

READING HOSPITAL BROADCASTING SERVICE

England & Wales · Charity number 1196377

Details

Other names	HOSPITAL RADIO READING OR HRR (PRONOUNCED "H DOUBLE R")
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2021-11-03
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	6 Maldon Close Reading RG30 2DH
Phone	0118 322 8508
Email	info@hrreading.org.uk
Website	www.hrreading.org.uk

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS OF THE CIO ARE: (1) THE RELIEF OF SICKNESS, POOR HEALTH AND OLD AGE AMONGST PEOPLE LIVING IN READING AND THE SURROUNDING AREA BY PROVIDING A LOCAL BROADCASTING SERVICE FOR HOSPITALS, RESIDENTIAL HOMES AND SIMILAR INSTITUTIONS, AND FOR PATIENTS RECEIVING COMMUNITY CARE, (2) THE ADVANCEMENT OF HEALTH AND PREVENTION OR RELIEF OF SICKNESS FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT THROUGH THE PROMOTION OF THE BENEFITS OF LIVING A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE, AND THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING GOOD PERSONAL MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH BY (MAINLY, BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY) THE MEANS OF BROADCASTING HEALTH EDUCATION MESSAGES TO PEOPLE LIVING IN READING AND THE SURROUNDING AREA.

Activities: A hospital broadcasting service ("Hospital Radio Reading") for the Royal Berkshire Hospital. Patients are visited in their wards and can phone in free from the bedside to take part in programmes. A live and interactive service of record requests, football commentaries & other entertainment (45 hours per week) is augmented by a non-stop automated service of music, news & information at other times.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Disability
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** LOCAL
- Reading

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£11,273	£10,520	-	-
2023-12-31	£6,089	£4,198	-	-
2022-12-31	£4,065	£4,183	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Gerard Bernard Kevin ROCKS MA Oxon	Chair	2022-02-23
ANN BEASLEY		2022-02-23
Fiona Margaret McKechnie		2022-02-23
Isabelle Kathleen Daniels		2026-04-28
James Marshall BURTON STEWART		2022-02-23
John Richard Precious		2024-04-15
Martin O'Czaja		2022-02-23
Philip Michael Wilson		2023-04-17
Thomas Zachary MEYER		2025-05-19

READING HOSPITAL BROADCASTING SERVICE

England & Wales - Charity number 1196377

Accounts

**Reading Hospital Broadcasting Service
operating as Hospital Radio Reading (HRR)
Trustees' Annual Report & Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024**

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

For the year ended 31st December 2024

The Trustees of the Reading Hospital Broadcasting Service have pleasure in presenting their Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Registered Charity number : 1196377 (England and Wales)

Working Name: Hospital Radio Reading (HRR)

Original date of registration : 1964 (as charity no. 244974)

Converted to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 3rd November 2021

Principal Office:

Hospital Radio Reading
East Drive,
Royal Berkshire Hospital,
London Road,
READING
Berkshire
RG1 5AN

Main contact address

c/o Mr G Rocks (Chairman)
6 Maldon Close
READING
Berkshire
RG30 2DH

Elected Trustees:

Ann Beasley (Treasurer)
James M Burton Stewart (Secretary)
Fiona M McKechnie
Chloe Monahan (Station Manager)
Martin E O'Czaja (Deputy Chairman and Senior Engineer)
* James Patey (until August 14th)
* John Precious (from April 15th)
Gerard B K Rocks (Chairman)
Philip Wilson

* All the above Trustees were in place throughout the reporting year, except for J Precious, whose unopposed nomination was approved by the membership at the Annual General Meeting on April 14th, and J Patey who, having been reappointed for another term at the same meeting, resigned for personal reasons on August 15th

Bankers:

Lloyds Bank Ltd
24 Broad St,
Reading
Berkshire
RG1 2BT

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STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE and MANAGEMENT :

Governing Document :

Reading Hospital Broadcasting Service is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, governed by its constitution.

Governance and Organisational Structure:

The organisation is governed by a Board of Trustees, who are responsible for overseeing strategy, direction and ensuring that the charity's finances are spent in accordance with its charitable objects.

The Constitution allows for the Board of Trustees to consist of no fewer than three and no more than nine Elected Trustees, elected by full members of the organisation for a two-year term of office. The Constitution further requires that half of the Elected Trustees should retire or seek re-election each year.

The Constitution also allows for up to three Appointed Trustees, appointed by the other Trustees on account of their skills, knowledge and experience, for a term of one year.

The operational functions of the charity, namely the provision of a local broadcasting service for hospitals, residential homes and similar (essentially to the Royal Berkshire Hospital NHS Foundation Trust), are overseen by a Committee, composed of the same Trustees with responsibility for technical maintenance and scheduling & programme content being vested respectively in those holding the positions of Senior Engineer and Station Manager.

In addition to the Annual General Meeting, held on April 15th 2024, eight Trustees' Meetings were held during the year (in January, March, April, June, July, September, October, and December) and the Trustees maintained regular contact through a dedicated WhatsApp group.

MEMBERSHIP :

Of the organisation's 41 volunteers, whether active or "resting", during the course of 2023, 35 renewed their membership at the start of the reporting year and eight more were recruited in the following months, most of whom had, by the end of the year, completed the necessary Reference, DBS and Occupational Health checks (required by the Royal Berkshire Hospital NHS Trust, whose patients we primarily serve and on whose premises we operate) and the subsequent period of training and probation required by ourselves. During the year five volunteers left the area and one more parted company with our organisation, due to the attitude he displayed during a disagreement with the Trust's Voluntary Services Department over Trust car-parking policy, which led to his volunteer status being revoked by the Trust.

That, in turn, led the Trustees to revise and update their Conditions of Membership, which all Hospital Radio volunteers must agree to and sign on joining, to emphasise the importance of complying with all the hospital Trust's procedures for volunteers and reiterating the need to display its core values – CARE (Compassion, Aspiration, Resourcefulness, Excellence) .

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Four volunteers were awarded long-service certificates from the Hospital Broadcasting Association during the reporting year: one for 15 years, one for 25 years and two for 30 years

OBJECTIVES AND AIMS :

Reading Hospital Broadcasting Service is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation whose charitable objects are :-

- (1) The relief of sickness, poor health and old age amongst people living in Reading and the surrounding area by providing a local broadcasting service for hospitals, residential homes and similar institutions, and for patients receiving community care.
- (2) The advancement of health and prevention or relief of sickness for the public benefit, through the promotion of the benefits of living a healthy lifestyle and the importance of maintaining good personal mental and physical health, by (mainly, but not exclusively) the means of broadcasting health education messages to people living in Reading and the surrounding area.

CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES :

Patient interaction and Request programmes

While automation enabled the station to remain on air all day and every day during the reporting year, the cornerstone of our activities and fundamental to the achievement of our first charitable objective were the **32 – 35 hours per week of live programming**, at least 24 hours of which were “HRR Requests”, broadcast (and repeated) daily, or “Good Afternoon Royal Berks”, airing 4 afternoons per week : both shows being devoted in whole or in part to playing patients’ music choices. Only 4 days (including Christmas Day & New Years Eve) saw no live programming at all, compared to 7 days in 2023. And the year saw our “post-Covid recovery” continue, with **5,750 music requests** played for patients (or requested by their visitors and occasionally members of staff) – an increase of just over 1,000 on 2023 but nowhere near the 8,066 played in 2019, our last Covid-free year. The number of phoned-in requests (or calls to say thank-you) also rose to a record number, **457**, many of them from regular long-term or returning patients who would send in lists of their favourites, illustrating once again successful engagement with patients who can be bored and lonely and for whom we make a real difference to their hospital stay. **58** more music requests were received by email, **47** via social media and **10** thanks to a new proforma added to the organisation’s website towards the end of the year .

Analysis of all those requests, however received, enabled us to produce the usual charts of most requested artistes and titles. There was some slight rearrangement of the most popular performers with Ed Sheeran returning to the Top 5, replacing Elton John, behind the Beatles and Elvis Presley while Queen regained the top spot, pushing Abba down to number 2. ‘Bohemian Rhapsody’ and ‘Sweet Caroline’ remained in the Top 5 most popular titles, joined by Bob Marley’s ‘Three Little Birds’ and ‘Hotel California’, I Want to Break Free ‘and ‘Simply the Best’ tying for 5th place while ‘Dancing Queen’ was a clear winner in the number 1 spot.

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Special programming and relations with other organisations :

Once again, Christmas highlights included recordings of the Trust Carol Service, a third Christmas Concert at Reading Minster (in aid of the Royal Berks Charity) and another visit to Pangbourne College to record the Pangbourne Choral Society in their annual Christmas Concert for charity. And Maurice Moore single-handedly arranged around 10 special recorded Christmas messages from a variety of dignitaries in local and national government – council leaders, Mayors and MPs - which were highlights of the Christmas schedule.

Maurice and his colleagues on Saturday Sport (Graeme Collyer, Andy Cook and David Downes in the Reading FC commentary box and a number of “stringers “ from local clubs and societies) continued to broaden listeners’ sporting horizons. As well as live Reading FC commentaries from the SCL Stadium, they featured five in total from local non-league clubs Reading City FC, Wokingham Town FC and Maidenhead United, and including a local derby attended by the son of our founder Les Warth’s, who had seen an article about HRR’s planned coverage in the local press. Whilst football remained the principal focus of HRR Sport’s programmes, live outside broadcasts came from rugby clubs (Reading RFC & Reading Abbey RFC), South Berkshire Hockey Club and Emmbrook Bearwood Cricket Club and over 20 other sports and leisure activities were featured in outside broadcasts and studio interviews as the team highlighted the benefits of sport and leisure activities as part of recovery from surgery or illness.

The HRR Sport team also assisted with publicity for the unveiling of Holybrook Parish Council’s memorial bench for the late Andy Alleyne (local resident and first black player for Reading FC) which attracted wide media coverage. They also supported community events – the Holybrook D-Day 80th Anniversary Picnic in 2024, providing public address & background music and a live outside broadcast covering try-a-sport activities (walking rugby, netball, cricket & fencing). And once again their support was much appreciated at the Family Dun Day and Duck Derby organised by the Lions Club of Maidenhead.

Away from sport, Matthew Rolland provided more “Isolation Interviews” with a variety of celebrities in his Wednesday evening show, Maurice Moore (again!) and Gerard Rocks added to our library of extended interviews with local personalities for the “Take Five” slot and, after a long hiatus, work began on recordings of some fresh “Bedtime Stories” from local authors in the Thames Valley Writers’ circle. Two of our Martins (Messrs Todman and Rolfe) branched out from Saturday evenings to host occasional live shows at Friday teatime as well, aiming to feature the activities of some of the other volunteers in the Trust.

We continued to make good use of our archive of recorded specialist shows, both home-produced and syndicated, covering jazz, blues, classical, comedy, musicals, old-time and even the local brass band scene. In addition, John Precious completed enough “Screen Sounds” compilations of film & TV music to earn himself a regular slot in our automation and we also took advantage of Kerry Hutchinson’s origins launching some occasional new hours of traditional Irish music. And live specialist shows included the return to the studio of Treasurer Ann Beasley, this time joining the Monday crew with her selection of great classical & vocal performance, Paul Richards (aka Paul Arthur) continued to enjoy a faithful international following on his Friday Rock show and Julie Hughes provided Christian words and music suitable for Sunday in “Words of Life”.

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Relations with the Trust and other bodies

The organisation continued to enjoy a positive relationship with the Royal Berkshire Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, most notably with its Voluntary Services department but also with Pastor Josh of the Chaplaincy and Martin Butler of the Royal Berks Charity, both of whom visited occasionally during “Good Afternoon Royal Berks” to promote their latest events and activities. And, thanks to Tom Brown, HRR also provided music and public address for a second multicultural day for the benefit of the Trust’s staff.

Off-air, four further recording sessions took place with teenagers from the Berkshire Young Persons’ Diabetic Council for their ongoing podcasts. But worthy of special note was our greater involvement with the Trust’s “Junior Carers” scheme, children from three local primary schools who come into the hospital with a teacher, several times a year and in conjunction with the Trust’s Patient Experience team, to learn about various aspects of healthcare & wellbeing as well as finding out what goes on behind the scenes in a busy general hospital. Visits to the HRR studio were already a highlight of their itinerary in 2023 and in the following year developed even further : Keith Miller had the idea of inviting the children to go on-air to introduce their favourite music tracks for the patients which proved a real highlight for the children and their accompanying teachers!

The next step up from the Junior Carers is the Youth Forum – this time local teenagers – and HRR was asked by the Trust if we would be able to do anything for them too. As a result, two girls recorded some extra editions of “The Zoo”, the weekend show for our children’s wards (and the young at heart), another young lady recorded two additional home-produced hours of classical music and, at the end of the year, one young man from the Youth Forum applied to join us as a full member of the organisation and volunteer weekly on a patient requests team.

Although we are both in the field of communication, our organisation’s links with the Trust Comms department can be sporadic but, towards the end of the year, The Trust chose to focus on HRR in a video for their website to mark International Volunteers Day and one of the Comms team filmed Keith Miller in action and an interview with the Chairman, as well as HRR alumnus Allen Sinclair of BBC South, who came back to visit and talk about what volunteering in hospital radio did for him.

But the feather in our cap, also at the end of the year, was an invitation to apply for the 2025 Kings Award for Voluntary Service, resulting from a visit by one of the Deputy Lords Lieutenant of the Royal County of Berkshire, who came to record an edition of “Take Five” with Maurice Moore and was impressed by what he saw and heard about the organisation. Having supplied by the November deadline the required letters of support, one from a patient and one from the Trust (both in their different ways beneficiaries of the service we provide), we now anxiously await the next stages in the process, leading to the eventual announcement of the Award winners on the King’s Birthday in November 2025. But the support received from Sukhi Sidhu (Voluntary Services Manager) and Sharon Herring (our “line manager” on the Trust Executive) who collaborated with the signatory, Chief Executive Steve McManus, was second to none.

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FUTURE STRATEGY :

In previous years we identified three areas as priorities for the future. Sadly, in most cases during the reporting year, there is little further progress to report :-

1. Broadening the range of options through which all members of the hospital community can hear and participate in our programmes. Our aim is still to negotiate permission for HRR's signal to be relayed to speakers in cafés, outpatient waiting areas etc. Wifi signal strength permitting, this can easily be achieved using computers or raspberry pi's but the stumbling block is the payment (or sponsorship) of the necessary PPL / PRS licence fees.
2. Our studio headquarters on the hospital site having been under threat of relocation for around 18 months, the possible redevelopment of our current location and the likelihood of a move to a new studio currently appear to have been put on hold.
3. The possibility of a move onto a digital platform is still open to our organisation, as we are still in partnership with B-Radio which, as Local Radio Ltd, was granted the Small Scale Digital Audio Broadcasting Licence in the summer of 2024. We are still keeping our options open and recognise the importance of seriously considering the financial implications- and risks – of opting for DAB. Opinion seems to be divided - both in the country as a whole and amongst our members - as to whether the future of radio in general, and not just Hospital Radio Reading, lies with DAB or on the internet.

Finally, as previously reported, the company that provides and maintains bedside consoles and supplies headphones for distribution to the patients, now known as Spark TSL, is slowly phasing out its old "Hospedia" branding and – more worryingly – adopting a new business plan involving the replacement over the next 3 to 4 years of hard-wired bedside entertainment consoles with tablets (still attached to the arms that extend and pivot from the wall above patients' beds) and, eventually, provision of all services on those tablets free of charge to patients. With other member stations of the Hospital Broadcasting Association, we are not convinced of the viability of expecting Trusts (or their fund-raising charitable arms) to take financial responsibility for services that are currently provided free of charge, subsidised by other sources of income, or paid for by patients. We can only hope that the RBH Trust – or the Royal Berks Charity – will be willing to do so if Spark TSL do indeed proceed down that route.

Whatever finance model is eventually adopted, removal of one of our "unique selling points" (that radio is free) and the inevitable greater competition from a wider range of TV, radio and internet based entertainment on the new tablets would oblige all Hospital Radio Reading volunteers to constantly pay greater attention to the quality of our programming and our outreach on the wards in order to keep our audience. That in itself is no bad thing, but it is already apparent that even elderly patients are more likely nowadays to turn down our invitation to listen to hospital radio and make a request if they have Spotify or one of the other streaming platforms on a mobile phone, which many say is "all they need". The Trustees recognise that volunteers will need to make a far greater effort to engage with patients on the wards, spending time chatting to them and winning them over – and playing what we know our patients want, not what we think they might like to hear.

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FINANCIAL REVIEW :

The organisation has continued its long-established policy of holding a reserve of cash, equating to at least one year's running costs, in an interest-bearing account as a contingency fund, as well as operating a current account for its everyday activities. In January 2024, a new bank account as required by the charity's conversion to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, which we had originally opened in 2022, became our only current account following the closure of our previous account, and the remaining funds in the old account (£1218) were transferred to our new account, as shown in the accounts summary *.

From the statements it can be seen that the organisation's total income was £11,273 compared to expenditure of £10,520, resulting in a year end surplus of £753.00. Both income and expenditure were higher than in the previous year, due to the Trustees' decision to invest in an upgrade of both studios, where some key computer equipment was twenty years old and no longer reliable, resulting in occasional breakdown and failure of our automation when the studio was unattended, thus depriving listeners of the full range of programming provided by the organisation. Furthermore, our existing equipment was not compatible with the latest play-out software that we wished to introduce to further increase the size of our music database and improve the technical quality of our programmes, both live and recorded. It was therefore decided to seek funding elsewhere for this special project and the organisation was successful in its applications for grants from The Earley Charity, Holybrook Council and The Berkshire Masonic Centre, grants received from these organisations totalling £7487.00.

Other main sources of income were members' own subscriptions (totalling £1,035) and sundry fund-raising efforts from individual members, totalling £337. Donations totalled £790, including £250 from the Windsor & Maidenhead Lions in return for a public address service provided at their Family Fun Day & Duck Derby. A growing number of members and supporters continued to nominate HRR as their sponsored charity in the Easy Fundraising scheme, thus enabling us to receive a small percentage of their spending on retail websites. Efforts continued to encourage members to carry out their own fundraising initiatives to ensure the sustainability of the organisation.

Regular expenditure was kept to a minimum thanks to the ongoing support of the Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust which continued to provide free accommodation and power at our location on the main hospital site. The largest area of expenditure was the accumulation of various annual charges and subscriptions required for us to broadcast :- insurance, PPL & PRS fees (to performers & copyright holders), payments for Sky News, broadband & internet streaming, membership of the Hospital Broadcasting Association etc. In order to cover those regular outgoings, at the organisation's Annual General Meeting in April, volunteers discussed, and approved by a clear majority vote, a proposal to increase the annual membership subscription from £30 to £50 for those in employment and from £15 to £30 for students, retired and unemployed members. These rates, together with a means of paying by monthly direct debit, were due to take effect during the following year.

Expenditure listed below as "Members Meetings" refers to that which benefits only our volunteers and not the patients (principally catering at the Annual General Meeting). The

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organisation's policy is that monies received from the public must never be used for such expenditure, which must never exceed the amount already paid by volunteers in their membership subscriptions.

**READING HOSPITAL RADIO BROADCASTING SERVICE
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DEC 2024**

INCOME	2023	2024
FUNDRAISING	307	337
DONATIONS	510	790
SUBSCRIPTIONS	1050	1035
SUNDRY SALES	4018	0
REFUND – IRN/PLUS NET	204	127
PAYPAL		2
CROWDFUNDING		160
EASY FUNDING		58
GRANTS		7487
TRANSFER – OLD ACCOUNT *		1218
SUPPLEMENTARY PYTS		60
	5885	11273
EXPENDITURE		
STUDIO MAINTENANCE	1196	6208
BROADBAND/STREAMING	625	621
PPL/INS/RADIO AUTHORITY/HBA	2210	3616
MEMBERS MEETINGS	166	74
	4197	10520
 SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	 1688	 753
 RESERVES C/F represented by		
INVESTMENT ACCOUNT	8079	8141
CURRENT ACCOUNT - OLD	1173	0
CURRENT ACCOUNT - NEW	2687	3440
TOTAL ASSETS	11939	11581

Approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by :

Signature:



Date

September 29th 2025
Ann Beasley (Treasurer)



September 29th 2025
Gerard Rocks (Chair of Trustees)

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England & Wales - Charity number 1196377

Accounts

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

For the year ended 31st December 2023

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Registered Charity number : 1196377 (England and Wales)

Working Name: Hospital Radio Reading (HRR)

Original date of registration : 1964 (as charity no. 244974)

Converted to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 3rd November 2021

Principal Office:

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London Road,
READING
Berkshire
RG1 5AN

Main contact address

c/o Mr G Rocks (Chairman)
6 Maldon Close
READING
Berkshire
RG30 2DH

Elected Trustees:

A Beasley (Treasurer)
J M Burton Stewart (Secretary)
* S Ham (until April 17th)
F M McKechnie
* C L Mills (until April 17th)
C Monahan (Station Manager)
M E O'Czaja
J Patey
G B K Rocks (Chairman)
* P Wilson (from April 17th)

* All the above Trustees were in place throughout the reporting year, with the exception of S Ham and CL Mills, who did not seek reappointment, and P Wilson, whose unopposed nomination as Trustee was approved by the membership – both at the Annual General Meeting on April 17th 2023.

Bankers:

Lloyds Bank Ltd
24 Broad St,
Reading
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Governing Document :

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Governance and Organisational Structure:

The Charity is governed by a Board of Trustees, who are responsible for overseeing strategy, direction and ensuring that the charity's finances are spent in accordance with its charitable objects.

The Constitution allows for the Board of Trustees to consist of no fewer than three and no more than nine Elected Trustees, elected by full members of the organisation for a two-year term of office. The Constitution requires that half of the Elected Trustees should retire each year in order to ensure some degree of continuity and at the Annual General Meeting on April 17th 2023, whilst two of the outgoing Trustees (Stephen Ham and Charlotte Mills) did not seek re-election, only one new Trustee (Philip Wilson) sought election and was appointed unopposed. It follows that, for most of the reporting year, the activities of the charity were overseen by a board of eight Elected Trustees.

The Constitution also allows for up to three Appointed Trustees, appointed by the other Trustees on account of their skills, knowledge and experience, for a term of one year. However, no such Trustees were appointed during the reporting year.

The operational functions of the charity, namely the provision of a local broadcasting service for hospitals, residential homes and similar (essentially to the Royal Berkshire Hospital), are overseen by a Committee, composed of the same Trustees with responsibility for technical maintenance and scheduling & programme content being vested respectively in those holding the positions of Senior Engineer and Station Manager.

The Annual General Meeting, held on April 17th, was attended (either in person or via Microsoft Teams) by 20 members of the organisation. In addition, six Trustees' Meetings were held during the year (in January, February, June, July, September and November) and the Trustees maintained regular contact at other times through a dedicated WhatsApp group.

Membership:

Of the 40 volunteers registered with HRR at the end of 2022, 37 renewed their membership for the following year and were subsequently joined by 4 more on completion of their training and probation (the last one being approved by Trustees in the early days of 2024). As in the previous year, with some teams having either lost ward visitors or retained members whose ability to ward visit was limited by work, health or family commitments, recruitment of additional volunteers remained a priority and one more suitable applicant began the Trust's process of CBS, reference and Occupational Health checks as the year ended.

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Seven volunteers were awarded long-service certificates from the Hospital Broadcasting Association during the course of the reporting year: three for 10 years, two for 15 years, one for 30 years and one for 40 years (presentation of this being deferred from the previous year due to the virtual nature of the AGM in 2022 which had been held via Microsoft Teams).

In addition, the Chairman of Trustees was surprised and honoured to be placed on a shortlist of five for the award of Volunteer of the Year, one of many categories in the Royal Berkshire Hospital Trust's annual CARE Awards, recognising hospital staff embodying the Trust's core values of Compassion, Aspiration, Resourcefulness and Excellence.

OBJECTIVES AND AIMS :

Reading Hospital Broadcasting Service is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation whose charitable objects are :-

- (1) The relief of sickness, poor health and old age amongst people living in Reading and the surrounding area by providing a local broadcasting service for hospitals, residential homes and similar institutions, and for patients receiving community care.
- (2) The advancement of health and prevention or relief of sickness for the public benefit, through the promotion of the benefits of living a healthy lifestyle and the importance of maintaining good personal mental and physical health, by (mainly, but not exclusively) the means of broadcasting health education messages to people living in Reading and the surrounding area.

CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES :

Patient interaction and Request programmes

The cornerstone of our activities and fundamental to the achievement of our first charitable objective are the minimum of 27 hours per week of live programming, some devoted, entirely or in part, to playing music requested by or for hospital patients. As the effects of the coronavirus subsided, 2023 was the first full year in which HRR volunteers could enjoy unrestricted access to the wards, to meet the patients and gather requests, since 2019. And we are grateful to the Voluntary Services Manager and the Chief Nurse with responsibility for Patient Experience not only for their support and encouragement but for their trust in us. With any restrictions on access to patients due to infection being temporary and localised rather than hospital-wide, a total of **4,736** music requests were played for patients (and the occasional member of staff) - almost twice the previous year's total but nowhere near the 8,066 played in 2019, our last completely Covid-free year. The number of telephoned requests (or calls to say thank-you) fell to 212 but many of them were from long-term or returning patients, some of whom who contacted us daily and, in some cases, having prepared long lists of favourite music tracks. This illustrates successful engagement with patients who can be bored and lonely and for whom we make a real difference to their hospital stay.

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The availability of volunteers for Requests and other live programmes was inevitably affected by work and family commitments, health issues etc. but others often showed readiness to cover for absent colleagues on evening "HRR Requests" shows and two more also joined the presenting team on "Good Afternoon Royal Berks" which spread to 4 afternoons per week in the middle of the year with the launch of a Monday edition. As a result, the number of days with no live broadcast at all, in either afternoon or evening, remained at a very respectable seven, meaning that **358 days** had some form of live programming.

Analysis of requests received enabled us to produce, as usual, charts of most-requested artistes and titles, which saw some rearrangement of the most popular performers. The Beatles and Elton John replaced Ed Sheeran and Frank Sinatra in the Top 5, Elvis Presley was there, as always, but for the first time since 2019 Queen lost the top spot – to Abba. Bohemian Rhapsody and Sweet Caroline remained in the Top 5 most popular titles, joined by Dancing Queen and I Will Always Love You – but a clear winner in the number 1 spot was Simply the Best (often requested as an expression of gratitude for the RBH nursing and medical staff).

Special programming and relations with local organisations:

The ongoing relaxation in restrictions and attitudes relating to Coronavirus resulted in the return of a few more of the special events that traditionally feature in our programming. Although the League of Friends' fete and the Trust Open Day still remained off the calendar, we again attended Maidenhead Lions' Family Fun Day and "Duck Derby", from which we featured an outside broadcast. At the end of the year, in addition to recording the Trust Carol Service in the hospital chapel and a second Christmas Concert at Reading Minster (in aid of the Royal Berks Charity) we were welcomed back to Pangbourne College by the Pangbourne Choral Society to record their Christmas Concert, another traditional highlight which was restored to the Christmas schedule.

In addition our "Saturday Sport" team, led by Graeme Collyer and Maurice Moore, worked wonders in not only expanding our outside broadcasts and the range of sports and leisure activities covered but also raising the profile of Hospital Radio in the local community. In addition to chronicling the trials and tribulations of Reading FC in coverage of home games at the SCL Stadium, they presented the programme as live outside broadcasts from Burghfield Sailing Club, Reading City FC, Calcot Cricket Club, Caversham Croquet Club and Wokingham Emmbrook FC and regular live reports and score updates from Reading City, Wokingham Emmbrook, Reading Rugby Club, Rams Rugby and Maidenhead United FC. Although not an outside broadcast, with the help of the station engineer they provided background music and PA for Holybrook Parish Council's Coronation Picnic, as well as arranging "try a sport" sessions during the event with Calcot Cricket Club and St Anthony's GAA (Reading's Gaelic football club). In studio-based shows they welcomed guests (in person, recorded or by telephone and some on return visits) including a former cabinet minister, Damian Green MP (a Reading FC supporter), mostly representing local clubs or groups and many of them spreading the word about HRR to their members. And in the summer months their remit extended from sport to include leisure and they featured the

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Friends of Reading Abbey and the Kennet & Avon Canal Trust and less well-known competitive activities such as Fives and Brass Band Contests!

In his Wednesday evening show Matthew Rolland continued to interview celebrities via Zoom, often continuing to focus on their experiences during the pandemic and lockdown (and at the same time often highlighting and supporting the work of the NHS). New interview guests for "Take Five" recordings, discussing their lives and musical tastes, included four Mayors (of Reading – and, for political balance, Wokingham Borough & Earley Town - the leader of Reading Borough Council, the director of Re-Wilding Britain and a former RBH lead governor. To the range of pre-recorded specialist music programmes, we added coverage of local brass bands and "Screen Sounds" compilations of film & TV music.

All of the above illustrates our efforts to fulfil the first objective of our charity, "the relief of sickness, poor health and old age by providing a local broadcasting service ... to patients" - by implication, entertaining them. Progress towards our second objective "the promotion of the benefits of living a healthy lifestyle ... by (mainly, but not exclusively) the means of broadcasting health education messages to people living in Reading and the surrounding area" was achieved by public service announcements, either obtained from government websites or created to order for local charities & organisations (such as the University of the Third Age and Reading Macular Society). Representatives of those groups and members of Trust staff wishing to promote special initiatives were featured in editions of "Good Afternoon Royal Berks", as were the Trust Chaplaincy and the Royal Berks Charity.

Other departments within the Trust approached us during the year, as a result of which over a dozen "junior carers" were introduced to hospital radio as part of a tour of the hospital (and loved their time in the studio !) and HRR provided studio facilities for recording of material for podcasts, which could subsequently be broadcast on the station, thus also contributing towards that secondary charitable objective. Those recorded included a short series on the importance of sleep (for a cancer consultant) and the first of several hours of material with teenagers from the Berkshire Young Persons' Diabetes Council, who were also interviewed live on-air. The challenge of achieving our stated educational objective whilst at the same time being entertaining, was again perhaps best met by Maurice Moore's sport and fitness interviews, many focusing on keeping fit and healthy lifestyle choices once discharged from hospital – as previously outlined above - with the bonus of boosting our publicity in wider – and not necessarily sporting - circles.

Future Strategy :

During the reporting year the Trustees continued to address, with limited success, four areas of challenge or potential difficulty for the future :-

- Whilst relations on a local level with *Wifi Spark* (formerly *Hospedia*) providers of the bedside entertainment system in the Royal Berkshire Hospital, remained excellent and they continued to replenish our stock of headphones for patients' bedside consoles on the internal cable system whenever required, we learned of yet another change in ownership and rebranding of the company (now known as *Spark TSL*) and their representative confirmed planned changes of a more radical nature during an

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online meeting with member stations of the Hospital Broadcasting Association (HBA). The company's plan, to replace over the five years bedside consoles with tablets and to make TV as well as radio free to patients, gave cause for concern. Hospital radio stations are united in believing that it is unrealistic to expect hospital trusts (or their fund-raising charitable arms) to finance services currently paid for by patients and their families. The likely removal of one of our current "unique selling points" (that the radio service is free of charge whereas TV packages are generally costly) would result in greater competition from free television channels and other sources of music and would oblige our organisation, in common with hospital broadcasters nationwide, to significantly "up our game" in order to retain our audience. The Trustees appreciate that we must continue to encourage interactivity with patients and to prioritise their musical tastes and requirements in our programming.

- Unfortunately, in the reporting year no further progress was made towards our aim of broadening the range of options by which listeners around the hospital – outpatients as well as inpatients and staff also - might hear and participate in our programmes. It was established that, Wi-Fi signal strength permitting, this can be achieved using loudspeakers or televisions connected to computers or raspberry pi's but the stumbling block of payment (or sponsorship) of the necessary PPL / PRS licence fees has still to be addressed. .
- The long-term charitable objects of the organisation include broadcasting "to hospitals, residential homes and similar institutions, and ... patients receiving community care" and "to people living in Reading and the surrounding area". It has been established that, upon discharge, many listeners move into local community hospitals or care homes but, with reception outside the hospital wards restricted to broadcasts via the internet, future expansion onto a digital platform was still therefore under consideration. We remained in contact with B-Radio which, as Local Radio Ltd, was the only applicant for the Small Scale Digital Audio Broadcasting Licence for Reading when applications closed in June 2023 (and included us in their application among possible recipients of bandwidth on their platform should they be awarded the licence). Ofcom were not expected to announce a decision until mid-2024, leaving our organisation time to carefully evaluate all the financial implications before deciding whether or not to take part.
- Partly, but not exclusively, in connection with the above, the Trustees took two steps to expand sources of funding and increase income in future years. A crowdfunding account was opened and linked to a QR code to facilitate small donations (e.g. from grateful patients) or for sponsored fund-raising activities. In addition, the organisation was registered with the Fund-Raising Regulator in order to ascertain best practice, to promote it among our volunteers in years to come and to appeal to potential donors.

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One challenge, however, which appeared to have been removed during the year was the likelihood of relocation to new studio premises, of which we had been notified in 2022, due to the threatened demolition and redevelopment of the building we have occupied since 2006. Conflicting reports that the Trust now had a new rolling redevelopment plan, beginning at the farthest end of the hospital site from us whilst at the same time not ruling out a new-build hospital on another out-of-town site in the long term (government funding permitting) - and no direct confirmation of either – had led to considerable uncertainty. By the end of the year, however, it was established that our organisation had been reprieved - albeit possibly only in the short term.

FINANCIAL REVIEW :

The organisation has a long-established policy of holding a reserve of cash, equating to at least one year's running costs, in an interest-bearing National Savings account as a contingency fund, as well as operating a current account for its everyday activities. In fact, two current accounts were operational during the reporting year : although a new account had been opened in the second half of 2022, necessitated by the charity's conversion to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, the Trustees agreed that the old account should remain open alongside it into 2023 as a precautionary measure to allow for automatic and regular payments, both in terms of income (such as members' annual subscriptions) and regular outgoings, to or from anyone who had overlooked to change standing order or direct debit arrangements. Hence, the comparatively limited amount of activity on the old account is included as an appendix to the financial statements which follow on pages 8 and 9.

From those statements it can be seen that, in activity across during the reporting year in the main ("new") account) : Income (£5418.77) exceeded
Expenditure (£3881,72) by £1,537.05

Likewise, the smaller number of transactions in the "old" account also showed an operational surplus with : Income (£670.50) exceeding
Expenditure (£315.67) by £354.83

The organisation therefore ended the year with a surplus of £1,891.88.

Expenditure was kept to a minimum thanks to the ongoing support of the Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust which continued to provide free accommodation and power at our location on the main hospital site. The largest area of expenditure was once again the accumulation of various annual charges, licences and subscriptions required for us to broadcast. To these regular outgoings (insurance, PPL & PRS fees to performers & copyright holders, payments for Sky News, broadband & internet streaming and membership of the Hospital Broadcasting Association) were added our registration for the first time with the Fundraising Regulator. Other items of expenditure included the ongoing maintenance of the air-conditioning unit in the engineering room (housing the distribution rack) and spare parts, including the replacement of power supplies and fans, for our ageing studio computers.

The principal source of income was the sale (by Omega Auctions on behalf of the organisation) of the contents of our record library. The Trustees had authorised this at the end of the previous year in acknowledgement of the marked decline in the use of vinyl and

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CDs, in favour of digital sources of music, and in preparation for the expected enforced move to smaller premises with limited storage space. Most of the remainder came from members' subscriptions (totalling £1,050), donations from local charities and a parish council in return for a public address service provided at their functions and a member's repeated initiative in organising Christmas carols - and a collection – in the Hospital Reception. Members and friends of the organisation continued to support us as their nominated charity in the Easy Fundraising scheme when shopping online and Trustees set up a Crowdfunding account and registered the organisation with HMRC for Gift Aid in the hope of increasing income from donations in subsequent years. The Trustees were increasingly conscious of the need to galvanise the membership into more (and more profitable) fund-raising activities in future to respond to the increased financial demands that would inevitably be placed upon the organisation if, at some point, it should be necessary to relocate and refurbish & re-equip new studio premises or were it to be decided to embrace broadcasting via a DAB platform.

It should be noted that expenditure listed below as "Members Meetings / Events" refers to that which benefits only our volunteers and not the patients (e.g. catering at members' meetings). The organisation's policy is that monies received from the public must never be used for such expenditure, which must be capped at the amount already paid by volunteers in their membership subscriptions. Exceptionally in this reporting year the Trustees also authorised the donation of £100 to another charity in memory of a former Chairman of our organisation, whose funeral took place at the start of the year.

READING HOSPITAL RADIO BROADCASTING SERVICE

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR TO 31 DEC 2023

NEW current account

	£
BALANCE B/FWD	1150.00
INCOME	
FUNDRAISING	255.99
DONATIONS	100.00
MEMBERS' SUBSCRIPTIONS	870.00
REFUND (IRN)	174.32
OMEGA AUCTIONS (sale of library records)	4018.46
	<hr/> 5418.77
EXPENDITURE	
STUDIO MAINTENANCE	1128.06
TELECOM/BROADBAND/STREAMING	378.01
PPL/INSURANCE/RADIO AUTHORITY/HBA/FUNDRAISING REGULATOR	2210.02
MEMBERS' MEETINGS/EVENTS	165.63
	<hr/> 3881,72

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SURPLUS FOR YEAR	1537.05
BALANCE C/FWD	2687.05
RESERVES C/FWD (*)	<u>11939.54</u>
REPRESENTED BY	
INVESTMENT ACCOUNT	8079.91
CURRENT ACCOUNTS (new)	2687.05
(*old)	<u>1172.58</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	11939.54

(*) For appendix (old current account) see following page.

APPENDIX :

OLD current account

£

BALANCE B/FWD 817.75

INCOME

FUNDRAISING 450.52

DONATIONS 10.00

MEMBERS' SUBSCRIPTIONS 180.00

REFUND (PlusNet) 29.98

670.50

EXPENDITURE

STUDIO MAINTENANCE 68.40

TELECOM/BROADBAND/STREAMING 247.27

315.67

SURPLUS 354.83

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BALANCE C/FWD

1172.58

Approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by

Signature:



Date

23/09/2024

Ann Beasley (Treasurer)



23/09/2024

Gerard Rocks (Chair of Trustees)

READING HOSPITAL BROADCASTING SERVICE

England & Wales - Charity number 1196377

Accounts

**Reading Hospital Broadcasting Service
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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

For the year ended 31st December 2022

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their Annual Report and Accounts, for the year ended 31st December 2022

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Registered Charity number : 1196377 (England and Wales)

Working Name: Hospital Radio Reading (HRR)

Original date of registration : 1964 (as charity no. 244974)

Converted to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 3rd November 2021

Principal Office:

Hospital Radio Reading
East Drive,
Royal Berkshire Hospital,
London Road,
READING
Berkshire
RG1 5AN

Main contact address

c/o Mr G Rocks (Chairman)
6 Maldon Close
READING
Berkshire
RG30 2DH

Trustees:

A Beasley (Treasurer)
J M Burton Stewart (Secretary)
S Ham
F M McKechnie
C L Mills
* C Monahan (Station Manager : from 23rd February 2022)
M E O'Czaja (Vice-Chairman and Senior Engineer)
J Patey
G B K Rocks (Chairman)

- All the above Trustees were in place throughout the reporting year, being outgoing Trustees of the previous charity 244974 and approved to continue by voting members in the first Annual General Meeting of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation, with the exception of C Monahan, whose appointment as Trustee was approved by the same meeting on February 23rd 2022.

Bankers:

Lloyds Bank Ltd
24 Broad St,
Reading
Berkshire
RG1 2BT

***Reading Hospital Broadcasting Service
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STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE and MANAGEMENT :

Governing Document :

Reading Hospital Broadcasting Service is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, governed by its constitution.

Governance and Organisational Structure:

The organisation is governed by a Board of Trustees, who are responsible for overseeing strategy, direction and ensuring that the charity's finances are spent in accordance with its charitable objects.

The Constitution allows for the Board of Trustees to consist of no fewer than three and no more than nine Elected Trustees, elected by full members of the organisation for a two-year term of office. At the Annual General Meeting on February 23rd 2022 the unopposed nominations of nine Trustees were thus approved by the membership. The Constitution requires that half of the Elected Trustees should retire each year : in order to ensure some degree of continuity moving forward it was therefore agreed that, following the first AGM of the new CIO, four of those Trustees would serve initially for a single year but with the option of standing again for a full two-year term in 2023.

The Constitution also allows for up to three Appointed Trustees, appointed by the other Trustees on account of their skills, knowledge and experience, for a term of one year. However, no such Trustees were Appointed during the reporting year.

The operational functions of the charity, namely the provision of a local broadcasting service for hospitals, residential homes and similar (essentially to the Royal Berkshire Hospital), are overseen by a Committee, composed of the same Trustees with responsibility for technical maintenance and scheduling & programme content being vested respectively in those holding the positions of Senior Engineer and Station Manager.

In addition to the Annual General Meeting, five Trustees' Meetings were held during the year (in January, April, May, September and November) and the Trustees maintained regular contact through a dedicated WhatsApp group.

Membership:

Of the 42 volunteers registered with HRR at the end of 2021, 37 renewed their membership for the following year and were subsequently joined by 3 more on completion of their training and probation. Five members were awarded long-service certificates from the Hospital Broadcasting Association during the course of the reporting year: two for 15 years, one for 30 years and one for 40 years, although it was not possible to officially present their certificates, given the virtual nature of the AGM which was held via Microsoft Teams on February 24th. This, inaugural, meeting of charity number 1196377 was held immediately after the final meeting of the old charity, 244974, which was wound up with the unanimous agreement of all members following the approval of the Charity Commission for The Reading Hospital Broadcasting Service to be registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

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With many teams either having lost ward visitors or retained members who for various reasons were unable or unwilling to make a swift return to the wards, recruitment of additional volunteers was a priority but suitable applicants were few and far between. Four more did embark upon the Trust checking process towards the end of the year but a combination of circumstances meant that, in their cases at least, this was a more protracted process than ever and a source of great frustration to all concerned.

OBJECTIVES AND AIMS :

Reading Hospital Broadcasting Service is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation whose charitable objects are :-

- (1) The relief of sickness, poor health and old age amongst people living in Reading and the surrounding area by providing a local broadcasting service for hospitals, residential homes and similar institutions, and for patients receiving community care.
- (2) The advancement of health and prevention or relief of sickness for the public benefit through the promotion of the benefits of living a healthy lifestyle, and the importance of maintaining good personal mental and physical health by (mainly, but not exclusively) the means of broadcasting health education messages to people living in Reading and the surrounding area.

CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES :

Patient interaction and Request programmes

The cornerstone of our activities and fundamental to the achievement of our first charitable objective are the minimum of 25 hours of live programming each week devoted, entirely or in part, to playing music requested by or for hospital patients. The new year began on a positive note with an additional live broadcast, direct from Sidmouth Ward and featuring patient & staff interviews as well as requests. This was not only heard in the Royal Berkshire Hospital but also networked across the country via around 40 other hospital stations as part of a nationwide event, the "New Year Big Broadcast." However, the arrival of a new Coronavirus variant was already on the horizon : the other stations lined up to take part in that event had been denied permission to go onto their wards and just two days later we too found ourselves once again asked by our Trust to refrain from ward-visiting – as it transpired, until June.

This, inevitably, resulted in a drop in patient involvement. In the first five months of the year, although there were no days without any live programming, only **183** requests were received from patients & staff (via telephone, email, social media and occasional face to face encounters in safe outdoor communal areas). Fortunately, though, we were allowed to return to the wards in early June and when, soon after, the earlier limit of one ward visited per person per day (designed to minimise the risk of cross-infection) was removed, provided other precautions were taken on the wards, Requests teams had the potential to return to levels of activity not possible since before the onset of the pandemic in March 2020. This boosted the total number of requests played in the entire year to **2,432** (more than double that of the previous year but nowhere near the 8,066 played in 2019, our last Covid-free year).

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The availability of volunteers for Requests and other live programmes will always be affected by work and family commitments, health issues etc. and, in the specific circumstances post-lockdown, a perceived ongoing risk of infection and the domestic circumstances of individual volunteers understandably resulted in the return to the wards being embraced more positively and more rapidly by some teams than by others. A total of 54 scheduled live editions of "Good Afternoon Royal Berks" or "HRR Requests" therefore did not take place (including seven evening shows which were replaced by live football coverage). The death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II inevitably affected programming with the station entering "obituary mode" for around 48 hours in September (relaying Sky News and playing suitably subdued music, thanks to the prompt response in such sad circumstances of the Senior Engineer and Station Manager. Despite all the above, the number of days without any live programming at all, in either afternoon or evening, fell again to a very respectable **7** compared to 11 the previous year, meaning that **358 days** had some form of live programming as against 354 in 2021.

The number of phoned-in requests almost doubled to **372** (on a par with the best in the past ten years) many of them from a regular long-term or returning patients with whom initial contact had been made pre-lockdown. This illustrates once again the importance of ward visiting in publicising our service, building an audience, successfully engaging with patients who can be bored and lonely and making a real difference to their hospital stay. Conversely, requests received by email dropped to **29**, due in part to us losing the support of two staff members on Emmer Green and Sidmouth wards who had left the Trust.

Analysis of requests received, albeit significantly fewer than before the pandemic, enabled us to produce as usual charts of most requested artistes and titles. The Top 5 performers hardly changed at all - Queen, Abba, Ed Sheeran (replacing Elton John who dropped to no 9), Elvis and Frank Sinatra with the Beatles just missing out at number 6. And the increased number of requests received compared to in 2021, including more for specific tracks rather than "anything by X ...", led to a return to a more typical titles chart, led by Bohemian Rhapsody, Amazing Grace, Sweet Caroline and What a Wonderful World but with a newcomer, Abba's new release Don't Shut Me Down, propelled single-handedly to the number 2 position by one long-term patient who appeared to fall in love with it!

Special programming:

Although Covid-related restrictions or fears resulted in the disappearance from the calendar for a third successive year of some of the special events that had previously featured in our programming for the patients (such as the League of Friends' Christmas Concert and the Trust's Open Day), another outside broadcast from the Maidenhead Lions' Duck Derby did take place and at Christmas we were not only able to record the Trust Carol Service in the hospital chapel but also feature a special fundraising service/concert for the Royal Berks Charity from Reading Minster. That said, our Christmas 2022 schedule again focused more on selected repeats from the archives and less on new programming. But renewed cooperation with the Trust's Chaplaincy enabled us to mark the turn of the year with some special studio recordings including Communion Services for the Sundays of Advent.

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In other respects it was business as usual, with the Saturday Sport team (Graeme Collyer, Andy Cook and David Downs) continuing to provide an entire afternoon of Reading FC commentary and music from the SCL Stadium for home games and developing a promising relationship with the town's other club, Reading City, and the Reading Today newspaper during the break in Championship fixtures due to the World Cup.

Matthew Rolland continued to supply interviews with celebrities via Zoom for his Wednesday evening show, many focusing on how the pandemic & lockdown had affected them (at the same time often praising / supporting the work of the NHS) and Maurice Moore succeeded Matthew as host of occasional new recordings for the "Take Five" interview series as well as bringing a variety of guests to the studio for live sport-and-fitness-related interviews on Saturday afternoons. Nuri Khan extended his specialist music repertoire beyond the blues in two specials over the Jubilee Bank Holiday weekend, a farewell gift from departing member Gloria Wright was a series of "Music from the Musicals" for the daytime automated schedules and thanks to resting member Greg Mitchell we added the final recordings (to date) to our library of "Bedtime Stories" by local authors in the Thames Valley Writers' Circle, which continued to be aired daily.

All of the above illustrates our efforts to fulfil the first objective of our charity, "the relief of sickness, poor health and old age by providing a local broadcasting service ... to patients" - by implication, entertaining them. Progress towards our second objective "the promotion of the benefits of living a healthy lifestyle ... by (mainly, but not exclusively) the means of broadcasting health education messages to people living in Reading and the surrounding area" was achieved by public service announcements obtained from government websites were refreshed and "Good Afternoon Royal Berks" featured interviews with a junior doctor from the surgical unit, a Trust representative during Health Awareness Week, a leading pharmacist encouraging care with medication and Sharon Herring (lead nurse) promoting the Trust's new "snooze bags" initiative. It is perhaps harder to achieve that educational objective whilst being entertaining (!) but Maurice Moore's sport and fitness interviews came closest, many focusing on ways of keeping fit once discharged from hospital - and with the additional bonus of boosting our publicity in wider circles and not necessarily sporting ones. An excellent example of that was the story of Andy Alleyne - the first black player to play for Reading FC. It was Maurice on Saturday Sport who broke the story of the 50th anniversary of that debut by interviewing his widow. Not only was the story picked up by BBC Radio Berkshire but our coverage led to Andy Alleyne's parish council commissioning a memorial bench in his honour.

Future Strategy :

During the reporting year the Trustees continued to address, with varying degrees of success, four areas presenting challenges or potential difficulties for the future, particularly concerning reception :-

- Whilst relations with *Hospedia*, providers of the bedside entertainment system in the Royal Berkshire Hospital, remained excellent and they continued to renew our stock of headphones for patients' bedside consoles on the internal cable system whenever required, we were made aware of a change in ownership and rebranding of the company (to *Wifi Spark*). This appeared to add weight to speculation about a future move by the company away from hardwired consoles (on which our core audience on

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the wards is largely dependent) to other means of internet-enabled reception (and potentially reduced in number) whenever its existing contract with each hospital trust ends. However, initial enquiries via a lengthy email chain around the hospital management, failed to identify anyone able to confirm when the company's contract with RBH is expected to expire

- Independent of the above concerns, an additional aim was to broaden the range of options by which listeners around the hospital – outpatients as well as inpatients – might hear and participate in our programmes. Efforts were made to negotiate permission (and sponsorship of the necessary licence fees) to enable Hospital Radio Reading's broadcasts to be relayed to speakers in cafés and outpatient waiting areas but, sadly, these hopes took a step back during the reporting year. After an initially positive response from the League of Friends with regard to relaying a signal into their Coffee House they then backtracked and, having closed their shop on the hospital site, the League appeared to be refocusing its activities and adopting a lower profile within the hospital.
- The long-term charitable objects of the organisation include broadcasting “to hospitals, residential homes and similar institutions, and ... patients receiving community care” and “to people living in Reading and the surrounding area”. It has been established that many regular listeners, when discharged, move into local community hospitals or care homes (as has at least one very supportive health care assistant upon changing jobs). With reception beyond the hospital restricted to broadcasts via the internet, hopes for future expansion were pinned on a promised partnership with a local community station, B-Radio, and on Ofcom's eventual awarding of a Small Scale Digital Audio Broadcasting licence for Reading. B-Radio have promised to “always give local operators in our area access first to our Small Scale DAB Multiplex before offering space to other broadcasters” envisaging “a 'local first' approach, giving Reading an amazing choice of locally programmed radio services” – one of which, among “confirmed radio stations” on their website is Hospital Radio Reading. Hopes were therefore high but, by the end of 2022, OFCOM had still not advertised any new licences.
- Prior to the reporting period, the Trustees had been informed by the Hospital Trust of the likelihood of having to relocate our studio premises to elsewhere on the hospital site – possibly, initially, to a temporary location - in order to enable construction of a new medical assessment block. Timescales were vague (dependent on available finance and the slender possibility of an entire new hospital being built instead - in the longer term on an out of town site) and, in fact, no further information had been received by the end of the year. However, a clear-out of unwanted equipment was begun and many items sent for auction at the end of the year, via an intermediary company, Omega Auctions, including the now largely unused vinyl and CD library (music played now being primarily sourced digitally). This had the twin benefits of reducing the amount of material requiring storage in the event of a protracted two-stage move, or one to smaller premises, and also raising additional funding for the installation or replacement of equipment in a new studio at our eventual location.

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FINANCIAL REVIEW :

The organisation has a long-established policy of holding a reserve of cash, equating to at least one year's running costs, in an interest-bearing account as a contingency fund, as well as operating a current account for its everyday activities. In fact, two current accounts were operational during the reporting year : it took until late summer for a new account to be opened, as required by charity's conversion to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, and the Trustees agreed that the old account should remain open alongside it for a sufficient amount of time for direct debit arrangements (both outgoing and incoming e.g. for members' annual subscriptions) to be updated. Hence the limited amount of activity on the new account is included as an appendix to the financial statements which follow on pages 8 and 9.

From those statements it can be seen that, in activity across during the reporting year (and on the "old" account) : Expenditure (£ 4,183) exceeded
Income (£2,915) by £1,268 (i.e an operational deficit on the year)
However, taking into consideration income received in the "new" account (£1,150) reduces that deficit to £118 and means the organisation ended the year with assets totalling £10,038.

Expenditure was kept to a minimum thanks to the ongoing support of the Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust which continued to provide free accommodation and power at our location on the main hospital site. The largest area of expenditure was the accumulation of various annual charges and subscriptions required for us to broadcast :- insurance, PPL & PRS fees (to performers & copyright holders), payments for Sky News, broadband & internet streaming, membership of the Hospital Broadcasting Association etc. The principal items of expenditure on studio maintenance were the repair of the air-conditioning unit in the engineering room housing the distribution rack, the purchase of replacement microphone arms and spare parts (including fans) for power units in studio and new headphone / microphone sets for football commentaries. In addition new wide-screen computer monitors for the studios were generously donated by a Trustee.

Principal sources of income were members' own subscriptions (totalling £1,030) the fund-raising efforts of a former volunteer, who raised over £900 through a number of sponsored runs, and smaller amounts via other members, one organising Christmas carols - and a collection – in the Hospital Reception. Donations included £600 from a longstanding supporter of the organisation, £400 in advertising proceeds from the publishers of the HRR magazine (a valuable publicity tool), £250 from the Windsor & Maidenhead Lions in return for a public address service provided at their Family Fun Day & Duck Derby (!) and £150 from a volunteer's employer via the Charities Aid Foundation.

In addition, a small but growing number of supporters nominated HRR as their sponsored charity in the Easy Fundraising scheme, thus enabling us to receive a small percentage of their spending on retail websites. But the Trustees are aware of the need to galvanise the membership as a whole into undertaking more (and more profitable) fund-raising activities in future to respond to the increased financial demands that equipping a new studio and embracing DAB broadcasting will inevitably place upon the organisation.

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It should be noted that expenditure listed below as "Members Meetings / Events" refers to that which benefits only our volunteers and not the patients (e.g. catering at members' meetings). The organisation's policy is that monies received from the public must never be used for such expenditure, which must be capped at the amount already paid by volunteers in their membership subscriptions. In the reporting year this related mostly to the purchase of customised polo shirts & fleeces to be worn when on the wards or at outside events, expenditure which was covered by additional payment received with orders (and accounted for under Income as "Members' funds").

**READING HOSPITAL RADIO BROADCASTING SERVICE
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR TO 31 DEC 2022**

OLD current account	2022	2021
INCOME	£	£
FUNDRAISING	1335	0
DONATIONS	296	843
SUBSCRIPTIONS	1030	1020
MEMBERS' FUNDS	255	0
GOODIES/SUNDRY SALES	0	10
TRANSFER/INTEREST	0	0
	<u>2915</u>	<u>1863</u>
EXPENDITURE		
STUDIO MAINTENANCE	1745	1598
TELECOM/BROADBAND/STREAMING	683	600
PPL/INSURANCE/RADIO AUTHORITY/HBA	1412	957
PA	0	0
MEMBERS' MEETINGS/EVENTS	342	0
	<u>4183</u>	<u>3155</u>
SURPLUS / (DEFECIT)	<u>-1268</u>	<u>-1292</u>
RESERVES B/FWD	10155	11390
SURPLUS / (DEFECIT) FOR YEAR	<u>-1268</u>	<u>-1234</u>
RESERVES C/FWD	<u>8888</u>	<u>10155</u>
REPRESENTED BY		
INVESTMENT ACCOUNT	8070	8070
CURRENT ACCOUNT	818	2085
ROUNDING	0	-1
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>8888</u>	<u>10155</u>

For appendix (new current account) see following page.

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**READING HOSPITAL RADIO BROADCASTING SERVICE
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR TO 31 DEC 2022**

APPENDIX :

NEW current account 2022

INCOME	£
FUNDRAISING	550
DONATIONS	600
SUBSCRIPTIONS	0
MEMBERS FUNDS	0
GOODIES/SUNDRY SALES	0
TRANSFER/INTEREST	0
	<u>1150</u>
EXPENDITURE	
STUDIO MAINTENANCE	0
TELECOM/BROADBAND/STREAMING	0
PPL/INSURANCE/RADIO AUTHORITY/HBA	0
PA	0
MEMBERS MEETINGS/EVENTS	0
	<u>0</u>
SURPLUS / (DEFECIT)	1150
RESERVES B/FWD	0
SURPLUS / (DEFECIT) FOR YEAR	<u>0</u>
RESERVES C/FWD	<u>1150</u>
REPRESENTED BY	
INVESTMENT	0
CURRENT ACCOUNT	1150
ROUNDING	<u>0</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	1150

Approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by



25/10/2023
Gerard Rocks
Chairman

Signature:



Date:

25/10/2023
Ann Beasley
Treasurer