

Sounds Alternative

Department 255.

190 Monument Road,
Edgbaston,
Birmingham.

BIRMINGHAM SOUNDWAVES APRIL 1985

AVAILABLE FREE TO S/A 255 LISTENERS UPON RECEIPT OF S.A.E.

SOUNDS ALTERNATIVE IS AN UNLICENCED RADIO STATION OPERATING IRREGULARLY ON 1179 KHZ, DUE TO THE CURRENT CLAMPDOWN ON UNLICENCED STATIONS IT IS UNLIKELY THAT WE WILL BE CONTINUING OUR FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH BROADCASTS ? -FOR FURTHER DETAILS TUNE IN TO OUR TXM'NS

SOUNDS ALTERNATIVE ALSO OPERATES ON CERTAIN BANK HOLIDAYS WITH A TRANSMITTER POWER INPUT TO THE ANTENNA OF 80 WATTS. IN RELATION TO OTHER STATIONS -BEACON RADIO SSE A TRANSMITTER POWER OF 100 WATTS & BRMB OPERATE WITH 800 watts. SOUNDS ALTERNATIVE transmits a signal superior to BRMB in many areas of the city & our target area includes Sandwell, Walsall, The Black Country & most of Wolverhampton.

In our over 4 years of broadcasting we have recieved letters from listeners in many areas & have regular listeners in Cambridge, Telford, Oxford, Burnley, Sheffield & Cannock. We have also recieved one letter from West Germany during an extended txm'n over the Xmas period 1982.

Hello again & welcome to another B'ham Soundwaves bulletin, with a run down on some of the radio happenings over the last 3 months, lots of information but first a few SA 255 details,

By the time you have recieved this bulletin SA 255 may have completed its Easter schedule-The transmissions times; Easter Friday from 11am until early evening & Easter Sunday & Monday from 11am. All the usual presenters on air plus a few new voices (hopefully), providing our usual selection of organised chaos.

Next an apology to every one who purchased the Observer colour supplement in mid FEB expecting to read about SA. We spoke to reporter Stu Whoops Kevin Sutcliffe who told us that the intention was to feature ten stations including SA, however we assume that the editor decided to chop down the feature. The completed article reviewed just 2 stations; Radio Jackie, & Liverpools Stourton Community Radio, plus a section on illegal television. None of the featured stations are now broadcasting-having been silenced before the Observer feature.

In fact its the end of an era for the most popular of the 7 day unlicensed stations Ludlows Sunshine Radio & Radio Jackie have closed;

RADIO JACKIE

The countrys longest land based pirate bit the dust on February 4 1985. ON Fri Feb 3rd at 11.20am, the studios at Worcester Park in London was raided by 16 personnel, 8 police (no doubt only act under orders) and 8 Dept of Trade men. No one was arrested but 9 people were cautioned with view to prosecution. All equipment transmitter, studios complete plus all records, tapes VAT forms & Telephones. The next day the station was rebuilt & at 2.05am were again raided, all gear taken including new turntables & mixers etc.

After a management meeting Jackie decided to have a last fling on the Monday using borrowed transmitters & disco equipment. From 11am until 7pm Jackie broadcast the final day of Txm'n on MW & FM, however the DTI men did silenced the medium wave rig 5 minutes before the end of txm'n..

Numerous papers covered the event and its is believed that Jackie will not be illegally returning to the air. Since 1968 Radio Jackie has raised thousands of pounds for Ca Charity and will no doubt campaign under a different name for a community radio licence.

Five other stations were raided on Feb 3 in London including Asians peoples Radio , Solar & Venus. The much harressed London Greek Radio was missing but not raided.

In Liverpool numerous stations have bbeen closed, the most regular at press date is Radio Merseywaves on 1242khz.

Sunshine Radio Ludlow

The station decided to close down on Wed Feb 20th. No closing announcement was made, the last announcement the usual prerecorded statement that the station will be back on air at 6 am the following day. The station had closed because it was thought that the DTI were about to raid. The station will no doubt be campaigning for a radio community licence. Sunshine operated 7 days a week on 1017 khz/295m with 500 watts.

The I.B.A. station Radio Wyvern were jubillant at Sunshines closure, as they were slowly driving Wyvern bankrupt-offering adverts at cheaper rates. The programmes were also supirior to Wyverns and will be missed.

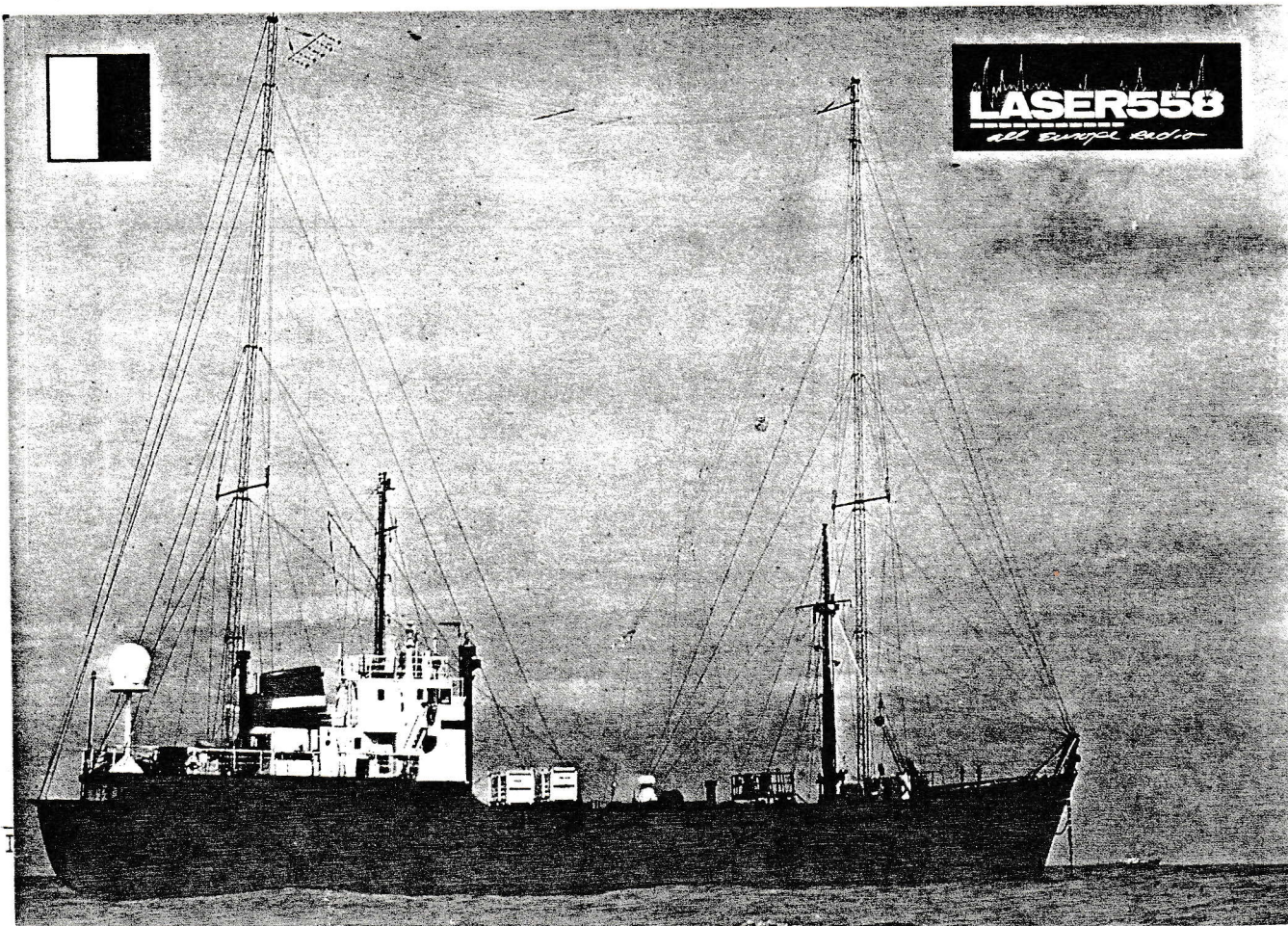
Radio Caroline

Celebrated their 21st birthday at Easetr, operating from the m.v Ross Revenge the station can be heard with a good radio on 576 khz medium wave daytime & 963khz nighttime. The current lineu p daytime at press date;
0600 John Lewis 0900 Jay Jackson 1200 Nick Richards 1500 John Lewis.

Other News,

While this country is arguing about the possible introduction of Community Radio the Australians are development mad o n the start of Stereo Medium Wave broadcasting. From Feb first all AM stations are licenced to operate Stereo Medium wave. So far 30 are broadcasting with another 20 expected before the end of the year. Stereo AM stations radiate a high quality signal with an audio band upto 9khz. Consumers in Australia can choose from unique 'Trannies' plug in units for their Hi Fi or new car radios & compare favourably with the price of Mono sets.

→ LASER 558 khz/538m Laser goes from strength to strength on 538m
The all American station operates from the M.V. Communicator pictured below,



Community Radio Association

NEWS RELEASE

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Page 3, Community Radio news
announcement by the Home Secretary
& the community radio associations
press release. At long last, however
slowly, we are moving in the right
direction - write to your MP and ask
for his/her views on or for more
info write to sounds alternative
But allow a few weeks before a rep
is received.

B'HAM SOUNDWAVES APRIL 1985



Many thanks
to all of our
contributors
for this short
bulletin.
Sounds Altern
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HOUSE OF COMMONS

23 JANUARY 1985

There should be more variety in radio, and it should be easier for people to get on the air to have their say.

That's the view of the Community Radio Association, which says it welcomes the Government's statement in the Commons that there is "scope for progress" on community radio.

"We should let communities get on with building studios and putting up their own transmitters," says Ray Beaty, national organ of the CRA, "and, of course, once they are ready they should be allowed to broadcast.

"We are not talking about get-rich-quick cowboys, or about giving franchises to small cliques of businessmen. We mean genuine community radio stations run by local people."

Mr Beaty outlined a plan to enable community-controlled radio to take off. The plan is put forward by the Community Radio Association, which is the "umbrella" organisation speaking for alternative radio in Britain.

The main points:-

1. Neither the BBC nor the IBA is the right "keeper" for community radio, which is a new animal with its own needs. The many other interests of the "duopoly" prevents them from making community radio their central concern.
2. The CRA says other options should be explored -- such as its own proposal for a minimum of regulation from London.
3. Allocation of frequencies is still needed, otherwise stations will be jamming each other, and there is no sense in that. But that doesn't mean the central body should "vet" or choose between rival applicants. The CRA proposes that "the licencing authority would only consider granting applications once there was agreement

in the locality concerned about who should run the station."

4. So the new "community sector" of radio would be run with the minimum of bureaucratic control, to all intents and purposes "self-regulating".

A co-operative or locally-accountable framework for the community station would mean that the main safeguard against excess would be public opinion.

5. Licences could be issued by a Community Radio Agency, or Trust, who could have reserve powers, but these would only be used "in extremis", in the unlikely event of local democratic control breaking down completely. But normally, the views agreed within the community would prevail.

6. "We therefore call on the Home Secretary to set up a community radio working party, on which various community interests would be represented. This body should recommend how best to create the conditions for community radio to flourish. Then the first experimental licenses should be issued."

Note: Mr David Mellor, Home Office Under-Secretary of State, said in the House of Commons: "The Government will seek to remove the obstacles and create the opportunities for community radio stations to develop."

Mr. Brittan: Although there is as yet no precise definition of community radio, it is most commonly seen as representing a third tier of radio quite distinct from those services at present provided by the BBC and the IBA, and it describes two possible concepts. One represents the most local form of broadcasting: a low-power transmitter broadcasting to the immediate neighbourhood, with the close involvement of the community. The other is of a station broadcasting across a wider area to what is called a "community of interest", such as an ethnic minority, or the enthusiasts for a particular kind of music.

I have for some time been interested in the idea of community radio and I am anxious to provide the opportunity for its development. It has, however, been difficult to assess what scope there might be for community radio in frequency terms, in advance of the international conference held at the end of last year which planned the expansion of the VHF waveband. In the light of that conference, we now know what spectrum will be available to the United Kingdom, in what time scale, so that it will now be possible to establish what assignments could be devoted to community radio.

None the less, there remain some decisions which need to be taken, and the new frequencies will in any event not be available for some time. There will almost certainly be more would-be broadcasters than frequencies available. We shall therefore need to decide how to choose between competing applicants, and how the new stations are to be financed. We shall also have to consider what limits, if any, should be placed on what can be broadcast, and what the relationship should be with existing local radio stations.

I am firmly resolved to reach practical and positive decisions on all these matters as quickly as possible, because I believe that community radio is a constructive development which should now be given a clear impetus. Community radio will promote self-help, increase freedom of speech, and be of value to many local communities.

It is important to distinguish between community radio and the present pirate stations, which cause interference, steal news broadcasts and other copyright material, and operate in flagrant defiance of the law. The Government will continue to take action against the pirates, in order to retain control of the spectrum for licensed broadcasters. These will include, as soon as the necessary decisions can be implemented, community radio stations — perhaps starting with some experimental stations and building up as frequencies become available. But there will not be room for any community radio if the pirates have occupied all the spectrum beforehand.

I hope to make a further statement before too long in the light of our study of how the development of community radio can best be taken forward.