ArroweSound Hospital Radio

Trustee Report and Annual Review

Jan 2025 - Dec 2025

The Studios
Clatterbridge Health Park
Clatterbridge Road
Wirral
CH63 4JY

Registered Charity Number: 1192149

Overview

ArroweSound Hospital Radio Trustees are pleased to submit their annual report and accounts for the year 2022. ArroweSound Hospital Radio is a registered charity, governed by a constitution.

Charitable Objectives

(1) The relief of sickness, poor health and old age amongst people living in Wirral by providing a local broadcasting service for hospitals, residential homes and similar institutions, and for patients receiving community care; and

(2) (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 Wirral.

Organisation

ArroweSound Hospital Radio is run entirely by volunteers, who pay an annual membership subscription and is governed by a constitution and managed by an executive committee.

Related Organisation

ArroweSound Hospital Radio is a member of the Hospital Broadcasting Association, a national charity that supports and promotes hospital broadcasting in the UK.

Dave Holt - Chairman

2025 was another exciting and successful year for ArroweSound with some fantastic achievements, new opportunities and continued support from our dedicated team of volunteers.

We started the year with an exciting opportunity to work alongside Bauer Media Group following the announcement that they would be leaving the iconic Radio City Tower at St John's Beacon in Liverpool. We approached Bauer Media to enquire whether they had any surplus broadcasting equipment they no longer required and would consider donating to ArroweSound. This led to a few member of our team being invited to visit The Tower for a tour and to discuss what equipment could potentially benefit ArroweSound. Thanks to Bauer Media's incredible generosity, we received a substantial donation of professional broadcasting equipment, allowing us to undertake a major upgrade of our main broadcasting studio. With additional financial support from a Tesco Stronger Starts grant, we completed a Studio 1 refurbishment before the summer.

Fundraising continued to play an important role throughout 2025 as volunteers supported a number of bucket collections at Tesco stores alongside appearances at Birkenhead Market car boot sales, where our popular tombola helped raise much needed funds for the station.

We also welcomed a new addition to the ArroweSound family - The Sound Hound, our very own station mascot who joined us at fundraising events helping to raise awareness of ArroweSound and bringing plenty of smiles along the way.

As a volunteer-run registered charity, everything we achieve is made possible through the time, dedication and commitment of our members along with the generosity of the organisations and individuals who continue to support us.

Finally, I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to every member of ArroweSound for their hard work, dedication and support throughout 2025.

Steve Dundas - Co-chair & Programme Manager

We have once again continued to provide a 24hr service throughout 2025 with varied live programming during both daytime and evenings, and where we don't have live programmes, we have a number of great, syndicated programmes throughout the day and evenings plus two shows that are voice tracked by presenters a number of times a week due to work commitments. I was very pleased to welcome Danny and Larry to the ArroweSound team, both bring a wealth of radio experience and both programmes have proved popular. We still provide health related content in our programming and will look to add even more in the next 12 months.

We managed to broadcast live from Tesco Bidston during our fundraising events in 2025 and our new edition Sound Hound was a real hit, especially with the kids and staff who all wanted to high-five his paw!

Hopefully we can get out into the community and broadcast live again in 2026 and we aim to put together some great entries into the next Hospital Broadcasting Awards, especially with the talent we have emerging here at ArroweSound.

Treasurer/Fundraising - Glynn Thomas

We received 3 large donations during 2025, Smile publications gave us £350 for revenue they received for publishing our SOUND magazine, £250 donation from Ford Britain Trust and Tesco customers at Bidston helped award us £1000 from their blue token appeal.

Thanks to Steve Fitch and his wife Debbie for organising our stall at various car boot sales during the year bringing in a total of £676.95.

Easy Fundraising continues to tick along, this year reaching £58.10 donated through customers purchases online.

We switched our landline and broadband provider in May 2025 as costs had been increasing with XLN. They peaked at £41.74 per month. Dave Holt managed to get us a contract with 3 Mobile for £18 per month which uses a mobile SIM dongle which enables us to take it "on the road" with us, making Outside Broadcast's a reality. Linked into this, via another monthly contract of £4.50. Buzz Networks

provide us with a virtual landline using our existing publicised number, so with a combined cost of £22.50 we have gained extra features for half the price.

So how is the fundraising situation? Discounting the "one-of" expenditure for decorating, studio upgrades etc, and purely calculating the running costs to stay on air, it's essential we maintain our fundraising efforts in 2026.

Charity Trustees

Dave Holt, Stephen Dundas & Glynn Thomas

Chairman: Dave Holt

Co-Chair & Programme Manager: Stephen Dundas

Treasurer: Glynn Thomas

Secretary: Heather Smith

Events Co-ordinator: Steve Fitch

Charity Number: 1192149

Address: The Studios, Clatterbridge Health Park, Clatterbridge Road, Wirral, CH63 4JY

Bankers: Barclays

ARROWE SOUND HOSPTAL RADIO
Treasurer's Report
Year Ended 31st December 2025

We received 3 large donations during 2025, Smile publications gave us £350 as a "thank you" for revenue they received for publishing our "SOUND" magazine. Dave Holt nominated us for a donation from Ford Britain Trust of £250, and Tesco Bidston customers helped award us with their (blue tokens) Groundwork UK donation of £1,000 towards new studio equipment.

It is unusual for us, as a charity to donate gifts, but the committee decided to make an exception with a bouquet of flowers for Debbie at Tesco Bidston. As Tesco's Community Liaison Colleague, Debbie has helped us to raise £2,250.50 with donations and 4 bucket collections during 2024 and 2025.

Thanks also go out to Steve and Debbie Fitch for organising our stall at various car boot sales during the year. These have proved to be a fantastic fundraiser, bringing in a total of £676.95.

"Easy Fundraising" continues to tick along, this year reaching £58.10 donated through customers purchases online. As a reminder, go through the website www.easyfundraising.org.uk when making your online orders – there is no additional cost to you.

We can't conclude talking about fundraising without mentioning the newest member of the fundraising team – "Sound Hound"! He made his first appearance at the Tesco Bucket collection on 6th December, resplendent in his Arrowe Sound T-Shirt and proving very popular with the kids. A large number of them wanted to shake his hand (paw). I hope it doesn't prove to be unbearably hot for those volunteers inside him during our Summer events.

So, moving onto our expenditure during the year.

Dave, Steve and Dan ventured over to the old Radio City tower in Liverpool to see what surplus equipment they could scrounge following the closure of the studios. Dave hired a van for the day and brought back anything they thought could be useful, and that Bauer Media could spare!

That tied in nicely with the Groundwork UK donation from Tesco, which had to be spent on studio refurbishment. Dave went to work on moving the desks around in studio 1, rebuilding the mixing desk and installing fresh sound-proofing tiling.

We switched our landline and broadband provider in May 2025.
Costs had been increasing with XLN (Daisy Communications) once our 'welcome' subscription had expired. They peaked at £41.74 per month.
Dave managed to find us a contract with 3 Mobile for £18 per month which uses a mobile SIM dongle – this enables us to take it "on the road" with us, making Outside Broadcasts a reality. Linked into this, via another monthly contract of £4.50, BUZZ Networks provide us with a virtual landline using our existing publicised number.
So with a combined cost of £22.50 we have gained extra features for half the price.

Our annual PPL licence is due for renewal at the end of January. However, in the last few days there has been a worrying development cost wise. They have determined that we may have to be moved onto the next band of their Linear Broadcast Licence, due to listener hours and music played. Believe me, the equation used to calculate this is extremely complicated – better explained by Steve or Dave.
However the upshot, if upheld, is a major increase in the licence cost.
Our 2025 licence cost £396.00 (inc. VAT) – the proposed increase would lead to an annual fee of £919.20 including a £90 admin charge and VAT.

So, how is the funding situation?
Discounting the "one-off" expenditure for decorating, studio upgrades etc; and purely calculating the running costs to stay on-air, (and PPL actually charging £919) we are looking at roughly £2034 per year. That is based on 2025 expenditure, with no increases for inflation. With £1787.53 in the bank at 31/12/25 there is a serious shortfall, so it's essential that we maintain our fundraising efforts.

One final thought relates to our annual membership subscription.
I rejoined Arrowe Sound in 2016 and the membership fee was £30 (waged) and £15 (unwaged) – exactly the same as we are paying in 2026.
According to the Office for National Statistics, the rate of inflation between January 2016 and November 2025 has been 29% - so to be bringing in the same amount of money, our annual subscription should now be £38.70

I have pointed this out to the committee with the suggestion that we look at some form of increase in the subscription from January 2027

Glynn Thomas
28th January 2026 (AGM)