



A Brief History Of Radio Warneford



Broadcasting to patients since 1973!





How It All Began

September 1973

Miss Wells, the Warneford Hospital Secretary, gave Terry Brown, the hospital's Chief Engineer, and John Flaherty permission to start Radio Warneford in December, to provide entertainment for patients over Christmas.

December 1973

John Flaherty and Geoff Nicholls ran Peggottys Disco together and this formed the basis of the studio. It began in a tiny basement room in the hospital and the Red Cross helped out by visiting patients and collecting requests. Programmes could be heard on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 7pm and 10pm.



The First Year

January 1974

A schedule entitled "Wonderful Radio Warneford" was published and ran for three months. It was given to all the patients. Here's an extract:

MONDAYS

- 7.00pm Terry Brown Requests
- 7.45pm Hancock's Half Hour
- 8.15pm Mr Peggotty Requests
- 9.00pm Judge Jeffreys Sweet Sounds

TUESDAYS

- 7.00pm Terry Brown Revived 45s
- 7.45pm Mr Peggotty at the Theatre

FRIDAYS

- 7.00pm Judge Jeffreys Soul Music
- 8.00pm Terry Brown Requests
- 9.00pm Mr Peggotty Big Band Sounds



April 1974

Radio Warneford extended its service to five nights a week.

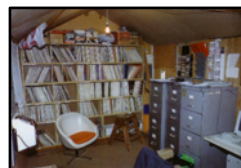
July 1974

The first Annual General Meeting was held, a Committee elected and the setting up of a production team was discussed.



November 1974

Mike Squire, who built Radio Warneford's current studios, joined the station, which celebrated its birthday with a dance in the Warneford Hospital Recreation Hall. Admission was 40p!





Studios

April 1975

New premises were needed and a hut, measuring 45 foot by 10 foot, was found on the site of a former power station. A purchase price of £300 was agreed and at the end of May, the Radio Warneford team began to dismantle the hut and transport it to its new home at the back of the Warneford Hospital.

December 1978

The Morning News reported the opening of the new studios in 'The Hut' featuring two broadcasting studios, a workroom, library and rest room. The complex was opened by Councillor Stanley Birch.

1982

A further improvement was made to Radio Warneford's facilities with the opening of Studio 2, the centrepiece being a new ten channel mixer. The studio was officially opened by Mercia Sound DJ, Dave Jameson.

August 1989

The Coventry Evening Telegraph reported: "A hospital radio network is to get new, purpose-built, studios at Warwick." These opened in 1993.

October 1993

There was sadness and excitement as Radio Warneford's members locked up 'The Hut' for the last time and moved lock, stock and barrel to a new, purpose-built studio complex at Warwick Hospital.

October 1994

Radio Warneford's new studio complex was officially opened by actor, singer and local boy Dave Willets with a 'handing over of keys' ceremony to Graeme Meanley, the station's Chairman at the time. The ceremony was attended by past members including one of Radio Warneford's founders, John Flaherty. To celebrate it's 21st birthday, the station broadcast non-stop for 21 hours.

December 1999

Radio Warneford moved its operations to a new studio complex in another part of Warwick Hospital to make way for new medical facilities.

June 2000

Radio Warneford's new studio complex was officially opened by Station Manager, Ley Bricknell, during the Warwick Hospital Open Day and League Of Friends Fête. EastEnders star Adam Woodyatt (Ian Beale) opened the fête and came to the studio for an interview.

April 2003

State-of-the-art mini disc players were introduced, replacing outdated cartridge machines that had been in use since the early 1980s.

March 2011

Radio Warneford's first MP3/USB player was installed in Studio One.



Broadcasts

December 1975

Radio Warneford began broadcasting at weekends with a Saturday Breakfast Show.

February 1976

Radio Warneford extended its weekly output by starting a Sunday morning service.

October 1988

Radio Warneford expanded its service to broadcast to Warwick Hospital via a landline. The service was launched by Sir Dudley Smith MP.

April 1990

The first trial 'live' outside broadcast took place on Victoria Ward at the Warneford Hospital. It was a great success and was to be followed by many more, including 'live' Christmas Day broadcasts.

January 1995

A new service called 'Patient Information' was launched, presenting information, news and features about Warwick hospital, health issues and related events.

August 1996

The service was expanded with the introduction of all-day Sunday broadcasting.

November 1996

Radio Warneford broadcast a special programme recorded in the centre of Warwick during the visit to the town by Her Majesty The Queen.

March 1997

Radio Warneford broadcast its first regular sponsored programmes with Apollo 4 Cinemas and Peters Booksellers.

September 1998

Radio Warneford hosted a special 25-hour non-stop Marathon Broadcast to celebrate its 25th birthday.

May 2002

The station held its first 24-hour Request Show. Two members were sponsored to stay at the studio for the full 24 hours, raising £1,000 in the process.

June 2004

Radio Warneford staged a special day of programmes to commemorate the 60th anniversary of D-Day.

November 2008

Radio Warneford held a 35-hour non-stop broadcast as part of celebrations for its 35th birthday.

August 2010

Radio Warneford held its first BIG Music Weekend, a 35-hour non-stop broadcast over the Bank Holiday weekend.





Fundraising

1975

Radio Warneford was registered as a charity.

December 1976

In an effort to raise money and promote Radio Warneford, the station held a 72-hour, non-stop broadcast. It took place at 16 The Parade and began at midnight. Rod Goult, Station Controller at the time, said "We are desperately short of money so we have decided to put on a spectacular for the public."

June 1984

Leamington And County Golf Club nominated Radio Warneford as the local charity for their Charity Weekend. The station was presented with a cheque for £700.

December 1987

Radio Warneford staged a 24-hour broadcast from the newly opened Royal Priors Shopping Mall. Presenters sat throughout Friday night and all day Saturday playing records to raise funds.

April 1992

Radio Warneford's first Easter Egg Tombola was held.

April 1998

The Apollo 4 Cinema in Leamington Spa held a special charity film premiere to raise money for Radio Warneford. Nearly 100 people paid £5 to watch the new movie *US Marshal*. The event raised more than £560.

May 1998

Radio Warneford held a 25th Birthday Charity Pub Quiz at the Park Tavern in Warwick raising nearly £200.

November 2000

The first Christmas Tombola was held at the Royal Priors in Leamington Spa.

March 2001

Leamington Round Table presented Radio Warneford with a cheque for £500 to update the studio equipment.

December 2004

Greggs The Bakers made a generous donation of £1,000.

April 2008

Radio Warneford's first charity gig night at The Moo Bar in Leamington Spa is a huge success, raising over £600.

March 2009

Sainsbury's began its sponsorship of Radio Warneford's Easter Egg Tombola.





Awards

May 1991

Radio Warneford is "Regional Station Of The Year" at the BT Hospital Radio Awards.

April/May 1996

Radio Warneford won the regional award for Station Of The Year in the BT Hospital Radio Awards. Radio Warneford was named Runner Up for the National Station Of The Year Award at a special ceremony at the top of the BT Tower in London, later broadcast on BBC Radio 2.



April 1997

Radio Warneford was the Regional Runner-Up in the 1997 BT Hospital Radio Awards.

May 2001

Radio Warneford was awarded the Bronze in the national Station Of The Year competition at the BT Hospital Radio Awards in Birmingham.

May 2002

Radio Warneford enjoyed more success at the 2002 HBA Hospital Radio Awards in Glasgow, winning the Bronze Award for Station Of The Year for the second year running.

March 2003

Radio Warneford received a commendation in the Station Of The Year competition at the 2003 HBA Hospital Radio Awards in Slough.

March 2009

At the HBA Hospital Radio Awards in Blackpool, Radio Warneford received a commendation in the Special Event category for its 35-Hour Marathon Broadcast.



People

June 1993

The Town Mayors of Leamington and Warwick agreed to become our joint Presidents.

June 1995

Graeme Meanley, Radio Warneford's Life President, was awarded an MBE for services to charity in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

October 2001

The Mayor of Kenilworth joined the Mayor of Warwick and the Mayor of Leamington as joint Patrons of Radio Warneford.

November 2008

Three new Trustees were appointed – John Glare, Janet Bonsor and Andy Dowell.





And The Rest...

September 1993

Radio Warneford Productions was formed, with a trailer being transformed into a mobile broadcasting unit.

January 1996

Radio Warneford carried out its first major survey of patients. The results showed that 60% of them had listened to the station during their stay in hospital.

July 1998

Radio Warneford launched its own website, one of the largest hospital radio websites in the world, with more than fifty pages of news and information!

November 1998

Radio Warneford rounded off its 25th birthday year with a special Gala Night at the Court House in Warwick. Members of the station were joined by civic dignitaries, special guests and former members for a celebration of the station's achievements.

November 2003

Radio Warneford launched a special charity calendar featuring artwork designed by pupils at St Joseph's Primary School in Whitnash. The winning design, by Katie Doherty, formed the calendar cover.

April 2005

Radio Warneford held an Open Evening as part of National Hospital Broadcasting Week. Guests included the Warwick Rotary Club, the League Of Friends Of Warwick Hospital, the Warwick Lions and the Warwick Round Table.

June 2005

Radio Warneford began broadcasting in digital stereo on the new Premier bedside entertainment and information system at Warwick Hospital.

July 2007

Radio Warneford began the continuous recording of its programme output using a new computerised logging system.

2008

MacGregor Ward moved to a new location in the hospital and joined the Premier bedside entertainment system allowing children to take part in our programmes.

November 2008

Celebrations for Radio Warneford's 35th birthday reached a climax with a 35-hour non-stop Marathon Broadcast, launched by BBC Coventry & Warwickshire presenter and former Radio Warneford member, Annie Othen.

December 2009

Internet and email access was introduced as part of the new studio computer network.

March 2010

Radio Warneford launched a Twitter account to promote the station and encourage interaction from members – www.twitter.com/RadioWarneford.

October 2010

The Radio Warneford Players held the first read-through of a special adaptation of Charles Dickens' **A Christmas Carol** for the 2010 Christmas schedule.

February 2011

Radio Warneford launched an account on Facebook – www.facebook.com/radiowarneford.

March 2011

Two collaborative items were added to the schedule – **Food News** on Monday nights in conjunction with the Dietetic Department and **Physio Time** on Tuesdays produced with the Physiotherapy Department.

November 2011

The late Graeme Meanley MBE, who was Radio Warneford's Life President, left the station a substantial legacy in his will.



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