



LUCKY PROGRAMME No:

DRIFTBACK 20  
SOUVENIR PROGRAMME  
SATURDAY 15th AUGUST 1987

# DRIFTBACK 20

Souvenir  
Programme

Saturday 15th August 1987



# Introduction to **Driftback 20**

SATURDAY 15th AUGUST 1987



ABOVE: Ronan O'Rahilly, probably best described as the father of offshore radio. It was Ronan who founded Radio Caroline in 1964 and to this day he maintains that link with the first lady of offshore radio. If it were not for Ronan's continued belief in "The Lady" none of what we have for you today would be possible !

Dear listener,

For me to have the opportunity to write this introduction to DRIFTBACK 20 is in itself absolutely terrific, because I am still not entirely sure I understand why we're still there today. It really is nothing far short of a miracle, but that miracle has a lot to do with all those people who keep it going year after year. The spirit of the Lady is an amazing thing, and the energy that is bound to be there at Driftback 20 is just the kind of energy that has kept The Lady alive all these years. God bless you all !

L.A.

*Ronan*

Dear Supporter,

Well here we are, 20 years after that ill-fated day in 1967. Still on the North Sea we have the MV Ross Revenge broadcasting the programmes of Radio Caroline, Radio Monique and Viewpoint 963. The MV Communicator is anchored on the Sandettie Bank being re-fitted for a resumption of broadcasts in the Autumn with, almost certainly, two services. The MV Peace continues transmissions in the Mediterranean with a brand new MW transmitter and a revamped operation. The MV Nannell is still being worked on in Spain and is a good deal closer to becoming a functioning radio ship now. In New York just a few weeks ago an offshore station broadcast from the MV Sarah to the American people, which must be the most incredible proof that there is still a market for offshore radio even in a country which supposedly has what we've all been looking for in the UK ! Offshore radio IS alive and well 20 years after the British Government tried to outlaw its existence and YOU the supporters have made it possible.

We at the Caroline Movement hope that you enjoy your day at DRIFTBACK 20 and that you will go away with some very happy memories. Remember that when all is said and done, those lads and lasses who continue to take the risks associated with 80's offshore radio are the ones we need to thank for being able to celebrate in this way. They can't be with us today so do tune in and give them a listen over this weekend. I am sure you all will.

Driftback 20 has been an incredible experience for all of us at the CM to organise. I hope it has all been worthwhile for you all and that you will continue to support our work. Thanks for coming along today to celebrate with us.

Now "D R I F T B A C K 2 0 " years and enjoy some nostalgia.....

# The First Generation

DRIFTBACK 20 is being held to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the passing of the Marine Etc. Broadcasting Offences Act on August 14th 1967. It followed the first era of offshore radio which all began in Scandinavia with Radio Mercur in July 1958. Soon to follow were Radio Nord, DCR and Radio Syd. Radio Veronica was the station to bring offshore radio nearer to our shores when it commenced transmissions in 1960 from the Borkum Riff. The Uilenspiegel was next to broadcast the programmes of Radio Antwerpen from off the Belgian coast in 1962. Radio Veronica's ship, the Borkum Riff, even broadcast some programmes in the English language under the call sign CNBC during 1961, which was the beginning of the English language offshore radio boom. Radio Caroline was of course the first such station to broadcast when it came on air at 2355 on March 27th 1964.



Radio Caroline's  
MV Fredericia.

Caroline was soon followed by the rival Radio Atlanta broadcasting from the MV Mi Amigo, but in July 1964 the two stations merged and became Radio Caroline South (from the Mi Amigo) and Radio Caroline North (From the MV Fredericia which moved to a new anchorage off the Isle of Man.).

It wasn't long however before someone discovered that the old sea forts dating from the 2nd World War were worth trying as a



REM ISLAND.



ROGER SCOTT ON  
RADIO ESSEX. HE  
LATER BECAME  
ARNOLD LAYNE  
ON R.N.I.

base for a radio station.

Thus we soon had Screaming Lord Sutch operating his own station called Radio Sutch, soon to become Radio Invicta. In Holland the idea of a structure rather than a boat gave rise

to the construction of a man made island called REM island for offshore TV and radio. The biggest "bang" however came in November 1964 when the MV Galaxy began transmissions and became one of the most popular commercial stations of all time, Radio London. Those who

felt the forts were a worthwhile idea then gave us a succession

of stations in the form of KING, City, 390, Tower and Essex before the luxurious MV Laissez Faire arrived from the

USA as the twin Britain Radio and Radio England. In the North however Radio Caroline had been joined by the Scots own station

aboard the former lightship Comet named simply Radio Scotland. In

June 1966 however the North East coast of England gained a radio ship in the form of the Ocean VII and Radio 270. The end was however already in sight and although Radio England was replaced by the Dutch Radio Dolfijn/227 and Britain Radio became Radio 355 the Marine Offences Act silenced all but Caroline on Monday August 14th 1967.



SHIVERING SANDS  
SEA FORT.



MV GALAXY. THE SHIP WAS  
ONLY SCRAPPED LAST YEAR !



THE KNOCK JOHN FORT  
HOME OF RADIO ESSEX.

RADIO ESSEX



Marine, &c., Broadcasting  
(Offences) Act 1967

"It was 20 years ago today":~

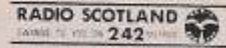
With apologies to the Beatles; one of the good things about 1967 was the release of the Sgt. Peppers album. However the event that overshadowed the pop generation in that year was the passing of the MEBO Act. Many people still remember the awesome silence on their radio



sets, just after 3pm on 14th August 1967 when Big-Lil finally closed down. Others had already gone and Radio 270 and Radio Scotland closed at midnight. Both Radio Caroline North and South continued to the strains of Johnnie Walker's emotive "Caroline will continue" speech creating vivid visions of the Mi Amigo sailing triumphantly up the River Thames.....



RADIO SCOTLAND'S  
MV COMET.



.....But the damage was done. The Medium Wave band was stripped bare of the numerous stations that had become the backbone to a generation and the mainstay of a music industry. On 3rd March 1968 the two remaining Caroline ships were finally silenced when they were towed away by a Dutch salvage company, claiming huge debts and the MUSIC FINALLY DIED.

## The Second Generation

Although British offshore radio had temporarily come to a halt, the flag was kept flying by the dearly loved Radio Veronica off the Dutch coast. However on January 23rd 1970 the second generation of offshore radio began when a big colourful ship called the MV Mebo II began to broadcast the programmes of Radio Northsea International. The Netherlands had not yet outlawed offshore radio and so RNI flourished. Others soon jumped on the bandwagon. Capital Radio followed later that year with a ship called the King David and a most peculiar aerial system. It never quite worked, but was a true example of offshore ingenuity!



THE  
COLOURFUL RNI SHIP  
MEBO II.

Radio Caroline did return briefly in June 1970 when RNI changed its name for the duration of the British General Election campaign. It is reckoned by many that this did have an effect on the outcome of

the way in which the poll went against Labour.



THE TROUBLED MI AMIGO !



THE WELL EQUIPPED STUDIOS  
ABOARD THE MEBO II. ROGER  
JAY AT THE CONTROLS

We had to wait more than two years before the radio ship Mi Amigo was heard again when in September 1972 mystery test transmissions were heard from the ship which eventually identified themselves as Radio 100. However it was not



THE RADIO ATLANTIS  
STUDIOS ON LAND

a great surprise to find that one day in December Radio Caroline had returned

Elsewhere in the World other things were also happening. Abi Nathan's Voice of Peace was coming together and first came on air from off the North American coast in March 1973. The ship of course remains on the air to this day from the Mediterranean Sea off the coast of Israel.

Back to the North Sea however and a new station called Radio Atlantis appeared from the Mi Amigo with Flemish language programmes. Later that same month (July 1973) a new progressive music station appeared from the Mi Amigo Seagull. Radio went their own way however by buying the ship abandoned by the short lived Condor project. The Jeanine soon also



radio **385 atlantis**

began to air a very popular English language service which despite its comparatively weak signal had a cult following.

Back across the pond in America an interesting venture known as Radio Free America took to the air for a very short period in September 1973. It seems amazing that in a country that seems to have just the sort of radio system that we have striven to obtain over here, there should still be a need for an offshore radio station. Even in 1987 a similar operation has been attempted !



Radio Atlantis were replaced onboard the Mi Amigo by Radio Mi Amigo, one of the most professional sounding offshore operations. Thus the second era of offshore radio reached its height and all was again fine.

Fine that was until once more certain people decided to spoil it all. RNI had been surrounded by all kinds of colourful attention attracting incidents and these culminated in a fire bomb attack on the Mebo II. That was the straw that broke the camels back and the Dutch Government declared enough was enough.

The Dutch Marine Offences Act became law on August 31st 1974 and once again closed all the stations except for Caroline, who's ship the Mi Amigo came home to anchor off the British coast. The Mebo II however survived to broadcast again despite a long drawn out legal battle in Holland. She was eventually released and sailed to Libya with her tender where she broadcast the programmes of LJB the People's Revolutionary Broadcasting Service.

The next few years have become what many often term the "forgotten years" when the poor old Mi Amigo staggered through her final years as a radio ship. However let us not forget that some fine broadcasters were made during this era and Caroline's album format (along with the fast moving and popular Radio Mi Amigo which also continued) was very well listened to. The Mi Amigo went through many troubled times, but always seemed to survive and in 1978 was joined by Radio Delmare run by Gerard Van Dam the man who had been instrumental in freeing the Mi Amigo in 1972. Following a major generator breakdown in October 1978 Radio Mi Amigo left the MV Mi Amigo and set up their own operation onboard the MV Magdalena which broadcast during 1979 alongside Delmare who went through a succession of vessels ! 1979 was thus quite an interesting year for offshore fans.

Sadly however Delmare and Mi Amigo were eventually silenced and Caroline staggered on into 1980 only to eventually be beaten by the North Sea herself rather than the authorities. Thus the Voice of Peace in Israel became the only offshore station to fly the flag for a while.

However a year later an interesting development took place when a TV ship joined the VOP off Israel and then in the Summer the North Sea briefly came alive with the MV Magda Maria off Holland broadcasting as Radio Paradijs. These projects keep the interest alive, but it wasn't the same without Caroline and as the months went by more and more supporters began to doubt that there really was a plan to return the beloved Lady and that offshore radio had finally come to an end. How wrong they were.....!

# DRIFTB Programme



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## RAFFLE & LUCKY DRAW PRIZES

This souvenir programme bears a lucky number on the front cover. A special draw will be made during the event for this lucky number and the winner will receive a copy of the book "PIRATE RADIO THEN AND NOW" By Stuart Henry and Mike Von Joel special autographed by the personalities attending the event.

There will also be a raffle taking place during the evening and the prices are:-

- 1st Prize- A Trip aboard MV Galexy.
- 2nd Prize-£10.00 CM Sales voucher.
- 3rd Prize-Bottle Bells whisky
- 4th Prize-Bottle of Baileys Irish Cream.
- 5th Prize-Bottle of wine.

There is also a special token prize if you become the first person to give our reception desk team the names of ALL the offshore radio staff who appear on these centre pages !

## STANDS & EXHIBITORS

ANORAKS UK (Inlcuding Now Radio Monitor and Offshore Echos).

PETER MESSINGFELD FREE RADIO PRODUCTS.

JOHN FORD ROSS OFFSHORE ETCHINGS.

THE CAROLINE MOVEMENT.

TX RADIO TODAY.

ROGER TIDY.

RBL VIDEOS.

FRC HOLLAND/  
SMC.

# ACK 20

## of Events



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### RUNNING ORDER

- 1100 DOORS OPEN.  
 FILM "The Rock & Roll Years 1964"  
 1130 FILM Simon Cowper-Smith's "Trip to the Rose."  
 1155 The sound of Radio Caroline's launch in 1964.....  
 1200 GRAND OPENING OF DRIFTRACK 20 By John Burch-Promotional Manager and Geoff Baldwin-Business Manager and founder of the CN.  
 1215 FILM "The Radio Pirates" Granada TV World In Action programme 1964.  
 1245 TALKING TO 60's CAROLINE.  
 1300 FILM "The Eurosiege Reports" film shot by EAP during 1985.  
 1315 Interview with John Lewis and friend !  
 1330 FILM "The Show Must Go On." Radio Northsea International in 1974.  
 1350 CN founder Geoff Baldwin with an audio visual presentation entitled "OFFSHORE RADIO, POLITICS & THE FREE MARKET."  
 1425 FILM The Channel 4 "BLACK & WHITE PIRATE SHOW Pt 1."  
 1455 FILM "The Radio London Promotional Film."  
 1500 RADIO LONDON IS NOW, CLOSING DOWN!  
  
 1530 BREAK FOR TEA COFFEE AND BISCUITS IN THE TRAFALGAR ROOM. DURING THE BREAK A SPECIAL SHOWING OF DENNIS JASON'S "LIFE ON THE NORTH SEA" VIDEO WILL BE MADE.  
 1605 Ron West and Walter Simons with audio-visual production on RADIO MONIQUE.  
 1645 FILM Alan Clarke and the TVS team "DTI EUROIEGE PRESS CONFERENCE AND THE FINAL LASER 558 CREW"  
 1700 FILM "Reporting London-Laser Hot Hits 576."  
 1715 RADIO ESSEX REUNION-together with the Radio Essex FILM .  
  
 1800 BREAK for Buffet meal in the Trafalgar Room. Offshore music and jingles will be played during the break. It will also be worth keeping an eye on the video screen !  
  
 1900 An audio visual presentation by John Harding on Radio Atlantis.  
 2000 Repeat of the Radio London film (For the benefit of late comers.)  
 2005 FILM "60's Radio Caroline"  
 2010 FORT PERSONALITIES.  
 2045 R.N.I. REUNION.  
 2115 VOICE OF PEACE REVIEW.  
 2130 THE CAROLINE CREW. (Including star raffle.).  
 2300 THE GRAND FINALE.



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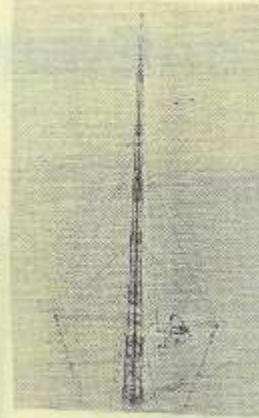
# A SAD, SAD DAY

Like the day President Kennedy was assassinated, many offshore radio enthusiasts can remember exactly what they were doing the day the old Lady of offshore radio went down in a horrendous storm on March 19th 1980. The ironic thing is that had it not been for the fact that the anchor chain had snapped she would probably still be around today as it was the pounding and crashing of the ship against the sand banks that finally finished her off. This was all due to the fact that her engines had long since ceased to work and thus she could not move under her own steam. The wreck became a very well known sight for mariners in the area and was at first marked by a buoy, but later was found to be so secure that it acted as its own marker with the mast pointing skyward. The mast survived until 1986 in this form which must say something about those who built it. In a funny kind of way it was almost as if the old Lady clung on until a new Lady could take her place. The Mi Amigo will however always hold a special place in our hearts.

THE WRECK.

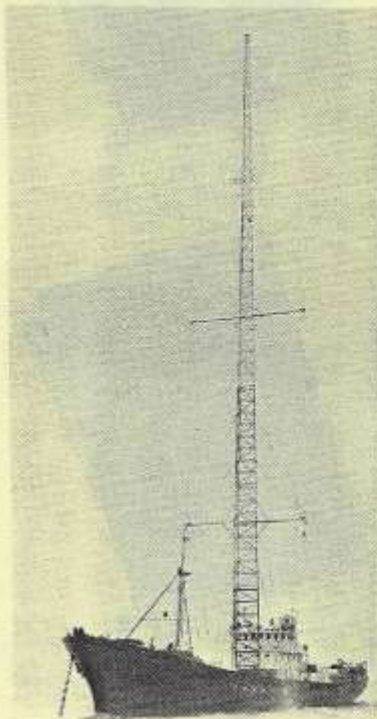


THE MI AMIGO BUOY.



## The Third Generation

They said it would never happen ! For many, offshore radio came to an end in 1980, but behind the scenes, against all odds a dedicated team pushed ahead to raise the finance for a new Caroline bigger and better than ever before. They were certainly certainly the new new night in appeared on pointed in the sound of test tones, al the Lady coming miracle had back. She wasn't In December 1983 named Communicator months appeared as Laser. Then in November 1984 Radio Monique



joined our friends onboard the Ross Revenge and the 3rd generation of offshore radio was well under way !

Give Peace a Chance  
VOICE OF PEACE





# The Future ?



OCEAN VII-RADIO 270.

We should not forget that offshore radio only survives because of those who have, often against huge odds, continued to believe in the ideals of "free radio" and the ability of offshore stations to maintain those ideals. Many such stations have come and gone, but we owe a lot to those who have continued to show their support.

Not just the DJ's and on air personalities, but the financial investors, engineers, shore based back up teams and of course the listeners.

Offshore radio has become an industry in its own right, and because it has survived all the trials and tribulations over the years it has become a highly specialised and expert industry. The modifications and designs that have been undertaken on the technical side by the offshore engineers, the unique programme formats and production techniques that have led the way for others and the ingenious means by which the ships have continued



MI AMIGO 1977.



PHILIP BIRCH  
RADIO LONDON.

to be tendered and supplied even though they should have ceased to exist 20 years ago, are marvels in themselves. What we should really remember however is that despite the constant suggestions that the offshore stations "steal" copyright, interfere with other radio services and generally pirate the airwaves, they have to survive far more than their earlier predecessors.

The lads and lasses now working on offshore radio stations are forced to spend long periods at sea, sometimes with few comforts and rarely with any visitors because they have now been forced so much further from our shores by recent legislation. For them to continue to do that despite all this, often in very rough unpleasant seas just goes to prove that we still haven't got it right in the UK radio wise and that until we do the offshore stations will survive.



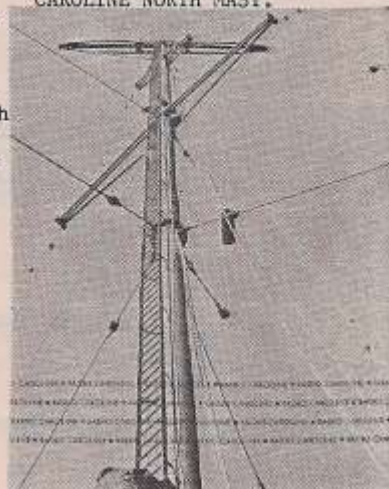
RONAN O'RAHILLY.

YOU as supporters know the facts about the way in which the offshore services exist these days, and it is important that you let others know. Organisations like the Caroline Movement have for years continued to co-ordinate this support and events like Driftback 20 would not be possible without you. Thank-you for continuing to believe in the cause and the fight for free radio. By being here today you are showing us that you appreciate what we are doing and that encourages us to go on. Like offshore radio though we survive on fresh energy being injected every now and then so if you like what you see here today and would like to get more deeply involved then do let us know. Drop me a line at the address below :-



JOHN A. BURCH,  
PROMOTIONAL MANAGER,  
CAROLINE MOVEMENT,  
BCM-BRFM,  
LONDON,  
WC1N 3XX.

CAROLINE NORTH MAST.



# INFORMATION

Most of you who are attending today will already have received your confirmation pack which includes basic details about the event including maps and diagrams of the facilities and how to find them. If however you were one of those to book at the last minute you may not have received this information by post. You should be able to collect a copy of this information pack from our reception desk located in the main corridor. Don't forget that you can also obtain re-admission to the event by showing your entry voucher at the reception desk. Again if for any reason you do not have one of these please check with the reception desk. You will also be issued with a sticky label badge marked CAROLINE MOVEMENT-CONVENTION upon which we would like you to display your name so that others can identify you at the event. You can also identify them in this way!

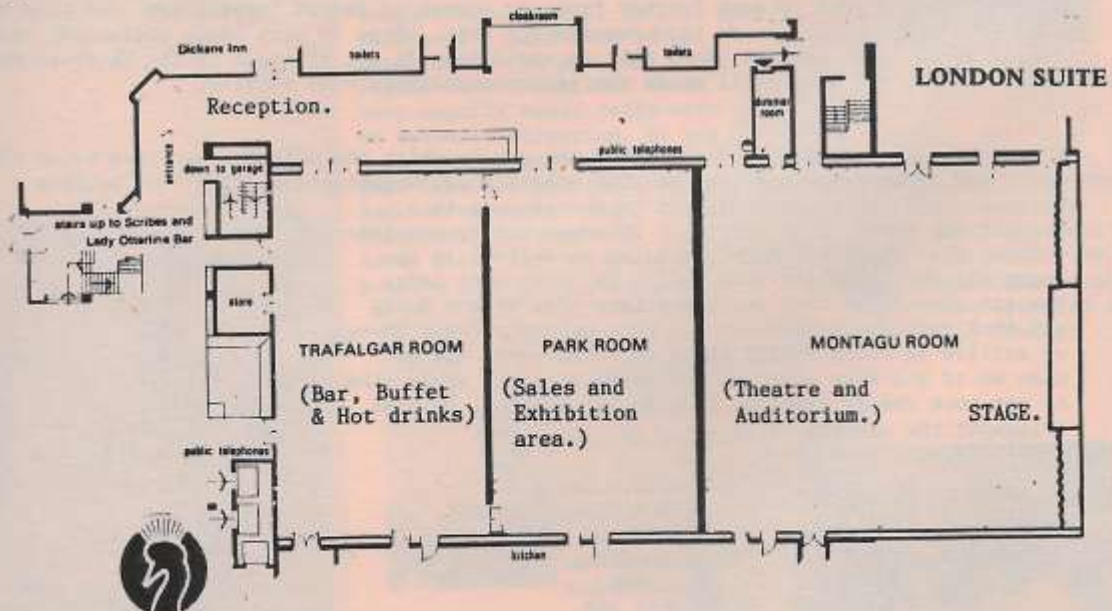
This souvenir programme bears a number on the front cover which is your lucky number. Please take a note of it and bear it in mind when the lucky number draw is made later in the day.

If you have booked accommodation at the Bloomsbury Crest Hotel you can of course check in immediately on arrival and you should do this by reporting to the hotel reception desk to the right of the main hotel entrance as you enter the lobby doors. All the hotel rooms have their own tuners and you can of course tune in to your favourite radio station !!

The CM Driftback 20 reception desk will be manned by our staff ALL day and if you have any enquiries at all you can ask there for further information. All our stewards and staff will be wearing special Driftback 20 sweatshirts and will thus be easily identifiable.

If you have ordered a Vegetarian buffet please ensure that you make this clear to the catering staff when the buffet is served. Those who have ordered Vegetarian meals have been catered for, but unfortunately unless you have made this clear prior to the event we cannot assist you with special arrangements on the day.

We would ask all delegates to observe the non-smoking areas in the Montagu Room which have been set aside at the request of non-smokers. We would also ask that you use either the Park or Trafalgar Rooms if you wish to engage in conversation with other delegates or personalities as we wish to maintain a free atmosphere for those who wish to enjoy the films, interviews and other stage events during the day.



**Bloomsbury Crest Hotel**  
London

# Project Galaxy



In September 1986 the Caroline Movement began the search for a vessel to become their own club operation to enable members to visit the North Sea and have a central focal point on which to concentrate their energies. That vessel finally materialised in March 1987 when the former Tyne ferry MV Tyne Princess was acquired and moved from Newcastle to Kent to be dry docked and completely renovated. Built in 1940 she is 81T gwt and 75ft long. She will undertake her maiden voyage on Sunday August 16th to follow the DRIFTBACK 20 event carrying her new name MV GALEXY. She has been so named for two reasons. Firstly because the whole idea was born out of the Caroline Movement's Project Galaxy which was founded in 1980 following the sinking of the Mi Amigo. This was a plan to try and acquire and restore the derelict former Radio London ship MV Galaxy in Germany as an offshore radio museum. The project failed because of the pig headed attitude of the German authorities, but lived on while the CM searched for their own club project vessel. Captain Alex Pluck joined the CM team in 1984 and has remained a faithful supporter of the cause ever since. Thus the ship bears a corruption of the old Radio London ship's name to reflect the support given by Alex Pluck. The old Galaxy was eventually broken up in 1986 and didn't quite survive to see the 20th anniversary of the MEBO Act, but we thought that to launch the Galaxy on her maiden voyage this weekend would be a nice final touch to the celebrations.

Final details about the departure times for the trip will be given today at Driftback 20. If you are one of the delegates who have already shown your interest in joining the cruise on your original looking form then you need not worry as you are already booked down for a place. We are giving priority to those delegates who have booked.

If however you cannot manage to get along on Sunday cruise then do not worry as we shall be busy running trips on a regular basis now and you can find out more about the ways in which you can become involved in Project Galaxy by picking up a leaflet

at Driftback 20 from the CM Sales Stand. The CM have a large number of local area groups who will also help you to become involved if you feel you like what you have seen today at DRIFTBACK 20.

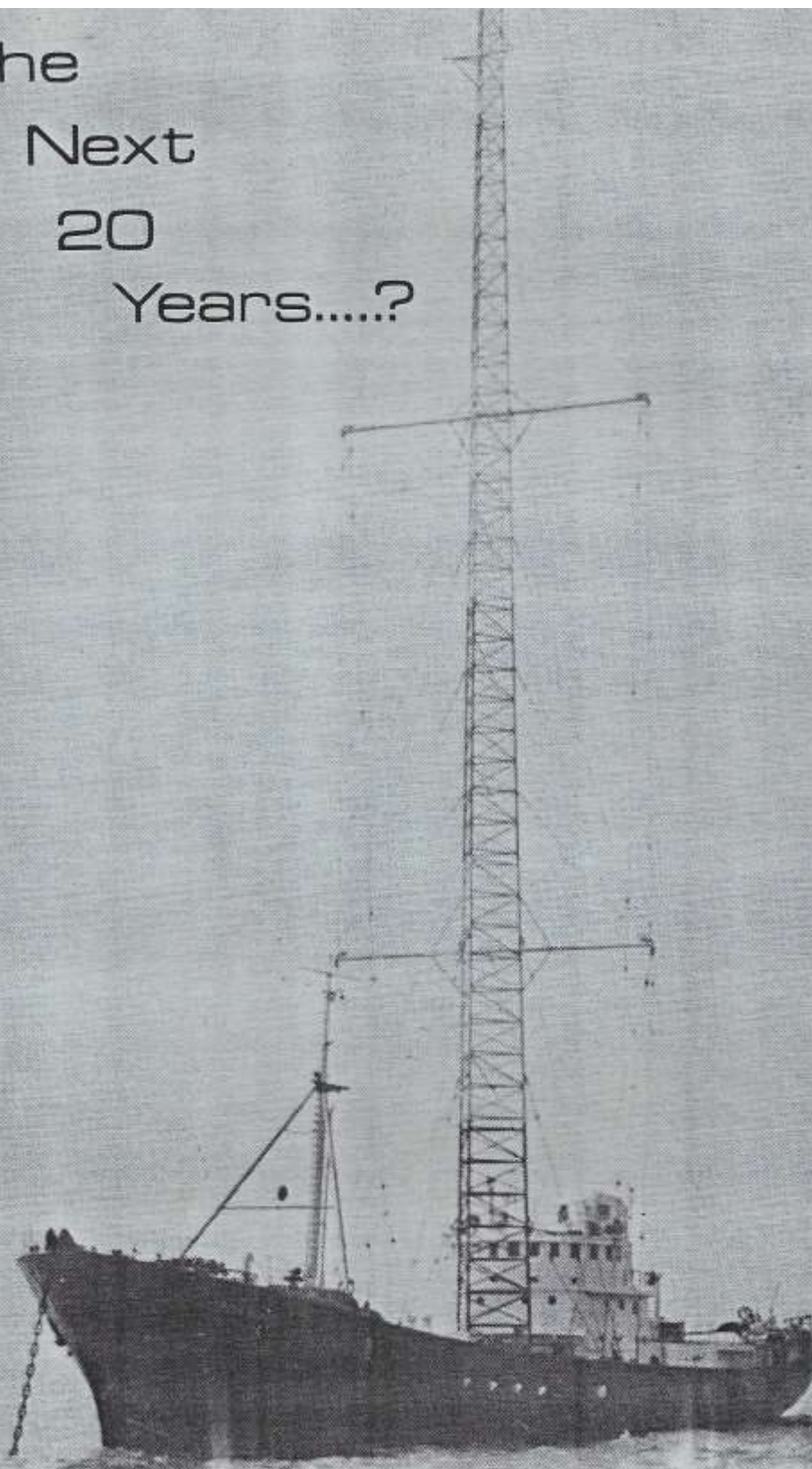
Our cruise on Sunday 16th August will take you out past the Red Sands, Shivering Sands and Tongue Forts with good views also of the Knock John Fort. You will also see the site of the wreck of the Mi Amigo and eventually reach the ultimate destination which is of course the home of Caroline and Monique, the MV Ross Reveng.

If you have not already expressed your interest in joining this trip then please let our reception desk staff know as soon as possible. You will then be included on the list. You MUST however be a CM member to allow you to board the vessel and again full details about this are included in the special leaflet available from our Sales stand.

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The Driftback 20 team would like to acknowledge the help of the following people without whom the event could not have happened :- TONY CANT; PETER DUNCAN; DAVID HECKER; ENSIGN BUS SERVICES LIMITED; BILL ROLLINS; ALEX PLUCK; ANDY REEVE; SIMON COWPER-SMITH; JAMIE JIMMY WILKES; IAN SMITH; JOHN AND JENNY KNIGHT; CHRIS & TERESA WHEELER; EDWARD JANARD; NIGEL STROUD; JEFF ELLIS; JOHN HILL; JOHN MURDOCH; STEVE TAPLIN; VICTOR LEWIS; GEOFF AND BARBARA WIFFEN; ANORAKS UK; LESLEY INGRAM; ELAINE NEARY; PHILIP MILLER; IAN TUCK; TONY HARTE; GEORGE JASIENIECKI; GEOFF BALDWIN; JOHN AND ANITA BURCH, MALCOLM DUNN, MIKE BRIGHTMAN. STEWART PAYNE; EVENING STANDARD;

The  
Next  
20  
Years.....?



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