

Whipps Cross Voices

February 2023



February news

Monday 13th February was World Radio Day. This day raises awareness of radio as a low-cost medium that reaches people wherever they are and we chose it to celebrate Whipps Cross Hospital Radio. See below for more on this story.

Work has started bringing together our end of project displays which we will be able to share with you later next month online and hopefully in person. Keep an eye out for more information as we have it.

Before we go, we'd love to hear what you think about Whipps Cross Voices. If you have a spare few minutes please complete this [short questionnaire](#) to give us some feedback on the project and what you think about it. Many thanks for your help.

Whipps Cross Hospital Radio

On World Radio Day we took the opportunity to highlight the new Whipps Cross Hospital Radio archive collection which is now completely catalogued and to share episode one of our 'Voices of Whipps Cross'.

Whipps Cross Hospital Radio began in 1969, broadcasting to hard-wired bed units from wooden sheds on the hospital site. Programmes were broadcast to Whipps Cross and Wanstead Hospitals until the latter closed in the 1990s. In 1991, the studio moved to a disused basement area in the main hospital, opening a professional-standard suite using ex-BBC equipment. From the 2000s the station broadcast to 423 bedside consoles, speakers in the corridor and waiting areas and was streamed on the station's website.

The station ran a full 24-7 service using automation during the daytime with live programmes in the evenings and at weekends. Music requests were a priority, with some specialist programmes and sports coverage including local football commentary from Leyton Orient F.C. The station also provided health and community information with regular packages on NHS services, general advice on subjects like diabetes or back pain and more specific information.

Whipps Cross Hospital Radio became a registered charity in 1983 and was self-financing through grants and fundraising. Volunteers were recruited through the hospital volunteering team and premises, phones and power were provided by the hospital management. Station manager and BBC producer Phil Hughes joined in 1971 and continued in the role until the station was wound up in 2002. The station won a number of national awards including 2013 HBA Station of the Year.

Episode one of 'Voices of Whipps Cross' features Phil, patients singing from the wards, jingles and other sounds of the radio around the hospital. You can watch on our You Tube channel [here](#) and look out for future episodes coming soon.

Sign up to Barts Health Archives newsletter

The Archives are launching a newsletter! [Email us](#) to join our mailing list and keep up to date with archives and collections news.

All best wishes,

Kate and Claire

You are receiving this newsletter because you expressed an interest in the project. You can unsubscribe at any time by emailing us at info@whippscrossvoices.com