

Chief Executive - Stephen Allen

It seems only like yesterday I was sat writing my report for last years Annual General Meeting. I would firstly, like to thank all members for all their hard work over the previous twelve months, I would also like to thank the Executive Committee members for their support and hard work.

Many members of the station do not know how hard the Executive Committee works behind the scenes to ensure the station stays on air and I am reminded of the old adage of the swan swimming down the river above the waterline all is calm and gentle however under the water line his feet are doing nineteen to the dozen, it sometimes feels like this is how the Station functions.

This year has seen Rookwood hit the heights of achievement with the Bronze award in the National Hospital Radio Awards in Belfast this was the highest position Rookwood has ever been in this competition and this I am sure was down to the quality of material and diverse programming undertaken which made up our entry. We should also acknowledge our commended entries Edward Fish for the Specialist Music Award and Charlie, Phil and Neil for the Sports Show congratulations to you all. This only proves that Rookwood Sound provides its listeners a quality radio service that meets their needs.

The station undertook a number of live concerts during the year with the Plough Singers and the Lewis Merthyr Band, along with this Rookwood supported charities within the hospital such as the Rookwood Spur. This is where Rookwood Sound prides itself on meeting the needs of the whole hospital community.

The year saw some sad departures from the station due to working commitments Sharon Bishop left us to work in England, David Stowell left us to work for TVS in Portsmouth to name a few. However, new members have also joined Rookwood and they are now presenting their own programmes and with more currently undergoing training our presenting team will increase

significantly, my thanks must go to Lesley Jennings and Richard Baxter who are undertaking the role of trainers on behalf of the Executive Committee.

Funding this year was increased with a number of initiatives such as the All Request Day that raised the most ever also funding from the Millennium Volunteers Scheme and the South Wales Echo Barclays Challenge. It is my intention to obtain further funding in the next year to secure and develop our services.

It would go amiss of me not to mention the 18th Birthday party we were fortunate to have June Snowden National President of the Hospital Broadcasting Association with us along with members of staff from the Cardiff & Vale NHS Trust and Community Health Council (the Statutory Patients Representatives), this evening was well organised by the sub group headed up by Bryn Stone and all their hard work paid off with excellent comments from all those who attended. We must not forget to mention Frank Hennessey our President who was our host for the night.

It was my pleasure to present Life Membership certificates to Charlie Brown, Debra Brown and Ken David for all their hard work and dedication to the station over the years, along with this we presented honorary membership to Beryl Munkley Patient Experience Manager Cardiff & Vale NHS Trust for all her support and encouragement.

What of the future; well I do think Rookwood will undergo some significant changes over the next few years with the refurbishment of Studio 1 and other developments contained in the business plan exciting times are on the horizon. To this end I am putting the finishing touches to Rookwood Sound Business Plan which sets out an ambitious vision for the next five to ten years, this will be presented to the Committee at our April meeting and will go before the membership in either May or June this year, it is important to have a strong plan which sets out the direction for the station which is not to far away from that envisaged by Julian when the station went on air in 1987, to

obtain funding we need this business plan and our associated policies of good practice to demonstrate Rookwood as a professionally run organisation.

The forthcoming year will see the installation of Patient Line at Llandough, which will hopefully provide patients a working radio system to hear our programming however we will need to upgrade our method of sending the signal to Llandough and we are considering internet broadcasting in order to achieve this, posters are being devised for each bed at Rookwood to publicise our service, and further press releases to the local press on the achievements of Rookwood Sound.

The 2006 National Hospital Radio Awards shortlist has been released unfortunately Rookwood has not succeeded in some of the categories we entered however we do have three nominations and my sincere best wishes go to all concerned.

I must also wish Richard Baxter all the best in the forthcoming Welsh Volunteer Awards, Rookwood nominated Richard for all his hard work and dedication shown since joining the station the short listing will take place within the next month.

May I thank you the members for your continuing support for me as your Chief Executive and I look forward to working on your behalf for the next year.