

Rookwood Sound Hospital Broadcasting



Annual Report & Accounts 2013/14

Registered Charity 517814

**Serving the Hospitals of
Cardiff & Vale University Health Board**

Executive Committee Report

The past twelve months have again been one of consolidation for the station. We were aware of the challenges we would face during the transition period of moving the service from one Hospital location to another.

The past year has also been challenging for a number of key personnel who normally take the lead in the station due to personal reasons their input has been slightly curtailed. These challenges continue as we move forward and it is essential that all members play their part in the development of the station as we move forward in what will be a very challenging year.

We knew that having the service split over the two sites would put a strain on volunteers as well as the technology to maintain a cohesive service for both hospitals. It is anticipated that this issue will soon be resolved as we finally move the station forward into our new home. We will be relocating shortly to our new permanent home at Llandough and although this will cause future disruption for a short time we are confident this period will be relatively short. Members tonight will be able to visit the proposed new studio complex shortly after the close of the meeting.

The move of our home from Rookwood to Llandough will also require us to consolidate both studios, technical and administrative elements of the station to Llandough.

To make this happen we will be requiring members to come forward and support the station from clearing out rooms at Rookwood to assisting in building the new studios at Llandough. We will for a time relocate our programming back to Rookwood for a two week period while some key engineering work is undertaken. Members

will be required to have a brief induction to the studio at Rookwood and this will be scheduled in during late April / Early May 2014.

Fundraising is as important now as it has always been the fundraising committee has undertaken some key events however, these have been poorly supported by Members and left to the small regular attenders. All Members have a responsibility to support these events just attending for your 2 hour programme is not enough. Fundraising activities in 2013 were far below our normal programme of events due to the fact that your fundraising team were disheartened by the lack of support shown by members in attending organised events. Saying that, we did raise £361.45 after organising a bingo night at Rookwood Hospital and an all request day at Llandough Hospital. In these difficult financial times we need to put extra effort into ensuring the station has a secure financial future, equipment will require replacing and Members are requesting us to invest in new technologies to make the experience of listening to Rookwood better, whilst the Executive Committee does not want to stifle this input we need to ensure sufficient income streams are in place to sustain these new initiatives. We must acknowledge some individuals who raised money in their own way towards keeping Rookwood Sound on air:

- Charlie Brown & Ben Edwards – Football Prediction Competition £99.00
- Charlie Brown running discos - £140.00
- Lesley Jennings and Tina Rogers for completing the Cardiff Half Marathon - £801.00
- Annual Donation from Diane Englehardt - £1,000.00

Without these individuals putting in the extra effort for the station our financial situation would be a lot worse. We would encourage members to consider participating or supporting fundraising efforts in 2014 /15.

Recruitment & Training has continued albeit we have had to review the training scheme used due to the availability of studio time. Lesley has worked tirelessly in providing training to new members and we should record our vote of thanks for all she has done. Despite a request made for someone to come forward to take over the training of new members no one has come forward. We have decided therefore to re-advertise this role once the station is in its new home which will enable us to reinstate the training scheme as previously undertaken. If you feel that you are able to commit to this role please do let the Executive Committee know.

We did see in 2013 the creation of three new programmes on Rookwood Sound – Congratulations to Catrin Griffiths, Joe Valek and Paul Whitfield. We have a number of new members reaching the end of their current training and it is hoped that in the next week or so some new presenters will take to the airwaves.

The station has experienced some technical issues which you would expect with running a service over two sites, problems with the news feed, and more recently the main server. Thanks to our Engineer John Bingham who anticipated some of these issues and took action to ensure these had little impact to our on air capability.

Looking forward the station will become stronger and more coherent as a body as we move into our new home at Llandough, The new studio complex will have enough space for two well sized studios which will be sufficient in size for a band or group to provide live music, in addition an office and access to a meeting room close by while still maintaining a visible presence in the main corridor it is anticipated we should be in our new studios by July 2014.

I would like to place on record my thanks to those Members of the Executive Committee who will be standing down at this AGM for all their hard work and commitment over the year. I hope a number of

them will be re-elected so the work can continue as we enter into a new phase for Rookwood Sound Hospital Broadcasting.

We will be looking for help with the decommissioning of the Studios at Rookwood Hospital during May and June in addition to requiring assistance in the commissioning of two new studios and administrative base at Llandough during the same period. I hope we can count on your support to make this happen.

We are entering an exciting phase of the development of Rookwood Sound some more established members will need to readjust as we close a chapter on what has been our home since 1985 as we close down the studio at Rookwood memories of past presenters and members who are no longer with us such as Julian Brinkworth, Jeff Lyons, Jackie Davies, Eddie Jerrold, the happy times at the studio the radiothons of years gone by, the RSL to mark our 21st Birthday. However, we need to look forward as a station as we embark on a new future at Llandough and as one chapter closes another opens and what will the next 25 years bring.

I am sure the founding members of Rookwood Sound are pleased with the way the station has continued to present high quality radio programmes for the patients in hospital this has been acknowledged with the announcement on New Years' day that Rookwood Sound has been shortlisted in 5 categories for the National Hospital Radio Awards 2014. The categories Rookwood have been shortlisted for are:

- Station of the Year
- Best Speech Package
- Best Female Presenter
- Best Programme with multiple presenters
- Special Event

The results will be announced on the 29th March 2014 in Bristol.