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## Radio Mi Amigo DJ Peter van Dam has died

**DATELINE** 6th January 2018

Peter van Dam - described as the great godfather of Flemish pop radio, has died at the age of 65.



Best remembered for his programmes on Radio Mi Amigo, Peter also worked on other offshore stations - Radio 199, Radio Caroline and Radio Atlantis. After offshore radio Peter worked on many land-based radio stations including TROS, AVRO, KRO, Radio 10 Gold, Hilversum 3, VTM, MaevaFM, Radio Contact, Radio 192 and Radio Flandria (where he was launch Programme Director).

Colleague Eric Hofman paid tribute to Peter and his contribution to Flemish radio -

"The first time we met was in Vilvoorde when we became colleagues.

He was a great guy, with a huge personality, both in the studio and outside.

A man with a phenomenal sense of humour, a lightning-fast thinker, a genius radio maker and top disc-jockey.

The only Belgian who became a DJ at Hilversum 3 in prime time and the only Belgian to present the Pinkpop Festival - a whole honour.

The name Peter van Dam remains inextricably linked to the golden age of radio which he presented in his inimitable, unique style.

Peter is synonymous with Radio Atlantis, Caroline, Hilversum 3, but primarily Radio Mi Amigo, where he first broadcast live on board the MV Mi Amigo and later recorded programmes in Spain. Greece also became acquainted with his enormous radio talent and experience, where he helped to promote Karpathos FM from the bottom to the top of the ratings.

For me Peter van Dam is the best Belgian deejay ever.

We were colleagues on radio and television, but also friends. Peter was rock 'n roll, pure and uncut.

The passing of Peter van Dam is for us, as friends, a loss and Flanders has lost a radio legend the like of which will never know again.

We're going to miss you terribly, Peter, but we'll never forget you. It was an honour to have known you.

Big hug, big man, big voice."

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## **Caroline South Breakfast Show +50 !**

**DATELINE** 18th February 2018



Very early on 3rd March 1968, Radio Caroline South DJ Roger Day was up and about preparing his breakfast show and not taking too much notice when a large boat came alongside the *Mi Amigo*. But within minutes, the new arrivals had taken Caroline off air and were preparing to tow the ship away.

It has always troubled Roger that he was unable to present his show that day, but now, 50 years later to the minute, he will.

Join Roger live on Radio Caroline from 5.30am on Saturday 3rd March to finally hear 'The Breakfast Show That Never Was'.

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# 60's offshore radio DJ, David Sinclair has died

**DATELINE** Canada, 15th March 2018



David Sinclair former Radio Essex. Radio 270 and Radio 390 DJ/announcer has died aged 75.

David was born in Kent in 1942 and before joining the offshore stations worked as a trainee printer before becoming an accounts clerk first in a shipping company and later a building society. He then became an assistant manager for a security company and ran an entertainment agency.

David worked on Radio Essex, Radio 270 and Radio 390. He is probably best remembered for presenting big band music programmes on Radio Essex and Radio 390, although he hosted two top 40 format programmes on Radio 270. (*David Sinclair's Ladies Morning Music* and *In The Midnight Hour*).

Following the closure of the 1960s British offshore stations David moved to Canada where he worked for stations in Ontario, British Columbia and Alberta under his real name, David Vincent

Between 1987 and 1992 David was also Chief Instructor at the Columbia Academy of Radio & TV Arts in Edmonton.

David's book about of his life as an offshore DJ - *Making Waves* - was published as an ebook in 2015.

(Additional information courtesy Pirate Radio Hall of Fame)

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# 60's and 70's offshore radio DJ, Graham Gill has died

**DATELINE** Amsterdam 9th April 2018



Graham Gill 1960's and 1970's offshore radio DJ has died at the age of 81.

Graham (real name Graeme Gilsean) was born in April 1936 in Melbourne, Australia. His first job in radio was at the age of 14 when he joined Radio 3UZ in Melbourne. He later moved to 3KZ where he first worked as a panel operator for Alan Freeman (later a BBC DJ, who famously presented 'Pick of the Pops', one of the very few pop music programmes on BBC Radio before 1967) . Graham later became a broadcaster on the station in his own right.

He then moved to 2RG and MTN-9 TV in Griffith, New South Wales. At the end of 1965 Graham moved to Europe and eventually found work at Wimbledon Palais, where he was discovered by Radio London, which he joined in May 1966.

However he only stayed with Radio London for two weeks before moving to Britain Radio and Radio England, twin offshore stations which launched in May 1966.

For a short time Graham moved to 'sweet music' station Radio 390 but when that station closed he had to leave Britain due to problems with his visa. He moved to The Netherlands and returned to sea during the seventies, working on both Radio Caroline and Radio Northsea International (RNI) off the Dutch coast.

When the Dutch anti-offshore radio legislation was introduced in August 1974 Graham joined Radio Netherlands (the Dutch equivalent of the BBC World Service).

He retired in 1984 but returned to the air in 2002 to present some shows on the short-lived Radio Caroline cable service in Holland.

*(Additional information courtesy Pirate Radio Hall of Fame)*

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# Ad Roberts has died

**DATELINE** 8th April 2018



Former Radio Caroline, Radio Mi Amigo and Radio Monique engineer and DJ Ad Roberts has died at the age of 62.

Ad (real name Rob de Goede) began as a panel operator at the age of 17 in the Caroline Studio in Amsterdam (for Graham Gill who died on 9th April) In addition, he was on board the *Mi Amigo* several times as a transmitter engineer and he even presented a few live programmes.

After a few years, he went to Australia and found work as a DJ and later worked in the Announcers Academy (now the Australian Film Television and Radio School).

After 7 months he returned to the Netherlands to work for the Dutch Service of Caroline on board the *Mi Amigo*. After the ship sank in March 1980, he worked as a DJ in discotheques.

When Radio Caroline re-launched in 1983 from the *Ross Revenge* Ad helped set up the studios for Radio Monique and spent some time presenting programmes for the station.

Over the last few years he worked at Radio Extra Gold where he presented a weekly programme.

<http://www.extragold.nl/>

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# Radio London Programme Director, Ben Toney, has died

**DATELINE** Dallas, Texas 11th May 2018



Ben Toney Programme Director of Britain's first Top 40 radio station, Radio London, has died at the age of 87.

Ben Toney was born in 1930 in Texas, but his family moved to California when he was young. After finishing his schooling Ben joined the US Navy where he served for four years.

When he left the Navy Ben attended the University of North Texas where he worked part-time on the local station KZEE in Weatherford, Texas. Following graduation Ben joined KZEE full-time

In August 1964 Ben was approached by Don Pierson who was in the process of setting up Radio London and was looking for a Programme Director.

Ben was responsible for devising the station's highly successful format and for recruiting and training the original team of DJs.

Ben married his secretary at Radio London, Ronagh Clarke, in October 1965 .

When his contract with Radio London expired in March 1966 Ben was again approached by Don Pierson, who was now setting up Radio England and Britain Radio, but did not take up the offer of employment this time. Ben also did some consultancy work for Radio 270, and even presented a few programmes on the station.

Ben eventually took a job with KNAL in Victoria, Texas, then worked for Interstate Broadcasting Company (IBC), a regional news network, as a salesman. When IBC closed Ben took a job surveying for maritime oil deposits. He retired in February 1993 at the age of 62 to look after his mother.

Ben had a fall in early April 2018 and after a short illness died on 10th May 2018 at the VA Medical Centre in Dallas.

*(Additional material courtesy the Pirate Radio Hall of Fame)*

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# Former Radio Veronica ship opens as a new club

**DATELINE** Amsterdam, 17th May 2018



Amsterdam's latest club - Noorderschip - is housed in the ex-Radio Veronica ship, *Norderney*. The vessel has been docked in Amsterdam for years and is now located off the NDSM wharf in Amsterdam North.

The new club, which opened on 11th May, has three levels (including a terrace) and a capacity of 300, with a dance floor below sea level.

David Cornelissen, Noorderschip's creative director, said he hopes the venue will become a new cultural port in the local community, focusing more on local initiatives and collectives that still need a place in Amsterdam.

This policy will involve booking local talent, as well as international artists who may not get booked at Amsterdam's other clubs.

Noorderschip's daytime event programme will include courses, lectures, art exhibitions and more. The restaurant will have a locally sourced vegetarian menu.

for more information visit:-

<https://www.residentadvisor.net/news.aspx?id=41656>

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# Offshore radio author and Capital Radio co-founder, Paul Harris, has died

**DATELINE** Scotland, 25th May 2018



Paul Harris who was an author and publisher, based in Scotland and was closely involved with the launch of the short-lived offshore station, Capital Radio in 1970 has died.

His first book was about the history of offshore radio - *When Pirates Ruled the Waves* - which ran to four editions between 1968 and 1970 and was published by his own company, Impulse Books in Aberdeen.

His second book, *To be a Pirate King*, extended the offshore radio story into 1971 covering his involvement with Capital Radio and the conspiracy theories surrounding its demise. The book caused a sensation in the Netherlands, where it was published by *De Telegraaf* and it led directly to him working for the British intelligence service, MI6, and a long time involvement in analysis of Libya and, later, the Lockerbie disaster.

Paul published another 42 books covering topics including the oil industry, murder, and Scottish Art.

A third offshore radio book - *Broadcasting from the High Seas* - appeared in 1977 consolidating and updating his previous books on the subject.

Paul was a founder member of the Scottish General Publishers' Association, which became Publishing Scotland and had an Honours degree in Politics and International Relations from Aberdeen University.

During the 1990s, he entered journalism when he found himself in former Yugoslavia as the war there broke out. His plane was destroyed on the tarmac at Ljubljana's Brnik Airport. He stayed on and started to work there for Jane's Defence Information Group, becoming Contributing Editor of Jane's Balkan Sentinel and specialist contributor, insurgency and terrorism, for Jane's Intelligence Review.

Paul then became a war journalist, covering eighteen wars between 1991 and 2001. He won a British Press Award for his reporting from the war in Bosnia. He went on to work in Asia and Africa, filing stories from more than fifty countries. He was injured in Kosovo in 1999 and the following year became *Daily Telegraph* correspondent in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

He worked for the *Daily Telegraph* as its Colombo correspondent and was also a columnist for



the *Daily Mirror*, during which he released 'Fractured Paradise' a photographic analysis of the Sri Lankan conflict critical of the terrorist group Tamil Tigers. He was expelled as a danger to Sri Lanka's national security in November 2001, at the behest of the Tamil Tigers.

Publishers Kennedy and Boyd brought out an updated version of *When Pirates Ruled the Waves* in 2007 (the fortieth anniversary of the Marine etc Broadcasting (Offences) Act, followed in 2009 by his autobiography *More Thrills than Skills: Adventures in Journalism, War and Terrorism*.

Together with Julian Halsby, he was the author of *The Dictionary of Scottish Painters* (1990). In 2005 he sold his extensive collection of Scottish art and started to collect modern Vietnamese and Chinese art. He established a gallery and auction house for Chinese art at Coldingham, Berwickshire, in the Scottish borders.

From July 2011, he was a NADFAS (National Association of Decorative and Fine Art Societies) accredited lecturer.

Paul died on 24th May 2018, leaving behind his wife Sulee and daughter Lucy.

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## Thames Estuary Sea Forts in TV programme

**DATELINE** London, August 2018

**Hidden Britain by Drone**



Tony Robinson presents aerial footage of more inaccessible parts of the UK, sending drones to explore **a chain of sea forts that were once a lair for pirates**, a top-secret underground Cold War bunker, the inner workings of a sewage plant and a vast luxury car emporium.

**Channel 4**

**Sunday 12th August 2018**

**8.00pm**

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## **Radio England Boss Jock, Larry Dean, has died**

**DATELINE** North Carolina, 23rd August 2018



Radio England's launch Programme Director, Larry Dean, - the man responsible for first hiring Roger Day and Johnnie Walker - has died after a long illness.

Larry Dean' real name was Frank Laseter. He started in radio at the age of 15 and first used the name Larry Dean in 1963 while at WVLD in Valdosta, Georgia. In 1964, he joined WALT in Tampa Florida where they insisted he use the name 'James Bond.'

After leaving Tampa, Frank spent time briefly at Lakeland's WONN, again as Larry Dean, before moving on to WIRK in West Palm Beach and WPTR in Albany, New York.

In 1966 he became Programme Director for Radio England when it launched off the Essex coast, but didn't stay for its full term, opting instead to return to America to resume his radio career at WFUN in Miami and later WQDR in Raleigh, North Carolina. It was while at the latter that he first began using his real name on the air.

Frank became News Director for WSOC-FM in Charlotte, North Carolina where he had anchored the morning news since 1993.

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## **Offshore radio DJ and engineer Robin Adcroft (Robin Banks) has died**

**DATELINE** Cheltenham, 16th September 2018



Robin Adcroft was born in Cheltenham in 1950. His early involvement with offshore radio was as a volunteer with the Free Radio Association and he eventually became the Association's Photographic Officer and later pursued an early career in the film industry.

While working in the film industry, Robin also became involved with land-based pirate radio, in particular Radio Free London and broadcast as 'Roger Lane' on two other land-based pirates, Channel Radio and Radio Kaleidoscope.

In 1972 when Radio Caroline returned to the air from a position off The Netherlands Robin was invited to join the station as an engineer and was soon also presenting programmes.

In August 1973 Robin moved to Radio Northsea International (RNI) as an engineer and again he also presented programmes, under the name Robin Banks. However, a year later Dutch legislation outlawing offshore radio came into force and RNI closed down.

The owners of the RNI ship (*Mebo II*) had plans for it to continue broadcasting in the Mediterranean as Radio Nova International and Robin was employed to prepare the studios and transmitters, but Radio Nova never made it onto the air from the *Mebo II*.

Robin then joined his colleague Spangles Muldoon (Chris Carey) working in his electronics company and for a while he was also employed by Rank Xerox.

After a short spell as a DJ in Dutch clubs Robin returned to offshore radio when he joined the Voice of Peace off the coast of Israel.

When he left that station, Robin spent some time on the *Mebo II* in Libya (the ship had by then been sold to the Libyan government) looking after the technical side. Here he arranged occasional test transmissions from the ship featuring familiar voices or pieces of music from RNI and Caroline and on 14th August 1978 the last English-language programme was broadcast from the ship when Robin and Prinz Holman co-hosted an hour long show to mark the anniversary of the British Marine etc Broadcasting (Offences) Act.

Robin continued to work in broadcast engineering, installing equipment at stations all over the world. He was also involved in land-based pirates in Ireland and, briefly, with Laser 558 in the 1980's.

While compiling a series of photographs of the 1960s offshore stations for the FRA Robin had become particularly interested in Red Sands Fort, (home to Radio Invicta, KING Radio and Radio 390), and he never lost this fascination - becoming one of the leading players in Project Redsand, campaigning to restore and preserve it as a structure of historical interest.

Robin died on 16th September 2018 at the age of 68 after a battle with kidney cancer.

*(Additional material courtesy of the Pirate Radio Hall of Fame)*

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# Radio London and RNI DJ, Duncan Johnson, has died

**DATELINE** London, 11th October 2018



Duncan Johnson was born in Toronto, Canada, in August 1938.

After working in a variety of jobs he first joined a radio station in Swift Current, Saskatchewan, later moving to CJOC in Lethbridge, Alberta and a station in Bermuda

In August 1963 he visited relatives in the UK and decided to stay, finding work as a compere and doing voice-overs. In late 1964 he heard about Radio London starting broadcasts from off the Essex coast and joined the station on 1st February 1965.

At first he covered for DJs who were on shore-leave then presented his own late night show, **London After Midnight**, when the station extended its broadcasting hours.



Duncan left Radio London in 1966 and joined the BBC Light Programme (forerunner to BBC Radio 2) presenting a programme called **Double Spin**. When BBC Radio 1 was launched in September 1967 Duncan became one of the station's first presenters, hosting the daily quiz **Crack the Clue**.

He renewed his association with offshore radio in April 1970 when he joined the recently launched Radio North Sea International (RNI) as one of its first presentation team.

He later worked for EMI Records, Radio Luxembourg, BBC Radio London, Capital Radio and Invicta Radio and spent the last years of his career as financial controller for an advertising agency, finally retiring in 2004.

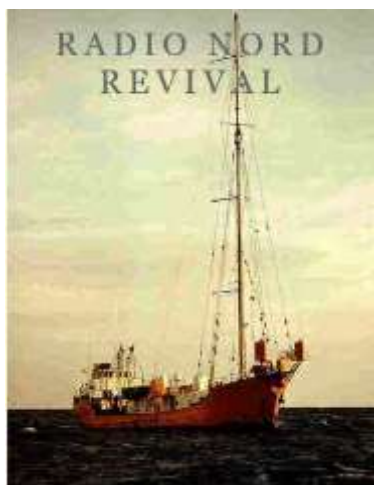
Duncan died on 11th October 2018, aged 80, after a long battle with Parkinson's Disease.

*(Additional material courtesy of the Pirate Radio Hall of Fame)*

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## Radio Nord Revival Broadcast

**DATELINE** Stockholm, 20th October 2018



Radio Nord Revival will be broadcasting from Waxholm Fortress on the island of Waxholm in the Stockholm archipelago on 26th and 27th October from the ship *Constantia* (to be re-named *Bon Jour* for the event).

Broadcasts will alternate between 5995 or 6035kHz Short Wave, using a power of maximum 500W as well as 91.8 FM.

Full details on their blog:-

<https://radionordrevival.blogspot.com/2018/10/radio-nord-revival-back-on-air-again.html?fbclid=IwAR2QsQU3RK4r2NmyiGafM0V66rOzmycGSPiGS2nXxBJAN9FiDCa3lee7zUg>

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## Former Radio Caroline and Voice of Peace DJ Gavin Ford found dead

**DATELINE** Lebanon, 27th November 2018



Former Radio Caroline and Voice of Peace DJ, Gavin Ford, has been found dead in his apartment in Lebanon.

Gavin studied at the National Broadcasting School in London and, after graduating, worked on an Italian station aimed at tourists on the Riviera and on the Voice of Peace off Israel.

When he returned to the UK, he worked at DevonAir before joining Radio Caroline in November 1989 for a couple of months before moving on to Contact 94, based in Normandy.

Gavin then joined Galaxy Radio in Bristol and Napa FM in Cyprus before moving to Lebanon in

1996 where he broadcast the breakfast show on Radio One for for more than 20 years,

Gavin (53) was found dead in his flat on 27th November 2018. Early reports suggested he had been murdered and two men, both Syrian, were arrested the following day.

*(Additional material courtesy of the Pirate Radio Hall of Fame)*

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