

Castle Mead Radio

This is Castle Mead Radio' or 'The Station You Wish You Could Take Home' These words have been heard for 32 years on the station jingles for 'Britain's smallest hospital radio station', Castle Mead Radio. Based in Hinckley, the station started broadcasting to the Hinckley and District Hospital on Saturday, 10th November 1990. Throughout our time 'on air', we have continued to meet our objective of making our hard working NHS staff, outpatients, or those patients staying in hospital as pleasant as possible, by providing them a high quality hospital radio service, with a varied range of talk and music-based entertainment from the last 70 years.

Castle Mead Radio is a member of the Hospital Broadcasting Association (HBA). As a registered charity, (charity number 703117) it is funded by the local community, and monies raised from sponsorship. It is staffed and run entirely by volunteers, who are all unpaid in their roles. Some of our previous presenters have forged careers in both BBC radio, and both BBC and ITV regional news programmes. From our studios based within Hinckley Hospital, we provide entertainment to the patients and staff of both Hinckley and District Hospital, Hinckley and Bosworth Community Hospitals (also known locally as 'Sunnyside), Hinckley Health Centre and Castle Mead Health Centre surgery waiting areas. The station can also be heard on 'live' on our media player at www.castlemeadradio.co.uk, on mobile devices, smart TV's, and on smart speakers.

In 2020, our 30th anniversary year, we planned to expand our service and become more community-based, so that we could be heard in even more healthcare settings in the Hinckley area and surrounding districts via our internet streaming. We upgraded our broadband and refreshed our website, in anticipation of this expansion. Unfortunately, the impact of COVID-19 meant these plans had to be put on hold. However, as a responsible charity, we still continue to explore more innovative and sustainable new ways to support our service. To that end, we will continue to concentrate on our overall priority of providing the staff and patients of the Hinckley Hospitals and Health Centres with the best possible service, as we look forward to celebrating 33 years on air in November this year.

If you would like to become part of our team or even try your hand at becoming a presenter or fundraiser, then we want to hear from you! You don't need to be an expert either-we would give you all the support and training you need. If you have an outgoing personality, love talking to people, are enthusiastic and want to make a difference in the hospital community, you could be just the people we are looking for to join us here at CMR. If you have a couple of hours a week spare each week, and would like to know more, then please contact the station on **01455 441807**, and one of our team will get back to you to have a chat about just how rewarding hospital radio can be!