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"InterAct has saved my sanity" - Royal Free Patient

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Welcome to the latest edition of our twice yearly newsletter bringing you up to date with our recent activity, progress and news.

Our work

InterAct resumed work at the majority of our hospitals in January after an enforced extended break due to financial constraints. We were however able to deliver the service to three hospitals from Sept 2013. Our financial position has stabilized but we are still not in a position to further embed community projects into the current remit as well as home visits, however we are looking to start these as soon as reasonably possible. Feedback from hospitals has been extremely positive.

Edgware Hospital.

"This is a very good service, keep up the good work!", Feb 2014

"Please come back to me whenever you are here", Jan 2014

St Pancras Hospital

"Very enjoyable readings. They make you look to the future", Jan 2014.

"This is wonderful, I didn't know such a thing existed", Feb 2014

"I haven't been read to since I was a child, this is so much better", Feb 2014

Legacy donation

The Charity was in receipt of a generous legacy donation from the estate of the late Florence Brenda Terry. It's very rare for InterAct to receive such donations, and when we've received them they have helped us through difficult economic times. Remembering InterAct in your will is an excellent way to support the valuable work we do in the UK. Charitable legacies are exempt from Inheritance Tax so your full gift will help guarantee that stroke survivors continue to receive our award winning service.

Saint Martins Singers performance of poetry, prose and music



"I'd forgotten how sad I was before you arrived" - Bristol Patient

"Thank you so much. I would just be staring at the wall otherwise." Newcastle Patient

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The wonderful Saint Martins Singers were kind enough to do a charity evening performance of poetry, prose and music for InterAct at Christmas, conducted by Charles Talbot. The event occurred at St Mary's Church, Eversholt Street, Euston in December. The Charity looks forward to working with this wonderful group in the future.

Every Day in May

fit naturally
Improving evolution

fitnaturally's Every Day in May is not far away now. This popular challenge takes place throughout May and involves covering 5km or 10km every day, by any self-powered means. It's well within the ability of most people to take part in this event but if you can't, please sponsor someone or encourage someone to participate.

The beauty of this event is that it is a personal challenge, not a race, and can be done anywhere at any time of day. You can split your distance into two sessions so it can be part of your daily commute or school run. The total distances involved are 192.5 miles for the 10km challenge and 96.2 miles for the 5km challenge. That's about seven and a half (or three and a half) marathons in a month. Proceeds will be going to InterAct and further details can be found at <http://www.fitnaturally.co.uk/every-day-in-may/>

Ruth Rendell Short Story Event 20th May 12 -2pm

The event to announce the 2014 winner of our biennial short story competition will be held at the Mayor's Parlour, Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea Town Hall, Horton Street London W8 7NX. Baroness Ruth Rendell will be in attendance, together with trustees, members of our development board, and some of our actors. Numbers are limited but if you wish to attend please phone the office on 0207 931 6458.

Exclusive concert at Danny House 7.30pm 7th June 2014



On Saturday 7th June for one night this summer you can enter Danny House, one of England's greatest private stately homes, a beautiful historic building for a fantastic concert in the Great Hall, all in aid of InterAct Reading Service for "*Songs of Innocence and Experience*".

"I think it's fantastic . . . being read to is so good. We are living in a dead world and an InterAct reader comes in and reads and sings and brings us back to life. It helps especially if you don't get any visitors and because no-one has time for elderly people."

Patient, Charing Cross Hospital

"Thank you so much for coming – you wake up my brain",

Patient, Brighton Hospital

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Danny House nestles at the foot of the South Downs in an area of outstanding natural beauty. Its doors are usually closed to the general public, but the house, built in its present form in 1728, has many historical links; significantly it was rented for three months for Prime Minister Lloyd George in 1918. He held regular conferences in the Great Hall (pictured,) where on 13th October they agreed the terms of the Armistice to be offered to Germany at the end of the First World War.

This important historical event is the inspiration for the concert's theme of "Innocence and Experience" marking the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of WW1.

An eclectic mix of music will be provided by the incredible Vivace! Choir and there will also be theatrical readings from some of our professional actors which will bring the Great War to life. In the interval you can enjoy a glass of wine in the Rose Garden, and indulge in a raffle ticket or two. 100% of the money raised will go towards InterAct's work supporting people recovering from stroke at The Princess Royal, Haywards Heath and Royal Sussex Hospital Brighton. There is ample parking on site, unfortunately due to being a listed building Disabled access is limited. Please contact the office on 0207 931 6458 for tickets, which are £10.

[Development Day at HMS President 31st May 2014](#)



We're delighted to announce that our next Development day will be held on HMS President on 31st May 2014. The day represents an opportunity to bring all the actors together to share best practice methodology for our work. We shall have Firle Beckley, a Stroke Association Junior Research Fellow and Clinical Teaching Fellow as our guest speaker. Firle's area of research is communication patterns when dealing with people with aphasia, so it's a wonderful opportunity to gain fresh insight and strengthen our communication with stroke survivors in hospitals and stroke clubs.

[What our actors are up too](#)

It's professional actors that are the heartbeat of the charity, who deliver the service throughout the hospitals and stroke clubs we serve. Here's a cross section of what some are currently up too professionally.

Allison Dean is currently working with Peter Ross, developing and delivering workshops on 'Money Matters' in Newcastle for older people with dementia, for Equal Arts/Comic Relief. She also appears in the feature film *Almost Married*.

“Patients are able to interact with people outside their usual circle of people in the inpatient environment. It has a positive impact on their mood. The patients have reported enjoying it and always have a smile on their faces afterwards. It is very useful for patients with poor attention span and low mood.”

St Pancras Hospital – Colin Owen senior nurse manager

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www.fourpoint.co.uk

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Rochi Rampal's first short story, *Daily Bread*, was published in a small six-story anthology for West Midland Reader's Network, and there was a reading at Birmingham Repertory Theatre of an extract of a play she's currently writing.

Susie Riddell is working at the Old Vic on *Other Desert Cities* directed by Lindsay Posner.

Laurence Bouvard is currently working on two cartoon series, *Watch My Chops!* and *Marcus Level*. She continues to record audiobooks on a regular basis, most recently *The Accident* by Chris Pavone and *This Dark Road to Mercy* by Wiley Cash. A recent book, *Sisterland* by Curtis Sittenfeld, has been chosen for the Richard and Judy Book Club

Laura Fitzpatrick has done an advert with the legend that is Terry Wogan and at the end of July she's playing Hesione Hushabye in *Heartbreak House* at Shaw's Corner for Michael Friend Productions.

Laura Rees has recently been at the Bristol Old Vic performing in *Great Expectations* and is now at the Hampstead Theatre doing a project of four Simon Gray plays titled *In the Vale of Health*.

Oliver Senton has participated in the London Jam, the UK's biggest festival of the improvised arts, and appeared with *The Showstoppers* and *The School of Night* all over London. He will soon be touring with the song-cycle *War Correspondents*, recording the BBC Radio 4 series *Trodd en Bratt say 'Well Done You'*, to be broadcast this autumn, and this summer will play Ahab in Slung Low's new version of *Moby Dick*, *The White Whale*.

Sherry Ormerod is playing Rose in the 2nd series of the BBC3 zombie drama *In The Flesh*.

Kirsty Cox has just finished a production of Shakespeare's *King John* in Bath and will be touring *The Last Post* with Kilter Theatre this summer.

Ashley Cook recently performed in *The White Carnation* at Jermyn Street Theatre, starring Michael Praed and Benjamin Whitrow.

Cleo Sylvestre was recently in an episode of the comedy show *Uncle* on BBC 3. She will appear in the feature film *Paddington Bear* starring Nicole Kidman and Colin Firth and is currently in the latest advert for Nat West bank.

On behalf of InterAct, thank you for your most generous support! The charity values such support and every penny really does count, especially in the current economic climate. Without your help we would not be able to deliver our award winning and necessary service.



Nirjay Mahindru (Chief Executive)

