

Hans Knot International Radio Report September 2015

Welcome back after the summer break. I hope you all had a wonderful holiday time and for those in the areas where the winter is now the winner I hope you also enjoy that time of the year. I think summer and winter are the best seasons! We spent our holidays partly in the northeast of Belgium where we had a walking week and in Rostock Germany. Well a lot has happened and a lot of memories have been sent to me. It will be a long report and I can tell that even the next issue is almost filled. So let's get start with a positive item:

The British Library has received an earmarked funding for a £9,568,900 bid from the Heritage Lottery Fund (including a £215,900 development fund) to help to save the nation's sounds, and open them up online for everyone to hear. The funding will enable the British Library to digitise and make available 500,000 rare, unique and at-risk sound recordings from its own archive and other key collections around the country over 5 years (2017-2022). This support from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) answers an urgent call to save our sounds from being lost forever. Sound archivists estimate that we have 15 years in which to digitise historic sound recordings before the equipment required to play some formats can no longer be used, and some formats such as wax cylinders and acetate discs start to naturally decay. More about this subject:

<http://artdaily.com/news/79031/British-Library-s-pledge-to-save-the-nation-s-sounds-secures--pound-9-5-million-boost-from-Heritage-Lottery-Fund-#.VXrLI0aDQXh>

I also spend some time digitalising material from my archive, including all the Volumes of Pirate Radio News, the magazine where it all started for me in early seventies. It was nice to read back all those facts, figures and rumours from those days.

Let's now go to a memory which was send from Lanzerote some weeks ago after Robbie Dale was asking me to go through his memories as he was asked to send in some memories for the weekly VARA

magazine in the Netherlands. It's one of the public broadcasters. In one of the October issues they will pay attention to the fact that this year it's 50 years ago that the so called 'national pop station Hilversum 3' was started. So let's go to the memories from Robbie Dale he wrote for the VARA Magazine but which are now exclusively first in the Hans Knot International Radio Report.

It's a long time ago Roy and let's go to 1968. Your recent email jogged my memory into gear. Are you now ready for a potted version featuring the life of a radio jock?

I moved from the original Radio Veronica on 192 in the Zeedijk sock factory. Bull Verwey, the radio boss-man, then installed me into their very first self-operated radio studio at their fancy new radio HQ in at the Utrechtseweg in Hilversum, which is now a 4 star Hotel, called Laapersveld.



Verweij brothers Jaap, Hendrik and Dirk in 1970

Photo: Freewave Archive.

I began working for the Uncle Bull Verwey and his brothers Jaap and Dirk. Alongside Holland's top radio personalities, Jan van Veen, Tineke, Rob Out, Joost de Draaijer, Chiel Montange and Eddy Becker. I recall it was a year later that I was offered a job at the TROS, first on TV and then on Hilversum 2, working with co-hosts Jos Brink and Annette De Lange. At the same time TROS Chairman Joop Landré, a former film director, and André Meurs, the former famous Dutch comedian/songwriter and head of radio at the TROS, gave me

three weekly record shows on Hilversum 3. We named the show 'Jam on Radio' to coincide with my successful 'Jam' on TV, the hour long television show directed by Lex de Rooij and assisted by TVPA Renee Petron and camera man Paul Boot.

On Hilversum 3 I used many original Pams jingles and Sound Push Studios Blaricum produced jingles featuring session singer Letty de Jong on Hilversum 3 as station id's. "Good golly miss molly I sure had a ball" as little Richard would sing whilst banging out tunes on his famous upright piano.



Robbie Dale in 1970 Photo: Freewave Archive

Now I'm 75, retired and living in the Lanzarote sunshine with Stella my wife (the girl I stole from Amsterdam 48 years ago). I met Stella during one of my two week on-shore breaks in Amsterdam. After crossing the North sea aboard 'Offshore One' a former Dutch fishing vessel owned by the Wijsmuller Brothers, famous Worldwide for ship salvage work. The trip across the sea took up to 18 hour during stormy weather, a massive feat of endurance for us Radio Caroline personal.

Roy you may recall that Radio Caroline DJs and Radio engineers first came to Holland as refugees running from British government and Prime Minister Harold Wilson's anti pirate radio tyranny, promising long jail sentences for pirate radio DJs who continued to broadcast from offshore stations after August 15th1967. Holland gave us a warm welcome, we thought that we had been abandoned by the English listeners until we came ashore in Holland to an office full with hundreds of gifts and thousands of fan letters delivered by the PTT at Singel 160, Radio Caroline's new office in Amsterdam. That

was the start of 5 fun filled and enjoyable years in Dutch radio and television.



Robbie and Stella in front of the former Caroline office in Amsterdam

Photo: Collection Robbie Robinson

In early 1973 I returned to London to do radio work with my new Dutch wife and family in tow. In 1980 I took my whole Amsterdam born family travelling again over to Dublin Ireland. There we founded Sunshine Radio on 539 MW and 101 FM Stereo. This adventure developed into a great radio success: 'The Red Hot Sound of Sunshine 101', another readable chapter called 'The 9 year success story of Dublin's greatest rock-n-roll radio'. One day I intend to sit down and write about all of these stories in my memoirs. Greetings from sunny Lanzarote. Robbie 'Dale' Robinson.'

Radi@DAY.nl

This year's Radio Day will be held on **Saturday 14th November**.

The 2015 location for this event is **Museum RockArt in Hoek van Holland**. On that day, the doors of the museum will open at 11:00 and close at 18:00.

The structure of the annual event has changed. It has been decided to hold a National Radio Day followed by a large International Radio Day on a rotating basis (including the Awards Ceremony).

This year, a National Radio Day will be held, focused on the Netherlands and Belgium and thus slightly more limited in scope than in previous years. The interior of Museum RockArt will play an important role. Central item is the restored Radio Veronica studio. Seven well-known radio DJs are asked to present their shows live from the studio forming a kind of window programming. On the half hour the programmes are interrupted for interviews on stage.

The line-up for the day (conditional) is Wim de Groot, Ferry Eden, Ad Roberts, Elly van Amstel, Ronald van der Vlucht and Wim de Valk.

They will try to relive the following offshore radio stations: Mi Amigo 272, Radio Monique, Radio 819, and Radio Delmare.

During the program also attention will be paid to Hilversum 3 /Radio 3 /3FM, which celebrates 50 years on the air in October, as well as to some radio related books, which will be published around the Radioday. Former Monique deejay Jan Veldkamp will be doing some of the interviews.

That means that seven topics will be discussed during that day. The items to be included will be announced later, but in any case, attention will be given to the offshore station Radio Monique and the 50th anniversary of Hilversum 3 / Radio3 / 3FM.

The Radio Day 2015 is made possible by the Internet Radiocafé
and Radiotrefpunt.nl

There will be regular updates on www.radioday.nl

News from down yonder: 'Hi Hans, the much awaited for '3 Mile Limit' DVD has gone on sale and all of your followers can buy the DVD by going to this link:

<http://3milelimit.co.nz/u-k-buy-dvd>

This is a special link for U.K and Europe buyers. There is a special directors commentary on the movie. The 3 Mile Limit Facebook link is: <https://www.facebook.com/3MileLimitMovie>

Keep up the great work!

Cheers
Craig Newland



It's already more than 45 years ago that RNI was on the air from the MEBO II in international waters off the English coast. The station, which transmitted in English and German, used several frequencies during that period. The reason was that the British authorities had decided to put in jamming transmitters so they could try to interfere with the RNI programming. Beacon Hill was one of the transmitter-sites from the Royal Navy used for the jamming. Of

course the listeners were not happy and started to demonstrate. Now decades later we publish two of the photos sent to me by Andy Cadier, also known as Martin Kayne:



Photos collection Andy Cadier.

On the 18th of July there was a special reunion in Whitstable to celebrate the fact that it was 50 years ago the station started. Many people thought that ten years ago was the last reunion for the Essex people but surprise they did it again. From Canada a report by David Sinclair: 'Hello Hans. When you set out to meet old friends that you haven't seen in 10 years, you expect some changes - but not a bit of it! All the Essex gang looked in fine form, albeit a little more grey in the whiskers and a case or two of follicle challenge, but where it really counts, I found we were all much as we were back in 1966, with added wisdom of course.

It was great fun to chat with the gang again and there was much reminiscing and consumption of liquid refreshment. I was so much into it that I was perturbed to learn that best bitter was no longer 1/11d. a pint, as it was in the mid-60s. Mark West and I swapped thoughts on authorship, Roger Scott recalled some of the more experimental culinary experiences on Knock John and a good time was had by catching up with Mike Brereton, Dick Dickson, Chris Stewart, Michael Kane and of course, Guy Hamilton who set the whole thing up in the first place along with Roger Scott, who

managed to arrange that the walk from the pub to the restaurant was only a few yards.

It was there that we all enjoyed a great meal followed by a visit to another pub and eventually I was poured onto a train by some of the gang. We were celebrating that it has been 50 years since those days on Radio Essex and I sincerely hope it won't be the last - Guy, Take note! David Sinclair.'



Photo copyright Jon Myer: Left to right: Keith Martin, Roma, Michael Cane, Mike Brereton, Lorraine, Guy Hamilton, Roger Scott, David Sinclair and Chris Stewart. Unfortunately Mark West had gone missing when the photo was taken. Of course with a big thank you to both David Sinclair and Jon Myer.

Next it's Tony Prince: 'Hi Hans, I hope you will enjoy the 7th Episode. It's Pirate Radio part 2 Radio London with Alan Keen, Dave Cash, Roger Gale, Tony Blackburn Johnny Beerling many nice footage including refitting ship in Florida and the real story behind the St. Peppers LP Beatles and indeed 36 min of watching pleasure on Big L. Best regards, Tony.

<http://www.dmcworld.tv/historyofdj/>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-QcK_6O_Yg8

And when you've seen this marvelous episode take also some time to read the next message, which came in from Sweden for there's more exclusive as well as interesting material to watch on the net.

'Hi Hans, for your information I have opened a channel on Youtube and will upload films related to Radio Mercur, Skaanes Radio Mercur and Radio Syd. Movies can be found here and perhaps you find some of them interesting.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvNrp1YQ_PENf4Q+66M04w

Best regards Goran Carlsson

Also I found an 8mm film with sound, which has been uploaded on internet. This film was recorded live at two free radio rallies at Trafalgar Square, London in 1968 and 1969. It features presenters from the offshore radio stations speaking at the rallies. Amongst those who are featured are Andy Archer, Ed Moreno and Roger Twigg Day. Unfortunately time has had an effect on the sound, which was recorded on compact cassette, but even so the sound is still audible.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UUn3KOxMqSQ>

One person who heard from me about the Goran Carlsson uploads was my good friend Paul de Haan who came back with: 'Amazing picture from the onboard situation on the small Cheetah 1, what a nice little ship. I always thought that the 'wooden building' was the onboard studio, but it seems to me it was a messroom called the saloon. Where was the onboard studio on Cheetah 1 situated on the ship?

Answer from Goran Carlsson: Regarding Cheeta. I think it is important to know that the status and installations on Cheeta changed over time. During the first period when Cheeta was under Danish control (up to January 1962) they only had tape-recorders onboard to play the pre-recorded tapes. The control-room was under

deck just in front of the transmitter. During Pentecost in 1959 a German freighter collides with the Cheeta. People working onboard were not happy and I have been told that the situation working below deck was very unpleasant. This was one reason why the 'wooden box' later was build and people could have more space on upper deck and feel safer.

When Radio Syd took over Cheeta the doghouse in the stern was converted to a 'studio with microphone'. Radio Syd was from that point on producing programs direct from Cheeta, in parallel to producing pre-recorded tapes on land. The 'wooden box' was the kitchenette (pantry) with TV etc. Tape-recorders were from that point on in front of the doghouse.

Under deck, in front of the transmitter room, the skipper and 'mech-tech' had their beds. Opposite the transmitter (below deck left side) there were two extra 'private' beds for Mats and his girlfriend Aasa. These are the beds seen in one of the films. When modifying the doghouse the steering system (wheel) was removed and the wires to the rudder were left 'open'. This was a mistake and a new steering wheel was installed outside and on the back of the doghouse when in Limhamn during the winter in 1963. So when seeing a photo of Cheeta and there is a steering wheel on the back of the doghouse, the photo is taken during or after January 1963.



Registration in Panama. Cheeta Photo: Freewave Archive

For those who are interested in pictures from Cheeta, Cheeta II and Radio Syd or pirate radio take a look at this site. It is a commercial page with pictures from newspapers. Photos are with watermark but it is still a good quality.

<http://www.bilderisyd.se/index.php/1963/01080426>

There are hundreds of pictures from Cheeta and Radio Syd. Go to "sök i arkivet" upper right corner and enter for example Cheeta. All for now Goran.'

Thank you very much Goran for this great explanation about the Cheeta 1 onboard situation. My respect goes out for all those who worked and lived on this great little ship in the very early sixties of last century. Also thanks for the link to so many great Syd photo's, many of them never seen before. Kind regards. Paul de Haan

www.marinebroadcasters.com



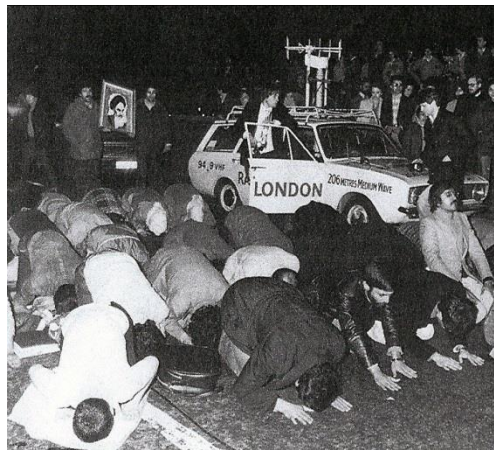
Studio Cheeta Photo: Freewave Archive

This month we mention also some other Anorak videos in new video edit by Alex Hoek about The Communicator. The ship was also used for some time for Radio Veronica 1224. The interview was originally transmitted way back in 1995 by the Eutelsat 16 East Satellite. The

program was called SatFest and was hosted by Rens Maas and Eric Wiltsher. A big thank you to Eric Wiltsher and Rens Maas. Again a tape from the Martin van der Ven Archives.

<https://youtu.be/q6ZK1D13OrU>

I recently also received a copy of a photograph from Rob Bosman Jansen. He found the photo in a so called yearbook from 1980. In his letter he asked if I knew more about the radio station from which a radio car is on the photo. Well Rob, it has nothing to do with offshore radio. The station mentioned on the photo was not only on 206 metres AM on the air but also in the London area at 94.9 VHF. It came on the air in 1970 as a BBC Local Radio station. The car was there to give the crew the possibility to go on the air live during a demonstration on April 30th 1980. A group of Iranian people, all members from the organisation Moedjaheddin al Nasser, were in front of the Iranian Embassy in London to protest as they wanted freedom for many people who were jailed in Iran due to political reasons.



<http://www.regcalvert-plays.co.uk/>

Popcorn to Rock 'n' Roll

By S.K. Moore

New book published 2014. Fantastic reviews. Surprising, sometimes shocking and often funny.

Available direct £7.50 First Edition.

Hardback £14.50 First edition.

Book One of a trilogy about the extraordinary life and times of Reg Calvert and the 'boys.'

Reg Calvert is a dreamer, impulsive and determined to succeed. When he falls in love with Dorothy and marries at eighteen, he has little thought of the consequences. In post-war Britain of 1946, life is hard. They travel south from Huddersfield to Southampton and for 3 years live in an old bus in an apple orchard while Reg tries to make his way. Too soon he feels trapped by marriage and children. Dorothy wants stability and Reg wants freedom but he needs Dorothy as his anchor. When Reg first hears Bill Haley's, 'Rock Around the Clock,' he has a dream: to bring Rock 'n' Roll to England.

Reg is like the Pied Piper as young musicians and singers give up their jobs to follow him as he creates a new way of providing entertainment for teenagers. An extraordinary story of success and failure as it follows 1950's music trends and includes many photographs.

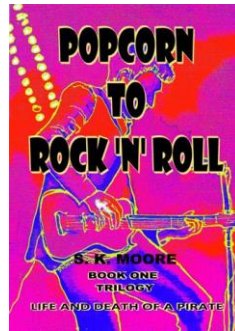
Also available £7.50 + p&p [from Amazon Books](#)

[Amazon Kindle e book £1.90. \(with photographs\).](#)

Books Two and Three - to be published later in 2015

BOOK TWO - CLIFTON HALL. 1961 - 1964. Reg and Dorothy Calvert run what becomes known as the 'School of Rock 'n' Roll.' Many musicians and singers including the Beatles and Screaming Lord Sutch, visit, or stay at Clifton Hall. It is a tumultuous time with much fun, laughter and heartbreak.

BOOK THREE - Life and Death of a Pirate. 1964 - 1967. Reg Calvert has a new dream, to run his own pirate radio station. Dorothy is against him as he sells Clifton Hall to finance it. By 1966 he has made Radio City a success and then pays for it with his life! The story of pirate radio, intrigue and murder.



Those who were on last year's RadioDay could have seen him too during the Caroline 1973 reunion. I'm talking about Mickey Mercer who wrote me some weeks ago: I'm back on the radio! I am volunteering for a local radio station--Sunnyside, 101.5 FM, also streaming on the web, www.sunnysideradio.org. I am on Fridays, 6 AM to 11 AM. Mickey Mercer (15 till 20 CET). The music is like he used to play on Caroline with emphasis on love and peace.



Mickey Mercer Photo: Martin van der Ven

One of my readers recently told his memories about Robbie Dale and Veronica to the Admiral himself and also shared it with me for the International Radio Report. It's Bert Verweij, family of the Verweij brothers: 'Robbie Robinson, I remember you as Robbie Dale, the Admiral. Indeed, Uncle Bull was my dad's brother Jaap. Together with brother Dirk (and other shareholders) the three brothers set up and managed Radio Veronica from October 1959. Actually the brothers Verweij were wholesale traders and manufacturers in textiles in Hilversum. Especially it was footwear, nylons, stockings etc.

The first time that I met you, was in June 1968 at the Zeedijk-studio, where I came very often. I remember that in the beginning you slept on a stretcher in the studio, as you hadn't found yet an address to stay. I watched you making your first programs and was surprised that you did it all by yourself without a recording-technician. Before I met you, I listened often to you on Radio Caroline (which my dad didn't like at all). You must remember studio technician Adje, Adriaan Bouman, he married my sister Jos Verweij in 1969. He is now my former brother in law, but still my friend.

I also have still friendly contacts with Peter van der Sande, who was my neighbour boy in Hilversum in the fifties. He is living in Florida USA during the past 15 years. He talks/chats a lot about you and has good memories of Soundpush Studios in Blaricum and your record-production-company. He was playing in a lot of famous Dutch bands in the sixties and seventies. Hope your wife Stella is well, I believe that I met her once in the Lapershoek-studio at the Utrechtseweg, where Veronica moved to in March 1969.

Do you still have any contacts with old Veronica-colleagues? Regards from Hilversum Bert Verweij. / The attached picture is showing you, my dad Jaap, ome Bull and myself in the summer of 1968 at the Zeedijk studio in Hilversum.'

Thanks Bert for sharing this wonderful memory. Bert used personal memories and some facts from the Foundation Norderney (Juul Geleick).



Photo: Collection Bert Verweij

OFFSHORE NEWS ECHOS

A NEW (or old) RADIOSHIP

Recently discovered in Larnaca harbour in Cyprus was the MV Piscator, a former Dutch fishing trawler, registered in Scheveningen. The ship with a length of around 150 feet, has a aerial mast of about 100 foot, topped by a pole for what could perhaps be an FM array. Studio's are housed in a portakabin type structure on the ship deck.

When found earlier this year, the MV Piscator appeared to be in an abandoned state, and there had clearly been no activity aboard for some time. With it's Dutch registry and small size, there is speculation it could have been heading for the middle East. The Israeli land-based pirate Radio Lite were at one time claiming to have a ship ready to broadcast. Perhaps this was it?. Any more information would be gratefully received.

Martin van der Ven wrote: 'In the autumn from 1997, I missed by a whisker the exciting visit to a new broadcasting ship. In Offshore

Echo's Magazine I had previously read about the MV Piscator having been fitted out in the port of Larnaca (Cyprus) for several months . Its destination was still unclear. Presumably, the ship should go to the Israeli coast to begin its broadcasts there. It fit well, therefore, that Ulrike and I flew to Cyprus in late October for a study trip. About a week later, our bus finally arrived at the coast of Larnaca, just a few kilometers away from the harbour.

It was beautiful late summer weather and we had a lunch break at first. And what I did I see in the distance? Clearly a broadcasting mast, probably mounted on a ship in the harbour! Excited I zoomed the mast with my video camera and suspected a possible sensation. Just when I tried to persuade our bus driver to arrange a little detour to the port, I was suddenly asked desperately for help. An elderly gentleman in our party had been injured and was bleeding from several lacerations. I had of course to provide first aid and then accompany him to a surgical colleague. Therefore the dream of an exclusive story on the Internet ended up abruptly. By the way nothing has been heard anymore of that mysterious ship.'

Thanks a lot Martin for sharing this memory and Martin had now this video with the unique mast on you tube:

<http://youtu.be/VVanuIfnhQ0>

There's an interesting story from Ken Deutsch on the Radio World pages on the web about 'AAPB Digitizes 60 Years of Public Broadcasting' <http://www.radioworld.com/article/aapb-digitizes%E2%80%9393years-of-public-broadcasting/276489>

Recently one of the subjects I talked about with my good friend for decades, Marc Jacobs, was the appearance of the ships from Greenpeace near the MV Mi Amigo as well as the MV Ross Revenge. I think my own memories relived when hearing back a special program about the organisation, way back in 1979, presented by Tony Allen. Marc dived in his archive and found some photos.

Marc: ' We had a very warm relationship with the people from Greenpeace. From our site free spots to promote the organisation were aired and they came to our radio ship to deliver water and oil. Here two photos from 1979. First one showing Ad Roberts on one of the Greenpeace ships and the second one speaks for itself. Often their crew came to us and we had a lot of fun and drank a lot! Sweet memories.



Photos: Marc Jacobs

Next time for the person who had the most namechecks during the past 10 years in the report. Together with Tony Prince he was in the pre-summer for a short trip to Ibiza. Rosko: 'Hi Hans, Never let it be said we sat on a story! Tony and I commandeered a club in Ibiza. It was only for one night and we dominated the evening! The island is crazy -loco fun fun fun, and we knew we had to party hardy to make a mark, I can safely say we had no equal and the ladies were quite tasty. We both did what we do, starting off with a show - interview on Global radio and proceeded to master the decks at this indoor outdoor club. It was Pirate night and of course who but two ex pirates to make it happen. I had a fan that came all the way from Belgium to attend! Shame you did not make it! Tony was a bit tired the next day and all was cool. It was nice seeing the mates and the fans and we will do it again one day!

Well thanks a lot Emperor for sending in your comments on this special event at Ibiza. A pity it was only for one night. Seems to me a long journey from Los Angeles to Ibiza.



Tony Prince with Rosko as well as after working with The Emperor.
Third Photo is Rosko in England. Collection: Emperor Rosko.

In 1965 during the start of their long and successful career The Rolling Stones also visited Sweden. A special concert was arranged by Radio Syd in Malmö. During their stay in Sweden they also made a trip to the radio ship from Syd. Goran Carlsson made this unique footage. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ueo1oYweRdI>

I heard recently another nickname we hadn't listed before. It was Roger Scott who talked about 'Our only loveable beatnick David Sinclair' on Radio 390.

Next an e mail from Rotterdam, where Alex is living: 'Hello Hans!
Check out the following: Information special 'QSL-Award'
(in Dutch/English and German language)

<http://www.swcholland.com/index.php?page=152>

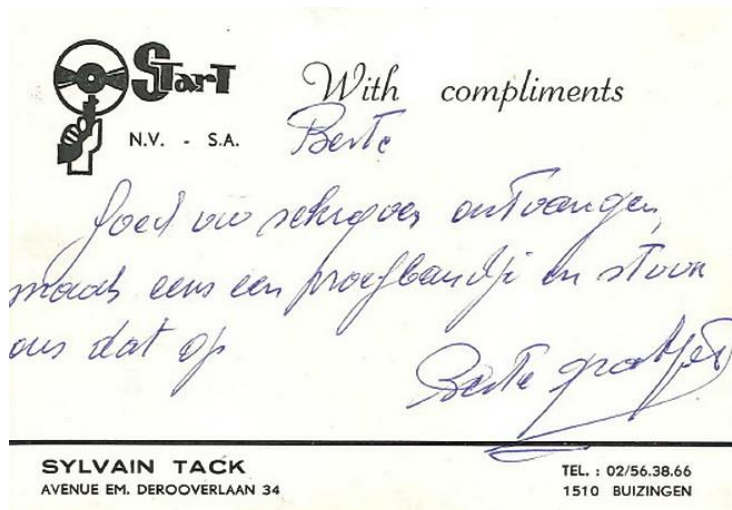
Listen-/Download-/Airplay 'QSL-Award' Promo

<http://soundcloud.com/pirate-radio-jingles/2015-promo-qsl-award>

Enclosed also some photos and more including this one from both MEBO II ships arriving at Slikkerveer harbour in September 1974, just some days after RNI closed down.



Join In the Spirit of Offshore Radio! Free Radio Greetings from André in Rotterdam [CoolAM Radio - ShortWave 6735](#) the Netherlands.'



Thanks André for sending in the photographs as well as wishing you luck with Cool AM. A few days later another document came in, a card André had received in 1975, just after a raid took place in Belgium by the authorities and the Mi Amigo people fled to Belgium.

Like so many other people André had made a demo program as he also wanted to do what others did: stepping into the big adventure called Free Radio from international waters.

Someone will be very lucky seeing a double update in this issue for his excellent work on the Pirate Hall of Fame. Here's Jon Myer:

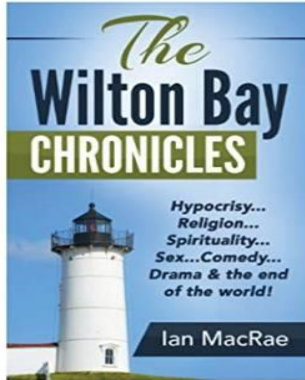
'For July:

- Former Radio Caroline DJ Tony Palmer provides 3 pages of fantastic photos taken on board the mv Ross Revenge in 1990;
 - there are more Radio 270 Top 40s from 48 years ago;
 - we hear about Monstrous Macca's new ebook;
 - a couple of offshore favourites from the seventies return to the airwaves;
 - and there is news of the latest broadcasts from Radio Mi Amigo, based on the LV18 in Harwich, which will feature a number of former pirate DJs.
-
- For August: A number of former Radio Essex staff-members recently met up for a (slightly premature) 50th anniversary reunion. We have pictures;
 - We look at the photos shared on Facebook by former offshore broadcasters;
 - there is some suggested holiday reading;
 - a couple of new DVDs;
 - and the last of Ian Kellock's Radio 270 Top 40s from 48 years ago. My thanks, as ever, to all the contributors. Best wishes, Jon.'

www.offshoreradio.co.uk

On June 30th at 19hrs the German Service in Luxemburg closed down. The last record played was James Last with Happy Luxemburg. As from July 1st the signal is coming from the RTL Studio's in Berlin. I guess only RTL Radio Letzebuerg is left in Luxembourg.





“Among those who read a preview copy of this new e-book ... some felt offended ... some felt provoked ... some felt challenged ... but most had a damn good laugh.”

Ian MacRae

It's a riveting and rollicking tale based on two competing radio stations in an idyllic beachside resort town. One has a format like no other and the other is a network station playing "The Music of Your Life". The tale also involves a housing development with a dark secret. An accident prone broadcasting executive and his illicit affair is leading to serious, and sometimes farcical, drug situations.

A local eccentric, who claims he astral travels. The establishment of a new church set-up as a tax-exempt business. An opportunist televangelist. A romance frustrated by politics and religion. Witchcraft. The young "feral" with the voice of an angel. Some "comedy" terrorists with serious intent. The devil himself coming to town.

"THE WILTON BAY CHRONICLES" is about religion, hypocrisy, spirituality, sex, drugs, comedy, drama and...oh yes... the end of the world.

You can buy it from this webpage... <http://geni.us/7MAC>

(This is a world-wide link and will take you to your nearest Amazon store.) By the way, you don't need a Kindle to read the book. Just download the free Kindle app. You can get it on the Amazon webpage (link above) just under the book cover on the left. Thanks for buying, Ian Mcrae'.

AJ Beirens has put a selection of photos on flickr. A pity he doesn't mention the sources as we know he has been shopping around to get them.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/133200338@N02/albums>

It was a difficult morning here on July 2nd. Not only it was already at 11 o'clock 31 degrees, but I had the task to clean up my photo wall at my office. The reason is that I'm going to change room at the university in summer. So I've taken all the photos with memories away, which I pinned on that wall during the past four decades. One of the photos there was in memory of the big Voice of Peace reunion we organised early 2006. Deejays and technicians from all over the world gathered in Amsterdam for one day and my book on the Voice of Peace was also presented the same day. Some 400 radio enthusiasts were there to hear the stories about Abe Nathan's and others work for Peace. A day never to be forgotten.



Photo: Martin van der Ven

In last issue it was Paul de Haan who told us some wise words he got from Ernie Stevenson. For instant Ernie warned that whistling on a ship was not done. Peter Clayton writes in with his memory about Ernie: 'another thing Ernie told me along with the no whistling was do not wear green on board ship this really will bring bad luck. I had a spell off severe weather on the anchor in the Medway the ship laid wind to water for a number of days, never turning. Speaking to Ernie on the phone, he said "listen you will soon get used to walking on the walls". Something a lot of our engineers and presenters will understand. Best to all we are still working the never ending maintenance. '

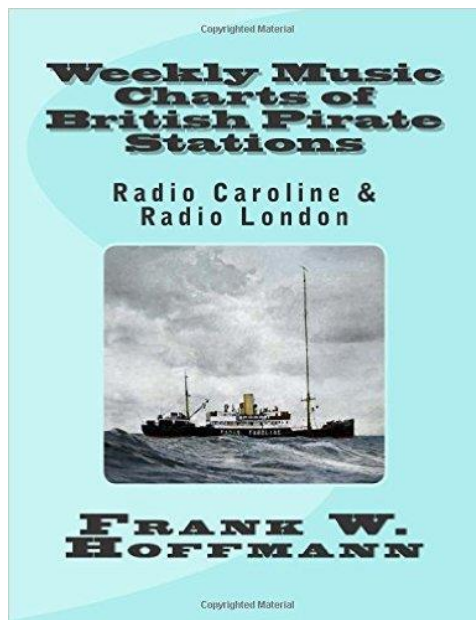
Thanks Peter and keep up the enormous good work you and the others are doing. Next some questions coming in from Hans Meijering in the Netherlands: 'There's one question in my mind for many years regarding Veronica and RNI. Were the station paid for playing plug-records? I know that Ronan O'Rahilly did not get records from artists within the management-organisation; he worked for, played on for instant the BBC. He did start Caroline where records where played on 'his request'. But how was this all done by Veronica. I remember that Joost den Draayer had problems as he had also his own publishing-company. RNI Dutch service was owned by the Strengholt Company, so I should think..... Was it for the deejays possible to make their own choice in playing the songs or were there also records played and payed for by the record companies?'

Thanks Hans Meijering for bringing in this topic. It's up to those who worked for those stations to give the right answers. That's if they want after so many decades. My opinion is that of course money was made by playing records. Look, Radio Noordzee, played a lot of (sometimes terrible) music from the Basart en Park labels. And believe it or not, they became minor and sometimes big hits on the RNI Top 50. Of course it's also known that B-sides from singles who were published by the own publishing company from Veronica had the

names of some of the deejays, so they could get also some money from record-sales. And of course we remember from the seventies that Veronica, RNI, Mi Amigo as well as Caroline played a lot of commercials for LP's, mostly before or after the top of the hour. Hopefully there's one or more former deejay from Veronica and or RNI to tell us more.

Roger Kirk was a German offshore radio enthusiast who recently died. During his life he wrote several articles. A memory to him and his work is to find here:

<http://www.seesender.de/rogerkirk/>



Above book has been published a couple of weeks ago and it's Paul Rusling who wrote the review on this publication: 'This book arrived some time ago, as expected. It is over 300 pages, but this is a bit misleading, as most of the left hand pages are just a couple of lines, showing the bottom positions of each chart. This is due to the poor typesetting meaning every entrant runs over two pages - something that could have been avoided by better leading (closing up the space between each line).

Worser is that it's very difficult to read from a distance as the typeface is so thin and pale; you need to get really up close to read it. Each of the pages is headed by the station name, either Caroline South, or Big L, and the date (in American format!) and then the superfluous and inaccurate mention of their frequency (it claims Caroline South was on 1520 KHz right until April 1967) which is the latest chart included for the station.

The books has a couple of pages of introductory text which tell the story of Caroline and Big L - the latter is written by Mary Payne, so I'm sure that will be very accurate. A few often seen photographs have been popped in pretty 'willy nilly'. The book has a soft back cover full A4 size, so needs storing with other similar books to keep its shape.

I often play back old recordings from this golden age of radio and discover plays of numbers that today we regard as absolute nuggets and never-heard tracks, so it's nice to look back at charts like this and find just how heavily the songs were plugged on the stations then. Tracks that these days we regard as very rare, and certainly rarely heard on today's radio stations, show up as having been on Caroline and Big L charts, many just for a week, which probably shows that the stations were giving a better service to the music business and listeners than stations today. Ronan has often said that Caroline gave a chance to everyone to get on the air and this listing seems to prove him right. Again!

Certainly well worth the money to music enthusiasts like myself, but I'm sure the radio bashers will have a good moan about the tracks, "not enough rock and not enough albums," or something. Paul Rusling.'

There's someone who has her doubts on this publication too as Paul also did sent me this comment: 'Thanks for telling me, Paul. That's the first I've heard about my having 'contributed' to this book! Mary <http://www.amazon.co.uk/Weekly-Charts-British-Pirate->

[Stations/dp/1514666871/ref=sr_1_4?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1435992942&sr=1-4&keywords=pirate+radioPayne.](https://www.stations.com/dp/1514666871/ref=sr_1_4?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1435992942&sr=1-4&keywords=pirate+radioPayne.)

Rob Jones is next with a question, which came in versus Sherri Lynn: 'I'm trying to track down singer Elizabeth Thompson who recorded as Barry St. John in the 60s. Can anyone help? Thanks.'

'Perhaps if you posted this to Hans Knot' to see if he wouldn't mind posting this on his Facebook page and, if necessary, in the next edition of Hans Knot International Offshore Radio Report (I don't think I have the title quite right...but there are so many DJs who may know where Barry St. John is. Good luck! Hope you find her.'

Well Rob, as promised the question in the report. So for those who knew or know Barry St. John, please contact HKnot@home.nl The last time I remember she was recording was in 1972 for the soundtrack of the movie 'Gold', which by the way was a Ronan O'Rahilly production. Saw the movie, that's the first minutes, after which I knew straight that I didn't want to see the rest. Soundtrack is wonderful including David McWilliams.



Photo: Freewave archive

Time now for a topic related to the eighties of last century, the days that millions of people in Western Europe tuned in one of more times a week into Laser 558. Here another memory from Paul Rusling: 'Not so many knew that on those cold January mornings back in 1984,

when we launched the balloons for the 354 feet high aerial, we chartered an extra boat to lay alongside the Communicator as an 'inflate and launch platform'. I'm sure Rick remembers those cold mornings very well! The ILP was the MV Jostrica, about the same size as the Communicator, so no one would ever suspect her of being a tender. I just found a picture of the Jostrica - moored up in Hull (no balloons evident, or the heaps of supplies either!). I think a very important part in Laser's history.



MV Jostrica Photo collection Paul Rusling



Blake Williams 2003 Photo: Freewave Archive

Paul had more to mention: 'Most of you will remember my dear old Laser buddy, Blake Williams, who also spent most of the summer on

Radio Caroline and did much to enhance the Lady's sound, and was cornerstone of the DVD 'A Day in the Life of Radio Caroline'. I'm afraid Blake had a nasty fall early August and has undergone an emergency operation in New Mexico. You might want to offer up a prayer or have him in your thoughts.' Thanks Paul for these two topics. And hopefully Blake is home again recovering and as he's a reader of the Hans Knot International Report too I wish him speedy recovery.

Three million pages of AM FM & TV Broadcasting history online is a wonderful archive to dive in for many hours and more

<http://www.americanradiohistory.com/>

A wealth of stuff to find there, mostly American, but also some UK and international material. I got rather side-tracked looking at Tape recorder magazine, and getting nostalgic about some of the old reel to reel machines I used to have. Chris.'

It was Ian Bigger who asked me if it was possible to make some scans for him. He was missing some issues of Volume 5 of the Pirate Radio News. This was a magazine which was published between 1969 and 1976 and from which I was the Final Editor between 1972 and 1976 and I was assisted during that period by Jacob van Kokswijk and Ate Harsta, among others. It took the bended volume out the archive and before scanning I decided to look through the magazine and do some reminiscing. Well my followers in our radio hobby still know how big the love for this medium is. It will be a surprise for what we wrote in the issue from early March 1974 about the future of offshore radio stations:

'Offshore radio stations are now public interest. Television and radio people try to film at all offices, even they come from the U.S.A., where also plans are to start a radio station from a ship in international waters off the coast near Miami. Listeners to the offshore stations in Europe asking more and more for playing jingles so they can record them and collect as much as possible.

Radiostations nowadays organize trips to Japan, New York, Nashville

Tennessee and more. We have the 'Taal Aktie Committee Belgium' attacking Radio Atlantis to give free airtime to bring their opinion about the Flemish language to become the language in their native country. Ref. Maasbach and Toornvliet returning to the air. There's Mr. Van Landschoot on politic campaign in Belgium with the Pirate Party. Rumours about the depart of the MEBO II and the end of the Dutch programs from the station. Another new frequency for Atlantis. Radio link between Caroline and RNI as well as a link between Caroline and Hilversum III. What would be the end? Painless? No, we don't think so, but most of you will find another hobby!

Well between March 1973 and now were are more than 42 years on and still, although offshore radio stopped in the early nineties of last century, a lot of people are interested in the history of this part of the medium radio. And still more and more memories are getting us back to the days when radio was real radio! Send your own memories and more to: HKnot@home.nl

Here's another interesting link sent by Herman Content

<https://oldradioprograms.us/Recently%20Added%20Programs.htm>



Benny Brown

Above photo was send by a reader in Germany who told me that another reader and longtime serving deejay on Radio Luxembourg, Benny Brown, is now retired. Well Benny do enjoy further life and we have certainly enjoyed your programs and also special memories to the breakfast special you did some 30 years ago together with Tom Mulder, not forgetting the Marlboro Country shows on Cable One.

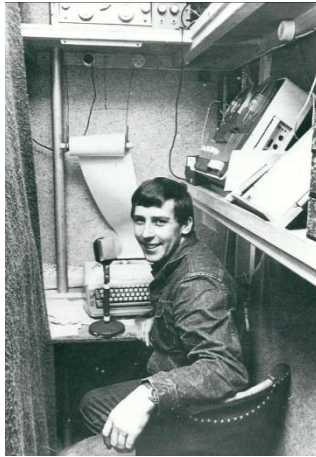
Next information from Mike Terry: 'A pirate radio station in southwestern Victoria has been shut down and its operator fined. The broadcast watchdog investigated unlicensed transmissions on 101.3 FM coming from Portland in March, and a man pleaded guilty to running an unlicensed operation and illegally possessing radio communications devices. Australian Communications and Media Authority chairman Chris Chapman said the man's conviction should be a strong deterrent for anyone else thinking of running a pirate station.

<http://www.9news.com.au/national/2015/07/16/10/40/victorian-pirate-radio-operator-convicted>

Of course a lot of stations paid attention on Friday August the 14th to the fact that 48 years ago Radio London and other Offshore stations left the air. There were too much specials to mention. However go to www.radiolondon.co.uk for the update on the beautiful internet-pages from Mary and Chris Payne, a must for everyone.

Sad news from Down Yonder: 'Dear Hans, thank you for your service over many years and your informative emails. But the truth is, I can no longer read them; as I have completely lost my central vision due to macular degeneration. I've enjoyed our connection over many years and request that you pass on to any of my pirate friends or family the fact that I can no longer read, but I would dearly love to stay in Skype contact if anybody wishes to contact me at spider9269. Thanks for everything and best wishes to all. Luv - Graham "Spider" Webb.'

Thanks for the message Graham and very sad to read this. I know that your daughter has decided to get the contacts between you and others versus Facebook, so I have already be in contact with her. Anyway it was a pleasure listening to your programs on several stations and also of course the personal contacts we had through the past two decades. Take care and I hope that others can get it contact with you by Skype Spider9269!



Graham Webb Caroline Newsroom Collection: Colin Nichol

Question time with Paul Bailey now: 'We heard a test transmission on 1512 two weeks ago, I think 1512 kHz used to be used by Radio Netherlands Worldwide, but is now inactive. On 14th of August a Radio Phaser started at 3 pm and continued until midnight to mark the 48th anniversary. Reception was good with excellent signal quality and bandwidth. I have no idea where it was coming from but the voices were English/South East accents. Love Paul.' Could anyone tell us more about this test? Simply write to HKnot@home.nl

How many times people found each other back after many years versus the Hans Knot International Report? Well here are two other ones: Hi Hans, I was watching a film on the tube yesterday evening when suddenly the name, 'Brenda Pidduck', flashed through my mind. I stopped the film and did a Google and found the name 'Sherri Lynn (Brenda Pidduck),' and then found a link with her short biography. Today I did another search for 'Sherri Lynn (Brenda Pidduck)' and

found reference to her in the results of your pdf: [Hans Knot international radio report March 2011](#). Sherri must be the same person, Brenda Pidduck that I knew in London in about 1969. She responded to a DJ's Radio London announcement that I was looking for models for a Pollution Research Bureau publicity event I was planning to stage. I met up with Brenda, (Sherri), to discuss the publicity event for the Pollution Research Bureau, using inflated giant black balloons. She so generously offered to make a made-to-measure two-piece outfit in white satin, with embroidered pollution slogans covering the various aspects of pollution. The outfit she made was a professional and stupendous result. But there was a lot more to the story. It must surely be the same Brenda, (as she was), who originated from Rhodesia. She was a strikingly beautiful blond and part-time model. Her comments in two of your pdf reports I read indicated the same caring person that I remember as Brenda. Best wishes, Philip Dawes (England).'

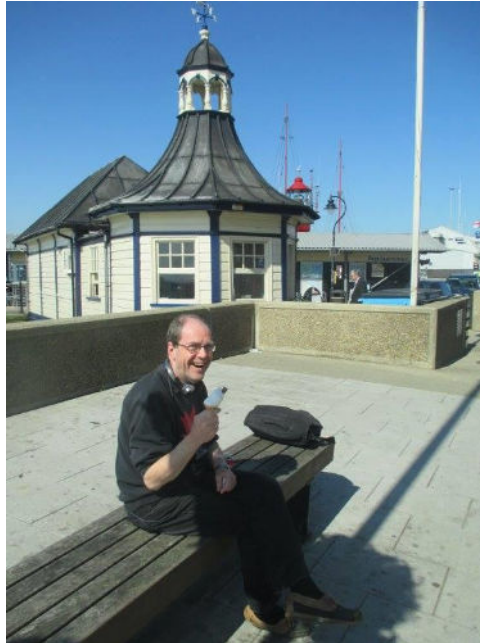
When someone is trying to connect a person mentioned earlier in one of the many reports we had since 1998 I always sent the e mail to the person and don't give an e mail address to the person on search. So in this case I forwarded it to Sherri and she came back with: 'Hi Hans....yup....I plead being not innocent to the charges made! Wow! Talk about my past revisiting me! When Philip knew me, my name was indeed Brenda, a name that I choose to not use any more as I changed my name legally about 40 years ago, this for no other reason than because I didn't like my previous name! I hope you are keeping well, Hans and please will you pass on my best regards to Philip Dawes and if he'd like to connect with me via Facebook my address there is sherrilynn4u. Thanks so much for being the 'in-betweenner' here, Hans. Very much appreciated! You are welcome to use the information Paul is sharing for a post, Hans with one correction. It was not me who made that outfit (which I remember very clearly) but a professional seamstress. However, I did design it. Hopefully Philip can send me a photo of it, if he still has one. My portfolio disappeared from an agent's office one day when I was

visiting him in Los Angeles. I went to make a phone call (no mobiles in those days), got back within about 5 minutes and it had gone! Nobody claimed to know what had happened to it and the photos and news articles inside were absolutely **no value** to anybody except me. A big loss! It will therefore be great to at least see this one again. Sherri.'

Well I can assure you that both are in contact again after far more than four decades! Now and internet site, which is not new but surely a visit worth again: <http://sixtiescity.net/Radio/60SRadio.shtm>

Then of course an RSL called Mi Amigo Harwich was held last month. It's Tony O'Neill reflecting: 'Just getting back to normal after a very hectic, but very enjoyable, 9 days. We had a really fantastic time with a huge variety of guest DJ's and music. I like to think that we played a selection for all tastes with a good measure of anorak radio thrown in. It was very well received by the good people of Harwich, for whom it was primarily aimed, and further afield on FM; the internet stream was just a courtesy for those out of range of the FM signal, so we didn't really concentrate on it being perfect as we had rather a lot of other more important issues to deal with. I hope you managed to hear some of it and found it of interest. My warmest thanks goes to Tony Currie, who organised an exceptional broadcast on board our dear LV18, which has greatly benefitted from all the attention and media profile. And also to all the participants, too many to name individually, who gave their time, great knowledge and energies for free, for their support, encouragement and devotion to the project. To all the advertisers and sponsors who paid for the broadcast. To all our listeners, far and wide, who enjoyed our eclectic mix of programming. To our loyal supporters who made the pilgrimage to Harwich to, yet again, help us celebrate some of the highlights of the antics of the radio revolutionaries that bobbed around just off our local coast. And to the good people of the Harwich area, many of whom served, maintained and, occasionally, rescued them. And, last but not least,

to John (and Connie) Ross Barnard, who played 'Land of Hope and Glory' one afternoon, which inspired me to alight from my car at Wrabness and stand to attention in the rain. We salute you all. Tony.'



Tony Currie enjoying an ice-cream Photo: FB Mi Amigo Harwich

Next a message from Andy Sennit: 'Hi Hans, I'm sure you will be interested in this story from *The Guardian*: In 1968, François "Papa Doc" Duvalier instructed his ambassador in Washington to pursue an acquisition: the Haitian dictator wanted a radio ship that could transmit propaganda across the Caribbean and to Latin America.

When pop pirates ruled Britannia's airwaves

Don Pierson, a Cadillac dealer from Eastland, Texas, happened to have two such vessels, but both were moored across the Atlantic off the coast of south-east England. One, *MV Galaxy*, a former US minesweeper, had been the home of Radio London, the offshore pirate radio station which played an integral part of the 60s pop revolution. A second ship, *MV Laissez Faire*, a former US navy supply ship equipped with two 50kW transmitters, had briefly broadcast the top 40 station *Swinging Radio England*.

Both were now lying idle in the Thames estuary, having been rendered useless the previous year by Harold Wilson's government, which had criminalized the pirate stations with the Marine and Broadcasting Offences Act of 1967. For more on this story see in the next link:

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/jul/16/tortuga-development-haiti-carnival-dispute>

Thanks a lot Andy for sharing this interesting article. But Andy Sennit had more for us: 'Some offshore nostalgia from our local TV station Gooi TV. In place of the weekly magazine, a number of special documentary programmes are being aired during the summer break. This week's programme is a 50 minute documentary about Radio Veronica, RNI, Radio Caroline and some rare shots of the short-lived Capital Radio showing the circular antenna. The documentary covers the period up to 1974. I watched on TV, and it has a lot of interviews with presenters. A lot of the archive material was filmed on board the ships, and a lot of it was new to me. Unfortunately there are no credits at the end, so I don't know who produced it.

It's also on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GKwCc-enooM>

Thanks Andy, the documentary is 'Zeezenders in woelig water' and when I was invited to make an exhibition in 1994 in Omroepmuseum in Hilversum we tracked down the documentary and it was there that it was for the first time shown after August 1974. In 1994 it was released on VHS and some 5 years ago on DVD.

And Andy finished with: 'On Saturday 1st August Radio Seagull switched to a new schedule, in readiness for our appearance on DAB+ in the north of the Netherlands. On Tuesday 28th July I presented my final Tuesday show at 1100-1300 CET online, repeated at 2300-0100 CET online + 1602 kHz . Since August 1st, I will be on Radio Seagull every Monday at 0700-1000 CET online, repeated at 1900-2200 CET online + 1602 kHz and from September also on DAB+. Most

of the other presenters have also moved to new days and/or times. Our website at www.radioseagull.com will have the details.

One person who has worked on the earlier mentioned Laissez Faire is Martin Kayne. 'Just a couple of pictures from last Saturday's Radio Essex 50th Anniversary meeting at Whitstable, Kent. I am sure you will receive many more photos of the event from the others too. Best wishes Martin Kayne



Mother of Radio London behind the pirate flag, Mary Payne

A topic of discussion at the Radio Essex 50th Anniversary reunion - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/138671707652/permalink/10152901273252653/>

Thanks a lot Martin and a photo report by Mary about the Radio Essex 50th Reunion is now on www.radiolondon.co.uk

Talking about photos, the next one is one of the happiest ever been published in the history of the Hans Knot International Radio Report and I'm very thankful to Steve Conway that he gave me this very private photograph for publishing in the report and of course Catherine and Steve I wish you both many happy years together.

'Enclosed photo is a gathering of some of my colleagues and friends from the world of radio who attended my wedding to Catherine on August 6th.

Back row, left to Right: Simon Maher (founder, Phantom FM and 8Radio.com), Tara Gleeson (Phantom FM), Chris Kennedy (Radio Caroline, Radio Seagull), Fiona Scally (Phantom FM, Radio Nova 100), Aishling Bastible (RTE news), Geoff Rogers (Radio Jackie, Susy Radio, South East Sound), Dave Foster (Radio Caroline, Radio Seagull), Joe Barry (former Director General of RTE) and Andy Brooks (Radio Seagull).

Front Row: myself, Catherine Conway, Lin Summers (Radio Jackie) and John Burch (South East Sound, Caroline Movement). A great time was had by all - not least at the bar afterwards . . .
Greetings, Steve Conway.'



Photo: Johnny Bambury Photography.

Well that's all for this month. Late September I will be back and you know that memories, photos and more are most welcome:

Hknot@home.nl

Best greetings and take care, Hans Knot.