

80's Caroline DJ dies

DATELINE London 2nd January 2015



Photo: Offshore Echoes Magazine

Paul Shelton, a DJ on Radio Caroline in the 1980s has died after a short illness. The news was announced by Station Manager Peter Moore:-

“I am sorry to say that my old friend Paul passed away yesterday. He was not, and had no wish to be, a big name in radio and the connection was that we were pals and workmates pre my involvement with Caroline in the eighties.

He actually went to the *Ross* just to help build a mast, assisting Mick Dundee, but as with so many others ended up on air.

His real surname was Conville and he was a staunch Yorkshireman. Briefly he was Paul Pornon, a name chosen due to the type of video he liked to watch on the TV in the mess room. Then he became Shelton, a name chosen by Andy Bradgate as an anagram of Holsten, Paul's preferred drink.

He was mostly known for his stint with Rob Harrison and others on the Caroline 819 overnight service. But, as I say, he was not driven to be a broadcaster and when that era ended, so did his time on air.

We were not always bosom buddies, sometimes we fell out big time, but he was very loyal and no disagreement was so huge that it could not be sorted out over a few drinks.

On that subject, he liked his drink and his cig's and to bet on the horses and that was his life even when he knew he was damaging his health. He had no desire to make old bones. For several months he was desperately ill in hospital and the medical profession moved mountains to save him to the point where he was well enough to go home.

But while Rob Harrison and I assumed he was slowly recovering, having at last learned his lesson, he died on New Years Day. “

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Tony Blackburn re-united with ‘dead’ offshore radio colleague

DATELINE Berkshire 16th January 2015



Tony Blackburn has been reunited with one of his best friends, and best man, – 35 years after the veteran DJ and his radio colleagues thought he was dead.

Richard Swainson worked with Tony Blackburn on 1960's offshore stations Radio Caroline South and Radio London, but news spread he had passed away.

So when Mr Swainson, who now lives in Berkshire, told a BBC reporter he was old friends with the DJ, Blackburn dismissed the claim. “He’s come back from the dead,” said Blackburn. “It’s a very odd story.”

Tony Blackburn, who presents a show on BBC Radio Berkshire, heard from the station’s roving reporter Susanne Courtney that a man called Richard in Mortimer, Berkshire passed on his best wishes to him.

Tony Blackburn had lost touch with Richard Swainson after joining BBC Radio One in 1967. “We worked together for the best part of 10 years, we used to go on holiday together. I was best man at his first wedding. We were inseparable,” Mr Swainson told the BBC.

They met at Radio Caroline in 1964 and worked together at Radio London as well as at RCA records, which had signed Blackburn and where Mr Swainson worked in A&R.

“He was one of my best friends,” said Blackburn. “But we lost contact when I started working at Radio One. Then somebody said to one of us that sadly he had passed away – this was about 35 years ago. That was it really, we heard it on the grapevine. We weren’t invited to any funeral but we didn’t think it was strange as we’d not been in touch for years – it was just one of those things.”

So when Blackburn received these best wishes via the reporter, he “thought it was somebody just saying that”. He added: “Quite a few people in the past have said they know me but in fact they don’t. I said that I knew a Richard Swainson but that he’s dead, so it can’t be him.”

Blackburn called up radio colleagues past and present to check. They all said that Mr Swainson had definitely died some time ago.

However, photographic evidence sent via the reporter’s smart phone showed Richard Swainson

was, in fact, very much alive. Gobsmacked, Blackburn invited his back-from-the-dead friend for a reunion on his BBC Radio Berkshire Friday morning show on 16th January 2015.

“After the programme last week I rang Richard up,” Blackburn said. “I said ‘Hi Richard, this is the most weird call I’ve ever made’.”

Mr Swainson, who said he did not know why everyone thought he was dead, said of the reunion: “It’s amazing.”

The pair now plan to keep in touch.

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Radio Caroline claims world first

DATELINE London and Los Angeles 20th January 2015



Photo: Radio Caroline

Radio Caroline has started streaming its programmes in both US Eastern and Pacific Standard times, so that listeners in America can wake up to the breakfast show in the morning, and relax to night time shows at the end of the day, just as they are intended to be heard!

Still leading the way in innovation, in an industry first, Radio Caroline has rolled out new apps that remove the time difference and enable American fans to listen to the station's output from breakfast throughout the day and into the evening in either Eastern Standard Time or Pacific Standard Time.

It's the first time that a British radio station has synched its output for the East Coast and the West Coast of America. With its flagship breakfast show originating in Los Angeles, listeners on both coasts can start their day with Tony Paul from 7 to 9 am and hear the rest of the station's output from the U.K. around the clock.

After 50 years on the air, Caroline remains true to its heritage with real personalities playing the music of the rock and roll generations up to the present day and helping break the best new artists.

Apps for iOS and Android are now available for download from the Apple App Store and Google Play and the apps are free!

But please note these new streams are only available in North America.

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Caroline Flashback launched

DATELINE London 3rd May 2015



Many people, of a certain age, still associate Radio Caroline with the pop music of the 60's and 70's. So the station has launched a new stream - **Caroline Flashback** - to provide an alternative service for its loyal and new listeners, who want to hear popular tracks from this era.

Caroline Flashback has new specially produced jingles and the familiar Radio Caroline 60's sounds.

The station is very pleased to have Roger Day back on **Caroline Flashback**, with his daily show, weekdays 4.00 – 6.00pm. Also the highly rated Stafford's World Flashback Specials with Mark Stafford, returns every Tuesday at 6.00pm.

Caroline Flashback also will give Radio Caroline listeners a chance to hear again some specialist programmes: Americana, Elvis Hour and Dell Richardson's Good Rocking Tonight. Completely new shows are also being planned, featuring artists of the era.

Radio Caroline would love to hear your reactions to this new trial service with suggestions and constructive criticism. Please leave comments at feedback@carolineflashback.co.uk – or just sit back and enjoy!

Real Music Memories – launched 4th May 2015 at 9.00am.

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Radio Mi Amigo RSL

DATELINE Harwich July 2015



Here a message from Tony O'Neill in Harwich: 'Radio Mi Amigo will return to the *LV18* on July 25th for nine fabulous days. Helping to promote local businesses and the Harwich area as a tourist destination, Radio Mi Amigo will be taking advantage of a restricted service broadcast licence from Ofcom to transmit a professional nine day broadcast, from the historic maritime vessel *LV18* on Harwich Quay, serving the North Essex and South Suffolk area.

This tribute to the Offshore Pirate Radio Stations will celebrate the likes of Radio Caroline, Radio London and several others that appeared off the coast of Harwich in the 1960's bringing about a revolution in radio broadcasting.

Following the previous broadcasts from *LV18*, which attracted thousands of visitors to the area, Radio Mi Amigo will bring back some of the original DJ's from the watery wireless days to return to Harwich again to broadcast from the bridge of the Light Vessel. Further to last year's popular 4 day event, *LV18* will broadcast from her new permanent berth by the Ha'penny Pier, enabling members of the public to not only visit the classic vessel but to meet the DJ's and have an opportunity to be interviewed 'live' on air.

The station will also carry news of local events, interviews with surprise guests and promote the Harwich area, which has recently been awarded assisted area status, in terms of business and tourism regeneration.

The team of presenters will include Roger 'Twiggy' Day, Tony Prince, Chris and Mary Payne, Guy Hamilton, Dave Rogers, Stephanie Hirst, Tony Currie, Mandy Marton, Neon Nancy, Sharon Smith, Dave Kent and Harwich's own Liana Bridges.

The event will coincide with, and be broadcasting 'live' from, this year's Harwich Sea Festival on Sunday 26th July. Other events planned are 'Audiences with the Pirates' shows at the Electric Palace Cinema and the arrival of the 'Mods and Rockers' on Harwich Quay with scooters and motorcycles.

Further information and details for potential advertisers and sponsors contact: Tony O'Neil on 07446 171 320 or Email: thelightship@gmail.com www.lv18.org

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Radio Caroline North to return from Manx Radio

DATELINE London 15th September 2015



In March 1968, as most of you will know, *MV Caroline* was forcibly towed away from her anchorage in Ramsey Bay on the Isle Of Man. The many listeners in Scotland, Ireland and the North and on the island itself, tuned to silence and assumed that was the end.

We know of course that the station survived, but Radio Caroline North did not. This popular station never returned. Until now.

The Isle of Man still hold Caroline in high regard and with great affection and so, via the kindness and generosity of Manx Radio, Caroline North will be heard again from the morning of 26th September on 1368 Khz.

We cannot, more's the pity, take *Ross Revenge* to Ramsey Bay, but using technology

unheard of in the Sixties we 'should' be able to broadcast live programmes from the ship for the whole weekend via AM from the Island and as a stand alone Internet stream. You will hear the voices of the DJ stars of the era - Rosko, Tony Prince, Alan Turner, Robbie Dale and others and the music they played.

Our team will comprise Chris Pearson, Kevin Turner, Steve Antony, Ray Clark, Nigel Harris, Dave Foster, John Ellery and Gary Ziepe. If you live anywhere on the Irish Sea coast or inland, dust off the HMV Radiogram or Bush portable, or use the net, via our web site.

Radio Caroline and Caroline Flashback will continue with a full service, so you may be spoiled for choice.

We aim to do this 'just right' so that Manx Radio will gift us further weekends in 2015 and 2016 and well, who knows.

You can send your music choices and memories to memories@radiocaroline.co.uk and we will mention as many as we can on air.

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