



Archive

2024

Former Caroline South and Radio London DJ, Tony Blackburn, honoured.

DATELINE London, 1st January 2024

Vetran DJ Tony Blackburn has been awarded an OBE in the UK's New Years Honours list for his services to broadcasting and charity.

Tony joined the Radio Caroline South in July 1964, and at that time he was the youngest DJ on British radio. In 1965 Tony was offered a job on the rival Radio London but it was conditional on him changing his name to Mark Roman, presenting a show called The Roman Empire. He declined the offer and the show went to another presenter. The following year Radio London made him another offer and, in June 1966, Tony moved, keeping his own identity. He left Radio London in 1967 shortly before it closed down, joining the BBC just ahead of the introduction of the Marine Broadcasting (Offences) Act.

Although Tony is frequently associated with the launch of BBC Radio 1 in September 1967, he always acknowledges - and mentions in interviews - that he started his career on the offshore stations and that without them he would not have become a radio DJ.

Many congratulations to Tony on his well deserved award.

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Former 1980s Radio Caroline DJ, Judy Murphy, has died

DATELINE 3rd January 2024

Former 1980s Radio Caroline DJ, Judy Murphy, has died after suffering from multiple sclerosis (MS) for a number of years.

Judy a Canadian DJ whose real name was Adrienne Sebastian-Scott, studied Radio and TV in Toronto. While travelling in Europe, a chance meeting with former Radio Monique DJ Herbie Visser led to her joining Radio Caroline on the *Ross Revenge* in 19th July 1988. She left the station shortly before Christmas the same year, but before departing, made a taped show to be broadcast on New Year's Eve.

Judy then joined Radio Luxembourg where she broadcast as Jodie Scott. She later worked on Sunshine Radio in Luxembourg before moving back to the UK to work as an actress, voice-over artist and singer.

Judy died on 2nd January 2024.

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BBC to air *Clash of the Pirates*

DATELINE London 10th January 2024

This year marks 60 years since Radio Caroline started broadcasting and BBC Radio 2 is to air a special show with Johnnie Walker and Tony Blackburn.

Clash of the Pirates celebrates these radio presenters and tests their knowledge of contemporary music across the decades and genres in this fun show featuring a series of themed rounds.

In the blue corner is Johnnie Walker (ex Radio England and Caroline South) and in the red corner Tony Blackburn (ex Radio Caroline South and Radio London).

These two musical heavyweights will be pulling no punches as they battle to become the ultimate King of The Pirates. Having both operated outside of the boundaries of traditional broadcasting as the original pirate radio DJs, both Tony and Johnnie used their freedom of expression to make real names for themselves.

Now they will go head-to-head selecting their ultimate playlists, making strategic song selections, using quick thinking and timely responses as each tries to come out on top.

Expect energetic performances and entertaining banter, but one thing's for sure, the music will be at its absolute best and there will be escape, plenty of nostalgia, companionship and of course much laughter, across two joyous hours on Friday 29 March from 12 noon till 2pm.

Johnnie says, "Tony and I are great friends – we go back decades – but in this show I'll

have no mercy, be ready Tony, this is the ultimate moment we decide just who is the Pirate King!"

Tony says, "This is going to be fun, pitting all my music love and knowledge against the great Johnnie Walker, but let's not forget, he's the mere whippersnapper out of the two of us so I reckon this win is in the bag for me!"

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Pioneer offshore radio DJ, Keith Martin, has died

DATELINE 22nd February 2024

Pioneer offshore radio DJ Keith Martin has died at the age of 89.

Keith was born in Sandwich, Kent and was interested in radio from a young age - listening to various foreign stations named on the dial of his parents' radio set before discovering Radio Luxembourg, first on long wave then on medium wave in the mid 1950s.

After leaving school he trained in catering then joined the Merchant Navy, but illness brought him home and he started work in the advertising department of the ITV north region broadcaster - Granada TV - in their London office. He also unsuccessfully auditioned for some BBC radio programmes.

During 1961 he read about a newspaper journalist - John Thompson - and his plans to broadcast 'from the Nore' in the Thames Estuary. After some initial meetings with Thompson, Keith recorded a number of programmes for the station - GBLN, but the project never materialised. Keith was also interested in other rival offshore projects - GBOK and CNBC, but never actually joined either of the unsuccessful projects. Thompson later went on to help launch Radio Invicta and KING Radio.

In 1964 Keith joined Radio Atlanta, staying on after the station merged with Radio Caroline in July 1964, becoming Radio Caroline South. He left Caroline South in December 1964, but continued to work for the station on land. After a brief return to the air on Caroline South at Easter 1965 he joined ITV weekend regional broadcaster, ABC Television, as a continuity announcer. He also broadcast on Radio 390 under the name Gary Courtney.

Following his offshore radio days, Keith was involved with the Local Radio Association's campaign to introduce commercial radio to Britain and worked for a number of broadcasters in the UK (including the British Forces Network (BFN)) and in Canada, Keith also lectured on various aspects of the media.

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The Radio Ship to return for 2 weeks

DATELINE March 2024

From Saturday 23rd March until Friday 5th April **1 Gold Radio** will be switching from our usual way of doing things to become **The Radio Ship**.

This is to celebrate the fact that on Easter Sunday it will be 60 years since Radio Caroline began broadcasting from the MV *Caroline* anchored off the coast of Essex.. The music will remain the same, but instead of 1 Gold jingles you will be able to hear those from the offshore radio stations of the 60's 70's & 80's along with the voices of those who were presenting on the radio at the time, as well as documentaries and jingles from The Radio Ship.

Following on from this special two weeks of celebration of the history of UK music radio the 1 Gold that you are so fond of will return to it's normal schedule.

Without the inspiration given by these 1960's radio pioneers there would be no 1 Gold Radio.

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Felixstowe Museum to re-open with Radio Caroline Exhibition

DATELINE March 2024

Felixstowe Museum (View Point Rd, Felixstowe IP11 3TW) reopens for the 2024 season at 11am on Thursday 28th March, but at 12 noon there will be an 'official' opening by Radio Caroline presenter and author, Ray Clark, (pictured) on the exact 60th anniversary of the launch of the station from the MV *Caroline (Fredericia)*, anchored off Felixstowe.

Ray will be joined in the opening by Felixstowe Mayor, Seamus Bennett. Ray will be staying for a couple of hours, meeting and greeting, and signing copies of his books, which hopefully will include his newly updated 'Radio Caroline - The True Story of the Boat That Rocked', before he leaves to give his talk about Caroline at the Electric Palace Theatre in Harwich at 5pm. (Now sold out!)

Also hoping to come along are fellow current Caroline presenters Stephen Foz Foster, Mark Dezzani, Terry Hughes, Barry James, Steve Dack and Alec Lamb along with Dave Cragie and The Moggy Van Radio Collection vintage radio collection, which will be outside, along with Felixstowe and Offshore Radio selling some Radio Caroline merchandise, sales of which help to raise funds for the historic radio ship, MV *Ross Revenge* - Home of Radio Caroline.

The Museum have invited 'Felixstowe & Offshore Radio' to expand their existing 1980's themed display, to now include a look back to when the ship arrived in 1964, with mostly local archive photos, material and memorabilia.

We are also hoping to gather at the Radio Caroline commemorative stone at Wolsey Gardens Felixstowe IP11 2AF, meeting just before 6pm on Wednesday 27th March (60 years to the day from when the *Fredericia* anchored) before going to raise a glass nearby, probably at the Boardwalk Cafe on the Pier.

For more information visit :-

Felixstowe & Offshore Radio on Facebook

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Radio Hauraki co-founder has died

DATELINE New Zealand, 9th March 2024

David Gapes, one of the co-founders of New Zealand offshore station, Radio Hauraki, has died.

David Gapes was born in 1942 in Wellington, New Zealand. With a background in journalism beginning in 1959 at Wellington's *Evening Post*, David also worked at the *NZ Truth* in Auckland before relocating to Sydney, where he spent two years at the *Daily Mirror*. While in Australia, he became an expert in all forms of radio and began studying private radio in the northern hemisphere as well as Australia's mix of public and privately funded stations.

Returning to New Zealand in 1965, he felt frustrated by the state of the country's broadcasting restrictions and lack of freedom. Convinced the government and New Zealand Broadcasting Service wouldn't allow him to secure a land-based radio licence due to their lack of private licence approvals, he looked elsewhere - offshore.

After successfully pitching the idea to Denis O'Callahan and attracting the interest of two ex-NZBC employees, studio technician Derek Lowe and announcer Chris Parkinson, the idea became a reality.

The four men became founders of Radio Hauraki, in 1966, which in the face of government opposition won sufficient public support to break the state broadcasting monopoly.

Gapes publicly headed Radio Hauraki's fight against government policy in broadcasting and, when in 1969/1970 Radio Hauraki was afforded the chance to apply for a radio licence, he steered the company through the application process.

It was initially thought it would only take them a few weeks at sea before the licence was granted, but the whole campaign took 1111 days in the end.

He became Chairman and Chief Executive of Radio Hauraki when the public company was formed in 1969 and stayed in the role until 1977. As private radio developed in the 1970s he was an unpaid adviser to many new applicants around New Zealand.

David Gapes also managed the rock group Hello Sailor and later returned to journalism, working for the *Star*, then as the first editor of film and television industry magazine *OnFilm*, and later the editor of *AdMedia*. He also founded and edited the daily online newsletter *M+AD*.

He was awarded the officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to broadcasting in 2019.

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Former 1960s Radio Caroline DJ and head of News, Graham Webb, has died

DATELINE Australia, 25th April 2024

Former Radio Caroline DJ and head of the Newsbeat news service has died at the age of 88.

Graham 'Spider' Webb was born in Parramatta, Australia in April 1936 and after completing his education started work as a telegram delivery boy.

After taking professional acting training Graham became one of Australia's top broadcasters before deciding to move to Europe where he worked for Radio Monte Carlo, Radio Norway and the Voice of Germany before joining Radio Caroline South in May 1965.

After time as a DJ, with a show called Cobweb Corner, he became News Director for the Caroline network launching the Newsbeat news service on both Caroline South and Caroline North. He also commentated on offshore radio's only on-air wedding, between Caroline North DJ Mick Luvzit and Janet Terrett.

After leaving Radio Caroline in 1966 Graham returned to Australia where he had a successful radio and television career, including presenting the Australian version of Blind Date. He was also heard again on British radio when he introduced the Australian segment of World Wide Family Favourites on BBC Radio Two.

He last worked at Harmony FM, a community station serving the Hawkesbury region of New South Wales, Australia.

Graham died on 26th April 2024.

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Former RNI and Laser DJ Paul May/Paul Dean has died

DATELINE Detroit, USA, 8th July 2024

Former Radio North Sea International (RNI) and Laser 558/Laser Hot Hits DJ, Paul May, has died.

Paul was born in April 1950, near Detroit, Michigan, and by 1965 his family had moved to Pittsburgh.

In his mid-teens Paul became interested in radio in America and in the UK where on family visits to Norfolk he listened to Radio Caroline and Radio London. He had hoped to join Radio Caroline in 1967, but his father insisted he return to America to complete his education.

Paul attended the Broadcasting Institute in Baltimore for 9 months and at the end of the course he joined a station in southern Maryland - WKIK, Leonardtown. Within two months Paul had become the station's Programme Director and worked there from November 1968 to 1971.

In 1971 Paul returned to England and discovered that a new offshore radio station was broadcasting off the coast of the Netherlands - Radio Northsea International (RNI).

He wrote to the station owner, Edwin Bollier, who put him in touch with the Production Director, Vic Pelli. ,Paul joined Radio Northsea International in August 1971 and in January 1972 he was appointed Senior DJ. but left in July that year to get married. He returned to live in Norwich, working for the local council during the day, and as a DJ at night.

In May 1984 Paul joined Laser 558 (using the name Paul Dean) where he worked in production, with spells filling in on air as required as a DJ and news reader.

Paul's last show on Laser-558 was on 28th September 1984. He was later involved with the station's successor Laser Hot Hits, where he was Operations Manager and on air as a DJ during December 1986.

Paul died on 8th July after a long battle with cancer.

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BBC Radio 2 to celebrate 60 years of Tony Blackburn on the radio

DATELINE London 10th July 2024

Former Radio Caroline South and Radio London DJ, Tony Blackburn, celebrates 60 years in radio later this month and BBC Radio 2 will be marking the occasion with a day of special features.

Radio 2 will highlight the anniversary on July 25th, the date Tony first appeared on Radio Caroline on in 1964.

Gary Davies (in for Vernon Kay, 9.30am-12pm) will be doing a special edition of his De Ja Woo feature where he'll invite listeners to share their memories of Tony who will join Gary in the studio, and he'll be chatting about his broadcasting career on The Jeremy Vine Show (12-2pm).

Tony will also mark the moment on Sounds of the 60s with a Summer of '64 special (Saturday 27 July, 6-8am), and in The Golden Hour – having introduced Motown to British radio in 1964 and being such a huge champion of it – he'll be playing all his favourite Motown hits (Sunday 28 July, 7-8pm).

On BBC Sounds there will be another opportunity to listen to Happy Birthday, Tony Blackburn! marking his 80th birthday in 2023, Tracks of My Years featuring the songs that have soundtracked his life, and Clash of the Pirates which celebrated 60 years of pirate radio with fellow pirate DJ Johnnie Walker earlier this year.

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Former Radio Caroline DJ (80s and land-based) Dave Foster has died

DATELINE 27th August 2024

Former Radio Caroline (80s and land-based) DJ Dave Foster has died.

Dave broadcast on Radio Caroline for a short time while it was offshore on the *Ross Revenge* and later played a major part in establishing the station as a legal land-based broadcaster.

Dave was born on 29th February 1960, and previously worked as a club DJ. He got his first broadcasting experience with Dart Radio at West Hill Hospital in Dartford, Kent, and joined Radio Caroline in April 1987, staying with the station until the end of May 1987.

Dave later joined satellite station European Klassic Rock (EKR) and was then asked to do programmes for Radio Caroline (who had taken a limited amount of airtime on EKR). When EKR closed in January 1999 Dave was instrumental in arranging to rent studio time and space at the Maidstone Studios and broadcast Radio Caroline programmes a few hours on a Saturday and Sunday (which began in February 1999). Since then the station has grown to become a full time 24/7 radio station again.

From late 1999 he was Radio Caroline's satellite service Programme Coordinator and had his own regular show every week as well as being involved with many of the special broadcasts for Easter and other bank holidays.

After retiring from nightclub DJ work Dave worked with VT Communications at the BBC's Bush House and later for the BBC at Broadcasting House as a Control Room Engineer. However, the role was privatised and he was not happy with the new management so he left and became a hospital porter.

Sadly after a battle with prostate cancer, Dave passed away on 25th August 2024.

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Former Radio Caroline (80s)and Voice of Peace DJ, Carl Kingston has died

DATELINE 13th September 2024

Former Radio Caroline (1980s) and Voice of Peace DJ Carl Kingston has died.

Born in Hull, Carl operated a mobile disco in his teenage years and began his broadcasting career in 1974 on BBC Radio

Humberside. He later joined the Voice of Peace off Israel and presented pop news bulletins in English on Radio Mi Amigo. Carl eventually joined Radio Caroline in September 1983 and stayed with the station until February 1984.

During his radio career he also worked for the Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation, Viking Radio, KSMJ Magic 1380 Sacramento California, 99 WFSW FM Seneca Falls New York, Blue Danube Radio in Vienna, The Super Station satellite service, 96.3 Aire FM, Magic 828, Hereward FM, Minster FM, Stray FM, BFBS, Home 107.9, Garrison Radio, Radio Nova in Moldova, Alpha FM, 99.8 KCFM, Radio Seagull in Holland, 91 FM Radio Atlanta and Spectrum FM Costa Calida in Spain.

In recent years Carl lived in Switzerland and freelanced for many radio stations around the world as well as being a club DJ.

He returned to Radio Caroline on 7th September 2024 to take part in the special 80s reunion broadcast, 'The Dawn of the Ross'. Sadly Carl died suddenly and unexpectedly a few days later, on 12th September 2024, following a short illness.

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