of volunteers right across the UK.

'One of the ideas actually came to mind while travelling back from

Blackpool last year, using some of Bristol's most well known characters.

'We're in talks, though we can't just steal ideas or breach copyright so we have a Plan B and Plan C instead.'

Beyond that tease, Iain and Sean have both refused to divulge any more secrets at the moment.

It's the seventh ceremony the pair will have produced and the first in the South West.

Whatever they've got planned, it does sound like it's well worth being in Bristol to see just what they come up with.



# Sean's Soapbox



*In a new column, HBA Public Relations Manager Sean Dunderdale offers tips and advice on gaining PR for your station.*

There are many ways of gaining PR, from writing the perfect press release to creating ideal publicity opportunities that attract attention. Over future columns we'll look at some of the best and worse but I thought I'd start with a simply tip – just be a little bit cheeky and never be afraid to ask!

I've found, time and time again, that with a little bit of luck (usually keeping my eyes open for an opportunity) and a little bit of cheek I've achieved far more than might otherwise have happened. Take my day job at Lincs FM, for example. I was lucky enough to be at an event in which The Princess Royal, Princess Anne was attending. Again, by luck, I mingled with the right crowd and ended up being introduced to her. That was the lucky side. My cheeky side then took over. I told the Princess this story, politely, with tongue firmly in cheek, that I was 'just glad she was speaking with me today, as the last time I saw her she'd ignored me for an entire day.' She looked surprised and asked me what I meant, so I explained how two years previously she had been a visitor at the Lincolnshire Show and I'd spent an entire day following her around, hoping to bag an interview. Needless to say, it didn't happen. She laughed, apologised and said that if she ever visited again she would give me an exclusive interview. That was that, brief conversation over, she moved on.

A year later, I discovered Princess Anne was returning to the Lincolnshire Show. (Again, by luck, it's one of her favourite events.) Wasting no time, I fired off a letter recounting our conversation and jokingly asking whether I could get

such an interview. A week later I received a phone call saying the Princess had never laughed so much at a request for an interview and would be happy to do the recording. Indeed, Her Royal Highness has since recorded two exclusive interviews with Lincs FM, as result.

Now, admittedly, I was very lucky. I happened to be invited to the event in the first place and had spent a day chasing her around the Lincolnshire Show a year ago – that doesn't happen all the time but, when opportunities do arrive, jump at them.

Another Royal story (and I promise I'm not just Royal name dropping!) The local newspaper revealed that The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh were to visit Scunthorpe as part of their Jubilee celebrations, back in 2002. Luckily – there's that Luck again – the newspaper had found this out almost a year before the visit, so it was unlikely the exact details of what Her Majesty would be doing had yet been decided. On a spur of the moment, I sent a letter to Buckingham Palace pointing out that Scunthorpe Hospital Radio had also just celebrated its Jubilee and inviting the Royal Couple to visit our recently redeveloped studio complex during their visit to Scunthorpe. I never thought, for a moment, it would go anywhere but after much discussion, July 2002 SHR was visited by the Duke of Edinburgh who watched a request show being broadcast and then pulled the curtain on the station's Jubilee plaque outside the studios. The publicity we gained from that one spur of the moment letter was immense and firmly put SHR on the map locally.

It's a similar approach with the National Hospital Radio Awards, never be afraid to ask. Since taking on the production of the Awards ceremony, we've been lucky to have video inserts from two Prime Ministers with Gordon Brown and David Cameron both saying a few words to camera. I don't have a magic contact in Number Ten, I just researched who to talk to and asked the question. (Actually, I asked if they'd like to attend the ceremony and when told no, fired

straight back with the request for a video insert.) Many people don't bother asking, they're vie is simply 'they'll probably say no.' Well while that's true, it's always 50/50 so while they MIGHT say no, there's just as much chance they'll say yes, so why not try it?

One final example of being cheeky and seizing an opportunity. Last year Hugh Bonneville, Downton's Lord Grantham, gave a video insert for the ceremony – praising the work of our volunteers. This video purely came about because of a Tweet from Hugh – and a cheeky request from me. Hugh said on Twitter: 'It seems because I've grown a beard (he was filming Xmas show Mr Stink at the time) a charity video I was due to record is now not wanted!' Reading this, I quickly tweeted back saying that I'd love him to record a video for the Hospital Radio Awards and had no qualms about him having a beard. I guessed I'd hear nothing more about it but the following day a tweet came back from Hugh saying he'd be delighted to – and the rest is history (well, a 30 second video anyway!)

Now, of course, it's not always about celebrity. Being cheeky when asking if you can do an outside broadcast from a shop window, approaching the local MP to see if they'll help with some madcap idea, persuading the local newspaper to do a double page spread on your station are all as important at gaining publicity and I'm sure many of you have as many, if not better, examples of your own. If so, I'd love to hear them and we'll share the best ones.

The key thing is though, always asking the question and don't be afraid of the answer.

Of course not everything will work out, many will (and do) say no. If I got a yes for everything, then I'd be the new Doctor Who and Kylie and Tom Jones would be bringing their swivel chairs from The Voice to Bristol for this year's awards ceremony.

**Next edition:** the Dos and Don'ts of press release writing. How to make yours stand out from the crowd.

# Regional Round-Up



## Happy New Year All!

Since the last meeting, it has been very busy in so many stations around the UK. I am constantly seeing great reports on social media sites (Twitter/Facebook) letting the public know what stations are up to and encouraging people to tune in. Please keep these going and, of course, 'shout out' to your regional reps and me!!

Have you ever wondered if what we do is worth it? Whether it really helps people?

On Christmas Eve, something happened at my station that really brought home the affect we have on people.

Christmas Eve saw a number of Radio Wexham members join forces with the hospital trust to provide 'Mince Pies and Music' whilst some of our youngsters were also going around the wards giving out crackers.

In one of the wards is a lovely lady called Ellie. Ellie has been in since September and always enjoys chatting to the volunteers when they visit the wards as most of her family live miles away. She was really down in the dumps on Christmas Eve and was upset as she wanted to join in with the music in reception but was not feeling well.

Determined to cheer her up, two of our members, Jordan and Lisa, worked with the nurses and brought Ellie, bed and all to join the fun. She stayed for over half an hour singing along with the songs as the team also decorated her bed with tinsel.

When it was time for her to leave, she couldn't thank the team

enough, explaining it had really made Christmas, as she was upset because her friend in the bed next to her had died a few days before. With tears in their eyes, the team returned her (and bed) to the ward.



A few days later the nurses told us that this act of kindness had really helped get Ellie's spirits and health up again.

So to finish, if you are told Hospital Radio isn't beneficial or you ever doubt the impact Hospital Radio has, just remember Ellie's story, because there will be at least one person today who will have a smile on their face because of what you do!!

## Snippets from around the regions:

**RADIO CHERWELL** – hosting the Home Counties Regional meeting on Sunday 9th February – all welcome, contact Ian Pinnell!

**SOUTH TYNESIDE HOSPITAL RADIO** – has renamed their on air identity to Radio South Tyneside and have re-launched their website.

**BAY TRUST RADIO** – are planning a sponsored weekend broadcast over Easter.

Five stations in the North region, **TYNESIDE, SOUTH TYNESIDE, DURHAM, BAY TRUST** and **AUCKLAND** carried the new Year Big Broadcast. Feedback has been quite favourable.

## Get To Know Your Regional Team ...



In this edition we meet **Dave Nicholson**, lovely boy of the North:

**Name:** Dave Nicholson

**Nickname:** back in the eighties, I was known as the Ayotola now it is just sir! (joke)

**Roles:** Station Director/North Rep  
**When did you join Hospital Radio?** 1973

**What do you enjoy about Hospital Radio?** Just enjoy radio and the people who work in it

**Favourite Music/Artist?** MOR, little light classical

**What do you do outside of Hospital Radio?** Don't have time. When I do cooking and travelling

**If you were hosting a dinner party, which five people would you invite?**

Shirley Bassey

Kylie Minogue

Rick Stein (he could help with the cooking)

Len Goodman

Carol Kirkwood (weather presenter and good friend)

## And finally...

Congratulations to all stations that have been shortlisted for the National Awards. It will be great to see so many of you at the conference in Bristol.

There are some great seminars planned and hopefully many stations will take the opportunity to share ideas.

During conference I am hoping to meet as many of you as possible and to get to know the great teams that make Hospital Radio fantastic, so please feel free to come and chat!!

**Remember** – I'm always on the lookout for volunteers, so why not come and find out how easy it is to become part of the Regional team. It's not as much work as you think but definitely more fun than you realise!



# June's Travels

Firstly, Happy New Year to you all and I hope many of you are planning to come to conference at the end of March in Bristol – our first conference in Bristol since 1975.

I was very pleased to be able to attend Hospital Radio Bedside's AGM in Bournemouth in November where I also presented some Long Service Certificates.

In early December I also went to Stoke Mandeville and joined in their programme.

Early in January I was very happy to attend the Harlow Hospital Radio's Variety Show night – one of their fund raisers and some very good talent they have too.

26th January was the anniversary of York Hospital Radio, so I was there all weekend for many events. While in the area I also was welcomed to Harrogate Hospital Radio to join Ellie for an afternoon programme and most enjoyable it was.

As I celebrate 40 years in hospital radio this year, I have made a commitment to visit at least 40 hospital radio stations during the year and plans for those visits are coming along nicely.

Do please let me know if you would like me to come along and see you at your station or at one of your events, I will be very happy to arrange this. If I cannot come along, then other members of the HBA are always very happy to attend.

I am planning to be at the Home Counties Regional Meeting in February as well as other confirmed visits to Clatterbridge, Grimsby, Reading and I am hoping to confirm others. I will try to visit as many stations in the Wales West Region as possible during and after conference and on my way home.

I am delighted how many requests I continue to receive for long service certificates.

Certificates are issued for 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, years, etc and where possible I would love to come and present them if that is what you would like in your station – whatever the occasion.

I have already received requests for 51 Long Service Certificates to date this year for 12 stations and the total number of years those



**Members of Hospital Radio Bedside, Bournemouth proudly display their certificates**



**Celebrations at Stoke Mandeville Hospital Radio**

certificates amount to is already 1190, which really does make you appreciate just how many dedicated, committed hospital broadcasters we have in the UK.

It is so important to acknowledge and thank you all for your hard work, dedication and commitment. Please continue to request certificates from me and I will do my best to produce them as quickly as I can.

The HBA also provides station certificates recognising the dedication and commitment of the station to the community it serves

and again please do apply to me. They are for 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, etc Already I have received two requests this year and please keep them coming.

I would like to thank all those who welcome me to their stations and events. I really appreciate your hospitality. I hope that this year will be successful one.

Best wishes and I look forward to seeing many of you at conference.

**June Snowden**  
President, HBA

# HBS, Glasgow ... A New Start for 2014

## Search for a Solution

Around five years ago, we started to look at the options for replacing our playout system. Since May 2002 we'd been using Guinevere, a simple cart-based solution developed by Paul Petitt, formerly of Coastway Hospital Radio. We had demos from a number of potential suppliers including all the usual suspects but decided not to commit to any specific system at that time as we were likely to move from our city centre accommodation onto an NHS site, so all funding sources would almost certainly be needed for relocation costs.

Four years came and went and we were still in Baltic Chambers, the office block in Glasgow City Centre that has been our home for 20 years. With the relocation trail having gone cold and the mixing desks 15 years old and approaching renewal time, we again looked at the options for replacing both the studio hardware and the playout software simultaneously. What kept coming out as our preferred option – albeit not the cheapest – was Synergy from Clyde Broadcast. We've had a close association with Clyde for more than 20 years but always on a commercial basis so we certainly weren't going to be getting anything for nothing. The appeal of their product was only reinforced when we looked at it in operation at local colleges and community radio stations and realised that locally it was the system of choice for small scale broadcasters although we understand that it hadn't been installed before by a hospital radio station. The system isn't just aimed at small broadcasters as it's also extensively installed in the UK and worldwide including a number of state broadcasters with multi-studio installations. One of the systems is also used every week for a live show on BBC Radio 2.

Although the price tag is a bit more than you might pay for buying in a mixer and playout system separately, it was the incredible flexibility and integration of the system which helped us make what in hindsight was an easy decision. We also realised that as we were going to replace both studios with Synergy equipment it would be so much simpler to do them both at the

same time and in a relatively tight window. But we do like a challenge.

## Funding

First challenge was the £60K needed to replace two studios and some of the key elements of the transmission rack. We managed to raise the necessary funding to replace both studios in a little under a year, sending out 34 appeal letters, including a successful request for funding from the HBA Grants Scheme. It wasn't just a case of sending out a batch of standard letters, each letter was carefully worded to ensure it highlighted the key elements the particular trust fund being approached was interested in. Even selecting the trust funds was a time consuming process with more than a 100 hours spent researching who to approach and understanding why each trust fund selected was worth sending a letter to.



*The old studio*

Why didn't we also try raising funds through member driven events, the reason is quite simple. We didn't want to take our focus away from keeping our programmes highly patient oriented and asking members to help with organising lots of fund-raisers would have caused this to happen. We were pretty sure from past experience that with a solid case for funding behind us, we could achieve the target figure from written approaches alone.

By October 2013, the full funding required for the two studios was in place but even before this based on the feedback we'd been getting from trust funds, we had set the date of the first weekend in January for the first studio switchover, as many of our members would still be on an extended festive break and the number of listeners is at the lowest point for the year, so any

disruption to programmes would have the least listener impact.



*Under construction*

## Content

Like many playout systems, to get the best from Synergy, you need to make sure that the production work for each track on the database is properly done. This includes setting the cue points per track and allocating the audio to one or many categories so that programme producers and the scheduling system know the details. To achieve this, we invested in a couple of additional stand-alone 'Production' licences for computers in our record library. We advertised via the local Volunteer Centre for people interested in record library work, around 20 enquiries were received but when the majority of people saw what we needed them to do, they changed their minds. This still left us with a core of a few people with an interest in working their way through the thousands of tracks we needed to have converted to the bespoke '.syn' file format.

We also invested in a new server with lots of capacity to store the audio, so didn't face any space issues with the original server needing to have dual copies of tracks to support the old and new playout systems.

By the day of the new studio launch, around a thousand tracks had been converted but there are still lots to do, so the record librarian team will almost certainly be a permanent feature of the way the organisation operates.

## Training Facility

As Synergy is completely different to the old equipment and we were going to replace both studios in the same month, we knew we had to get the entire presentation team trained in advance. Being in an office block in



## *'Synergy has opened up a host of new options that were not available before'*

the city centre, there is a constant move of businesses in and out of the building and always vacant suites. We met with the property factors and they agreed to allow us free use of one of the empty two roomed suites for three months. This allowed us to set up both the new studios, fully test them and more importantly have all the presenters completely trained before 'S' Day, the day we started to use the new Synergy studios for broadcasting. Our only costs for creating the training studios were the electricity we used and an additional small premium for insurance.

### **On-Line Tools**

We were fortunate to have access to three people who have used Synergy previously. Two used the system when they did media courses at local colleges and the third has worked as a training consultant with Clyde Broadcast, delivering Synergy training around the UK and abroad. A quick search on the internet found an on-line booking tool from 'simplybook.me', perfect for our needs and free as long as we made less than fifty bookings per month. It only took a couple of hours to set up the booking system and our presenters were then able to go on-line and book 1:1 training sessions and follow-on solo studio practice sessions, keeping everyone informed by confirmation emails and easy to access reports.

Before the training sessions, all the presenters spent an hour or two watching videos on YouTube. Not anything that took their fancy of course but a series of videos our training team had created to highlight the features of Synergy so before entering the studio they had a good idea of what to expect, ensuring the training session was a lot more effective.

### **Two Months to 'S' Day**

The first system was ready for trainees on 1st November and the second studio followed three weeks later, so by the end of the month both training studios were being used almost daily by the presentation and technical teams as they got in lots of practice ahead of the January launch.

Additional awareness sessions were created for the rest of the membership – only around a third



**The upgraded studio**

of members are presenters – so they could also see what the new studios were going to be like.

December 2013 was a little more relaxed for the five members of the project team who had been working hard since September and meeting fortnightly to keep the plan on-track. The remaining work was preparing the final cabling and solving any layout issues that presenters had highlighted during the training sessions.

### **The Big Change-Over**

The plan was followed to the day and saw the first of the old studios decommissioned on 13th December. It took just five hours to remove the old equipment and put the new studio equipment and desk woodwork in place including running tests to ensure the new studios could connect to both the old and new audio servers.

We'd built in lots of time to construct the first studio in case any major issues were discovered. Despite a delay in getting the local cabling completed – caused by illness – the first studio was installed in time for the scheduled first live broadcast, a special launch show on Saturday 4th January between 6 and 10pm. This involved most of the presentation team and many other volunteers plus some invited guests.

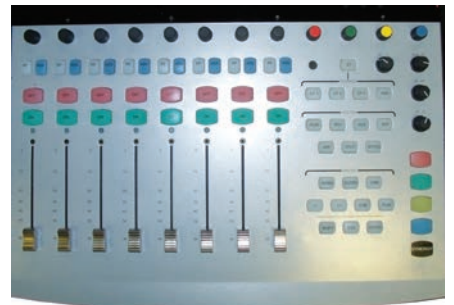
The skills for the construction and electronics work were available in-house via Archie Armstrong and David Bannerman, both of whom have been with the service for over 25 years and understood what needed to be done, though we did have some passionate debates about the final layout. David also integrated a bespoke clock and indicator light system he designed to the new mixers, replacing the old filament lights and radio clocks we've used

for decades.

With the lessons of the first studio installation taken into account, better preparation was made for the replacement of the second studio so the timetable for this reduced from 23 days down to just 48 hours.

There is a strong likelihood that we'll be relocating later this year and if this does happen, we know with confidence that each studio has been designed to allow them to be moved and up and running in no more than a day, so the experiences of the last three months will probably be put to good use again shortly.

What of the presenter's reaction to their new environment?



**The Synergy Mixer**

Apparently now the initial fear of something new and different has subsided, they love it. Perhaps it's the touch screens and lots of flashing lights but more likely it's things such as previously all digital playout tracks came up a single fader and now they have five channels to choose from, or that being a totally digital system, each presenter can arrange the 16 channels to have whichever source suits them (handy for left handed people) or even that they can choose the remote options to be fader or button start.

For those who like the older technology we've still got turntables, though just one per studio as more and more tracks get digitised the need for two has gone away.

The system is still being developed with improvements and new features added, so we look forward to being able to take advantage of these in future releases. There is no annual licence fee or even upgrade fees to pay, so no need to write any more of those begging fund-raising letters.

**Niall Anderson  
Chairman**

# Another Can of Worms...

## OK, hands up if you remember the NAHBO Campaign 'Fight for FM'?

I remember it vividly and still have the replies from local MPs supporting the idea for hospital radio stations to have the ability to broadcast on FM via low power transmitters to their hospitals. This resulted in the Radio Authority allowing 28 day Restricted Service Licences (RSLs) and a little later Long-term RSLs (LRSL).

The limited success of that campaign (and I say limited because of the continued restricted use of the FM band in the UK) is now realised by the number of hospital radio stations being licenced to broadcast to their local areas/health parks and the hospitals and clinics within.

I have heard from a couple of hospital radio services saying how beneficial the service is due to the failing hard wired system (and financial cost of the plastic headsets still used today). As most of us run as registered charities, we continue to try and spend our limited funds wisely. The plastic tube headsets have given way to small personal radios (some fixed frequency so they can only receive hospital radio) and in most cases, these small radios can cost less than the plastic headsets. The constant maintenance of the old distribution line-amp system to the wards (not the newer bedside screen systems), have in most cases been left by NHS Trusts to the local HR service. This adds more uncertainty to our ability to reach out to every patient via the old hardwired system.

And so as one chapter closes, including the name change from NAHBO to HBA and the Radio Authority giving way to OFCOM, hospital radio continues to evolve. Long gone is the service that opted in for a couple of hours per day from a sustaining service (usually the local BBC station). Most hospital radio stations are now fully functioning 24 hours per day with our own sustaining service mixed with live

programming. Besides request shows after visiting the patients on the wards, we are an information service with patient service announcements and health information podcasts (eg British Heart Foundation podcasts). Although we remain an amateur status, we provide a very professional service akin to the early days of BBC Local/ILR radio. The fact we remain 'amateur' is testament to the fact that we are unpaid volunteers. And if we paid staff – we would no longer be 'amateur' but semi-professional.

And so to 'The Can of Worms' ... Internet Streaming.

This topic is not new. I have read and heard people's comments about hospital radio stations streaming their service on the web. For those who often point out that 'our Charity constitution states we provide the service via hardwired system to hospitals and similar institutions' – please remember this basic document was scripted half a century ago. It also doesn't make comment about using AM or FM frequencies either; and as such the wording of our officiating document can be changed at an EGM or at your annual AGM as long as it doesn't detract from the charity's main cause – to provide a service to patients in hospital and similar institutions.

## So is streaming worth it?

I believe it is. Many hospital radio stations now embrace the use of websites, social media and streaming to promote our unique service. What we can do as a hospital radio service is far better than that any local radio service can offer. It is the fact that we reach out to our listeners and interact by visiting them that makes hospital radio so unique. And as many hospital trusts now offer free WiFi with more and more patients using 'smart phones' and 'tablets' whilst in hospital, I believe we have to evolve and move forward. What better way to interact with patients than to tell them that they can read up about hospital radio via the website or

listen in via the free TuneIn™ app/website/Shoutcast™ site? Not only whilst staying in the hospital but at home as well. My local station has received emails from former patients wishing to thank the staff for the treatment and care they have received. And having worked for independent local radio and freelance for the BBC for a number of years, this type of interaction is seen as a valuable way to reach out to the listener. Get them onboard with all things 'Radio A2B' and to keep them as listeners; a very important marketing tool in the world of independent radio and RAJAR results.

For hospital radio, we can use such tools to promote what we do. Promote the unique semi-professional service we offer. To dismiss the vision that hospital radio is an amateur two hour programme of spinning a couple of old vinyl records by retired locals or some dance CDs by 'today's yooof' who want to break into commercial radio. And I think that's where the problem lies. In a sort of Luddite way, we should all be concerned that our hospital radio service doesn't change into something that isn't suitable for our core audience. As long as we keep focused on our audience, the **patients**, whether we broadcast via AM/FM RSI or online, we have to stay focused in providing this unique service.

Then there is the cost. There are the additional PRS/PPL licences and as it is very rare my local HR service get more than 25 listeners at any one time, our monthly fee for a maximum of 40 listeners is just £2.96 a month. We simply don't promote the stream as an internet radio station; we remain a hospital radio service. It is nice to have regular listeners from Australia, Germany, Malaysia and USA but the stream is an added service for the patients, staff and Trust members to listen to, besides friends and family and potential sponsors. It also gives the chance for fellow members to listen to their colleagues. Before the advent of streaming, the only



# Another Can of Worms...

way I could listen in was by being at the station. I can now promote Cathy's Soul Hour with the knowledge of having listened to it!

Added bonuses? Yes there are some. It is recommended you have your own internet connection (not the hospital's intranet) – so another expense! But this can be offset with getting sponsorship to cover the costs. And those sponsors can also listen in. And the bonus of having your own internet connection far outweighs the pitfalls of a wireless or intranet connection. Not only will you have dedicated internet access for emails/website updates/social media updates and the radio stream, hospital radio stations can send programmes to each other via FTP or DropBox® in a similar way that AHR share weekly programmes to another hospital radio service and Richard Smith's

A to Z of Pop can be updated as soon as new programmes are released. Audio over IP such as Skype® and ipDTL® can be used for outside broadcasts and sports commentary alleviating the costs of expensive ISDN lines. And it's ideal for feeding another local hospital without expensive BT circuits (if you can still get them).

Hospital radio stations can share programmes or link up as 41 stations recently did during the successful New Year's Eve 'Big Broadcast' with Richard Smith. An excellent way to promote hospital radio in general and what individual hospital radio stations do besides being an entertaining 20 hour broadcast.

I have been with my local hospital radio service since 1982 and I have seen vast technical changes with hospital radio. BUT my ethos about what HR should

be about hasn't changed. I believe that if I can make just one patient have a better day – then it has all been worthwhile.

And to promote what we do in this world of mini smart-phone technology, like the use of LRSL following our 'Fight for FM' campaign, internet streaming is just another progression for hospital radio to move with the times.

**Paul Watters**  
LHBS/Radio Broadgreen

## Author's Note:

*Paul Watters has been a member of Liverpool Hospital Broadcasting Service/Radio Broadgreen since 1982. Paul has worked for Radio City (Sound of Merseyside), Magic 1548 and EMAP Performance as well as freelance for BBC.*

*Paul can be contacted via email at paul.watters@radiobroadgreen.com*

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# Tarka Radio Is Back On The Map



Founded in 1981 and based at the North Devon District Hospital in Barnstaple, Tarka Radio has, it is fair to say, until about three years ago, been in tick over mode for several years, due primarily to low member numbers and a set of challenges that were beyond the power of the small team.

However, in 2010 a few key former members returned to the fold with the express intent to turn things around and ensure the future of the station. We are delighted to report that things at Tarka Radio are now looking very different to the way they were. A priority for the team was to put the house back in order and then raise awareness of the work that we do.

A key move to attract new members, to increase awareness and to raise the ever much needed funds was to look for a suitable vehicle for conversion for use for outside events. We previously had a small tow-a-van that we used back in the 90's to provide PA for local charitable events, etc and although this unit had long ago departed for the scrap yard as no amount of surgery would have saved it from its inevitable fate!

In 2010 we were fortunate to acquire a former fast food trailer, which had then been converted for promoting agricultural supplies at shows but had subsequently become obsolete.

Although in a sorry state, it was structurally sound and as we had every intention of ripping it apart to make it suitable for our requirements, most of the tatty stuff was removed and thrown in the skip in the very early stages of conversion. Three members of our team spent over 2000 man-hours on the conversion, which was completed in the spring of 2012.

The unit now has a good size stage (suitable for a four piece band) and features a studio/sound control room and meet and greet area. The new Tarka Radio Outside Events Unit (OEU) has become a tremendous asset and has enabled us to build strong relationships with local organisations such as Lions Clubs and other charities who are keen to have access to an affordable



unit to promote their event. We are now entering our third season of events for the OEU and the diary is filling up fast.

An essential tool in achieving our objectives, was to build a completely new website (previous versions having been a bit basic, to say the least!). The new site is bright and interactive and in addition to member's details, programme schedule and station information is regularly updated with our forthcoming events and photos and reports of those events afterwards.

A key part of the website is, of course, to attract new members, which has been very effective and we are now operating at around 20 members. In 2010 our broadcast hours had dropped to around 15 hours of live programmes a week, we have now increased this to over 60 hours in addition to our automated service Tarka Radio 24/7.

Whilst our studio equipment is far from the latest (our desks were purchased in 1990!), the difference being that nowadays they are linked to computers and CD players rather than a couple of turntables! We have recently undertaken some work to update the equipment we have and to upgrade our

second studio to the same level as our main studio. Another key move to putting us back in the public eye (or maybe ear!) was the introduction of our on-line streaming service in January 2013. This has enabled us to promote our service to a wide audience, allowed patients' relatives to hear their requests being played for

their loved ones and also to listen to our programmes and helped to encourage support from the community. Our programmes are now streamed 24/7 and can be heard through the 'listen now' section of our website.

[www.tarkaradio.co.uk](http://www.tarkaradio.co.uk)

We are delighted to report that whilst Tarka Radio has floated around the middle ground in the Hospedia ratings for our hospital for years, we have been at the number one position for four consecutive months now and by a huge margin so all our efforts are paying off!

We are keen to become more active participants in HBA activities now that we have turned things around.

We are looking forward to another busy year with some more potentially exciting projects around the corner. We welcome communications from other HBA members (contact from our website).





# Southern Sound Celebrate

In its 40th year of broadcasting, Southern Sound Hospital Radio has decided to celebrate with an application for a Restricted Service Licence (RSL) to broadcast for a short period on FM Stereo in the Glasgow area.

As part of the preparations, an application was made to Brookfield Multiplex, the principal contractor of the new South Hospitals in Glasgow to support their application. The Company's Charity Committee awarded £500 to the Radio Station which will pay for the RSL.

The Station also hopes to broadcast around the same time as the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow with emphasis on involving the paraplegic community, para-sports athletes, their families, friends and supporters during and after the games.

To set the Commonwealth Games theme, Megan Dawson-Farrell, who will compete for Team Scotland in the 1500m Para-sport race, accepted the cheque on behalf of the Radio Station. Megan has a close association with the Southern General Hospital and was delighted to accept the cheque on the Stations' behalf.



**Scotland Para-sports Athlete Megan Dawson-Farrell accepts the £500 cheque for Southern Sound at the new South Hospital Site**

Station Chairman, Frank Murphy, said, 'This is a great gesture by The New South Glasgow Hospitals Project Charity Committee in our 40th year of broadcasting and just fantastic for Megan to take time from training to come along and accept the cheque on our behalf'.

The radio station's preparations are already underway with plans for 'doing it differently' with the

potential involvement of the paraplegic community in both preparing and participating in the shows.

Broadcasting information about the Commonwealth Games will be subject to permission from The Commonwealth Games nominated broadcaster, the BBC.

**John Brisbane**  
Southern Sound Hospital Radio

## Southern Sound's Christmas

Preparations for Christmas at the Southern General Hospital in Glasgow kicked off on the evening 12th December when a team of around a dozen Southern Sound (SOSO) volunteers (including Santa!) set up an OB at the ASDA Superstore in Govan Glasgow to collect vital funds for the radio station. This was the third occasion in 2013 where ASDA had invited SOSO to come and entertain shoppers whilst collecting funds at the same time.

A good time was had by all with some fancy festive dancing with customers during the collection! After three hours, the team had collected just under £400. It was also announced that SOSO had been selected by ASDA customers as Charity of the Month and a donation was expected in the New Year.

On Christmas Eve, SOSO provided a uninterrupted live

broadcast from 8am to 10pm. Presenters took turns with special shows with a range of different music to keep up the festive spirit. Santa took time off from preparations to visit the hospital wards with requests played for patients and nursing staff in hospital over the festive period. On Christmas Day a full programme of shows were broadcast culminating in a live UK wide Hospital Radio broadcast in the evening.

On 1st January 2014, the station commenced 24/7 broadcasting after some fantastic work by Programme Controller Graham Clark. Southern Sound Secretary Alan Taylor said, '2013 has been a great year for us and our five year strategic plan helped us focus on the most important activities. The continued relationship with the general public through our OBs at ASDA in 2013 has been immense and we feel a warm and credible

affiliation to the local community in Govan through actual contact and generosity witnessed in our fund raising.

The work by Graham helped by Alan Hall and Tony Mack in getting our 24/7 broadcasting up and running has been nothing short of amazing, particularly when one appreciates the other great achievements in 2013. It's clear however that 2014 is going to be a pivotal year particularly around the current uncertainty on where our destiny lies in future broadcasting. We were advised by NHS Glasgow recently that we will probably need to move from our current on site studios some time in 2014 when the building is to be demolished to make way for a car park at the new hospital.

Preparations continue however against our five year plan and we take great pleasure for now in our successes in 2013!

## What A Year!

2013 was an eventful year at Northern Air and after many months of discussion over a new logo, members finally took the plunge and ordered new sweat shirts with the logo printed back and front.

New programme controller, Phil Salter, felt changes were needed to some of the pre-recorded programmes and also update the music on the computer. I don't think he realised how much work was required but he had more than a Little help from computer expert Steve Martin. A fantastic job.

Whilst all this was going on, the computers decided to play up but with a little TLC, they were coaxed along; in the New Year the three computers will have to be replaced.

Two successful open evenings were held during the year with a great deal of interest in becoming a volunteer. The Lord Mayor of Manchester was invited to one of the evenings; originally he was staying for an hour but he was enjoying himself so much he stayed until 10pm. We felt he had the calling to be a radio presenter.

November and December were very busy: Sunday 17th November was the annual Bag Packing session at Sainsburys superstore in Prestwich. We had a very good turn out of volunteers to and this turned out to be one of the most successful bag packs raising over £550. The station is grateful to Sainsburys for allowing us to fund raise in their store.

28th November was the annual Quiz night and the local Labour club in Crumpsall chose Northern Air as one of the charities it supports and this year they donated £100. Incidentally we won the quiz.

1st December was the station's Christmas meal, again held at a local curry house in Prestwich.

Thursday 19th December is one of the most enjoyable nights of the year when Father Christmas and his elves and a clown visit every single ward in North Manchester General giving each patient a tangerine. This year a five piece choir joined us on the wards and sang on every ward; they were very weary when they finished but still came back to the studio to sing more Christmas songs.



*Don't drop the baby, Joe!*

Starting on the Children's ward, the reception we received was amazing, many parents taking pictures of the crew. Santa had a request from a brand new grandmother and mother to hold this 15-hour old baby boy whilst they took pictures. I think Santa was the most scared in case he dropped the baby. The rest of the evening was very well received on the rest of the wards.

The station broadcast many live programmes over the Christmas period and finished the year with Richard Smith taking us into 2014 with the Big Broadcast. A huge thank you to Richard for all the hard work that went into the broadcast.

**Joe Sambrook**

## Bring Me Sunshine

For 35 years, volunteers at Sunshine Hospital Radio have been brightening up patients' days with personal song choices to lift their spirits. Whether an overnight patient or long stay, the Sunshine team set out to make life on a ward a little easier to cope with.

Volunteers at Weston General Hospital produced special programmes to mark 35 years of broadcasting and patients were treated to a weekend of shows for all ages and musical tastes including a '35 years, 35 songs' show presented by Nick Chaffey, featuring a special song from each year and why they were chosen. The 24-year-old broadcaster has been a member for just over two years and said the station's success is down to the great work



*Nick Chaffey and Chairman, Jo Newey*

of the volunteers. He said, 'We have so many different people with different personalities – something I have been fortunate enough to experience for the 35-year programme. We all work really well together, which is always a plus.'

Nick started on the hospital's Wardround request programme and said he never knew which songs would be requested; it is interesting to see which ones pop up.

'It's revealing to see how much these songs mean to people which isn't not I was expecting but It's nice to hear the reaction from the patients and it does, on a personal level, lift your spirits.'

Sunshine volunteer Laura Tremelling was joined on a special 35th anniversary Talk of the Town show by the Mayor and Mayoress of Weston, Keith Morris and Jocelyn Holder, who spoke of their love of the resort and reminisced over its history.

Past and present members celebrated the anniversary at the Sunshine Radio Awards which was held at Weston Cricket Club. James Ledbrook was presented with the Karen Radford Award for best all-round contribution, Ben Jones took the Clive Townshend Award for best newcomer and Nick scooped the Jill Dando Award for best show contribution.



*Laura Tremelling (fundraising), Nick Chaffey, Marcus Tripp (public relations Officer) and Jo Newey (Chairman)*



## Strictly Panto, Darling!



Asha Jhummu, from Hospital Radio Chelmsford, was lucky enough to interview both Craig Revel Horwood and Lisa Riley at the Cliffs Pavilion Theatre in Southend On Sea in December 2013. Both stars were appearing in the Panto of Snow White and The Seven Dwarfs.

'I was a bit nervous meeting Craig Revel Horwood in his dressing room backstage, as he is known as a bit of pantomime villain on Strictly Come Dancing. However, Craig wasn't as scary as he appears on TV and was happy to talk to Hospital Radio Chelmsford. 'Lisa was really friendly and bubbly.'

Craig leads the cast of the panto as the Wicked Queen whilst Lisa plays Craig's maid.

Paul Burling, a finalist on Britain's Got Talent in 2010, also appears in the panto and has everybody in stitches as he performs a number of impressions, including impersonating Harry Hill.

The special effects are amazing and the jokes are definitely not from Bruce Forsyth's joke book!

The biggest surprise was that Craig is an all-round entertainer, he can indeed dance, act and sing and even master the Essex accent!

Thanks to the Cliffs Pavilion Theatre, in particular Marketing Officer, Emma White, for arranging the interviews.

## Roadshow Success



Over £350 was raised for Hospital Radio Chelmsford when they held a roadshow in a shopping centre in Chelmsford. Volunteers from the station, which broadcasts at Broomfield Hospital, collected £354.32 while they entertained shoppers at High Chelmer Shopping Centre just before Christmas.

Shoppers were able to request their favourite tune while searching for festive bargains and a visit was also made by Santa Claus.

Shows were also broadcast live from the centre straight back to the hospital.

## Music and Money at Brent Cross



Members of Radio Northwick Park spent a weekend at Brent Cross Shopping Centre entertaining shoppers to raise money for the station.

Based at Northwick Park Hospital, Harrow, members graced shoppers with music and sung songs at the shopping centre and raised £227 for the station.

Fundraising officer Hannah Ashman said, 'This was our first appearance at Brent Cross and it was a true success.'

'The shoppers were incredibly generous and we would like to thank them all for their support and generosity.'

## World Cup Winners

Patients in Warrington Hospital will be able to follow all the action of the Rugby League World Cup at the Halliwell Jones Stadium as the hospital's station Radio General has received accreditation to broadcast live commentaries.

Keith Inman, secretary, said, 'It's great that in the year we are celebrating 60 years of providing rugby commentaries of the Warrington Wolves we are able to cover the Rugby League World Cup.'

Commentators will be Adrian

Jackson and David Parkinson, who also present the weekly rugby league programme on a Wednesday evening at 7pm.

## Celebrations All the Way



*Pictured, Mark Withey, Martin Kinch, Stella Withey, June Snowden and SMHR Chairman, Steve Andrews. Freda Roberts, Matthew Nash and Ralph Chadwick were unable to attend*

Stoke Mandeville Hospital Radio has celebrated 35 years of broadcasting to patients and staff at the hospital; they first started broadcasting at 7.30pm on 4th December, 1978.

Three members of the station, Martin Kinch, Mark Withey and Stella Withey recently presented a nine hour marathon programme to celebrate the station's birthday. .

Guests included June Snowden, Spandau Ballet singer Tony Hadley, former members of the station and some current members who received long service awards from June.

Certificates were awarded to: Freda Roberts 35 years; Martin Kinch 35 years; Dez Kay 35 years; Mark Withey 25 years; Matthew Nash 25 years; Stella Withey 15 years; Steve Andrews 15 years; Roy McNabb 15 years; Ralph Chadwick 15 years and Dave Gamage 15 years.

Music was requested by patients and staff; the show also featured many hits from 1978. June also awarded a 35 year certificate to the station.

## Obituary: Frank Benson

Frank Benson, long time member of Darlington Hospital Radio, sadly passed away just before Christmas.

Frank retired at 66 and joined the charity to keep him busy. Before he passed away, he was in hospital for ten weeks and was always keen to know what was going on.

Even when unwell, he kept up his duties as a volunteer and wouldn't take the advice of others to take a break or step back. Many friends and colleagues from the station attended his funeral in January.

## Making a Difference

On New Year's Eve, Hospital Radio Basingstoke collected requests for Richard Smith's New Year's Eve Big Broadcast. Around 8.30pm, we received a website request for Liz from her son Tim who was listening in Chile via the internet, the message 'Get Well Soon Mum!' The request was passed on to Richard and played as part of the Big Broadcast. Unfortunately, a blood test meant she missed it! A second request and message was received, 'Second time lucky mum! Hope you get well soon! Listening in from Chile, Tim! Thank you so much, I've really been enjoying the radio show so far!'

Richard played the request again the next morning. I was on air straight after so made sure Liz was listening and finished my show by playing the request again.

After being sent a recording of the show, Liz replied, 'I was able to play your midday programme to my husband and was very moved hearing Tim's dedication and Jason Donovan and then your words after about the true meaning of hospital radio.'

'Tim has now moved onto Paraguay and I've sent him the clip. I know he enjoyed listening to the show on New Year's Eve and hope he'd like hearing the re-run!'

'Continue doing the good work. I was lucky to be in the woman's health unit for a fairly serious op but only for a few days and now recovering at home. But New Year 2014 will go down in my memory and you added to the good part of spending it in hospital.'

## 50 Years of Broadcasting



**Bev Stroud (third left) and Mat Watson (far right) with mayor, Cllr Eric Munday and volunteers**

After lifting the moods of patients for half a century, Radio Bedrock celebrated its birthday by launching a new online web-stream. Bedrock broadcasts 24/7 and is based at Queen's Hospital in Romford.

Mayor Eric Munday launched the station online and requested Old Black Magic by Ella Fitzgerald.

'The station was started by an amateur film group,' explained Bev, 'the first show was broadcast on February 14, 1964. Back then it was called Harold Wood Hospital Radio and shows were pre-recorded. By the late 70s, it was an official charity run by volunteers.'

The station provided shows for Warley Hospital in Brentwood and Victoria Hospital in Romford.

Meanwhile, Oldchurch Hospital in Romford had its own station, Radio Rush Green, then Radio 174 and finally Oldchurch Radio.

In 2002, the stations merged to create Bedrock for its move to the new Queen's Hospital in Rom Valley Way, Romford in 2006.

Bev, who has overseen the switch from vinyl to the modern-day computerised 'drag and drop' method, says it is much easier to present a show now. But the process of deciding which songs get played has remained constant.

'Our team take requests from patients, now and then you get some strange requests; we've had Gloria Gaynor's I Will Survive, The Animals' We Gotta Get Out of This Place and The Verve's The Drugs Don't Work. The strangest I remember was Brain Damage by Pink Floyd. The team of volunteers range from 15 years old to 83.'

## MP's Christmas Day Visit



Harlow MP Robert Halfon took time from his Christmas break to thank staff and volunteers for their work over the festive period. He visited Princess Alexandra Hospital and the Harlow Chocolate Run, which runs a Christmas shelter for the homeless.

'Every year on Christmas Day I visit a number of wards in Princess Alexandra Hospital with Harlow Hospital Radio. My main purpose is to wish Happy Christmas to the patients but also thank those working in the hospital on Christmas Day.'

Mr Halfon, was accompanied on his ward round by Harlow Hospital Radio volunteer Ian Jackson.

## Back to his Roots

BBC Radio Suffolk presenter Mark Murphy went back to his roots as he helped raise funds for HR Ipswich where the mid-morning host started his career. Mark was joined by fellow presenter Lesley Dolphin and representatives of HRI at Asda Whitehouse in Ipswich.

The team played Christmas songs for festive shoppers while taking collections for the station. The day raised over £300 for the station.

Mark spent eight years at HRI and is a president along with Lesley; he said, 'It was fantastic. That is where I started my broadcasting career so I am always happy to help. People were really generous and it was really heart-warming.'

## Wonderful Wexham



Laura Harry is an under 18 who volunteers at Radio Wexham. She decided to write an article for her school magazine and the Radio Wexham website to

show volunteering doesn't have to be boring! 'I've been a volunteer at Radio Wexham since August 2013. I'm thoroughly enjoying my time as it has boosted my confidence meeting new people. I've made new friends too.'

'When you first join, you undertake 12 weeks of 'ward-rounding' as a radio rep! We speak to patients and spend time to make their evening more enjoyable. It is important to respect the patients and their needs. We try to make their time in hospital more enjoyable so whatever the song genre or era, we are sure to have it in our wide music collection.'

'We occasionally do outside broadcasts. We have supported Heatherwood Hospital's 90th birthday and supplied the music for Farnham Royal Cricket Club's fireworks display and done fundraising at Sainsbury's. My favourite broadcast has been the 24 hour CPR Challenge for BBC's Children in Need. I took part in the challenge and supported the radio station by supplying some great tunes. Popular disco tracks were played to get people dancing to raise lots of money for a brilliant charity.'

'I now present the On Air Patients Request show. I was nervous about speaking on air but now really enjoy it.'



## York Celebrate Fifty Years On Air

York Hospital Radio have recently celebrated 50 years on the air. The hospital radio's first ever programme – a request show to the former Fulford Maternity and Naburn hospitals – was broadcast in 1964.

Half a century later, volunteer broadcasters are still entertaining listeners at York Hospital 24 hours a day, seven days a week. They broadcast a mixture of music shows, requests, football commentaries from Bootham Crescent, live broadcasts from the stage of York Theatre Royal and a range of outside broadcasts from theatres and concert venues.

Events to mark the anniversary included a special live broadcast on Saturday morning from the Yorkshire Museum and a live programme from noon on Sunday featuring members past and present, speaking about their personal memories of their time at the Hospital Radio.

There was also a chance for the public to get involved during a broadcast from the Yorkshire Museum on Saturday, staged as part of the Residents Festival weekend.



*Keith Lea, longest-serving member, in the record library*

The station's longest-serving member, Keith Lea, also presented a vinyl-only show of music played on the station over the last fifty years.

Volunteers manned a stall in the hospital foyer over the weekend, selling quality items to raise funds and promote the station.

## Valentine's Day Celebrations at St Luke's



*Philip Barfield of Allerton, presenter on the first day of St Luke's Sound on Valentine's Day 1979 in the studio*

Everything's rosy! A radio station which has broadcast to hundreds of thousands of patients at a Bradford hospital celebrates its 35th anniversary on Valentine's Day.

Presenters at St Luke's Sound Hospital Radio will mark the special occasion by taking part in a 12-hour, non-stop radio broadcast looking back on more than three decades of transmissions.

The station was set up in the hospital administration block in Little Horton Lane on Valentine's Day, 1979. The first programme featured show tunes and love songs.

Secretary David Rathmell said, 'We'll be celebrating by fundraising and promoting the radio station non-stop, throughout the whole of Valentine's Day.'

'There will also be a music quiz which patients can enter and presenters will be visiting the wards and outpatient departments for requests, as we hope to generate an air of celebration throughout the hospital.'

'Valentine's Day at St Luke's is always special but for the volunteers who run St Luke's Sound every week of the year, it will be extra special this time.'

One of the radio station's original DJs back on Valentine's Day, 1979, was founder member, Philip Barfield of Allerton, who went on to be awarded an MBE in 2007 for services to broadcasting and to the welfare of patients. He said, 'When I took to the turntables 35 years ago, I remember starting off by encouraging everybody else

– they were quite nervous – with Whistle A Happy Tune from The King and I.

'Then, because it was Valentine's, I played The Stylistics and I Wrote a Love Letter.'

'The station and technology was totally different 35 years ago. We were in a different studio, with just a turntable to play records and a reel-to-reel tape recorder. Now we have computers and CDs.'

St Luke's Sound Chairman, Jack Worsnop is 79, and joined the station 13 years ago. He said, 'We have received a lot of support from volunteers working at the station and elsewhere in the hospital over the years which we would like to say a big thank you for the teamwork as it has been fantastic.'

'We've got one or two new presenters and we're really looking forward to the future and another 35 years of broadcasting to the patients of Bradford.'

## Obituary

### Barry Davies 1943-2013

It is with great sadness Radio Wishing Well announces the death of one of their popular presenters, Barry Davies.

Barry presented two weekday morning shows dedicated to Shows and Musicals and Classical Music. In each of his shows he would include the horoscopes and paper review.

Barry took early retirement due to ill health and after lengthy spells in hospital decided to contact his local hospital radio, Radio Wishing Well at Trafford General Hospital in 1994. He served on the committee for a while but decided to stand down. In 2000 Barry left Radio Wishing Well but in 2006 under new management he rejoined and took up his shows once again.

Barry was also a governor of a local secondary school and became well respected in the community. Early in December Barry rang to say he couldn't shake off a cold and wouldn't be doing a show until after Christmas. The following evening his son Chris rang to say Barry had suffered a heart attack and was very poorly in Salford Royal Hospital. Barry died on December 13th aged 69.

Our thoughts and prayers go to his wife Linda and his family.





# CAN YOU HELP?

The Trustees of the HBA have identified that assistance is required to progress the association and support its membership. The roles identified below are available to all-comers, whether current or past hospital broadcasters or not. If you are interested in either of these roles, or know someone who might be, want to help the association's aims and objectives and work as part of a team then please contact the Membership Manager by email - [membership@hbauk.com](mailto:membership@hbauk.com).

- **Minutes Secretary.** *This important role records the minutes and actions of meetings held by the Trustees of the Association. Trustee Board Meetings are held on a Saturday in central London every other month and the Annual General Meeting is held during Conference, and attendance at these meetings would obviously be required. Good communication skills including a proficiency in IT applications would be advantageous.*
- **HBW Co-ordinators.** *The Association wishes to commit to Hospital Broadcasting Week. However to do this we need Co-ordinators to engage with Member Stations, share ideas and best practice and to liaise with Member Stations by providing resources, opportunities and communication. These roles will require individuals with excellent communication and organisational skills and the ability to engage and enthuse fellow volunteers from Member Stations wish to promote Hospital Broadcasting Week. Working as part of a team is also important.*
- **Development of Corporate Support.** *HBA needs help to build corporate support for its work. Enthusiastic individuals required to liaise with potential supporters of HBA and maintain our professional relationship with new and current supporters alike. If you have a passion for customer service, negotiation and wish to be part of a small team, then we'd like to hear from you. This is a great opportunity to develop skills in team working, negotiation and communication.*
- **Webmaster.** *HBA is re-developing its web presence, adopting open-source technologies such as Drupal and CiviCRM, and is looking for someone with the right technical skills to support and manage the on-going development of the new website once the initial version has been delivered.*
- **Graphic Designers.** *HBA is looking for volunteers with graphic design skills to help develop a new corporate image for HBA, both online and in our print communications.*

Full role profiles are available on request. These roles provide a great opportunity to support HBA and enhance and develop individual skills and abilities.





## 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](http://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](mailto:membership@hbauk.com)

## MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION 2014/15

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

This year, following a recent Trustee Board meeting, it was agreed to retain the Full Station Membership Subscription for 2014/2015 at £45. It was agreed that if Member Stations pay their subscription before 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014, then a discount of £5 will be applied. Payments received after 31<sup>st</sup> March should be at the Full Membership rate of £45.

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 for 2015/16 will be applied and therefore the annual fee will rise to £50, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015.

Last year we offered representatives attending the National Conference the facility to pay their Full Membership Subscription or Associate Subscription during registration, and receive their certificate and receipt during the conference weekend. This will be offered again in Bristol and it would be advantageous for both members and HBA as this 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](mailto:membership@hbauk.com)



# Mathew's Message



It's great to be back writing for On Air after a while away. As you can see from the photo, I was recently presented with an HBA award for 15 years of service to hospital radio. It makes me very proud to have been associated with this movement since I was 17, I'm now 34.

I certainly have a lot to thank hospital radio for. Without my experience in hospital radio, I likely wouldn't have graduated in Broadcast Journalism from Nottingham Trent University in 2002. I then went on to work as a professional broadcast journalist with a group of commercial radio stations in the Midlands from 2004 to 2009; reading news bulletins heard by thousands, reporting, being a web editor and interviewing a host of leading figures... including David Cameron, Gordon Brown, Kim Wilde, Barry Norman, Marti Pellow and David Moorcroft, to name just a few.

And without all this experience in public speaking, I likely wouldn't have been elected to public office in 2011 and now be involved as a charity Trustee and School Governor among other roles.

All of these things have, at least in part, happened because of the experience I gained from an early age, thanks to hospital radio, which helped me with a number of crucial skills, from public speaking to working with others, to interviewing people and engaging with people from different walks of life.

Though this particular story is personal to me, I'm sure most – if not all of you reading this will have similar tales of how hospital radio has benefited your life, be it on a micro level or a macro one. That is why our movement is so important... it changes lives. Not just those of the patients and NHS staff that we're so proud to serve but also our own lives and those of the people we work with. It's why I continue to love broadcasting on my local hospital's airwaves.

So, until next time...Happy Broadcasting!

## MATHEW

• Cllr Mathew Hulbert reviews the papers every Thursday on Castle Mead Radio, in Hinckley and Bosworth, between 1 and 2pm.

• You can listen via:  
<http://www.castlemeaddradio.co.uk/> or via the TuneIn Radio app.

# Playing to the Crowd



In a basement under a busy hospital in East London, a team of volunteers have been keeping patients entertained for more than forty years with their award-winning hospital radio station.

Whipps Cross Hospital Radio started in 1969 in a leaking garden shed in the hospital grounds in Leytonstone and now provides 24 hour programming with nearly 50 volunteers from two professional recording studios furnished with ex-BBC equipment.

John Doyle, a volunteer for almost 30 years, said the station, which is consistently chosen by patients over other mainstream stations, is so successful because they play to their listeners. He says the majority of their listeners are in their sixties and seventies, so they stick to a repertoire of older music from the forties through to the seventies.

He said, 'We try and aim at the age market that's in the hospital for longer and we think that's why it's successful. We know our market.'

The nightly request shows are at the heart of the station's live programming. Mike said they would play anything they were asked to, even heavy metal but most of the time the requests are for older music.

The familiar voices of the presenters, like Mike, who have been talking to patients over the airwaves for nearly 30 years, are more than entertainment for some people. Station Manager, Phil Hughes, a daytime editor for BBC Radio 2 until his recent retirement, said 'I'm still excited by the impact we can have on listeners.'

'Just having a chat and playing a record can really make a difference and when we get a message from a patient who has been in a few weeks that says how much they appreciate the company and relaxing music – especially overnight, it really does make it worthwhile.'

WXHR won two Gold awards at the Hospital Radio Awards, firstly as Station of the Year when the judges said: 'This features the best start to an entry I've ever heard. The presenters have warmth and energy, whilst the station clearly has a lot of patient interactivity. Local sports and concerts feature heavily. In an age when there's so much radio out there, this station is really punching above its weight and deserves to win the top prize.'

WXHR also was the Gold Award for best speech package when the judges reported 'A tour de force... for a very good reporter. This package did all that's great about radio. Sound effects, a variety of interviews, good descriptions and the reporter – you really felt you were there!'



# Meet the Members



In a new feature, Laura Tremelling interviews station members. To kick things off, Laura talks to Jo Newey, Chairman of her own station, Sunshine Hospital Radio based in Weston General Hospital, Weston-super-Mare. Volunteers have been broadcasting to the patients since 1978, with the station celebrating its 35th birthday in 2013.

**How long have you been volunteering with the station? And how long have you been chair?**

I have been a volunteer with Sunshine Radio for almost six years now and have been chair for 18 months.

**Why did you start volunteering on the radio?**

I moved back to the town I grew up in after jobs in various parts of the UK and a two year stint in South Africa. I wanted to meet people in my local area whilst contributing to a local charity and generally get involved using my skills.

**What is your favourite part of hospital radio?**

I love organising behind the scenes and thinking about what direction the radio should go in so we continue to be the best station for our patients. I love meeting new people and especially like to see the huge impact we have on patients to make their stay in hospital a little easier.

**Can you remember the first song you played?**

It was a request for a patient Frank Sinatra My Way!

**What is the most requested song on your station?**

The same as my last answer: Frank Sinatra My Way. We get requests for it on most of the ward rounds!

**What plans do you have for the future of your station?**

Lots. We are planning a refurbishment this year, modernising the studio. The hospital is also being renovated, recently having a new coffee shop put in. We are working with the hospital chief executive to ensure our station supports their strategy by looking for new opportunities to broadcast and by different methods within the hospital.

**What would you say to someone thinking about volunteering with a hospital radio station?**

Do it. It's rewarding in every way. It's amazing to see how we cheer up the patients and we receive great feedback from them. It's a creative environment, caters for all skills and abilities from media skills to organising, communication skills and leading. We all work together as a team, all ages and are open to new ideas. It's social and we have a lot of fun.

# Forever Young!



We were interested to read about Connal Cather who broadcasts on Hospital Radio Plymouth and has just turned 90 and his claim to be the oldest male volunteer broadcaster in the UK.

Here at Coastway Hospital Radio in Brighton we think we can do better.

Our regular presenter Ron Walbank will be 93 this year. Ron was born into the music business back in 1921. His father was a professional pianist and his grandfather was principal cornet player with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra.

He is one of the original members of Coastway and is still going strong. You can find him in the studio every Thursday between 2 and 4 and you may even get a visit from Ron as he does the rounds of the wards in search of requests from patients.

Ron's show 'Music Maestro, Please' offers half an hour of the sounds of South America and the Caribbean, another half hour of popular classical extracts and a final hour of Ron's selection from decades of popular music from the Big Bands, vocalists, jazz players, film and theatre.

**Rosemary Allix**

**Secretary, Coastway Hospital Radio**





# Radio Warneford Celebrates 40 Years On The Air

Radio Warneford, based at Warwick Hospital, has been holding a series of events to mark its anniversary.

Radio Warneford began broadcasting on 12 December 1973 from a tiny broom cupboard in the basement of the Warneford General Hospital in Leamington Spa. The station was given permission to broadcast to patients over the Christmas period. Forty years later...!



**1970's: John Flaherty on air in the broom cupboard at Warneford General Hospital. Due to lack of space the studio equipment was fitted inside the frame of an old piano!**

Celebrations kicked off in October as Radio Warneford's three patrons, the Mayors of Warwick, Leamington Spa and Kenilworth, were all welcomed to the studios. The Mayor of Warwick, Cllr Bob Dhillon, visited the station on 11 October and broadcast to patients during his tour of the



**The 'Old Shed' behind the Warneford Hospital which housed Radio Warneford's studio complex from 1978 until the station moved to Warwick Hospital in 1993**



**Councillor Bob Dhillon, Mayor of Warwick, with the Friday night team**

studio complex. The Mayor of Royal Leamington Spa, Cllr Judith Clarke, came to the studio on 18 October and visited patients and staff on the wards where she met Staff Nurse Chloe Judd. It was a bit of a reunion as Chloe had been one of the Judith's pupils when



**Keith Black and Fiona Watts on the air from Studio 2 inside the 'Old Hut'**

she was a teacher! Kenilworth Mayor, Felicity Bunker, was the final guest on 1 November. Felicity spent time on Beaumont and Swan wards and helped to present the Request Show for patients.

In late October the station was proud to entertain one of Radio Warneford's founding members, John Flaherty, who was there in the broom cupboard on day one. John went to the studio to record an interview about those early days for a special anniversary programme which was broadcast as part of the Christmas schedule.

The Christmas Request Show took to the air inside the Tesco store in Warwick on the second Saturday before Christmas. Shoppers were able to choose a

festive song as they entered the store and have it played for them as they did their Christmas shopping. The event also saw the launch of a special Christmas single to mark the anniversary. 'You're Not Alone This Christmas' written, performed and produced by members of Radio Warneford. The single helped raise £439 for station funds.

BBC Coventry & Warwickshire presenter, Bob Brolly, paid a visit on 15 December. Bob, well-known throughout the Midlands for his Irish programme, joined the Sunday team to chat on air and answer questions from patients. He also brought along some of his favourite Irish music to play on the show.

Radio Warneford presented its annual Christmas and New Year schedule from Christmas Eve featuring 70 hours of programmes for patients. The schedule included a live broadcast on Christmas morning, a special programme featuring interviews with some of Radio Warneford's longest-serving members and a day dedicated to shows about 1973 and the 40th anniversary. It was also an excuse for some members to take to the wards to sing carols for patients and visitors for the first time!

And it is not quite over just yet. Celebrations are set to continue in the first half of 2014 with an anniversary party being organised for members on Saturday, 1 March and a special edition of the station magazine which will illustrate the last 40 years of life at Radio Warneford.



# Born in a Box



I was born in a box... an odd way to start an article ... but technically it's true.

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Brenda Massie and my roles in the HBA are the regional representative of Scotland and Conference and Training bookings.

I am a member of Wave Radio in Elgin and Grampian Hospital Radio in Aberdeen. I am occasionally referred to as the Scottish bird, the Lassie Massie and/or Sheltie.

I first became involved in hospital radio in 1996 when I was a student. Having been involved with the local BBC station in Shetland (yes, there is one that far north!) I missed the camaraderie, I suppose. I also saw it as an opportunity to give something back, perhaps brighten someone's day, be somebody that spoke the same dialect as the patient's friends and family did 'back home'. I somehow doubt that is what went on the original application form or what was said at the interview though. Great looking back through my rose-tinted specs!

My first memory of hospital radio was learning the art of request collecting (or ward visiting). George Paterson was the name of my mentor and it may be at this point I should share my first mistake. In an effort to make a good impression, I decided that it would be a great idea to wear a Fair Isle jumper. Had I put some thought into it, I may have realised that the heat in the hospital plus the jumper wasn't a great mix. It was certainly a talking point.

Hospital radio is great for learning new skills – whether it's working in the library, ward visiting – that moment when you ask a patient if they would like to have a tune played on the hospital radio and they respond with 'You know the one that goes...' and follow it with humming or slightly out of tune singing or when you answer the station phone and you're asked for a particular piece of music because someone's had a bad day and they'd like you to make it better. I think we've all had that moment when you stand back and think, 'I did that and because I did I've made someone else feel better or smile.' Isn't it a great feeling?

In a similar way, it's nice to see younger people getting stuck in, although as one colleague put it 'it doesn't half make you feel old when you have to explain what a single is.'

I have what is probably best explained as an eclectic taste in music – big band, traditional fiddle music, may be a little bit of Country and Western for good

measure, just about anything from the Sixties to the current chart stuff, if it's featured in a James Bond film – although Madonna hasn't quite got the oomph that Dame Shirley Bassey has. Add a little bit of Fleetwood Mac in there too – well if it can make a pony dance...

In my life outside hospital radio, I'm employed in an administrative role in the finance section of the local authority and I work with young people one evening a week. I'm a member of an outdoor bowling club and I also have two nieces and two nephews ranging between 18 months and eight years old. I should be OK when I buy my next mobile I reckon.

If I were to hold a dinner party (it would be the first!) I would invite Honor Blackman, Charlie Landsborough, Hannah Miley, Dave Allen and Jo Grimond.

If you're coming to Conference I look forward to seeing you there. I'm the 'Scottish bird' with the rose tinted specs and 'funny' accent.

Oh, the 'And finally' – the born in the box thing. For reasons best known to map makers (perhaps something to do with the page size?), the best place for Shetland seemed to be in a box in the right hand corner of the page or indeed as the weather forecast dictated, the top right of the screen. Who said technology was a bad thing?

The irony of the box was not lost on the Shetland population – in fact there was, or may still be, tee shirts lying around in the back of a cupboard with a large Shetland image and mainland UK in the box.

## "Do your ears miss John Peel and the original Xfm...?"

Strange Fruit Radio is set to launch later this year and is hoping to continue the work of the much-missed Mr. Peel from BBC Radio One and 'put the "X" back into Xfm'.

It claims that neither have really been replaced by the likes of BBC 6Music, nor the current Xfm, which some argue to this day, is a shadow of its former self.

At the moment the station is looking for interested parties – everyone from engineers to presenters to get involved. You can email [help@strangefruitradio.net](mailto:help@strangefruitradio.net).

In the meantime, test broadcasts are available via [www.strangefruitradio.net](http://www.strangefruitradio.net) and demos from new artists/bands can be submitted via [demos@strangefruitradio.net](mailto:demos@strangefruitradio.net).

NATHAN

# Shared Programming

The following is a list of programmes for hospital radio stations to use in their own schedules. All of them are provided free, mostly as downloads.

NEW or UPDATED before the name of the programme denotes the programme has been added since the last version of this list or that the details have been updated since the last version of this list.

## **MADE FOR HOSPITAL RADIO *The Music Box***

Presenter: Gordon Low  
60 x 30 minute programmes plus 4 Christmas specials; can be downloaded free of charge in MP3 format at either 128kbps or 256kbps. Programmes are also available in other formats and can be supplied on CD-R or DVD-R if necessary.

More information and full programme listings are available on the show's website  
[www.MBOnline.co.uk](http://www.MBOnline.co.uk)

## ***The A to Z of Pop***

Presenter: Richard Smith  
A generic programme that does not mention days, times or seasons, each programme playing artists and song titles starting with a letter of the alphabet or going through an A to Z of a particular year. There are various 1 or 2 hour specials.

Each show 57 minutes 30 seconds with some 1 hour 57 minutes 30 seconds

Sent out free on CD  
Email [theatozofpop@aol.com](mailto:theatozofpop@aol.com) or visit the website  
[www.theatozofpop.co.uk](http://www.theatozofpop.co.uk)

## ***Comedy Hour***

Presenter: Ray Oxley  
A generic programme with clips from mainly TV comedy shows mixed in with music. Ray Oxley appears at the start and end of each show.

Each show around 56 minutes  
48 shows plus 4 Christmas specials  
This series has been re-edited since it was originally released in the 1990s.

Best contact via  
[rayoxley@yahoo.com](mailto:rayoxley@yahoo.com) and a link will be sent for downloading or send blank DVD.

Contact by post: 25 Ford Street, Delves Lane, Consett, Co Durham, DH8 7AE

Tel 01207 507286

## ***In Concert***

132 shows each featuring a concert from a different artist or group.

Each show about 56 minutes in length

Best contact via  
[rayoxley@yahoo.com](mailto:rayoxley@yahoo.com) & a link will be sent for downloading or send blank DVD.

Contact by post: 25 Ford Street, Delves Lane, Consett, Co Durham, DH8 7AE

Tel 01207 507286

## ***Golden Years***

Presenter Ray Oxley  
A generic programme, each edition featuring news and music from a specific year from 1953 until 1995. The news clips in each show come from BBC News and other sources such as Pathe for the older years. Ray Oxley appears at the start and end of each show.

Each show 55 – 56 minutes

Best contact via  
[rayoxley@yahoo.com](mailto:rayoxley@yahoo.com) & a link will be sent for downloading or send blank DVD.

Contact by post: 25 Ford Street, Delves Lane, Consett, Co Durham, DH8 7AE

Tel 01207 507286

## ***The Chart Show***

Presenter Ray Oxley  
Top 20s from 60s 70s & 80s from different specific weeks  
All shows roughly 57mins  
Best contact via  
[rayoxley@yahoo.com](mailto:rayoxley@yahoo.com) & a link will be sent for downloading or send blank DVD.

Contact by post: 25 Ford Street, Delves Lane, Consett, Co Durham, DH8 7AE

Tel 01207 507286

## ***The Vintage Years***

Presenter: Jim Simpson  
Music, facts and information from the 1920s, 30s, 40s, and 50s  
57 minutes 30 seconds  
Download via Dropbox as MP3 or on CD  
Contact: 07715 050008 or  
[jim@thevintageyears.co.uk](mailto:jim@thevintageyears.co.uk)

## ***Elvis Uncharted***

Presenter: Phil Smith  
In this HBA Gold award winning series, Phil Smith concentrates on Elvis Presley the recording artist. As the title suggests, none of the tracks featured was a hit on the UK singles charts. Instead, the series reveals just how much other quality material The King recorded and features the stories behind some of the songs and recording sessions.

There's something for everyone in each show: rock and roll, country, pop, movie songs and ballads ranging from his early days in the 50s to his live shows of the 70s. However you like your Elvis, you'll find it here.

Format: mp3 (supplied on CD)

Number of shows: 24

Show length: 27 mins each (approx)

Notes: The shows do not mention a station name and simply refer to "Hospital Radio".

Each show contains 100% unique track content, not repeated in the other shows of the series.

Contact details:

[rugbyhr@hotmail.com](mailto:rugbyhr@hotmail.com)

## ***At The Hop***

Presenter: Iain Smith

A series of pop from the golden age of the late 50s and early 60s.

'At The Hop' features some of the biggest hits from both the USA and UK, alongside some tracks you might not have heard before. It's an informative jukebox of a show that's guaranteed to get toes tapping and memories flowing.

(Iain won Gold at the 2005 HBA Awards for his documentary on Bobby Darin, 'Dream Lover, Mack The Knife and Things'.)

Format: mp3 (supplied on CD)

Number of shows: 25

Show length: 27 mins each (approx)

Notes: The shows do not mention a station name and simply refer to 'Hospital Radio'.

Each show contains 100% unique track content, not repeated in the other shows of the series.

Contact details:

[rugbyhr@hotmail.com](mailto:rugbyhr@hotmail.com)

## ***On The Sunny Side Of The Street***

Presenter: Ken Anton

A series of one-hour programmes from the golden age of music on the 1930, 1940s and 1950s mainly.

Featuring the Crooners, the Swooners, Dance Bands, Big Bands, the Vocalists and Soloists. Example artists: Andrews Sisters, Charlie Kunz, Bing Crosby, Doris Day, Al Bowlley, Henry Hall & the BBC Dance Orchestra, Peggy Lee, The Manhattan Transfer, The Jive Aces

Each programme lasts exactly 55 minutes.

Format: mp3 stereo, 192kbps

There are currently 52 programmes in the series, though more are planned.



# Shared Programming

These programmes are available free for use on hospital radio or community radio, on the basis that the station assumes usual liabilities for performance and broadcast licences and permissions for use and copying of recorded material. Programmes are normally distributed by post on a data DVD. Some programmes are available for download from online locations, e.g. Skydrive.

Cost: nil for online distribution, otherwise just to cover postage costs for DVD

Custom trailers can be recorded for each station which broadcasts the programmes, mentioning specific days & times, if required.

Contact: Ken Anton

Post: c/o BridgeFM Hospital Radio, Ninewells Hospital, Dundee DD1 9SY

Email: ken.anton@yahoo.co.uk

## ***In The Drawing Room***

Presenter: Ken Anton

A series of one-hour programmes of light classical and chamber music for just relaxing and enjoying. Some slow and thoughtful pieces and some lively ones you can conduct your own orchestra to. Example composers: JS Bach, Handel, Telemann, Mozart, Beethoven, Pachelbel, Scarlatti. Each programme lasts exactly 56 minutes

Format: mp3 stereo, 192kbps  
There are currently 40 programmes in the series, though I'm actively adding to the set at present, target is for at least 60.

These programmes are available free for use on hospital radio or community radio, on the basis that the station assumes usual liabilities for performance and broadcast licences and permissions for use and copying of recorded material. Programmes are normally distributed by post on a data DVD. Some programmes are available for download from online locations, e.g. Skydrive.

Cost: nil for online distribution, otherwise just to cover postage costs for DVD

Custom trailers can also be recorded for each station which broadcasts the programmes, mentioning specific days & times, if required.

Contact: Ken Anton

Post: c/o BridgeFM Hospital Radio, Ninewells Hospital, Dundee DD1 9SY

Email: ken.anton@yahoo.co.uk

## ***Get Out These Old Records***

Presenter: Ken Anton

A set of 30-minute programmes of music from the British Dance Bands of the 1920s to 1940s. Series originally recorded in the late 1990s and some of the tracks are also used in Sunny Side programmes.

Each programme lasts 30 minutes  
Format mp3 mono, 128kbps  
There are 20 in the series.

These programmes are available free for use on hospital radio or community radio, on the basis that the station assumes usual liabilities for performance and broadcast licences and permissions for use and copying of recorded material.

Programmes are normally distributed by post on a data DVD. Some programmes are available for download from online locations, e.g. Skydrive.

Cost: nil for online distribution, otherwise just to cover postage costs for DVD

Custom trailers can also be recorded for each station, which broadcasts the programmes, mentioning specific days & times, if required.

Contact: Ken Anton

Post: c/o BridgeFM Hospital Radio, Ninewells Hospital, Dundee, DD1 9SY

Email: ken.anton@yahoo.co.uk

## ***National Hospital Radio Request Chart***

Presenter: Mark Snowdon

The National Request Charts combines the requests for music at numerous hospital radio stations across the UK. Produced in the second week of January, the National Request Chart is the only chart that counts all requests made by patients and visitors to hospitals across the UK.

The programme contains the full playout of the Top 10 plus features looking at songs of the year and their popularity, No. 1 requests at other hospital radio stations and interviews.

The show is distributed as a downloadable MP3 or on CD  
Contact Mark Snowdon at mark.snowdon@radiogeneral.co.uk or telephone 0772 544 7952 for more information.

Further details are available at <http://www.requestcharts.org.uk>.

## ***NEW Cue the Quiz***

Presenter: Steve Parker

A 1 hour quiz show, each show is

split into 9 segments so that stations can insert their own choice of music/station jingles/adverts etc between these segments to make up the hour. Currently 10 episodes recorded, with more to come.

Shows are downloadable from a location on Skydrive. Details from Steve Parker at [radiomountvernon@googlemail.com](mailto:radiomountvernon@googlemail.com)

## ***NEW In the Year*** (47 shows)

Presenter Graeme Logan

Each show is 1 hour 57 minutes and plays the number ones from a year and informs the major news stories from the same year. Each show covers a year between 1952 – 2004 covering every year

## ***NEW Musical Topics***

Presenter Graeme Logan

Each programme has a theme and is approx 1hr 57 minutes.

There are 17 shows:

Top 100 Albums of the 1970s (5 shows)

Top 100 Albums of the 1980s (5 shows)

History of the Eurovision Song Contest (3 shows)

They Died Too Young – Music and their career from megastars who died at an early age eg Marc Bolan, John Lennon, Michael Jackson etc (3 Shows)

James Bond Themes and the story behind the films (1 show)

Shows are available on CD or DVD

– email Graeme at [graemelogan@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:graemelogan@blueyonder.co.uk)

## ***NOT JUST FOR HOSPITAL RADIO***

### ***UPDATED Live Wire***

This programme is no longer produced

### ***The Chill Factor***

Presenter: Colin Hanslip

After a stressful day at work there's nothing better than relaxing to some great chill-out tunes. Join Colin Hanslip for an eclectic mix of the best instrumental tracks and acoustic versions of well known songs.

Updated weekly (but fairly generic in content so there's no need to use the show in the same week as it's released)

Each show 2 hours

Available to download in 4 segments (2 per hour)

This show is available free of charge via the Catchup Media syndication service. To register your interest, please complete the

# Shared Programming

subscriber form on their website  
[www.catchupmedia.co.uk](http://www.catchupmedia.co.uk)

## **The Pulse**

Presenter Matt Vaughan  
A weekly updated 2 hour show sent out via yousendit as 14 links. Contains show biz and entertainment news and mostly new and current chart music. The show comes as 14 MP3 links to be inserted into the music. A sample playlist is also sent. Email Matt at [me@mattvaughan.co.uk](mailto:me@mattvaughan.co.uk)

## **Catchup**

Presenters: Viv and Cat  
A relaxing programme aimed at anyone who likes a bit of light banter along with a great music mix. You'll often find the presenters slurping on a coffee and discussing the merits of cream cakes whilst catching up on the week's events. Updated weekly. Available to download as either a 1 or 2 hour show in 3 segments per hour. Available free of charge via the Catchup Media syndication service. To register your interest, please complete the subscriber form on their website [www.catchupmedia.co.uk](http://www.catchupmedia.co.uk)

## **Back to the Year**

Presenter: Keith Martin  
Music, memories and events of a different year each week. Updated weekly and available to download in 3 segments for the hour long show. Available free of charge via the Catchup Media syndication service. To register your interest, please complete the subscriber form on their website [www.catchupmedia.co.uk](http://www.catchupmedia.co.uk)

## **The Top 40 Showcase**

Presenter: Keith Martin  
A review of what's new on the week's top 40 singles chart. Updated weekly and available to download in 3 segments for the hour long show. This show is available free of charge via the Catchup Media syndication service. To register your interest, please complete the subscriber form on their website [www.catchupmedia.co.uk](http://www.catchupmedia.co.uk)

## **Urban Meltdown**

Presenter Brett Costello  
Updated each week and available to download in 4 segments – 2

segments per hour of a two hour show. Available free of charge via the Catchup Media syndication service. To register your interest, please complete the subscriber form on their website [www.catchupmedia.co.uk](http://www.catchupmedia.co.uk)

## **New Music Show**

Presenter: Alan Rowett  
New and future releases of singles and albums. Updated weekly. Sent out via yousendit as MP3 files. 1 hour show as 3 segments, segment 3 comes as a short version, long version or very long version. A 1 hour MP3 is also sent. Contact Alan at [rotationmedia@aol.com](mailto:rotationmedia@aol.com)

**My Generation** with Gary Jackson  
Possibly the first internet radio show featuring music from the 60s, My Generation has been running since 1996. Two hours of hits, rarities and B sides from the 60s, loads of features and the occasional guest! Available as MP3 download from URL in email sent out each week to subscribers that use the show. Comes as 3 segments per hour. Email [studio@garyjacksonradio.com](mailto:studio@garyjacksonradio.com) or see the website [www.garyjacksonradio.com](http://www.garyjacksonradio.com)

## **Dark Side of the Moon**

Presenter: Gary Jackson  
Seen as a gamble when first aired, it now pulls in listeners from as far away as Las Vegas. Classic prog rock, fans of Zeppelin, Yes and Genesis take note. A 2 hour show. Available as an MP3 download from URL in email sent out each week to subscribers that use the show. Comes as 3 segments per hour. Email [studio@garyjacksonradio.com](mailto:studio@garyjacksonradio.com) or see the website [www.garyjacksonradio.com](http://www.garyjacksonradio.com)

## **The Gary Jackson Show**

A weekly generic 2 hour show designed to fit in to any schedule on just about any station. Although this started as stop-gap show many FM stations now schedule it in its own slot. Plenty of features and music from the 40s to today. Available as MP3 download from URL in email sent out each week to subscribers that use the show. Comes as 3 segments per hour. Email

[studio@garyjacksonradio.com](mailto:studio@garyjacksonradio.com) or see the website [www.garyjacksonradio.com](http://www.garyjacksonradio.com)

## **Sounds of the 70s**

Presenter: Gary Jackson  
Just as it says, features the sloppy bit in the middle, music news from today in the 70s and the anagram song title. Available as MP3 download from URL in email sent out each week to subscribers that use the show. Comes as 1 single hour long MP3. Email [studio@garyjacksonradio.com](mailto:studio@garyjacksonradio.com) or see the website [www.garyjacksonradio.com](http://www.garyjacksonradio.com)

## **The Mystery Top 40**

Presenter: Paul Baker  
In every show Paul counts down a classic UK Top 40 singles chart from a mystery year and it is down to you to guess what the mystery year is. Unlike other similar shows, you will hear the positions of the entire Top 40 and some of the big movers and new entries between numbers 40 and 11. You will then hear the entire Top 10 in full and the mystery year is revealed just before the number 1 song. Each show is 1 hour long and comes in 3 blocks of just under 20 minutes each. Distributed via my website. New show every Monday. Contact me at the email address [studio@djpaulbaker.co.uk](mailto:studio@djpaulbaker.co.uk)

## **Power Anthems**

Presenter: Paul Baker  
Bringing you the 'Softer Side Of Rock' including power ballads and commercial rock tracks from the artists and bands that you know and love from the 60s, 70s & 80s. The show initially started as a project for The Flash but is now available to all stations. Each show 1 hour long and comes in 3 blocks of just under 20 minutes each. Distributed via my website. New show every Monday. Contact me at the email address [studio@djpaulbaker.co.uk](mailto:studio@djpaulbaker.co.uk)

## **Acceptable Eighties**

Presenter Paul Baker  
Classic tracks from the 'decade that taste forgot'. Features include the 'Red Herring', one track within the hour that does not belong in the show, it could be a hit from the 60s, 70s, 90s or 00s but was never a hit in the 1980s. Can You Spot It. The show ends with a 12" Rewind, a full length extended mix of a massive



# Shared Programming

80's classic. Each show 1 hour long and comes in 3 blocks of just under 20 minutes each.

Distributed via my website. New show every Monday. Contact me at the email address [studio@djpaulbaker.co.uk](mailto:studio@djpaulbaker.co.uk)

## **Retro Radio Show**

Presenter: Tony Dee

60s music in a 60s style, non stop music chat and 60's memories. 2 hour show available in 6 segments via dropbox link, updated every Sunday [tonydee.studio@gmail.com](mailto:tonydee.studio@gmail.com) for more information.

## **Stuck in the 70s**

Presenter Tony Dee

A flashback in time, remembering the music, fashion and quirks of the decade. It was the decade of the Space Hopper, the Ford Cortina, Raleigh Chopper bikes, the record player and cassette recorder. 2 hour show available in 6 segments via dropbox link, updated every Sunday [tonydee.studio@gmail.com](mailto:tonydee.studio@gmail.com) for more information.

## **The 80s Mix**

Presenter Tony Dee

Aaah, the 80s, that happy little decade between social activism and self-loathing grunge. Back when the Coreys were king and Kirk Cameron hadn't been left behind. When Cabbage Patch Kids spawned Garbage Pail Kids and we liked it. From the obscure to the obvious to the no-no-notorious. 2 hour show available in 6 segments via dropbox link, updated every Sunday [tonydee.studio@gmail.com](mailto:tonydee.studio@gmail.com) for more information.

## **ONE-OFF SHOWS**

### **NEW Goodbye Television Centre – The Final Tour**

When BBC Television Centre closed, public tours came to an end too. Neil Ogden was on the final public tour of this iconic building and as well as talking to the final tour guides (who included a former star of Neighbours) about their memories of working there, the programme includes some parts of that final tour and interviews with others who used to work at Television Centre. It also mentions the filming of the Doctor Who docudrama at the building in the fortnight before. Available as a WAV file via [yousendit](mailto:yousendit) from [neil@neilogden.com](mailto:neil@neilogden.com) - running

time 26 minutes.

*Relevant until November 2013 due to the mentions of Doctor Who's 50th anniversary although could still be used after that with an explanation before the programme.*

## **One-off shows**

### **produced by Rugby Hospital Radio**

A list of pre-recorded programmes which Rugby Hospital Radio (RHR) is willing to share with other HR services.

As the one off programmes were initially recorded for airing on RHR presenters will probably mention the name of our station. If you do not want this, then it would be possible, using an audio editing programme such as Adobe Audition, to delete the word 'Rugby' from your copy. You have our permission to do this. However, if you have a printed programme schedule that is handed out to patients, we would require you to credit RHR as the programme producer. Each programme supplied in mp3 format, size approx 28MB. Could be burned to a CD but our preference is to copy them to a suitable size memory stick which you would provide. Before sending your memory stick please contact me for an address to which you should send it.

*Iain Smith*

*Programme Organiser*

*Rugby Hospital Radio*

*E-mail: [rugbyhr@hotmail.com](mailto:rugbyhr@hotmail.com)*

Programmes all fit into a 1 hour slot and are

### **NEW My World Of Music**

(Light Classical)

June Barratt plays a selection of her favourite light classical pieces and gives some insights to the works.

### **NEW My World Of Music**

(Musicals)

June Barratt plays music from her favourite musical productions. Celtic Connections

Tom Ryan plays an interesting selection of Irish, Welsh and Country music, showing how the various genres are interlinked.

### **Music For You**

Richard Green threatens to lull you to sleep with this very laid back and relaxing programme.

### **NEW Sides Of London**

Iain Smith takes a look at the history of the Decca Group's London label, which in the late 50s and early 60s was the best

selling 'pop' record label ever. He plays, not only the hits but some of the releases that never made the charts.

### **NEW Sinatra At The Tower**

Phil Smith examines the most prolific period of Frank Sinatra's career when he was contracted to Capitol Records and recorded at their L.A studios, 'The Tower'.

### **NEW Dream Lover, Mack The Knife & Things, The Bobby Darin Story**

Iain Smith presents the programme which won gold in the 2005 HBA Awards, Specialised Music category, a documentary on the life and career of singer Bobby Darin.

### **NEW Catch A Wave**

Phil Smith's documentary on Brian Wilson's highly successful group from America's west coast, The Beach Boys. Their music is guaranteed to lift the spirits and get toes tapping.

Each programme supplied in mp3 format, size approx 55MB. They could be burned to a CD but our preference is to copy them to a suitable size memory stick which you would provide.

## **FEATURES AND SHORT STORIES**

### **The A to Z of Pop Trivia Challenge**

A series of minute long questions about music with clips and answers presented by Richard Smith available to download as MP3s Email [theatozofpop@aol.com](mailto:theatozofpop@aol.com) or visit the website [www.theatozofpop.co.uk](http://www.theatozofpop.co.uk)

### **The Banana Bunch**

Audio adaptations of the stories first written for a hospital patient. 10 MP3 files plus audio introduction originating from Bath Hospital Radio and available to download at the HBA website.

### **Everything Sounds**

A short-form program produced in the United States that focuses on the role of sound in art, science, history, and culture. Each programme is around 10-15 minutes. More information from the website at <http://everythingsounds.org> and for more information contact [craig@everythingsounds.org](mailto:craig@everythingsounds.org)

## **DRAMA AND PLAYS**

### **Political Art**

A series of plays available on CD [www.political-art.co.uk](http://www.political-art.co.uk)

Want to buy a mixer? At the best price?

Want it professionally installed with a full cable loom?

Want expert help to decide on the specification or config?

**SONIFEX**



**STUDER**  
professional audio equipment



If the answer to any or all of these questions is yes then the answer is also:

Web: [www.westcountrybs.co.uk](http://www.westcountrybs.co.uk)

Email: [sales@westcountrybs.co.uk](mailto:sales@westcountrybs.co.uk)

@WCBroadcast

Phone: 0845 634 5906

  
**Westcountry  
Broadcast**

MORE THAN JUST ENGINEERS

## 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.

  
**VORTEX**  
Communications Ltd

If you would like to get connected

Tel: 020-8579 2743 or E-mail: [info@vtx.co.uk](mailto:info@vtx.co.uk)

Vortex Communications 75 The Grove, Ealing, London, W5 5LL [www.vtx.co.uk](http://www.vtx.co.uk)

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



# The Vintage Years



I first became involved with hospital radio as a teenager in Folkestone, the town of my birth and formative years when a group of enthusiasts decided that we would visit patients in the town's Royal Victoria Hospital and collect record requests from them and then put together a request programme using a reel-to-reel tape recorder which we would play through the hospital's radio system a day or so later.

It was great fun back then traipsing through the wards with friends on a Tuesday night (and sometimes early on a Wednesday evening), chatting to patients, collecting their requests; well not so much collecting as probably insisting on the basis that if you're going to be in this bed on Thursday night (and you will be!) listening to the radio, it won't be the Light programme you'll be hearing at 8pm, it'll be the 'Radio Vic Request Programme'. Either that or one of the other available and very dreary BBC channels. You must remember of course, that most of us were elderly teenagers, 17 to 18 going on 70.

Off we would go with our requests tucked in an old large envelope to assemble the necessary records and then on to a record player that could be connected to a reel-to-reel tape recorder along with a microphone. Did we worry about quality or timings? Of course we didn't. We just had fun recording messages, listening to music that quite often was on 78rpm records that had seen better days. If we didn't have the record requested in any of our

personal collections, we would beg, steal or borrow from friends and neighbours for the short period of time that was necessary to record the 'show'.

We had fun. Lots of it! Looking back on our efforts, I also think most of our 'clients' enjoyed it as well and so the 'bug' was germinated and music became part of my life. From playing and singing rather badly in a 'pop group' – the guitar playing was so much worse than the singing – honestly, I could play piano and to a certain extent drums albeit badly but I'd never learned anything about playing a guitar, especially base guitar!

Obviously, it came as no surprise to anyone that the group did not become the next pop sensation! However, the music bug had started to grow arms and legs and my fabulous idea of playing records and entertaining people became a reality as I built a 'mobile disco'. I was doing dances in barns and clubs as well as parties for people of all ages and again loving every minute of it and in between all of this never forgetting where it all started.

My employment took me to Canterbury where I continued with hospital broadcasting, ultimately taking on the role of Station Manager at Radio KCH which was then the hospital radio in the Kent and Canterbury Hospital. Work subsequently took me to Aberdeen and my day job plus involvement in the local community as well as national involvement with a management association and also being quite active in the local entertainment scene, left very little time for anything else for a considerable number of years.

I renewed my interest in Hospital Radio some years ago and joined my local hospital radio and presented the Friday evening request show as well as a Saturday early evening programme for a number of years. I am currently a member of Radio Grapevine ([www.radiograpevine.com](http://www.radiograpevine.com)).

I became very interested in the work of the HBA and attended conferences and awards ceremonies, eventually becoming the Regional Representative for

Scotland and being rather slow on my feet was too late in stepping backwards with my colleagues when Phil Moon stepped down as Chair of the Association. Well, to be perfectly honest, I decided to stand as Chairman because I believed that changes were needed to make the Association more relevant and useful to the membership. I believe that is gradually happening and hope that by attracting more willing volunteers we can make the HBA fully reflective of hospital radio as many hospital radio stations change and develop their service as they adjust to the changes that are happening within the NHS as well as the opportunities that now exist to make hospital radio more involved with the health service community.

I have been lucky enough in the past to be awarded a number of commendations as well as bronze and silver awards in the 'Specialist Music' category at the Hospital Broadcasting Association's National Awards as well as a number of commendations in the 'Male Presenter of the Year' category. However, as you would expect, since becoming involved in the management of the HBA I have not taken part in the HBA National Awards.

One thing I still do though, is produce and present a programme called The Vintage Years, a radio programme which looks back at the music and artists of a bygone age. Yes, pure nostalgia! Music from the Roaring 20s through to the Swinging 60s as people my age will often be heard to say, 'the Golden Age of Radio'. Even better, the programmes are freely available to any HBA member hospital radio station; further details can be found at [www.thevintageyears.co.uk](http://www.thevintageyears.co.uk).

Jim Simpson  
[jim@thevintageyears.co.uk](mailto:jim@thevintageyears.co.uk)

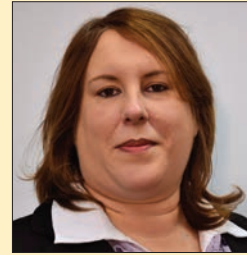


# REGIONAL TEAM DETAILS



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## London

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london@hbauk.com

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



# Who to contact on the Trustee Board



**Chairman**  
**Jim Simpson**  
Tel: **0870 321 6000**  
e-mail: **chair@hbauk.com**  
Main contact with statutory bodies.  
Ambassadors



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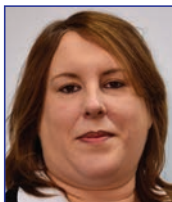
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*All members of the TB are volunteers and will respond to any contact as quickly as possible. Please understand however, that work or family commitments mean that availability may not always be immediate and may be limited to evenings and weekends.*

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