

## **Chief Executive - Stephen Allen**

Welcome to the report of the Executive Committee it has been a busy year and may I firstly thank on your behalf all the members of the Committee for their hard work throughout.

This year we started on a high from receiving commendations in the Hospital Radio Awards 2004 with Rookwood being mentioned within the top ten stations in the United Kingdom.

The Committee co-opted Jude Anderson onto the Committee to take on some of the administration functions and also to develop policies and procedures for the way Rookwood Sound operates, copies of all the documents produced are available at the AGM for members to receive copies of.

Programming of the station continued to develop with the introduction of the new training scheme, which laid out the training pattern for new members on a week-by-week basis. These training sessions were carried out on a Saturday and we have run two courses since the last AGM which has resulted in a number of new Presenters who have their own programmes and others who are due to start in the near future. This schedule is very time intensive however; I feel the benefits of training this way far out reach the way we used to provide training. I am also aware of other Hospital Radio Stations who have copied our model for training and they are also gaining from the experience.

This year marked a very sad time for the station due to the passing of our Vice President and founder member Julian Brinkworth. We owe a large debt of gratitude to Julian for his determination, expertise and commitment to setting up Rookwood so many years ago. While Julian did not involve himself in the day to day activities of the station in the latter period he was always aware of what we were up to and contact was continued through e mail and the occasional telephone call, I was fortunate enough to take over from Julian when he stood down as Secretary and it was always a sense of support for me knowing he would be there should a problem arise. Rookwood Sound is definitely a sadder place since his untimely passing and I for one will never forget him.

This year also saw Rookwood lose its Station Engineer Ken David who moved to Huddersfield to start a new career within NTL. Ken spent many hours at Rookwood normally into the night carrying out engineering work or producing audio for the station, we were fortunate enough to have the services of Sharon Bishop who took over from Ken full time since August 2004, who I personally feel has hit the ground running and has continued to deliver

The Station over the past year has diversified its programming with live broadcasts of the Remembrance Service / Lewis Merthyr Band and recently the Plough Singers with the latter two providing live music within the hospital, and we are currently looking at other live groups etc to perform for the patients.

We have spent this year building our relationships with the Cardiff & Vale NHS Trust and now have regular meetings with NHS Managers on the work undertaken by Rookwood Sound, they receive copies of Presenter News and also copies of all Press Releases etc so the Trust is fully informed on our

activities, may I through this report thank Beryl Munkley Patient Experience Manager for all her support, guidance and help over the last 12 months.

What of the future, an exciting time is ahead of us with the installation of a new patient entertainment system at Llandough now either due this year or early next will enhance our ability to be heard on the wards, which has always been frustrating due to the poor condition of the current system, and through our liaison meetings with the trust we will be informed once the appointed provider is chosen so a meeting can be organised.

The Health Services in Cardiff are changing with changes out for public consultation on the Services for Women and babies which will change the types of patients currently at the maternity wards at Llandough, likewise the current Cardiff Royal Infirmary Public Consultation which is planning to take some services from Rookwood. We are keeping ourselves aware of the developments within these two areas and will obviously report back once we are aware of the implications of these proposed changes.

Llandough is currently having a new unit built and we have already raised this with the trust to ensure some provision for radio is contained within pending the new system.

As stated the Health Service is changing and this will change the way we target our listener we must adapt and meet any challenges head on if Rookwood Sound is to continue to be the 24-hour beside friend of our listener.

This years Hospital Radio Awards we have again been nominated for three top awards including Station of the Year / Specialist Music and Sports Output we will find out at the forthcoming Conference at the end of March in Belfast what position we have achieved. My thanks must go to Garry Mackenzie (BBCtv) for undertaking the narration and Neil Bailey and Gavin Wilson for the work in compiling the entries.

My current term of office will be up at this AGM, and I have already indicated my willingness to continue as your Chief Executive for a further term of 2 years and may I thank you for your support of the last few years and ask for your continued support for the next.