

80's Caroline DJ dies

DATELINE 26th December 2015

1980's Radio Caroline DJ John Tyler on Christmas Day 2015, aged 52 after a battle with pancreatic cancer.

He was first heard on Caroline Overdrive in August 1986, later moving to present on Caroline 558 as well. John stayed with Radio Caroline for a year then went on to become a commercial producer, and then Manager of Contact 94 in Normandy, broadcasting to the Channel Islands.

John moved to LBC as an advertising salesman before returning to the air on Island FM in Guernsey. He later moved to BBC Radio Guernsey and also broadcast under his real name (Jon Myers), as a sports reporter at Sportsmedia, Talk Radio (later Talksport), BBC Sport, Ladbrokes and Turf TV.

He returned to BBC Radio Guernsey shortly before his death.

Facebook tributes include:-

Tom Anderson - "Another one gone far too soon. RIP Jon, a real genuine guy, a pleasure to have worked with you."

Jamie King - "Cannot believe Jon has died at 52. He was so cool to hang out with on Radio Caroline, RIP."

Steve Conway - "Apart from being a great music head, presenter, cook and mast-climber, he was a really friendly and easy to like guy, and was very kind to me when I was a newbie. A lovely guy, who lived too short a life."

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Hotel development plan for Red Sands Fort

DATELINE London 18th December 2015

Plans have been announced to develop Red Sands Fort in the Thames Estuary (formerly home to Radio Invicta, KING Radio and Radio 390) into a luxury hotel complex – the Maunsell Hotel.

The following press release was issued by the developers in late December 2015:-

The Maunsell Hotel, Thames Estuary, London, United Kingdom

It is now about one year since I was asked to find a way of preserving the Red Sands Fort in the Thames Estuary, which is slowly deteriorating after 72 years of being battered by the elements.

Thanks to the wonderful assistance of The Next Big Thing Creative, we now have a Branding Brochure to offer the World the amazing opportunity of preserving the Red Sands Fort, through the development of The Maunsell Hotel.

Early in the New Year, I intend to invite all parties, including hopefully the Developer, to a roundtable Conference in London. At that Meeting those present will be able to present their proposals for their involvement in 2016 and beyond. The parties I have in mind are those who have already made contact, including hotel management companies, helicopter and catamaran companies, civil engineers and other relevant organisations.

David Marriot Cooper



One of the concept designs for the proposed Maunsell Hotel

UPDATE

Statement from Project Redsand

18th January 2016

“ The Project Redsand Trust are aware of recent publicity from a person claiming to have interests in the Redsand Towers. We can categorically state that “Operation Red Sands Fort” are not a part of Project Redsand and have no connection with the Redsand Towers, also known as Red Sands Fort.

Any proposal for the development of the structures for their commercial use would first have to be considered by the Project Redsand Trust prior to approval being sought from Government Agencies. No consent would be given to the exterior re-modelling of this building of historical importance. The Project Redsand Trust do not condone any recent unofficial plans for change of use for private commercial gain of Red Sands Fort. Only the preservation and continuing restoration of a unique part of our coastal heritage in as close to its original form as possible.”

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Former Radio London DJ, Ed Stewart, dies

DATELINE Bournemouth 9th January 2016



Former Radio London DJ Ed "Stewpot" Stewart has died in hospital in Bournemouth at the age of 74, a few days after suffering a stroke.

Ed Stewart was born in Exmouth, Devon on 23rd April 1941 and started his broadcasting career in 1960 as an announcer, film critic and rugby reporter with Radio Hong Kong, as well as making local television appearances.

After five years he returned to Britain and applied to work on a number of the offshore radio stations. Radio Caroline turned him down, but he joined Radio London as a temporary DJ to provide cover for others who were on holiday. He quickly became one of the station's most popular DJs and his appointment was soon made permanent.

During his regular Radio London programme slot between 3-6pm he developed an on air 'co-presenter' - Myrtle and was given the nick-name ' Stewpot' by fellow DJ Dave Cash.

When Tony Windsor left Radio London in the spring of 1967 Ed was made Senior DJ and remained with the station until it closed on August 14th 1967, when he co-hosted the final hour with Paul Kaye.

After Radio London had closed Ed Stewart joined BBC Radio 1 as one of the original launch team and will probably be best remembered for hosting 'Junior Choice'.

He moved to Radio 2 for 15 years, then to the commercial station Radio Mercury, before returning to Radio 2 in 1991 where he remained until his retirement in 2006.

He made occasional guest return visits to Radio 2 to present 'Junior Choice' - the last being on Christmas Day 2015. Ed also broadcast in Spain on English language station Spectrum FM

Ed Stewart was also a popular television presenter, regularly appearing on 'Top of the Pops' in the 1970s and hosting the BBC children's television show 'Crackerjack' from 1973 to 1979.

Fellow Radio London DJ, Tony Blackburn, said Ed Stewart would be missed. "A lovely guy, loved his golf and he loved playing the songs on Junior Choice. I think he'll probably be best remembered for Junior Choice because he did that programme, I think, particularly well. He was very, very good at that, and of course, on television."

Ed Stewart is survived by his two children, Francesca and Marco, and four grandchildren.

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Another 80's Caroline DJ dies

DATELINE 15th February 2016

Former (1980's) Radio Caroline DJ, Keith King, died in the early hours of Friday 12th February, having suffered from poor health for a number of years.

Formerly a mobile DJ and broadcaster on local cable station Radio Basildon, Keith was also a good friend of the late 'Buster' Pearson, editor of offshore radio magazine *Monitor*.

Keith was on Radio Caroline in late 1984/early 1985 including the period in January 1985 when the *Ross Revenge* went adrift and the station had to suspend broadcasting for a few days.

After leaving Caroline Keith presented programmes on satellite station EKR and lately he ran an entertainments agency in the Essex area.

For more details on Keith's career (and an article he wrote for *Monitor* magazine about his time on Radio Caroline) visit his website -

www.keithking.org.uk/story.htm

There is also a link to an audio file of Keith broadcasting on Radio Caroline at Christmas 1984.

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RNI German Service DJ dies

DATELINE 23rd February 2016



Axel Borsdorf died on 11th February 2016 in his hometown Lörrach-Haagen at the age of 67 after a year long battle with cancer.

As 'Axel' he worked in 1970 for a few months as a DJ on Radio North Sea International (RNI), replacing Horst Reiner on the station's German Service. He presented live programmes each morning and evening and was also responsible for presenting the Top 40 on Sunday evenings.

Axel Borsdorf was born on 14th September 1948 in Dresden and grew up in Lörrach, near the German-Swiss border. He trained at the Hotel School in Luzern to become a cook and during that period he also worked as a freelance DJ in several discotheques and for radio stations before joining RNI.

After leaving RNI he went to work for the Swiss Travel organisation 'Hotelplan' as an animator and in later years for the tourist company TUI, where he was a tour leader in Thailand, Spain, Tunisia and Italy.

From 1978 he regularly visited Pattaya in Thailand where he lived from 1989. Here he took a new name - 'Lung Sen' - and became involved in the local community helping a local Thai family build a farm. For many years he also wrote for a news portal in Thailand 'Farang'.

While living in Thailand he also kept his house in Lörrach-Haagen, where he returned after his retirement.

Thanks to Martin van der Ven and Hans Knot

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Princess Joan of Sealand dies

DATELINE Principality of Sealand 11th March 2016



Joan Bates, also known as Princess Joan of Sealand, has died at the age of 86.

Joan Bates was born on 2nd September 1929 in Aldershot barracks to RSM Royal Artillery, Albert Collins, and his wife, Elizabeth.

Widow of Roy Bates, (also known as Prince Roy of Sealand), she lovingly devoted her life to her husband. A former carnival queen and model, Joan led quite a high profile life alongside her husband, Roy, becoming happily engulfed by the offshore radio phenomena in the early 1960's, helping to establish the popular Radio Essex.

Joan and her family then went on to form their own sovereign state, the Principality of Sealand, on a wartime fortress in the North Sea in the late 1960's. Roy declared the independence of Sealand on Joan's birthday, and with it her title of Princess, in a hugely romantic gesture on 2nd September 1967.

<https://www.facebook.com/PrincipalityOfSealand/?ref=ts&fref=ts>

<http://www.sealandgov.org/>

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Voice of Peace pioneer DJ dies

DATELINE Bolton, 15th April 2016



Former Voice of Peace DJ, Phil Sayer, has died at the age of 62.

Phil was recruited by Keith Ashton to re-launch the Voice of Peace after its return to Israel from France in 1975.

As Programme Controller Keith Ashton wanted a fast moving commercial sound for the

Voice of Peace and Phil Sayer was a major part of the team, becoming a big star on the station and helping to make the Voice of Peace the top station in the Middle East.

Phil was then headhunted by British radio, and returned to the UK in May 1976 when he joined Piccadilly Radio in Manchester.

He later worked for Red Rose Radio, BBC GMR (now BBC Radio Manchester), Radio City, Jazz FM and Smooth FM.

He was also a newsreader on BBC TV's regional news programme, *North West Tonight*, for ten years.

Phil was also part of the DJ team who presented programmes during the Radio Caroline North RSL broadcasts from Liverpool in 2014 to mark the 50th anniversary of the start of Radio Caroline.

After leaving radio and television Phil set up a voice over studio with his wife, Elinor Hamilton, based in Bolton.

His voice is used at many British railway stations - most notably South West Trains, Southern networks, and a number of stations on the Northern Rail network, for the provision of announcements regarding train arrivals, departures and cancellations or delays, as well as general information for the travelling public.

But he will probably be best remembered for his voice being used on the London Underground system telling passengers to "Please mind the gap" and "Stand clear of the doors please".

In 2014, he was diagnosed with esophageal cancer, for which he underwent surgery and chemotherapy. A year later, the illness seemed to have abated.

"If it is diagnosed too late, then surgery is no longer an option. Mine seems to have been caught just in time," Sayer told his local newspaper, the *Bolton News*, last year, while preparing to take part in the Great Manchester Run. "It's great to be here a year down the line with every confidence I've still got a future."

But in early April this year he retired, citing health concerns.

"Due to a sudden and unexpected decline in Phil's health, Sayer Hamilton Ltd is temporarily closing for business with immediate effect, and Phil will not be returning to work," read a statement on his company's website.

Phil Sayer died of oesophageal cancer on 14th April 2016. He leaves a widow, Elinor and twin boys.

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Radio Hauraki Co-founder dies

DATELINE Auckland, New Zealand, 28th April 2016



Radio Hauraki co-founder Chris Parkinson has died at the age of 74.

He was one of the four original directors of the country's first offshore radio station, Radio Hauraki, which broke the government monopoly on radio broadcasting in the 1960s.

The original Radio Hauraki broadcast from a ship moored in the Hauraki Gulf outside the three-mile territorial limit. Its popularity eventually persuaded the government to relax the regulations around radio broadcasting, allowing private stations to begin transmission - Radio Hauraki was granted a licence and came ashore in 1970.

Chris Parkinson went on to become involved with talk station Radio Pacific, and worked in the Australian radio industry.

His voice was regarded as the one of the best in broadcasting. He was the recipient of many awards during his career, including the Pater Award for the Golden Voice of Australasia in 1987.

Chris Parkinson was also the well-known continuity voice for TVNZ News and Current Affairs, and other programmes throughout the 1990s.

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Radio Mi Amigo Offshore Radio Event

DATELINE Harwich, 30th June 2016



This year's nine day Radio Mi Amigo tribute event in Harwich has attracted 35 DJs to transmit from the Light Vessel LV18.

Serving the North Essex and South Suffolk area, Radio Mi Amigo will return to the LV18 on 30th July for nine days.

This year's onair team will include Roger "Twiggy" Day, Emperor Rosko, Tony Prince, Dave Rogers, Stephanie Hirst, Tony Currie, Mandy Marton, Enda Caldwell, Neon Nancy, Sharon Smith, Dave Kent and Harwich's own Liana Bridges, who will be broadcasting 'live' from the Harwich Sea Festival on Sunday 31st July.

Radio Mi Amigo will be taking advantage of a Restricted Service Licence from Ofcom to transmit a nine day service as a tribute to the offshore radio stations.

LV18 will broadcast from her new permanent berth by the Ha'penny Pier, enabling members of the public to not only visit the classic vessel but to meet the DJs and have an opportunity to be interviewed on air.

The station will also carry news of local events, interviews with surprise guests and promote the Harwich area. Other events planned are 'Audiences with the Pirates' shows at the Electric Palace Cinema and the arrival of the 'Mods and Rockers' on Harwich Quay with scooters and motorcycles.

More info and listen live link can be found at <http://www.lv18.org/mi-amigo.htm>

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Radio 270 Tributes announced

DATELINE 5th July 2016



The RADIO SHIP does the splits for RADIO 270 DAY.

Yorkshire's only Offshore Radio Station RADIO 270 started broadcasting to the North of England in the summer of 1966, 50 years ago. To celebrate this The RADIO SHIP is presenting two documentaries about RADIO 270 in "A Life On The Medium Wave" on **Sunday 17th July** at 09-00 and 21-00 UK Time (with a repeat on **Saturday 23rd July** at 12-00 UK Time)

Then at 10-00 on **Sunday 17th July** The RADIO SHIP TWO (our 64kbts stream) presents RADIO 270 DAY, with 8 hours of output from the station, including the last two hours (in full) before the station closed down for good on August 14th 1967.

On that day (**Sunday 17th July**) The RADIO SHIP's normal programmes can be heard on 192kbts only from 10-00 till 18-00 when the network will join up again.

For more information visit:- <https://www.facebook.com/theradio>

Tribute Station re-scheduled



Meanwhile the planned Radio 270 Tribute station has now been re-scheduled to 2017 to mark the 50th anniversary of the station's closedown in August 1967.

The station will broadcast from Yorkshire Day (August 1st) and close down on Monday, August 14th, 2017. The organisers say concentrating everything into a two week period might be a better idea, and it's closer to a Radio 270 DJs tour of duty on the ship!

There will be studios on a fully licensed pleasure boat, you can still go out and visit the Radio 270 anchorage, and watch a DJ perform his programme on the voyage.

For more information visit:- <http://www.radio270.net/Tribute.html>

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BBC Radio 6 Music - Offshore Radio Special

DATELINE London, 19th July 2016



Live from a ship on the Thames

The BBC's year long season 'My Generations' reaches the 1960s this month. There are special programmes across TV and radio and 6 Music will join in, playing all things 60s.

Shaun Keaveny is live from the *Tattershall Castle*, a ship on the River Thames as he explores the alternative side of 1960s broadcasting, the offshore radio stations - is recalled.

Shaun is joined legendary Radio Caroline presenters Tom Edwards and The Emperor Rosko whilst Matt Everitt talks to The Rolling Stones' Keith Richards about the role offshore radio played in helping the music of the 60's to grow and reach youth audiences.

Plus, author and former Radio Caroline presenter Ray Clark presents the history of offshore radio in the UK.

Friday 22nd July, 0700-1000 UK time

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Radio Mi Amigo live from Harwich

DATELINE Harwich, 25th July 2016

Radio Mi Amigo will broadcast from 30th July to 7th August with live transmissions and online streaming from the light vessel *LV18*, based at Harwich Quay.

"It celebrates the spirit of offshore broadcasting in the 60s and 70s," said Paul Turvey, one of the organisers. "The DJs will be bringing their own stories with them, as they all have memories of offshore radio."

Listeners can look forward to interviews with surprise guests as well as music from 35 DJs playing a selection of 60s and 70s hits. Each day will have see a unique spin and style.

“It’s a wonderful project to be involved in as it advertises Harwich to people who may not be aware of what we have here. It’ll help raise the profile of Harwich.”

Visitors have the opportunity to meet the DJs themselves at the classic lightvessel, which has a permanent berth next to Ha’penny Pier, Harwich.

The Pharos Trust, who own the *LV18*, hopes the event will also promote local businesses and the tourist attraction itself.

To find out more about Radio Mi Amigo, go to www.lv18.org

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DJ Errol Bruce has died

DATELINE Ontario, Canada , 11th August 2016



Photo: Look Boden and Pirate Radio Hall of Fame

Errol Bruce, 1960s Caroline and Radio England DJ has died at the age of 73.

Errol was born in Alexandria, Egypt, on 27th October 1942, but grew up in Canada.

After an early career in radio broadcasting in Canada he joined Radio Caroline in April 1964 and stayed with the South ship following the merger with Radio Atlanta. He later he moved to Caroline North.

In June 1966 he moved again, this time to Radio England which had just been launched off the Essex coast. Radio England used the slogan “Boss Radio,” its DJs were known as “Boss Jocks” and Errol became “Bosscat” Bruce.

After most of the British offshore stations closed in in 1967 following the introduction of the Marine Offences Act Errol returned to Canada where he worked for a number of stations including CKFH, CHUM-FM, Q107, and the CBC.

He had a long-running UFO radio programme called 'Strange Days...Indeed' on Newstalk 1010 CFRB in Toronto and, when the show was cancelled in 2008, he continued it as a podcast.

He later retired to Ontario and ran the Virtually Strange Network website under his full name of Errol Bruce-Knapp for many years.

Errol Bruce died in Toronto on 11th August 2016 following a heart attack and open heart surgery, aged 73.

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Gerard van Dam

DATELINE Hungary, 16th September 2016



Offshore radio icon Gerard van Dam has died following a heart attack on September 16, 2016, aged 69. He was in hospital at his residence in Hungary for treatment of inflammation of his elbow when he suffered three cardiac arrests.

Gerard will be cremated and the ashes will be scattered in the North Sea in accordance with his wish, in the place where the radio ships from Radio Delmare were anchored.

He leaves a wife and two children. During the last decade Gerard van Dam lived in Hungary - he did not like to live in his native country, the Netherlands. His health was affected by diabetes and his physical condition deteriorated even walking became increasingly painful.

Gerard's first involvement with offshore radio was in 1971 as a courier for Radio North Sea International.

After a disagreement with the director John de Mol sr. he promised that within six months he would anchor his own radioship for next to the *Mebo II*.

And indeed Gerard van Dam did so by buying the MV *Mi Amigo* from scrap merchant and, after some rebuilding of the ship in Zaandam harbour, he brought the vessel out to sea and Radio Caroline was reborn for the first time.

Due to a disagreement with some of the British DJs Gerard left the organisation, but shortly afterwards he was asked by Belgian Adriaan van Landschoot to rebuild a radio ship for Radio Atlantis.

After the introduction of the Dutch Marine Offences Act in September 1974 Gerard put together a network of FM pirates on land. However, to achieve national coverage the real solution was to broadcast from a radio ship so he launched Radio Delmare in 1978 from the MV *Aegir*.

During the period Radio Delmare was broadcasting period, Gerard served as the figurehead for the station. In 1981 Gerard ended his involvement with offshore radio.

He moved from The Hague to Zeeland, lived for a while on the island of Malta, then again in the Netherlands and in recent years in Hungary.

With thanks to Leen Vingerling, Hans Knot and Paul Rusling.

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Former Radio London DJ Dave Cash dies

DATELINE Kent, 21st October 2016



The veteran Radio London DJ, Dave Cash has died suddenly at the age of 74.

Dave was born in Bushey, Hertfordshire, in 1942 and moved with his family to Canada in 1949. It was in Canada that he first entered the world of broadcasting while working as a copywriter for a Vancouver menswear shop.

He appeared on a radio commercial when the actor who had been booked to voice it pulled out with a cold. This led to more radio work and Dave spent some time on CFUN, Vancouver, working over nights as co-presenter and news reader. He also did a week's fill-in at CJAV Port Alberni, British Columbia.

Dave moved back to London in the early 1960's and a meeting with Ben Toney, Radio London's first Programme Controller, led to him joining the offshore station on 27th December 1964, just days after its launch.

On Radio London his nickname was "Rabbit" and his show was known as 'The Rabbit Patch'. He also co-presented the 'Kenny and Cash Show' with Kenny Everett - one of the most popular and best remembered of all the offshore radio programmes.

After medical problems forced him to leave Radio London in 1966, Dave hosted some shows on Radio Luxembourg.

When Radio One opened in September 1967, he was one of the initial line-up of presenters and enjoyed a Top Thirty hit 'Groovy Baby' under the alias of "Microbe", a character from his afternoon programme.

He also fronted a television show, 'The Dave Cash Radio Programme', and, with other ex-Radio London DJs Tommy Vance and Kenny Everett, he presented programmes on Radio Monte Carlo International.

All three later joined London ILR station Capital Radio when it was launched in 1973.

Dave later worked for a number of stations, including Radio West (as Programme Director), Invicta, Country-1035, satellite station EKR, Liberty-963 and, finally, BBC Radio Kent and other local stations in the south of England.

Dave also wrote two novels set in the world of radio: *The Rating Game* and *All Night Long*, as well as an e-book about his time on Radio London, *He Sounds Much Taller (Memoirs Of A Radio Pirate)*.

On 21st October 2016 Dave suddenly collapsed and died shortly afterwards.

Paying tribute, former Radio London colleague, Tony Blackburn said: "He was a very, very nice guy. His shows were very entertaining and as a person he was very warm, very good company to be with. I enjoyed his company immensely."

(Thanks to The Pirate Radio Hall of Fame for additional information)

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Caroline North to continue in 2017

DATELINE Douglas, Isle of Man, 19th November 2016



Manx Radio has confirmed that the Radio Caroline North broadcasts on AM1368 will continue throughout 2017, bigger and better than ever before.

On the last weekend of each month Radio Caroline North will broadcast across the Isle of Man, in parts of the Northwest of England, Wales and Ireland. The live broadcasts (generally from the radio ship *Ross Revenge*, anchored in the River Blackwater, Essex), can also be heard at www.manxradio.com and www.radiocaroline.co.uk.

+++++ More Caroline News +++++

Radio Caroline has applied for an AM Community Radio Licence from Ofcom to serve the Suffolk area.

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Former RNI DJ Dave Gregory dies

DATELINE London, 22nd November 2016



Former RNI DJ Dave Gregory has died after a battle with lung cancer.

Dave was born in Ealing, west London in 1949, and was a club DJ before moving into radio.

He joined Radio Northsea International (RNI) on 10th July 1970, at the age of 21 and stayed with the station until 6th September 1970, shortly before the station's first closure. While he was with RNI he was a relief DJ for those on shore-leave and briefly had his own show in the 6-9pm slot.

After leaving RNI, Dave joined the BBC where amongst other broadcasts he covered for Tony Blackburn on the Breakfast Show.

In 1974 Dave joined ILR station Metro Radio in Newcastle, moving the following year to Radio Tees and in 1980 to Pennine Radio in Bradford.

In 1981 Dave moved to Essex Radio when it launched on 12th September, presenting highly successful soul music shows.

He briefly joined Radio Luxembourg, but disillusioned with the state of UK commercial radio, he began working for London's land-based pirates LWR and TKO using the pseudonym 'The Lone Ranger' as well as regular appearances on pirate Solar Radio.

Dave spent a year as promotions and sales manager for Paul Hardcastle's record label, followed by eighteen months as the creative producer at one of London's first official urban radio stations, Choice FM, before moving back into full-time presenting at London's Jazz FM.

He moved to commercial production and voice over work in 1997, but also hosted regular guest shows on, the now legal, Solar Radio.

Dave died on 22nd November 2016.

(Thanks to the Pirate Radio Hall of Fame for additional information)

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Radio Caroline applies for AM Licence

DATELINE London, 6th December 2016



Radio Caroline has applied to OFCOM for a community radio AM licence, broadcasting to Suffolk and surrounding areas. The proposed coverage area is bounded by Ipswich in the South, Bury St Edmunds and Stowmarket in the West, Saxmundham to the East and Diss to the North.

Being an AM licence the station's broadcast would also be received by a wider audience in the heartland of the station's historical coverage area. It is proposed that some programming will originate from studios on board Caroline's radio ship *Ross Revenge*.

OFCOM will announce a decision in the New Year. If Radio Caroline is awarded a licence to broadcast in 2017 it would be a fitting tribute for the station which defied the British Marine Offences Act when it was introduced nearly 50 years ago in August 1967.

The full licence application can be found at:-

https://www.ofcom.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0021/95241/Radio-Caroline_Application-form.pdf

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