

HRS UPDATE 28 January 2022

To all HRS Members and Associates

Happy Birthday to HRS, and may we have many more years of success to come !

Yes, we made it to 50 on 17 January 2022 and celebrated with a marathon broadcast lasting 50 hours leading up to that important day. Quite an achievement by nine Presenters so thank you to everyone who took part and I hope you have all caught up on your sleep. (Me ?, just don't ask)

We also had a few press articles including a photo of Programme Manager Karl posing in Studio 2 and I recorded an interview with BBC Radio Stoke which was aired on the morning of our 50th anniversary. Thanks to Ben, Adam and Keith for promoting HRS around the Newspapers and other Media.

Sadly, Art Chatfield was taken ill around the time of his planned 50th anniversary Jazz show and has spent several days in County Hospital recovering from Hypothermia and very poor mobility – much to his annoyance, however, I'm very pleased to announce that he was discharged from hospital yesterday and plans to be back on the air waves very soon. What a guy ! When I 'phoned Art this morning he told me that he enjoyed plenty of HRS programmes during his hospital stay and made particular reference to Jase, Keith & Lynn and DJ Stiggy. Well done all.

Our Patron, Dana Rosemary Scallon, sent me a lovely message which I have added to our website but here it is in case you haven't seen it....

My congratulations to all in Hospital Radio Stafford on this wonderful 50th anniversary of bringing enjoyment and support to so many people at a difficult time in their lives. This wonderful achievement could not have happened without the generosity of the men and women who have volunteered their time and talent throughout these past fifty years.

I am both delighted and humbled to be a Patron of this outstanding hospital radio station. Long may you continue to bring happiness to so many people.

I wish you All Kinds of Everything good for the coming years.

With thanks

God bless

Dana

Such nice words and a lovely reference to her 1970 Eurovision winning song.

Behind the scenes at HRS, the Rack Project that I've been referring to for a while is almost into its final stages. This has been a project to update equipment that's at the heart of our broadcasting system, housed in an upright steel rack, first built more than 40 years ago by pioneering men like our own Mike Bayley and his colleagues at the time. Their knowledge and engineering wizardry helped HRS get started and it has served us well but we must think of the future and by modernising we put HRS on a sound footing for the next 50 years.

On recruitment, I'm pleased to report that we are 'inducting' three new volunteers who will commence Studio training during the coming weeks – Lewis, Jen and Robert. I'll introduce them properly in the next edition.

The Executive Committee is experiencing a few changes; Adam is stepping down from the post of Press & Publicity but will remain a Trustee; Phil Deakin has joined us as a co-opted Trustee. Currently vacancies exist for Membership Secretary, Press & Publicity Officer and Engineering Manager, so anyone who'd like to join us to contribute to these roles is most welcome. Just let me know. Thanks to Ben for overseeing Social Media promotions recently and I'm overseeing Membership matters.

A CD Player has been replaced in Studio 1 (the cost donated by Tony Nancarrow – thanks Tony). Another has failed in Studio 2 and will be replaced asap.

Thanks to everyone who donated towards a planned refurbishment of Studio 2 during the Marathon broadcast. The Gofundme page will remain open for much of this year as we gradually collect donations and it may also be useful for other sponsored events during our Anniversary year.

Other celebrations 'in the pipeline' may include another on-line Quiz Night and a rearranged HRS Dinner. More details from Ben in the next few weeks.

Thank you to Pat Taylor who composed a lovely celebratory Poem for HRS which I have pinned to the notice board and added to the website. Thank you Pat. You're a Poet, don't you know it !

Finally, a few words of thanks to County Hospital Estates Dept for arranging to fix a heating breakdown at Rear Lodge over Christmas. It's nice to be warm again.

That's it for this edition and thanks everyone for your continued support.

Colin Smith

A/Secretary

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