



Canterbury Hospital Radio (*CHR*) was formed nearly thirty years ago and started broadcasting from a small studio on the 4th August, 1973. Since then, our studios have moved twice (1982 and 2002) and volunteers have come and gone. We now broadcast from a small, purpose built studio complex at the Kent and Canterbury Hospital complete with record library, small office and one large, well-equipped studio. The station currently broadcasts on weekday evenings and on Sunday afternoons to the patients, staff and visitors of the Kent & Canterbury Hospital. We provide a personal service, aimed directly at the needs of our audience. Our programmes are predominantly request-based. It is our aim that the patients and staff regard us as *their* station.

TRAINING

Every member of the station plays an important role in whatever area that they decide to specialise. Everyone has the satisfaction of knowing that the service that they perform is for the ultimate benefit of our audience. Teamwork is the key that enables CHR to function smoothly and efficiently and to produce personal and entertaining programmes for the patients and staff of the Kent and Canterbury Hospital. To enable all members to contribute as fully as possible, all new recruits undergo an initial period of general training. This usually lasts for six weeks, during which time a trainee can expect to be introduced to all of the roles that our members take on:

WARD REPRESENTATIVES

Each ward is assigned one or more visitors or "Ward Reps". These people are the public face of CHR and they are also the people who promote CHR. The ward rep. performs a number of vital tasks, including: distribution and collection of request forms, talking to and interviewing patients/staff and general liaison with our audience.

PROGRAMME ASSISTANTS (PA's)

The name is self explanatory. PA's assist the presenter in the studio. Typical tasks include finding records that have been requested, filing them away (in the correct place!) and answering the phones. Other duties may include: making sure programme "inserts" are played at the right time, filling in programme broadcast sheets and preparing (and sometimes reading) the news. It is the PA's job to manage the behind-the-scenes operation of the broadcast - even down to making the coffee - but not in the studio!

ENGINEERS

If we're lucky we don't need to call on our engineers very often! Our members that specialise in engineering handle all equipment repairs, PC maintenance, software development and they have recently outfitted our premises at the Kent and Canterbury Hospital to broadcast quality standards.

PRESENTERS

Apart from the Ward Rep., the Presenter is the only other contact that CHR has with our audience. A bad presenter soon evokes a response from the listeners! Presenters must be able to speak clearly, of course, but most of all, their on-air personality must be happy and sincere. We require our presenters to be technically competent with the studio equipment and have regular first hand experience of our audience (obtained by visiting the wards to collect requests each week).

LIBRARIANS

Being able to find a record by a particular artist at a moment's notice necessitates maintaining a well ordered record library. All titles and artists are cross-indexed for ease of reference through our custom-designed computer database. With the library stock growing weekly, it is the librarians' role to ensure that everything is entered into the system and in its place.

Following basic induction and training, all probationary members are assigned to a non-broadcast role for at least six weeks. At the end of this period, new members remain in this role unless they indicate a desire to move into other areas such as engineering or presenting. These specialised areas require extensive further training. For example, depending on experience, it can take up to six months to train a new recruit to the level where they are ready to present their own programme.

There is one further vital task in which every member **must** be involved. This task is **FUND-RAISING**. Canterbury Hospital Radio is part of the League of Friends of Canterbury Hospitals, which is a registered charity. We receive little external income from other funding bodies. All of the money needed to finance the station has to be raised by the members - **no fund-raising = no station**. Thus **all** members are expected to take part in the Station's fund-raising activities. These range from street collections to sponsored walks, from boot fairs to fêtes - new ideas are always welcome!