

Ronan O’Rahilly, founder of Radio Caroline, has died

DATELINE 20th April 2020



Ronan O’Rahilly, the founder and public face of Radio Caroline since 1964 has died at the age of 79, following a long illness.

A full tribute to Ronan is available on the Radio Caroline web site - <http://www.radiocaroline.co.uk/#home.html>

Further tributes are available here:-

RTE

https://www.rte.ie/entertainment/2020/0420/1132739-ronan-orahilly-founder-of-radio-caroline-dead-at-79/?fbclid=IwAR2z6tjy0LrAWxeHHXi_a5ITkUeFFV6CSfuONxqKNnUuo9vcbjXB5QRbsaM

THE GUARDIAN

<https://www.theguardian.com/music/2020/apr/21/ronan-orahilly-pirate-radio-godfather-made-a-sea-change-in-british-pop>

IRISH TIMES

<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/irish-news/irishman-who-founded-radio-caroline-and-changed-radio-forever-dies-1.4233665?fbclid=IwAR3a6dHqqd3z4xki4vpMcVFmtTdRwcfZKwTLwdtGiXXIYzKMo1JpPTRwdRl>

BBC NEWS

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-essex-52362113>

RADIO TODAY

<https://radiotoday.co.uk/2020/04/radio-caroline-pays-tribute-to-founder-ronan-orahilly/>

ITV NEWS

<https://www.itv.com/news/anglia/2020-04-21/radio-caroline-founder-ronan-orahilly-dies-aged-79/>

THE JOURNAL

<https://www.thejournal.ie/readme/radio-caroline-5080049-Apr2020/>

DAILY MIRROR

<https://www-mirror-co-uk.cdn.ampproject.org/v/s/www.mirror.co.uk/3am/celebrity-news/ronan-orahilly-dead-pirate-station->

ITV ANGLIA

<https://www.facebook.com/itvanglia/videos/2356600037981550/UzpfSTE1MjU1NjYxMTQyNTA5ODo0Mjc3MDYwMTg1NjQxMzY2/>

EAST ANGLIAN DAILY TIMES

<https://www.eadt.co.uk/news/radio-caroline-felixstowe-ronan-remembered-1-6617496?fbclid=IwAR2SWb9GboXUFDg5UMim9-3EOD73zFW3rEF0vNumNVXJO4pK56ceZ08PXw>

DAILY MAIL

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/tvshowbiz/article-8247325/JANE-FRYER-recalls-man-revolutionised-entertainment-industry.html>

MUSIC WEEK

<https://www.musicweek.com/media/read/tributes-to-radio-caroline-founder-ronan-orahilly/079550>

THE GUARDIAN

<https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2020/apr/23/ronan-orahilly-obituary>

WASHINGTON POST

https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/obituaries/ronan-orahilly-rebel-rock-broadcaster-dies-at-79/2020/04/24/ab15a4fe-84b7-11ea-a3eb-e9fc93160703_story.html

NEW YORK TIMES

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/03/arts/music/ronan-orahilly-dead.html>

THE TIMES

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/a1c5acf4-84c2-11ea-a771-e3cbdc13ee70?shareToken=77eb60a1c2b699d57eb0185f97c343c7&fbclid=IwAR12356xFiiEvoGPMCTLQvdPI-Hxg448hNbzOIXluX2Ct1JVcvtR-wQbKnI>

IRISH EXAMINER

<https://www.irishtimes.com/breakingnews/views/ourview/irish-examiner-view-a-legend-of-pop-music-industry--the-late-ronan-orahilly-995508.html>

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Offshore radio legend A J Beirens has died

DATELINE 26th June 2020



Offshore radio legend AJ Beirens has died at the age of 72 after a long illness.

He was born Albert J Beirens in 1947 in Bruges, Belgium and, in offshore radio circles he was probably most famous for his DX programme – **North Sea Goes DX** on Radio North Sea International (RNI).

The programme was broadcast on Sunday mornings via the short-wave World Service and contained up to date DX information for radio enthusiasts as well as news and history about offshore radio..

As well as RNI AJ also broadcast as a DJ on Radio Atlantis, using the pseudonym Michael O, and also made various jingles and promos for both stations.

He founded Radio Nova (Italy) (originally planning to use the ex RNI ship *Mebo II*), Radio Paradise (Knokke-Heist) and the ORO News Service and was a correspondent for the VRT and BBC local radio. AJ also wrote numerous books on radio, history, genealogy, atheism, humour, quotations etc. and was also an accomplished linguist, able to communicate in at least five different languages.

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Radio London DJ, Mike Lennox has died

DATELINE Mexico, 13th September 2020



Former Radio London DJ, Mike Lennox (real name Mike Graham) has died of Covid 19 in Mexico.

Mike was born in Winnipeg, Canada, in 1940 and attended college in Texas where he completed a course in “basic radio and television microphone technique”.

He then returned to Canada and became a DJ on a small local station in Portage La Prairie, Manitoba. From there he moved to a couple of other stations before heading to Bermuda, where he met up with another future Radio London DJ, Duncan Johnson.

Mike came to Britain and worked as a model and acted in various TV and film commercials. He also had a bit-part in the Peter Cushing film ***Doctor Who and the Daleks***.

His old colleague, Duncan Johnson, suggested he should join Radio London, which he did in November 1965. He was known on air as “The Marshall”, and took over the Breakfast Show when Dave Cash left Radio London.

Mike was a member of the Radio London DJ team up until the station closed in August 1967, although for a time he left the ship to work for the station on land. During this period ashore he also found time to appear in another film, playing a disc-jockey in Rita Tushingham's ***A Smashing Time***.

Following the implementation of the Marine Offences Act in August 1967 he worked for the BBC and appeared in another British film, ***The Best House In London***, but then moved back to Canada where he dealt in real estate.

He later lived in a small Mexican beach town on the Sea of Cortez.

(Additional information courtesy the Pirate Radio Hall of Fame)

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Radio Caroline to Broadcast Queen's Christmas Message - after 56 year wait !

DATELINE 21st December 2020

Radio Caroline will be broadcasting the Queen's Christmas Message on Christmas Day this year – 56 years after being turned down for being an unauthorised broadcaster.

On 1st December 1964, David Block, publicity officer for the then 'pirate' radio station, contacted the BBC to request a copy of the Queen's Christmas message. He was told that, despite Caroline having more than 12 million listeners, his request could not be entertained because Caroline was a pirate radio station, and to come back 'if and when' he could provide 'evidence of credentials as representative of an authorised broadcaster'.

Radio Caroline has been an authorised broadcaster since 22nd December 2017, when the station took over and returned to use the abandoned BBC World Service transmission facilities at Orfordness on the Suffolk coast. Radio Caroline again applied for permission to broadcast the Queen's Christmas message this year and this time approval was granted.

Welcoming the news, Radio Caroline Station Manager Peter Moore said: "Fifty-six years is a long wait, but we are very pleased to now be able to transmit the Queen's Christmas Message. This will be heard on 648 AM in the South East, on DAB in various towns and cities and globally via the Internet, where we have time shifted the message for East and West Coast US."

See the Offshore Radio Christmas Annual in the Special Exhibitions Gallery - <http://offshoreradiomuseum.co.uk/page1185.html>

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