

## HANS KNOT INTERNATIONAL RADIO REPORT JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2011

Hi all friends out there on the radio globe and thank you so much for all the wishing cards we received during the Christmas as well as New Years period. All our walls are covered with cards from around the globe. We hope you had a good time too. As I had the first part of Andy Archer's memoirs, just before Christmas, there's a massive amount of pages for this issue, so I decided to take two months at once. So let's start with one of the many e mails coming in last and this month:

'Thank you for the Christmas greetings Hans and thank you too for sending your radio reports. Seeing the family gathered round the radio set on the Christmas Card reminded me of some lines from a book I'm reading at the moment: 'The Museum of Innocence', by Orhan Pamuk. In one chapter there's a reference to people keeping china dogs on top of their TVs (this would be in the 60s and 70s) and that this habit originated in pre-TV times, "most of these dogs sitting atop the TV sets were holdovers from the days when dogs sat on radios. As people listened to the radio, their heads would naturally turn towards it, and then their eyes would seek out something for distraction...." Hence the china dogs, though in the case of your picture I see alcoholic beverages were the preferred distraction! Anyway enough of my ramblings and all the best for 2011! Steven Pragnell

Thanks Steven and you must have sharp eyes next to sharp ears! Vincent Schriel from Rotterdam is the next one to get a place in this issue: 'Maybe something of interest to publish in the report. Almost all RNI charts from the English as well as Dutch Service, including all the tips, have been saved. And thanks to Mike Dowing, who noted many of the lists in his diaries, it's now possible to see them on internet. And maybe some of your readers can fill the gaps which are still there. If you've more info please send it to

[Vincent@schriel.nl](mailto:Vincent@schriel.nl)

The links to the RNI charts are here:

<http://www.schriel.nl/radio/hitlijsten/RNI-UK/index.htm>

<http://www.schriel.nl/radio/hitlijsten/RNI-NL/index.htm>

In last issue we mentioned the Morse signals on some of the frequencies of the offshore radio stations. Juul Geleick, one of the technicians on Radio Veronica in the sixties and seventies remembers: 'Also we got many times letters from people who thought that they heard Morse signals during our transmissions. It was from a radio beacon that continuously broadcasted the letters I N G in Morse on the frequency of 561.5 kHz. I N G stood for Saint Inglevert. The beacon was very near to the coast of Calais in France. During the special 'Second Chamber Talks' in Dutch Parliament about Radio Veronica and other offshore stations in April 1973 a letter was shown and mentioned which was from the Radio Control Service (RCD). In the letter it was mentioned that Veronica was making interference on 553.5 kHz. On that frequency were the radio beacons on oil rigs on the British Continental Plateau. The channel distance on AM was 9 kHz: 557 kHz - 4,5 = 52,5 kHz. So if you have a normal receiver and tune in at 555,25 kHz than you did hear on the side band the signal of Radio Veronica on 557kHz.

Time for a message from Rosko: 'Trying for coveted prize, first back at number 1? I interviewed Chi Coltrane in Los Angeles. She is a very nice person.'

Well Rosko you're once again beaten by several others including once again at the first place by a woman. Anyway Rosko sent a second e mail: 'Hans I can't remember what I have and have not sent you. Here is Derek Chinnery, before he became the boss of radio One! He was just a producer back then. I was making a tape for RTL and Radio Caroline at the time! Must be 1967.



PHOTO: ARCHIVE ROSKO

Well thanks a lot Emperor and I can tell you that the next months we have some other photos send in by readers of the report.

Well it's t shirt time again and one which brings us back to the sixties: 'Here you go Hans, here I am proudly wearing my T shirt, circa September 1967. Radio Caroline North playing football against the GPO at Onchan Stadium on the Isle of Man. I believe a draw was politically engineered! Regards, Pat, aka: Mark Sloane.



MARK SLOANE

Well Mark that's a wonderful one, most appreciated. Now we go to Switzerland to see what Vic Pelli has to write: 'Dear Hans, thanks for the new radio report. It was a pleasure attending the Radioday in Amsterdam for the first time. I am impressed how you and your organizing team put together such an interesting event. I meet with Edwin Bollier on regular basis and I have told him about my experience in Amsterdam and that it is a 'must' for him next year. The re-appeal and the petition concerning the Lockerbie case is at a turning point and the story could lead into a dramatic direction. Edwin was never an angel but in this case - seeing all the new facts and proofs - the Lockerbie tragedy had nothing to do with Mebo and Libya. It will turn out to be an incredible miscarriage of justice. But mighty forces are trying to prevent a re-appeal. Edwin's mind is fully concentrated on this - that's the reason why he felt uncomfortable to join this year's event.

The event in Amsterdam reminded me on a very exciting part of my life. I was not aware that people still treasure the offshore radio history so much. After returning to Switzerland I searched for my old 'James Bond

briefcase' and finally found it at the attic of my parents house. It's full of documents and also found surprisingly my handwritten notes from the first contact with Basart in Cannes, France. Also notes, organisation charts and ideas how I intended to reorganize RNI/Mebo. And about my main target finding a competent Dutch partner. I am glad that things worked out well and that it lead finally to a successful turnaround. Afterwards I switched back to record producing and publishing. As life treated me very well - I keep on to be part of showbiz. (see Facebook Info).



Several people asked me if it is true that an RNI Book by Edwin Bollier will be out very soon. Edwin and I are talking about publishing the ultimate RNI story. He would love to tell the full and 'uncensored' story. But it will take some time and the writing and research has not started yet. Again - other priorities. As you are an RNI and media expert - you would be contacted by Edwin or me in an early phase of writing. That's all for now. Tot ziens!  
Victor Pelli.'

'Hi Victor thank you for your e mail filled with compliments and information. I can understand that Bollier needs all his time for the Lockerbie case, but who knows next year. Good to see you enjoyed the stay in Holland and it also

gave the idea to search for the old documents. Wonderful also the news that maybe a book will be written and of course feel free to contact me. With greetings to Bollier too.'

Next space in the report for Chris Brisland: 'Hi Hans. I hope you're well, and life is treating you good. In the hope that at least some of this poses some interest, I've got together some bits and pieces that I thought you may be interested in: The anorak nation website contains details of programmes on the Dutch station 'Radio Extra Gold' and Radio Seagull, which may be of interest to offshore radio fans. The details are on <http://www.anoraknation.com/discussion/threads/>

Also, it was my pleasure to be guest on the 'Northern Soul and Motown' show on Ipswich Community Radio a couple of weeks ago. Here I was given the chance to play some of my favourite Northern and Motown tracks from the sixties era, and give a brief talk on pirate radio and the history of broadcasting. It is now available via Listen Again on: <http://www.icrfm.co.uk/> Select 'Northern Soul and Motown December 28th' from the drop down list. Click 'Tune It.' This was the first time I've ever appeared on the show (or indeed the radio in general, apart from a couple of brief appearances in the past) but I've listened to it for a good year or two now. And I can assure you it is far superior to the Sunday night BBC Eastern Counties offerings on the subject! In addition to this, the National Museum of Great Britain had a visit from the Ipswich Evening Star this week. The result is in the attached JPEG. Many thanks also to Keith Skues for putting me in touch with them. The only comment I would like to make on this is that in contrary to what the article says, I do not believe my radio collection to be 'the biggest in town' - indeed I know of at least one other in Ipswich that is at least twice the size. So I am slightly annoyed that that was put in, but otherwise, it's a relatively enjoyable read, I hope! Finally, a happy, healthy and prosperous 2011! Take care and regards, Chris





**WIRELESS MAN:** Radio enthusiast Chris Brisland believes he has the largest collection of old radios in Ipswich. The 23-year-old, who also collects hoovers and telephones, repairs and restores finds from car boot sales. Pictures: SARAH LUCY BRADY

# Chris is radio gaga!

BY KEN MCERLAIN

ken.mcerlain@eveningstar.co.uk

**PROFILE:** Meet the man, who is quite literally radio gaga.

Chris Brisland has collected around 25 radios from yesterday at his Ipswich home and most of the devices are still in perfect working order.

The 23-year-old thinks his unique collection, which dates way back to the 1920s, could well be the largest in the town.

Chris said: "I first became fascinated in radios when I was a little boy but I've only been collecting them for the past five years.

"I just love the style and sound of old radios - there's something so unique and distinctive about them which really captures my imagination.

"You hear so much nowadays about the quality of digital and DAB radios but to my ear the old fashioned ones are far superior.

"The British models which I've got from the 1920s and 30s were precision built

Collector has created huge collection of vintage sets

sound as clear as a bell even to this day."

Chris's collection includes radios made by famous names such as Marconi, Roberts, Ferguson and Dansette.

Most of the radios in his haul pick up frequencies on the AM wavelength and have been bought from car boot sales across the country.

The oldest working radio in Chris's collection is his Ferranti Model 31 which dates back to 1929.

Chris added: "The set is housed in a wooden case, and driven by four valves, including mains rectifier.

"It is marked up for Long and Short-wave bands, however in the case of this set, Short-wave actually refers to



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**GET SET:** Some of the vintage radios in Chris Brisland's collection

today's 'Medium-wave' or 'AM' band.

"The set is of a TRF type, meaning that it has two tuning controls, one for the serial circuit, one for the trimmer circuit.

"Both of these are marked in degrees, which was an early measurement method for wireless

pioneers to remember where their favourite stations were.

"Since this early model does not have its own speaker, output is fed through a 1500 HMV permanent magnet extension speaker, which for best results is wired for high impedance."

Chris added that he is

always on the lookout to extend his electrical collection which also includes hoovers and telephones.

**Do you have a collection of unique objects? Write to Letters, Evening Star, 30 Lower Brook Street, Ipswich IP4 1AK, or you can send e-mail to [eveningstar@eveningstar.co.uk](mailto:eveningstar@eveningstar.co.uk)**

Well Chris, thank you for all the information and the newspaper cut, a most interesting read. If you also want to share something with the readers just send it to me at: [HKnot@home.nl](mailto:HKnot@home.nl)

Next it's Ben Kok from Utrecht in the Netherlands who invites us to look at a link at you tube where some nice views in colour showing us the Cheetah 1, in the days of Radio Syd. Thanks Ben!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7zOM-L1JolY>

Of course we have to mention that Mary and Chris Payne have updated there internet site about Radio London, their people and all kind of sidesteps several times during the past weeks: [www.radiolondon.co.uk](http://www.radiolondon.co.uk)

Next England time again with Alan: 'Hi Hans, nice to hear from you again. With all the chat about the radio Pirates and the equipment they used (yes I worked at EMI on the BTR 2 half inch tape machines used to record the Beatles, and also worked at AMPEX loved for their classy brushed stainless steel decks and multitrack capability), we should not forget the artists broadcast by the Pirate stations. For those interested may I suggest: 'Thunderbolt' magazine which features the artists of the Pirate era, - type in Thunderbolt magazine on the internet and it will take you there, a nice complimentary site to your own. All the best, Alan Perry. (Currently working in snowy Luton, Bedfordshire UK)'.

Well you must have an interesting job at EMI Alan and maybe you've some interesting stories to share with us about that time. Always welcome! Thanks also for the Thunderbolt tip.

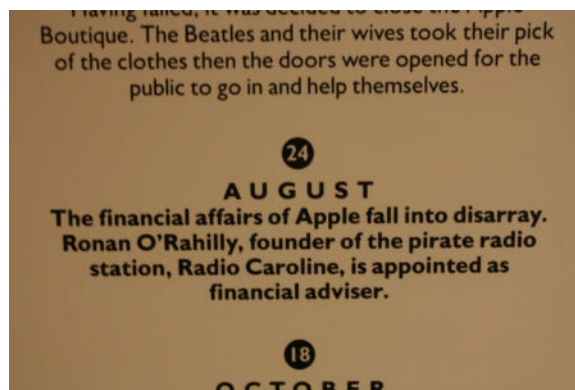
Martin van der Ven informed me about a new movie which is currently in the cinemas in Germany and is has to make with 'offshore radio':

<http://www.jarekraczkfilm.com/60-seconds-pirate/>

When on visit in England many times I traced down places where some links were with the offshore stations. Late January I will go again working for some days in the London area and I know for sure I will find at least one link to Offshore Radio, of which I report in March. However, living just 500 metres away from Jana and me is Jan Fre Vos. He wrote me that he has been to Liverpool recently and made some photographs he wants to share with the readers: 'When going to Liverpool it's no problem to get at 61 Liverpool Street. Does it ring a bell? Maybe the Caroline Bell? Well it was the Caroline North office during a part of the swinging sixties. It's in the centre of the town and above a nowadays T-Mobile shop. With small steps you can go up-stairs, where now you do enter a coffee shop. Of course this with the English meaning of a coffee shop, and not the Dutch meaning of it.



I was more surprised about what I found when watching the Beatles Story in Albert Dock. Way back in 1968 the Beatles raised the brand 'Apple'. Next to the record label there were other things placed in the market like clothes. It was mismanagement and also many records, produced on the Apple Label, were a miss failure. Even clothes from the Apple Label were given away for free. And than to my surprise it was mentioned that on August 24<sup>th</sup> Jogn, Paul, George and Ringo officially announced that they had a new financial advisor in the person of Ronan O'Rahilly. I don't think this was a good idea. Anyone knows something more about it: [HKnot@home.nl](mailto:HKnot@home.nl)



I hope you had the change to tune in to one of the BBC stations which had the excellent new documentary, produced by Paul Rowley, in which several people, including Andy Archer, Chris Edwards and Roger Day talked about RNI and the elections and more in 1970. I wrote to Paul after listening to the documentary: 'Hi Paul, just to let you know I'd the change to listen back



today your Christmas documentary. Very well done, my compliments, greetings.'

Paul came back with: 'Thank you for your kind words, Hans. To have such compliments from such an authoritative source as yourself on the issue of offshore radio is very gratifying. It was a labour of love, but very time consuming, considering I have been preoccupied in recent months in my role as a BBC Political Correspondent covering the first coalition Government in the UK since the Second World War. I was a 15-year-old schoolchild in 1970 and listened to RNI in the North-West of England, which you could hear despite the jamming.

I've always thought this was a story worth telling to a wider audience, and it was fitting being the 40th anniversary. At least ten BBC Local Radio stations took it, two of them repeated it, while two others, Leicester and Gloucestershire, plan another repeat at future Bank Holidays.

A number of other BBC local stations plan to take it in 2011. With the exception of the Monday after Christmas, you could hear the programme somewhere every day for 10 days over the holiday period.

Saturday December 25 - Christmas Day - Coventry and Warwickshire - 2000

Sunday December 26 - Boxing Day - BBC Essex - 1700

Tuesday December 28 - Radio Gloucestershire - 1800

Wednesday December 29 - Radio Manchester - 1500

Thursday December 30 - Radio Cumbria - 1300

Friday December 31 - New Years Eve - Radio Merseyside - 2000

Saturday January 1 - New Years Day - Three Counties Radio - 1000

Saturday January 1 - New Years Day - Radio Cambridgeshire - 1300

Sunday January 2 - Radio Leicester - 1400

Sunday January 2 - Radio Berkshire - 2000

Monday January 3 - Radio Cambridgeshire - 1300 - (Repeat)

Monday January 3 - Radio Cumbria - 1800 - (Repeat)

The programme seems to have been well received on the radio websites.

<http://www.digitalspy.co.uk/forums/showthread.php?t=1413601>

<http://www.musicradionews.co.uk/phpBB2/viewtopic.php?p=21042&sid=6c0b93a53bc61cb60bc4bd7e6d99c4e8>

<http://forum.offshoreradio.org/viewtopic.php?id=10450>

<http://members7.boardhost.com/PirateRadio/msg/1292946196.html>  
<http://members7.boardhost.com/PirateRadio/msg/1294080148.html>  
<http://radiolawendel.blogspot.com/2010/12/quando-radio-northsea-vinse-le-elezioni.html>

I hope I did the story justice. Paul Rowley.' And so now over to mr. Stevenson in Scotland: 'Hi Hans. There is a new website about radio in the Cold War Days. They have an article about the VOA, broadcasting from a ship that might be of interest to the International Report: [www.coldwarradios.blogspot.com](http://www.coldwarradios.blogspot.com) Cheers ! Graeme.'

And now we go over to Robert: 'Dear Hans, I've just found the attached photographs of the Magda Maria in Amsterdam Harbour in September 1986. Hope they are of interest. Best wishes, Robin Richardson.



Thanks a lot Robin for this memory. Strange coincidence is that today I have worked for many hours to put everything which came in through the past 2 years in the several files. Just finished and opening the mail I can tell you that the last file I put in the archive was the Paradise one!

Its 'Graham Gill Archive time' once again and than I talk of loads of letters he kept for around 37 years in his cellar. This time I also took some of them with me to share with you the reader and maybe the former listener of Graham Gill on one of the stations he worked for.

First one, this time, comes from Sweden where Janaka Wigerfelt was a new listener to RNI, way back in 1973. 'I've been listening to RNI since a few months, each and every evening. The first time I tuned in by accident, and since then I prefer RNI to Radio Luxembourg, which has been my favourite station for a few years. As far as I understand, you broadcast from a boat, a vessel, or what? It would be interesting to know a little bit more about RNI, your work, the other deejays. Is it true that you live on board the vessel with the transmitters?

I sincerely hope, when you have spare time, you will write me a line. That is if you feel for it. If so can you please tell me more about that little piece of music which start up your show?'

It's very remarkable in how many letters the start of Graham's show was mentioned. Of course we talk about how Graham started his program with 'Way back home', the instrumental backside from Junior Walker and his All Stars, using his own phrases. Next to that Janika asked also to get more info about the last piece of music, before the station had his regular closedown for the night. Of course Les Reed's 'Man of Action' was mend and the absolute station tune of the Offshore Radio Area.

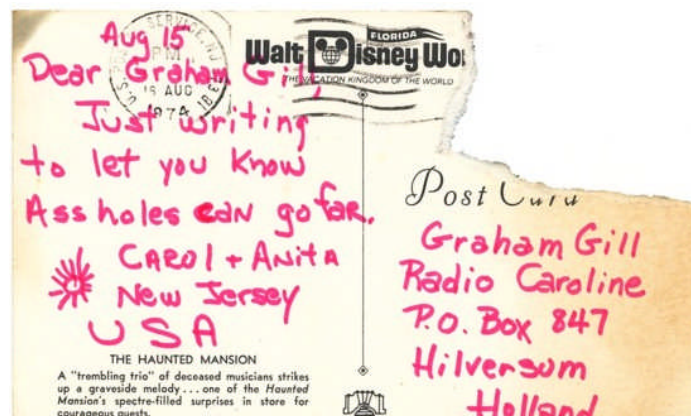
The Swedish lady was most interested as the next question tells it all: 'Is it possible to visit the vessel, the next time I'm in Holland, or is that against the rules? Anyway, if you at any time visit Sweden I truly hope meeting you and maybe guide you around.' Janaka lived around that time in Orebro in Sweden.

Others tried to get more information about working for a radio station. For instant there's the letter saved, which Howard Baker in Colchester wrote on November 1973. 'I'm very pleased with the professionalism from you, Brian and Don Allen and other from the RNI staff and would be very grateful for any comments you have on the excerpts on enclosed peach of tape.' Howard was in those days studying at the Essex University and was broadcasting sometimes at the University Radio station but had surely a problem:

'It's very difficult to get any serious reflection here. I love broadcasting a lot and would like to work in the business when I leave here. However, I

would also like to spend some time on a commercial station, which would have to be in the USA or elsewhere. If you know anything about that, as I believe you have worked on various stations before joining RNI! I would love to get the needed information. I look forward to hearing from you'.

It is not known if Howard ever got into the business. Sometimes in the programs on the stations in international waters remarks were made by the deejays that not everything was so happy on the ship. Surely Graham Gill must have made some remarks one day, while working on Radio Caroline. One thing was sure however and that is that the reception of the station was very good the night the remarks were made. Look at the next card were it came from and what the two female listeners wrote to Graham.



RNI also had sometimes listeners from all over the world. Here some information from a letter from February 14, and was written aboard the MV Challenger. Patrick Thomas wrote the letter, that day with the ship in the harbour of Port of Spain in Trinidad. 'Dear Graham I've been listening to your program for quite long, while in Trinidad, on the 49 metres band shortwave. I finally decided to write to you and ask you if you would read out my name for some friends. When I'm in Europe my radio is always on RNI. You are the best pop music station in Europe, plus you have that friendly personal touch of actually reading out letters over the air for pen pals and requests.'

After some not too important contents, the letter went on: 'Your station comes in around 21.30 GMT in Trinidad quite strong and clear. I've no problem listening versus shortwave. I am a 27 years young man with French, Scottish, Spanish, Chinese and Negro blood. I'm a electronic technician and

like pop music, photography, world affairs, reading and psychology.' Next a long request for pen pals followed in the letter from the other side of the world.

But also official Reception Reports came in on self created 'log lists' or bought from certain DX Clubs. Esko Jukkala was club member 2415 from the Finish DX Association and came from Turku in Finland. He wrote such an official Reception Report to RNI.

**RECEPTION REPORT**

RADIO RNI TURKU, 27 MAY 1973  
 P.O. BOX 218  
 HILVERSUM HOLLAND

Dear Sirs,

I had the pleasure of listening to your station broadcasting on 49 kilohertz in the 49 metre band on the 27 of MAY 1973 at 17.00 GMT/ 17.35

Details from your programme:

17.00 "THIS IS RADIO NORDSEE INTERNATIONAL WORLD SERVICE GREENWICH MEAN TIME" 000  
 17.00 NEWS ROUND 0  
 17.01 "UNITED STATES" & "ITALY" & "ZAMBIA" 0  
 17.03 "NEXT NEWS IN ONE HOUR'S TIME" 0  
 17.03 "COMING UP TO THREE MINUTE AFTER FIVE IN A 90 METER BAND EUROPEAN TIME" 000  
 17.04 "NEXT TWO HOURS WITH MUSIC MRS GRAND GILL" 0  
 17.11 "11 MINUTE AFTER FIVE IN GREENWICH MEAN TIME" 0000 WORLD SERVICE 0  
 17.15 THE SONG OF "CROPPY, CERRY" 0  
 17.29 NANA MOSKOURI AND "NICKOL SONG" 0

The reception was SINPO 44343

Signal strength	Interference	Noise	Propagation distance	Overall merit
5 - excellent	nil	nil	nil	excellent
4 - good	slight	slight	slight	good
3 - fair	moderate	moderate	moderate	fair
2 - poor	severe	severe	severe	poor
1 - very poor	extreme	extreme	extreme	inadequate

Receiver: IRT. COMMUNICATION RECEIVER Antenna: 29.1 METER "A" TYPE  
 Remarks: THIS IS MY FIRST REPORT TO YOU!

Thank you for your transmission. Your confirmation of my reception would be very much appreciated.

Yours faithfully,  
*Esko Jukkala*  
 Name: ESKO JUUKALA  
 Address: TÖUKKÄLÄNK. 17 B125  
20540 TURKU 54  
FINLAND

I am member number 2415 of the following member club of the FINNISH DX ASSOCIATION  
 Finland's DX Club International  
 Finnish DX-Club ry  
 Suomen DX-Kuursijat ry

People tried to listen in several places and not only in houses or on the beach to the International Sound of RNI. Here is a part of a letter from Terry in White Cliff on Sea, in Essex: 'I'm in hospital now and the sister of the ward said I can listen to RNI. So I have my radio in hospital and when I put my earphone in I can listen to RNI. Give my best to Brian as I like his Rock and Roll Shows. I also listen to your programs Graham, they're very good.' No, Terry was not ill but working during nighttime in the hospital: 'I work all the time during the night and that is why I listen to RNI. All the time it is the best station. All the men work run me down because all they like is the BBC. I tell them to shut up. I am a free radio listener and so long live RNI.'



One of the first demonstrations, which I remember, to save the radio stations broadcasting from International Waters, was in London in 1967. In 1970 some others, organised by de Free Radio Association - among others - were very anti British government and pro RNI. In the surprise letterboxes from Graham Gill I also found an envelope with no letter enclosed but a copy of a typed petition, from which the original probably was sent to the Dutch Embassy in London.

TO: THE AMBASSADOR,  
ROYAL NETHERLANDS EMBASSY,  
26, HYDE PARK GATE,  
LONDON SW7 5DP

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, RESPECTFULLY SUBMIT THIS PETITION FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.

WE FEEL THAT THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSAL TO CLOSE DOWN THE OFFSHORE RADIO STATIONS, ESPECIALLY RADIO HORDGRE AND RADIO VERONICA, IS VERY WRONG, FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:-

(1) IT IS A FACT THAT THE OFFSHORE RADIO STATIONS ARE PROVIDING GOOD ENTERTAINMENT FOR THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE THROUGHOUT EUROPE.

(2) THESE RADIO STATIONS HAVE BECOME EXTREMELY POPULAR IN BOTH HOLLAND, ENGLAND AND OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES; TO FORCE THEM TO CLOSE DOWN WOULD BE A COMPLETELY UNNECESSARY AND UNFAIR COURSE OF ACTION.

WE SINCERELY ASK THE GOVERNMENT OF THE NETHERLANDS TO CANCEL ITS PROPOSED LEGISLATION AND TO ALLOW RADIO HORDGRE AND RADIO VERONICA TO CONTINUE BROADCASTING AND PROVIDING THEIR EXCELLENT ENTERTAINMENT FOR MANY YEARS TO COME.

Digging in the box again some days later, a letter was found which was written by: Robin Harvey on Sunday July 8, 1973: 'At the moment I'm listening to the RNI Request show. I think you're doing an excellent programme. I should think that it is one of the best listened to programmes on RNI. I was very disturbed to see that the Dutch authorities intend introducing legalization against the offshore stations, especially RNI. I have listened to RNI on virtually every night since the early days of 1970. Over that past years, the station has come to mean a lot to me. I believe the Dutch authorities proposed legalization is unnecessary and very unfair. I want RNI to remain on the air for many years to come, and I decided a few weeks ago, to compile a petition to send in to the Dutch Embassy in London, as a means of showing how many people value RNI dearly and do not want it to be closed down. I wonder if you would assist me, Graham, with the petition. I would be very grateful, if you could announce the fact several times on the air that I am organising this petition. And that if other RNI listeners would like to take part in the Campaign, could they get a sheet of paper and fill in with their signature and send it to me within the next three to four weeks. Alternatively, if they write to me, I'll send them some of my

petition signature forms. (In this case, a stamp or SAE would be very greatly appreciated). I've have included one with this letter Graham, for your examination. I hope you'll agree with the point I have made. As a matter of interest, the petition stands at over 100 signatures after only a few days. Best of luck, Robin Harvey.'

So finding this letter and the earlier envelope with the petition inside brought to me the conclusion that Robin forgot to include the petition and send it in a separate envelope some days later to the RNI Postbox in Hilversum.

Even 6 years after the closedown from Radio 390, one of the stations Graham Gill worked as an announcer/presenter, listeners wrote to him about this station like on April 15<sup>th</sup>. 1973. It came from Fred Power in Sandown on the Isle of Wight: 'just a short letter to let you know that I was unable to hear your programme today; owing a very bad feeling. In fact the signal has been practically non existence all day on the 49 Metres. By the way if you can receive Radio Solent. I'm hoping John Piper will play a request there for all ex Radio 390 staff and listeners. Now further news yet from David Lye, of a possible return to the air of our old station. I will inform you with any further development that may take place. I think a return of the station is now odds on.' I presume Fred was another one of the many people working for Radio 390 in the past.

Another one from the box is a letter from a girl in Dublin, who told in her letter she started it for the third time and the two others were already in an envelope. However, she had to restart it. Geniffee, as the girls name was, wanted advice from Graham how living in Amsterdam, as a foreigner, could be. She wanted to leave Ireland as soon as possible and was searching for a job as a au pair or in an hotel, as long as not the 12 hours a day contract was to be signed. The reasons she wanted to leave Dublin were mentioned: 'I have several reasons to leave Ireland. I'm not a Dubliner but my home originates in Northern Ireland. I've worked in Belfast for the last three years, but moved down to Dublin, as it's far much peaceful. I am not particularly fond of Dublin and I would much prefer to live in Belfast if things weren't in such a bad state there at the moment. I don't know if you ever met any Irish people who travel, but we aren't all as bad as you might hear about on the news. I could go on about this forever, as I am very

interested in politics, particularly when people are always involved but are never understood. However if I ever should meet you one day I'll try to explain things to you. Another reason is that I do not think I can't stand working in an office much longer. The work atmosphere etc. absolute bores me to tears.'

Surely, one of the many people who left Northern Ireland, a country which was almost every day hot in the news bulletins and where heavy fights took place and several became victim of it. Genifée had written several times to Graham and became more open during the letters. I think she saw Graham Gill as a sort of father. She never wrote in the letters about him although she wrote about her mother by stating that she was probably filled with unrest as her mother was also often on the run, travelling:

'I'm something of a daydreamer. I'm not running away from here or anything, but the reason I don't want to read this letter on the air is that I haven't said anything about it at home. I better tell them myself instead they're hearing it on the radio or maybe a neighbour will hear you reading the letter!' Next the lady again excused for the many and long letters and told Graham that she was normally very shy and she only talked to other people after zipping down some whiskeys or vodkas. Only then, she lost her timidity.

In one of the many other letters, which Genifée wrote, was also a poem enclosed as ode to RNI.

CDE TO RNI

It's not something I ever planned,  
It just happened as I tuned to the medium Waveband,  
RNI just seemed to come my way  
The station where good sounds are the order of the day.

Whether you like slow sounds or music with a swing  
all the D.S.'s know that happiness is the real thing,  
So maybe sometime if you're feelin' kind of lous  
you'll <sup>really</sup> feel ~~much~~ much better when you dial 220.

Well I believe in freedom & I'm sure you do too  
I found my freedom aboard the good ship Melro II,  
So if you want a peaceful music life like me  
Tune into the happiest station, Radio Nordzee.

THE END

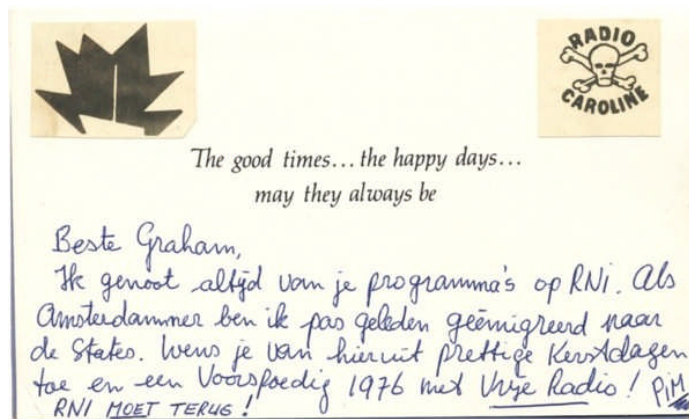
As told before the letters in Graham's cellar, which he collected during his period working for RNI, Caroline and Radio Netherlands, came from everywhere. For instant from the State Central Prison at Scheveningen and was addressed to: 'Dear DJ, whoever you are!' The write of the letter 'LA' (which by the way has nothing do with Loving Awareness) wrote: Perhaps it will be interesting to you about my actual circumstances, so I'll tell you about it. I'm serving an two year sentence for a bank affairs at the Central Prison very near to the MEBO II in Scheveningen. My wife and I have a sort of appointment, which contains that we both listen to RNI at the same times to the same programs. This gives us the idea that we are those moments close together. Of course you will understand what I mean. Last week, when my wife was visiting me, she told me about the possibility to do a request in a new Sunday night program, and she asked me to write you a letter.' Next the request followed whereby Graham was asked to play a record for his wife, lovely daughter of four and former inside mate Kick: 'Speak softly' by Andy Williams. There was another request as 'LA' added: 'Of course you will understand, that I'm not able to listen always that late, the prison rules you see. So if you please do us the pleasure on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> this month as I know for sure that evening I'm able to listen to the station.'

Even letters came in written on Hotel Paper Head, like the one from Philip Cox who was not only interested in listening to RNI but also was interested

in the jingles of the station as he sent in some phrases which the deejays could use during producing new jingles.



Also after his time on RNI, Graham was still in contact with listeners. Here's a Christmas card from 1975 which he got from Pim. He wrote to Graham: 'I always enjoyed your programs. As originally from Amsterdam I recently emigrated to the USA and from here I wish you a happy Christmas and a happy 1976.'



I personally met Graham Gill for the first time in 1973 when he was producing the commercial for the RNI double album, which had to be played on the international service. The double album, History of RNI, was produced by Jacob Kokje, with me as co-producer and we worked on it from



November 1972 up till April 1973. It was released on May the 4<sup>th</sup> 1973 on the Park Label, a sub-label from the Basart Record Company. Therefore it so nice to find a letter in the Graham Gill archive from Philip Bladon. It's written in Redditch in England on June 28<sup>th</sup> 1973. One of the things Philip wrote: 'I recently purchased the double album 'History of RNI' from Pirate Radio News and it's very good.' Well I hope for Philip he played it a lot as a memory to such a great station. We had not expected that the record would make such a selling. During the whole year I packed, on a daily basis, the double albums in cardboard and wrapping paper. Bringing 120 copies to the local post office was a heavy weight on bicycle but it was fun doing in those days.



Persons who still meet Graham on regular moments know that he's always talking to you in English. Although asking a question in Dutch he still answers it in English. And think how long he lives in Holland already. Well in November 1973, a letter from Astrid Blankensteijn had a total different impression about Graham's way of using the Dutch language: 'Graham I find that you speak very well the Dutch in the months that you are on RNI! There are foreigners, who are a while in Holland, and don't speak a word Dutch. You know Graham, how that comes? They are lazy to learn the Dutch, don't you think?'

But sometimes listeners were unsatisfied with what they heard and what went wrong, for instant I found a letter from Angelika far away as Lübeck in West Germany, then not too far away from the East German border. She had requested in an earlier letter for a song played for her friend Dagmar but Graham thought Dagmar was a boy. So Angelika wrote: 'I'm rather angry when I heard you talk about Dagmar being a boy. In the letter of the

dedication I even wrote 'she'. You really don't seem to read the listeners letters very carefully! Let's forget this mistake as we all enjoyed Grahams programs on RNI and Caroline. Well that ends this part of the Graham Gill letter archive. Another time we will have more.

Hans Knot 2011.



The new horizon is now available if you want more information have a look at: <http://www.rcsocietysales.co.uk/horizon/>

Next we hear from Bill: Greetings Hans. I hope this finds you well. Belated thanks, for the December Report, superb reading as always. Particularly liked the article on Les Reed and Man of Action and learned a few things we did not know about it. As an extra piece on the theme Hans, it was also used as a theme for the Scottish Television local news out of the Glasgow studios briefly in 1970, hosted if my memory serves me well by Bill Tennant. Wishes. Bill and Marian, Carnoustie near Dundee Scotland.

Paul Rowley forwarded me the following information: 'UK list members can lobby their MP's to sign the motion: The broadcasting regulator OFCOM is being criticised for refusing a medium wave licence to Radio Caroline, Britain's first offshore pirate. The Conservative MP for Chatham and Aylesford Tracey Crouch has tabled a Commons 'Early Day Motion',

criticising the decision, saying it means the station is only available on the internet. She says Caroline "pioneered commercial radio in the UK and for the last decade has been 'a fully licensed broadcaster'."

The MP urges OFCOM to 'exhaust all avenues' to allow Caroline to celebrate its fiftieth birthday in 2014 by allowing it back on the medium wave, where it began in 1964. She says medium wave appears to be "unwanted" by the BBC and independent stations in the drive towards digital radio.

Here's the motion in full: 'That this House expresses its disappointment that, having pioneered commercial radio in the UK and for the past decade being a fully licensed broadcaster, Radio Caroline, a cornerstone of British radio history, has been denied by Ofcom the opportunity to secure a medium wave frequency from which to broadcast. Regrets that, as a result its devoted listeners are confined to listening to Radio Caroline, via the internet and unable to enjoy its musical offerings in transit. And it calls on Ofcom to exhaust all avenues in making the provisions available for Radio Caroline to celebrate its 50th birthday in 2014 by broadcasting on a medium wave frequency which, it appears, is unwanted by both BBC and commercial operators as a broadcast platform.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=42175&SESSION=905>

The campaign has a webpage: <http://www.radiocarolineonair.com/>

Let's go to Italy and Mark: 'Thank you very much for the lovely Christmas E card. Very appropriate! Thank you also for all of the excellent newsletters in the past year. I have been very busy this year with my regional web TV and news and information site: [www.rivieralife.tv](http://www.rivieralife.tv)

I hope to launch a web radio via the site in 2011. Very best wishes to you both and a peaceful and healthy 2011. With very best regards,  
Mark Dezzani. '

Well Mark thanks for your wishes and the same to you. Good luck with all your work in 2011. Next it's Thomas Witherspoon: 'Dear Hans, best wishes to you and Jana as well! Also, thank you for producing the International Report-I love reading it. Best, Thomas Witherspoon, Executive Director, Ears To Our World

<http://earstoourworld.org>

<http://magazine.wsj.com/hunter/donate/tuning-in/>

Dear Hans,

Firstly thanks for another great year of offshore radio news and memories. By a strange coincidence, last week I picked up two books that mentioned 'pirate' radio, but each has a notable mistake or omission, which shows how time can distort history. The first book was the British Annual Register for 1967. This is a highly regarded official record of major events for each year of history. I was pleased to see a very balanced mention of the contribution of offshore radio to Britain (page 34), but this 'official' record is mistaken. The 'pirates' had not actually broken any British law at that time; in fact the new Act had to be introduced to stop the stations by starving them of advertising and support. The 'pirates' were not bound by any wavelength convention, and therefore simply unlicensed, not illegal. Also, the stations on forts were not mentioned, perhaps because they were deemed to be inside the 3-mile limit, and therefore could be officially shut down anyway. It's nice to see that Radio Caroline gets a special mention!

On 14 August, to the deep and very vocal protests of the teenage population, the 'pirate' radios went off the air. For five years they had broadcast a continuous stream of pop music from ships permanently anchored just outside the three-mile territorial waters limit. They were financed by advertising and represented an attempt to break the BBC's statutory monopoly of sound broadcasting. In addition to breaking British law, by using wavelengths allocated to other countries they also broke international law and caused interference with foreign broadcasting services. But the fact remained that they met a demand which the BBC had hitherto failed to meet. The Marine Broadcasting (Offences) Act implemented the European Convention banning unauthorized radio stations and it became a criminal offence for any British subject or company to assist, advertise on, work with, or finance any such radio station. It thus overcame the difficulty of enforcing British law outside territorial waters. With one exception all the stations closed on 15 August. The exception, Radio Caroline, moved to Holland, the only European country that had still to implement the European Convention. Parallel with the ending of the pirate radios the BBC announced a reorganization of its sound programmes, one of which would emulate the techniques and styles of the pirate radios. The pirates could at least feel their efforts had not been entirely in vain, even though they had failed in their aim of getting commercial radio established in Britain.

*Extract from the 1967 British Annual Register*

The second book is the updated 2003 biography of the 'Wall of Sound' pop producer, Phil Spector, who is now in jail for murder. In the book, the author tells how the Ike and Tina Turner song 'River Deep, Mountain High' was a failure at first, and only succeeded in the UK through the efforts of Tony Hall, a Decca promotions man. But the account is mistaken. (See extract)



Hall wrote individually to every radio disc jockey in Britain, pleading with them to play the record. He concentrated particularly on the pirate stations, based on offshore ships and disused oil rigs, which were wildly popular among young listeners dissatisfied with the staid policy of the BBC, then Britain's only legal radio broadcasting service.

"I rallied round all the pirates," Hall remembers, "even though I wasn't officially supposed to have anything to do with them, because they were illegal. They all thought it was a great record, but an uncommercial one, but they said they'd help me. So it was the pirates who started it, and after the demand had grown, the BBC took it up."

*Extract from Richard Williams' Phil Spector biography*

Firstly, the stations were never on "disused oil rigs" - they were of course ex-wartime forts. Then he says: "because they were illegal", which again is a mistake. In 1966 none of the pirates had actually officially broken any UK law. Finally, I just can't believe that the record was seen as un-commercial and needing to be hyped. The playlists of the pop 'pirates' (e.g. Radios London and Caroline) all had lots of black American records, and Spector's sound was already hugely popular. "River Deep, Mountain High" stayed in Caroline's Top 50 chart between May and August 1966. Still, faulty memory aside, it's good to see this important era of offshore radio getting a mention in print. Cheers Phil.

Thanks a lot Phil for sharing those files and memories with our readers.

Now some nice photos taken in the seventies by Gerd Klawitter are to see on Martin's pages: <http://www.offshore-radio.de/images4/klawitter/index.htm>

First time a nickname in this issue of the report. An old tape from the Dutch Service of RNI learnt that Hans ten Hooge produced a special spot for Hans Molenaar: '1 uur muziek met Hans Molenpaard', which means 'One hour music with Hans Mill Horse'. A second one was heard in a program from 1988 on Radio Caroline, when Nigel Harris mentioned himself Nigel 'Hip Hop' Harris.

Next an interesting site with Radio Scotland memories:

[http://www.dxarchive.com/offshore\\_radio\\_scotland.html](http://www.dxarchive.com/offshore_radio_scotland.html)



Just before Christmas I got an e mail from George Hare, who was very important for the Caroline organisation during the sixties of last century: 'Hi Hans, only yesterday having read Andy Archer's memoir on your Christmas issue. It is with sadness that I inform you that I have today learnt that Jimmy Houligan passed away on 31st July this year. He died suddenly of a heart attack at home in Marbella where he lived with his partner Marlyn. I believe that Jimmy was 69 years of age. I knew Jimmy well, when we worked together at Caroline House, and later as a friend, he was always good company to share a drink and a laugh with. Sorry to be the bearer of this bad news. As always thank you for your newsletters. George Hare.'

Of course I've forwarded the sad news to Andy Archer, who reflected with: 'How sad to receive that news. Jimmy was a lovely man, and like George, I spent many happy hours in his company. Thanks for putting out the first couple of installments of my memoirs, will send you the RNI (Part Three) early in the New Year. Best wishes as ever Andy Archer.'

About the first two parts of the Andy Archer memoirs, many e-mails came in: just some of them to show how people reflected on this special issue: 'Wonderful fun! Thanks for this. Great reading. Clive Warner (ex Capital Radio)'

'Thank you Hans - a fascinating story. all good wishes for the season!  
David Vincent.'

'Great stuff, Hans! Regards Edward Waterson.'

Hi Hans. Many thanks for this - I remember Andy on Radio Northsea International - wonderful, Andy Mine.'

'Wow Hans what a wonderful and interesting story from Andy Archer It was like a good book I could not put it down. Have a wonderful Christmas Ben Healy.'

'Hi Hans, This is just a short note to say how much I enjoy reading your monthly reports. I know it a lot of hard work to gather all the content but obviously, for you, it is a labour of love. Please keep up the good work.'

Best wishes. Cheers Bryan Vaughan. PS: The excerpt from Andy Archer's book was fascinating. A DJ's life was very different after August 1967 than it was before.'

Then there's a reflection from John Burch who doesn't agree with the use of the word 'Anorack' in Andy's memoirs.

'Although the origin of the word Anorak is actually a Greenlandic term (Google will tell you it came from the word Anoraq) , it became a well known name for a type of weatherproof coat that was very popular here in the UK in the late 60's and early 70's. They were quilted type coats with a hood. I would have thought they were also popular in the Netherlands, but perhaps not. In any event, they were never known here as: Anoracks - only as Anoraks despite what Andy may have told you or Google may say.

In reality, the strict Anorak garment was not much good for outings to the North Sea and the Parka became the more frequently worn garment. I adopted the Parka in the 1970's and still wear mine proudly to this day - former military "Combat Parkas" being amongst the hardest wearing and warmest garments in winter weather. The other garment that was often worn in the 60's and 70's was a Kagoule (Sometimes spelled Cagoule) - which was a pull over style weatherproof garment that usually had a map pocket in the front. They were lighter than Anoraks or Parkas because they were pure waterproof rubberised canvas or nylon, but while they were windproof they were not able to keep you warm in arctic conditions.

I am happy to accept that Andy invented the descriptive term for offshore enthusiasts as 'Anorak' - but to suggest it should be spelled Anorack is plain silly and will never be accepted by the masses. No one here ever uses the spelling Anorack. You really ought to change the spelling in the article.

Incidentally, I often see it said that the term was adopted for train spotters or transport enthusiasts. You will know that I am also a transport enthusiast and my career has always been in the UK bus and coach industry. There were far more widely accepted terms for us long before the term Anorak started to be used to describe railway, bus and tram enthusiasts. I am very happy to accept that the term only started to be used for transport

enthusiasts in the early 1980's - so its origins are indeed far more likely to have been from Andy's claim to fame.

In the UK the term "Gricer" is the long standing description of a railway enthusiast - and more specifically it can be attached to the travelling, train spotter version (i.e. not the railway modeller, preservationist or routine traveller). There are terms that are more specific for particular types of enthusiast. For example a London Underground railway enthusiast is often referred to by the term "Grinder." Bus enthusiasts too have their local names. For example in London, bus enthusiasts often were known as "Hairies" . There were also localised versions. For example, my old company, Ensignbus in Essex used the term "Spinner" to describe a bus enthusiast. The origin of this expression was that a Tilbury Docker was actually a "spinner" (because they used to spin the loading carts and cranes round to load and unload ships). Many of the staff, at Ensign, were former Dockers. (Because the company was formed in the docklands around Grays and Purfleet.) And they used this term to describe the hoards of enthusiasts, who came wandering around the Ensign site to look at all the buses and coaches there. Ensign is an unusual company because it not only operates buses and coaches, but also buys, sells and modifies buses and coaches.

Likewise, train spotters in Plymouth were often known as "Mutleyers" because they sat near to the Mutley Tunnel adjacent to Plymouth station to note down the numbers of arriving and departing engines. So there you go a short history of the 'nerd' terminology often applied to us Anoraks! John Burch.'

'Hans, I just received the story and sat and read it all the way thru. What a story and stories that I never heard about Andy. Andy was and is an amazing guy. I liked his style from the moment I met him and after reading his story, have a better understanding of what he had gone thru prior to meeting him 40 years ago. I can't wait to read more of the story and hope that he said nice things about me if he even wrote about our days together. One day I guess I will have to write stories about the guys and some of the crazy things that happened when we were together. We had some great times, and Spangles always had the great ideas and "Acted on them" not just words. I am sure that he will tell the story of how we were boarded and almost hijacked in 1970..... all great stories. I will wait for the next story.

May all of us that lived the dream of Pirate Radio have a very happy and healthy Holiday and New Year? With love and good wishes, Larry Tremaine  
The Boss with the Hot Sause (Steinman), Beverly Hills, CA. USA.'

Next another former colleague, from Caroline sixties days: 'Dear Hans, Thank you for sending a copy of the "Special Christmas Edition 2010" and the fascinating personally entitled: "Arseholes and Anoracks" Andy Archer stories. I remember Andy with much fondness. His anorak stories are certainly an amusing read; I was a little puzzled at times by Andy's personal interpretation of some of the events he touched upon. Funny how oddly others perceive what they may have experienced in life and can at a later stage invent ad color or even dramatize what others believe to be non-occurrences. When called upon the human memory has the extraordinary ability to shape things in a personally beneficial way. Writers of novels are gifted with this same type of powerful imagination. I will however allow our ever-flamboyant Andy some latitude and license in the name of fraternity and a fun; however the bad language Andy accredits to me is surly a bit over the top, especially when considering that I almost never find the need to use bad language even though some may consider it timely or appropriate?



One small important point Hans, by including my name in the thank you list and credits you included below. I would not wish anyone to consider that I lend any credence or authenticity to Andy's enjoyable stories. I feel sure that like me your many other readers will enjoy Andy's colorful writings. Greetings from sunny Lanzarote. Robbie Dale.'

Hi Robbie Thanks for shining your lights on the story. You're mentioned with the photo credits so lucky guy that has nothing to do with Andy's stories.

'Hi Hans, there's a saying here in Britain we use when talking about reading good books "I couldn't put it down". So it was with Andy's story which I thoroughly enjoyed. I have listened over the years from Caroline North through until the Ross Revenge went off air, Andy was one of my favorites, although to be honest if I listed all the DJ's whose programmes I enjoyed, I could fill a few pages of your reports! A big thanks to Andy for many happy hours of listening and now reading, I look forward to more of the same in 2011. Thank you for all the hard work you put into your Radio Reports, which I have enjoyed. Bill and Denise Green.'

'Hi Hans, I very much enjoyed December's Radio Memories from Andy Archer, in some respects I found it almost replicated my own experiences of the time. I suspect Andy was totally unaware he was almost poached by us on Radio Caroline North, who were also in urgent need of deejays after three had decided to leave during October 1967. Andy, then known as Terry Dawson, sent me a letter dated 26th November saying he was working with the Free Radio Association and also doing freelance interviewing of pop music celebrities in West London clubs. He also commented on the how he (and everyone else) disliked the Major Minor plug records and despite this he wanted to work for Radio Caroline. I showed this letter to Don Allen, our chief DJ, who told me to "see this guy", check he is okay and get him to contact George Hare, Caroline North's shore manager, in Dublin. Unfortunately all mail came via the Amsterdam office, with the obvious delays, so I did not get ashore at Dundalk, Ireland until Christmas Day. With the Bank Holiday it took several more days to reach my home in England. The only address I had was the FRA's office at 239 Eastwood Road, Rayleigh, so I called there only to find Terry was already on Caroline South and broadcasting as Andy Archer! For my consolation Geoffrey Pearl,



the FRA's General Secretary did give me a few FRA tee shirts and some promotional material to pass on to Don Allen.



GEOFFREY PEARL PHOTO: FREEWAVE ARCHIVE

This is true to my life experience, you only get offered a job when you already have one, when you urgently need immediate employment it's not always that easy. Best wishes, Andy Cadier. (Martin Kayne).'

'Hi Hans, Just wanted to say how much I enjoyed reading the first couple of parts of Andy Archer's memoirs. Absolutely fascinating! Please pass on my personal thanks to Andy and I eagerly look forward to reading more during 2011. One question I did have was that I always thought that Andy was Terry Dawson on Radio City, but this was not mentioned in his story, so was this someone else? Best wishes. Robert James.'

Thanks Robert as Andy is still writing on the RNI chapter and others he will fill in the gaps at a later stage and promised me to come back to the City adventure too. So that rounds up the Andy Archer Memoirs section for this report. More to come in the future.

Now again some sad news, which I received just before Christmas from Don Stevens: 'I was informed, by phone, at 21.50 GMT this evening, that my good friend and business associate, Keith York has passed on. I am awaiting further details, but, it appears he died in the last 48 hours, he was found in his apartment in Spain. I will keep you informed of everything as it comes

into me, and, now, I'm off to raise some glasses of strong ale to ease his passage to the next life. Raise a glass yourself, Hans :-)  
Cheers for a great man of Free Radio, my friend, and genius, Keith York...Cheers, Yorkie :-) Don Stevens.

But also another former VOP colleague did send a long e mail filled with memories: 'Hi Hans, I am sure you are aware by now, Keith York Ex Voice Of Peace and countless stations in Ireland all over Europe has died in Spain. I knew Keith as a workmate and great friend for 30 years. I wondered if you would not mind publishing this tribute in the next issue of your newsletter:

### **Obituary to Keith York**

Radio has lost one of its great all-rounders and I have lost a best friend who was like an older brother to me. Keith York, or Yorkie as everyone knew him as, built his first AM transmitter out of bits of an old TV set at 14 in Yorkshire, he never forgot where he came from... he worked for the GPO In London after school and college, and also got involved in stations like Radio Concorde a legendary rock station, he also worked on Radio Caroline.

Keith worked in Israel, Germany, Belgium, the UK and of course Ireland, when Keith put a station together, it had the Yorkie sound, quality transmission, good music and fine on air production. I first met Keith in Israel on the Voice Of Peace in March 1980, around the time I also met Don Stevens, when I turned up the station was off the air, and we spent a couple of months on paint locker duty and generally making the ship seaworthy. Meantime Keith was busy in the production studio putting together a new jingle package, and sorting out music and stuff. Keith watched my back as I was the youngest people on board, and it was the start of a lifelong friendship which this year is 30 years.



### KEITH ON AIR IN IRELAND

Keith worked then in Norway, doing discos and ended up in Ireland working on Southside Radio in Dublin, doing an evening show. I phoned the station one day, and Keith answered the phone and said Marshall come on over, and we spent some months on very little money working for one of the best Blaggarts ever, a guy called Andrew Coffey for a time he was the mayor of monkstown, Andy used to go and sell advertising for the station with a large radio, and when a possible advertiser said they couldn't hear the station, Andy replied that obviously they needed a new radio! He always got to sell the ad!

Yorkie moved down to Cork to work for South Coast Radio, the sound of South Coast was down to Keith, a pumping on air sound and some of the most amazing radio you ever heard including Yorkie's legendary South Coast Countdown on a Saturday. When Keith was working for South Coast and WKLR in West Cork we went out for a session on Friday night in West Cork, only to oversleep we got to South Coast around a hour late and Keith went on the air. Keith was not only a great engineer but a great jock too. I also worked for a station called ERI who became South Coast's main competition.

When we got the jingles done for ERI in the early days, they were on Reel to Reel tape, so I went to see Keith who transferred them to cassette so we could play them. Right under the nose's of South Coast management. Later Keith invited me down to Galway where he was running Atlantic Sound with Don Stevens. it also had the Yorkie sound with a legendary ET transmitter, sitting in Garveys a local bar one Friday night, we were trying to work out a way to blag our way into Nightclubs etc. and so the

Consumer Entertainment Guide was born, we would turn up at local places, and get free entry and a few free pints. After a while Don and Keith started their own station WLS, and when Don left Galway Yorkie started Coast 103.



### SHARRING A PINT KEITH AND HARRY OWEN

The weekend Coast 103 launched there was the yearly Eyre Square festival, and we got the electricity from a local bar called Richardsons, Yorkie had put a big sign in the Portacabin studio opposite the bar everytime you mentioned the bar, more free pints there will be tonight lads! Keith later worked for Atlantic 252, where Yorkie basically put the sound together, and anyone who ever heard Atlantic 252 will know it was a great station.

Keith also worked in Northern England, and also made a great career as a computer engineer in Ireland. Keith loved Ireland, and in turn the people treated him as family. He was asked a couple of years ago to help start a station in Spain called Radio Atlanta and a couple of years ago started Nuova that's N U O V A. Keith put it on the air, did programmes, production on a very tight budget.

Dave Heffernan once said Yorkie was the McGiver of radio, Keith could take a pile of stuff and got it working! I remember in Galway in the 80's Keith had a load of electronic equipment, he never threw anything away, he got some wires and switches and lo and behold it was a 1kw transmitter, Keith said Marshall you switch it on, you are bigger than I am, plus I don't like big bangs. When he was in Spain Keith's mobile was always ringing with people looking for Keith's advice on something.

That's Keith the radio guy, but there was another side to Keith, Yorkie the person. Keith always said he had a great face for radio, he put everything of himself into work, but knew how to relax, normally in a local bar, with a beer a packet of cigarettes and a copy of the Sun Newspaper or a book. He also said recently behind every genius there is a element of madness.

He was honest with his views, you always knew where you stood with Yorkie, he was also someone who gave himself to other people, in work and in friendship and expected nothing in return. Keith was a great workmate, friend and teacher to so many people, many who didn't thank him afterwards, but I think Keith's thanks were that he had helped someone else achieve what they wanted in life.

I once told Keith he was my best friend and the older brother I never had, Keith said. I didn't think you thought that highly of me. Everyone loved Keith, at the end and the last few weeks his real friends have been there for him and always will be. Keith was a great radio person, a true friend and a great teacher to so many people; he taught me a lot about thinking out of the box and remembering such things as making sure my shirt was tucked into my trousers, something I made sure I did today.

Keith had a 'lifetime' in radio and life. Here's a recent story about Keith on Radio Nuova in Spain, a station Keith started a couple of years ago, we had a young disc jockey called Joe, Keith took him under his wing, and made him into a fine broadcaster and has changed him as a person, that was typical of Keith, who freely passed on his knowledge of many things to others. Joe lived with Keith for a while and kept an eye on Keith doing washing and cleaning and keeping care of him, Keith in turn taught him amongst other things how to cook. If he hadn't been a radio guy he would have been a Scientist, cook or even the next Henry Kissinger, Keith was one of life's peacemakers. And he said he never held a grunge against anyone, life was too short.

The late Tony Allan described Keith, himself and myself as the Unholy trinity, Keith believed in a higher power and karma and much more besides. He said to me recently Steve I am not the same after my stroke, I said Keith you are still the same stubborn person you always were, that stubbornness and talent not to leave until the job was done and done right,



he did in his personal life too. Yorkie taught us all never to give up.

Keith was a diamond in an increasingly rough world, even in the last few months Keith missed nothing always keeping his eyes and mind open. I have Keith like many others here today and elsewhere to thank for my radio career, but I will also miss our times chilling outside work shooting the breeze and having fun. I will miss his intelligence and streetwise smarts. Keith was one of the best windup merchants ever, normally the object of a Yorkie windup was someone full of themselves, and Yorkie would bring them down to earth. I will miss his smile and sideways look, most of all his humanity. and the many tears and laughs we shared over the years. We knew each others good and not so good sides. My mum who only met Keith a couple of times said we were good for each other as people, Keith was always there for me as I was for him. And there aren't many people like that you meet in a lifetime. Keith was a very private person, we shared alot of good and bad times over the years, but we were always there for each other. I'm glad I've known him.

Dave Heffernan an old friend of Keith's and mine from Ireland said on Facebook, Keith would have been touched you helping after he passed on, I said to Dave, Keith would have done the same for me or anyone, that was the mark of the man

I and many others have lost a dear friend, and his brother Malcom has lost his older brother, Keith always said that him and Malcom were close, they got on straight away as people, Keith was also like that with everyone, once he liked you, you were a friend for life.

I think I better shut up now; Keith will want me to stop.....

Keith I and so many others wish you Shalom, Slainte and Sau ago we send you our love and hope you are free of pain, I am so glad I knew him, thank you for some great times. El Manos is now one less, but you will never be forgotten.

I will leave the last words to Keith. I think we should knock it on the head and go down the pub Yorkie will be looking for a Mahou beer and a

packet of cigarettes, oh yes and will be trying to find his lighter...  
Steve Marshall'.

Well Steve thank you for all your memories with Yorkie, your warm words and surely other former friends and colleagues will most appreciate what you've written. Take care!

Now to a small village in the surrounding of Whitstable where Bob LeRoi makes regular updates for his webpage: 'Welcome to the first Update of 2011. In 'ScrapBook' - Much has been written about the wreck of the SS Montgomery, resting by the Medway approaches off Sheerness. The WWII ship still contains munitions. Which some say are degrading naturally, whilst others insist the wreck's a major hazard, not just to shipping but to parts of the North Kent Coast? We took a tender trip to the Ross Revenge in 1990 on what was to be one of the last service calls to the ship at sea. Several pages, as shown have been updated to include new material and audio. 'One Subject One Link' has an opinion on the paltry money paid to today's ILR and small scale presenters. 'The Sales Pages' has our newly released CD documentary 'The Sealand Adventure' plus a number of interesting books have been added to the 'Market Place'. Finally, we share some pictures of Scotland & Northumberland in the 'Personal Pages'. We hope that you enjoy the new content, feedback always welcome: [www.bobleroi.co.uk](http://www.bobleroi.co.uk)

Next an e mail from the Netherlands. Thanks for all those interesting stories from last year. Enclosed is a Radio Caroline sticker which I photographed in the harbour of Harlingen on May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2010. The car belongs to one of the female people working for Radio Waddenzee. I took two visits to the station, in May as well as in August, and it is exciting what those people are doing, working on a shoestring. It was a wonderful experience for me to have a look at the ship and in the studio. Greetings, Mattie van der Valk, Enschede.



More than 60 photographs taken on the day the Kees Manders went out to the MEBO II in August 1970, for the so called hi jack attempt, are now on internet.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/mullevoorde/sets/72157623415099798/>

Time for an update to: The Pirate Radio Hall of Fame. New this month: In December last year a group of former Radio 270 DJs met for a reunion lunch. We have the photos: after more than forty years, Swinging Radio England's Bruce Wayne is finally unmasked. We add the last page to the Seventies Supplement, covering broadcasters from that decade with names beginning with the letters T to Z, including offshore favourites like Caroline's Richard Thompson and RNI's Mark Wesley. There is news of the current incarnation of Radio Caroline's campaign for an AM frequency. We have a recording of Caroline engineer Jeremy Chartham's one and only show for the station during the seventies. We have another batch of (Radio) City Sixty charts, this time from October 1966. Approximately 140,000 people visited The Pirate Radio Hall of Fame during 2010. That figure is down on last year (when we had 240,242 visitors) but, with no anniversaries to celebrate in 2010, no Pirate BBC Essex and no major motion picture to draw attention to the subject; it isn't surprising that the numbers have fallen. Despite the reduction in visitors, I find it immensely gratifying that so many people are still interested in the site and the subject, twenty years

after the last ever offshore broadcast. My grateful thanks, as always, to everyone who has contributed and supported the PRHoF during 2010.

I wish you all a very happy new year. With kind regards,

Jon, The Pirate Radio Hall of Fame

[www.offshoreradio.co.uk](http://www.offshoreradio.co.uk)

Herbert Visser told me that he updated his pages on Facebook and found a message from Tom Lodge Jr.: "I have not asked Dad if this is ok because he might say no, but I think people should know my Dad is seriously ill, and is doing his best to get through it, which he may not, so if people could send positive thoughts his way, that helps and would be great".

Robbie Dale send the next mail, which he got from Bob Lawrence:

'Dear ex Caroline person, I write to ask if you will publicly support Radio Caroline's campaign to be allowed to broadcast to our traditional heartland of the south east on medium wave? Full details can be found at [www.radiocaroline.co.uk](http://www.radiocaroline.co.uk), but it boils down to a simple statement of fact; the existing broadcasters on medium wave are trying to get their listeners away from medium wave, in the commercial sector the am stations do not deliver enough of a financial return for them and it appears that nobody wants medium wave. We have been running Caroline as a satellite and internet station since 1999 and survive through a mixture of listener subscriptions and minimal advertising; we are of the opinion that there is no reason why that situation should not continue on medium wave.

If you are happy to write a short sentence or two of support, we will feature you on our website alongside other supportive "old boys". Send to me at

[boblawrence@radiocaroline.co.uk](mailto:boblawrence@radiocaroline.co.uk)

Some more links which are an interesting read:

[http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/personalfinance/fameandfortune/8233637/The-Harley-or-the-flat-I-chose-the-bike.html?sms\\_ss=email&at\\_xt=4d231862e876380f%2C0](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/personalfinance/fameandfortune/8233637/The-Harley-or-the-flat-I-chose-the-bike.html?sms_ss=email&at_xt=4d231862e876380f%2C0)  
<http://steveconway.wordpress.com/2010/12/31/in-2010-i-lived/>

Then we go to Philip in Belgium, who wrote: 'Best wishes for the New Year and another thank you for all your efforts you make to bring us 'all around the world' every months your radio report. This way all the anoraks are

reliving the old times and above that we still learn things we didn't know before about the offshore history. Some time ago I took a visit to the place I was born and in that part of Flemish Belgium many people are active there with their regional geography and history. Several publications can be read about the research on internet. One of these research groups is called: 'Heemkring ter Palen' and publicise about a place called Buggenhout, which is on the border of Antwerp, East Flandreau and Flemish Brabant. On their site [www.terpalen.be](http://www.terpalen.be) an interesting publication can be found about 'Radio Kerkske', which was run by Georges de Caluwé, who is also known from Radio Antwerp, the offshore station from the MV Uilenspiegel. With radio greetings, Philip Taghon, Jabbeke Belgium.

Nickname time again and this time we go to the MV Communicator. Craig 'the amazing colossal deejay' Novack is the first. He was mentioned in the press report from Music Media International in New York, when he was presented as the new Laser 558 deejay, way back in 1985. Also we heard Chris Carson mentioned as Chris 'C C Rider' Carson and Liz 'Dizyy Miss Lizzy' West within the team of Laserettes. Finally, when listening back to old Laser tapes, we heard the nickname Erin 'Machine Gun' Kelly.



LIZ WEST, CHARLIE WOLF AND ERIN KELLY  
PHOTO: LEEN VINGERLING

Well I hope you didn't fall asleep during those very long pages filled with memories and more. We will back sometime in March. If you have something to share you can always send it to: [HKnot@home.nl](mailto:HKnot@home.nl)

With best greetings Hans Knot