

## **Former Radio 390 Announcer, Jonathan Hall, has died**

**DATELINE** 20th January 2019



Former Radio 390 announcer, Jonathan Hall, died on 20th January 2019, at the age of 80.

Jonathan was born in London, on 22nd September 1938.

After leaving school, he joined the RAF for five years and spent some time with the British Forces Broadcasting Service in Cyprus.

When he left the RAF he spent two years working for the Ford Motor company and joined offshore station, Radio 390, on 10th August 1966.

After leaving Radio 390, Jonathan went to Anglia TV as Promotion Department Manager and then managed Radio Caribbean International in St. Lucia.

He later worked for BBC Radio Merseyside and BBC Radio Solent before becoming a lecturer on business and marketing.. Jonathan was also a voluntary mentor for the Prince's Trust and was involved in setting up a community radio station in Lincoln.

Using the pseudonym Max Hunloke, he wrote a book about his time in local radio - *Call Me Max: A Life in Radio* - in 2017. Jonathan was also a lifelong car fanatic and

chairman of the Three Beacons Motor Club.

Jonathan had been in hospital suffering with pneumonia shortly before his death.

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

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## **Former Radio Caroline engineer and DJ, James Kaye, has died**

**DATELINE** Bournemouth 5th February 2019



Former Radio Caroline engineer and DJ, James Kaye (Jim Coad), has died at the age of 66.

James was an engineer on the *Mi Amigo* in the 1970s until the ship sank in March 1980. He often stood in for chief engineer Peter Chicago and also broadcast a number of shows from the ship (his first show was on 13th May 1978, his last on 3rd September 1979).

James was involved in the fitting out of the new Radio Caroline ship *Ross Revenge* in Santander, Spain, in the early 1980s, then worked on land-based operations, organising the supply of equipment to the *Ross Revenge*.

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

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# Plan to take former Radio Veronica ship back to sea

**DATELINE** The Netherlands 28th February 2019



Recently, a foundation called 'Friends of the Veronica Ship' was established with the aim of bringing back to sea the former radioship of this station in the 'year of 100 years of radio' and 60 years after the founding and 45 years after the closure of the offshore Radio Veronica. This is the Norderney and it is the intention for a period of one month, August, to return the ship to its old anchor position, 3 miles from the coast of Scheveningen.

In August 2019, it is planned to start again from the ship to provide programmes for the benefit of all generations of artists, listeners and employees. After this, this era can be closed forever.

The owner of the radio vessel has given permission and agreed to cooperate in order to make the plan a reality. The theme will be: 'Old meets new'. After all, it is still the only radio ship from that time that is still in good condition, so that the whole can become possible. It can be clearly said that we are dealing with a piece of cultural heritage.

Many of those days are no longer among us, but many are still alive. The start, then of Radio Veronica, was the beginning of radio from the sea off the Dutch coast and also the beginning of commercial radio, as we still know it today. It seems unique to us to relive the time of that time once more.

The project will take place provided there is cooperation from various angles. Think of the Ministry WVC, formerly CRM; companies; institutions; private donations and cooperation from existing broadcasting organizations.

Of course there is a considerable cost tag behind this project. The ship must be made seaworthy in advance and all applicable rules for anchoring a ship off the coast must be implemented. If sufficient financial resources are available, the ship will be put out to tender by the 'Friends of the Veronica Ship' foundation after the planned project has been completed and will then be made available to the RockArt Pop Museum (Jaap Schut), which is located in Hoek van Holland.

Any financial resources that may be left over, after the project has or has not taken place, will be donated to KIKA, (Children Cancer-free).

The board of the Friends of the Veronica Ship Foundation.

www.stichtinghetveronicaschip.nl

info@stichtinghetveronicaschip.nl

06-26819093

Donations by supporters and fans of Veronica can be made to the account of the foundation, the data can be found on the above website.

*(Thanks to Hans Knot for this information)*

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## **Former Radio 270 newsreader and DJ, Jeff Jones, has died**

**DATELINE** 28th February 2019



Jeff Jones was born in Darlington and studied chemistry at Aberdeen University. After graduating in 1967 he contacted Wilf Proudfoot, Managing Director of Radio 270, to ask for a job.

His main job on the station was reading the news, but he also presented some live programmes.

After Radio 270 closed following the introduction of the Marine Offences Act in August 1967 he returned to Scotland and ran a mobile disco, broadcast on hospital radio, BBC Radio Aberdeen and Moray Firth Radio.

When he was not broadcasting Jeff worked as a chemistry teacher.

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

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# Former Radio Caroline North DJ, Bob Stewart, has died

**DATELINE** Texas, 28th March 2019



Bob Stewart was born in Liverpool on July 3rd 1939. After national service in the Army he worked as a DJ in various clubs in and around Liverpool - encouraged by Pete Best, the original Beatles drummer.

Bob joined Radio Caroline in 1965, working for a month on the South ship before transferring to Caroline North, where he regularly presented the noon-3.00pm show, as well as the Caroline Club Requests Show and standing in on other shows when DJs were on shore leave.

His catch-phrase was: "This is your Bobby baby who loves you so crazy" and his theme tune was *Image* by Alan Haven.

Bob stayed with Caroline North until June 1967 (shortly before the introduction of the Marine etc Broadcasting (Offences Act) in August 1967). He later joined Radio Luxembourg where he remained for 18 years.

In 1987 he moved to Dallas, Texas for a time, but returned to Europe and was heard again on Radio Luxembourg as well as Jazz-FM, Red Rose Radio (Preston), Capital Gold (London) and other Independent Local Radio (ILR) stations.

He returned to Dallas but had problems with his health, undergoing surgery for cancer of the larynx and also suffering from Parkinson's Disease and heart issues.

Bob died on 28th March 2019.

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# RNI theme composer, Les Reed, has died

**DATELINE** London, 16th April 2019



Leslie David Reed OBE was an English songwriter, arranger, musician and light-orchestra leader, born in Woking, Surrey on 24th July 1935.

He was an accomplished musician by the age of 14, playing the piano, accordion and vibraphone. He studied at the London College of Music before joining the Willis Reed Group, with whom he toured for four years.

He played piano and clarinet in the Royal East Kent Military Band, and in 1959, he joined The John Barry Seven as their pianist

Les Reed co-wrote around sixty hit songs, and is best known for "It's Not Unusual", "Delilah", "The Last Waltz" and "Marching On Together". His songs gained a number of gold discs and Ivor Novello Awards. He won the British Academy Gold Badge of Merit in 1982.

In the mid-1960s, Reed began a successful songwriting partnership with Geoff Stephens which yielded hits such as "Tell Me When", (The Applejacks); "Here It Comes Again" (The Fortunes); "Leave A Little Love" (Lulu); and "There's a Kind of Hush", a 1967 success for Herman's Hermits.

Around 1964, Reed struck up a songwriting partnership with Barry Mason and together they wrote a song for Kathy Kirby, "I'll Try Not To Cry", as Britain's entry in 1965 for the Eurovision Song Contest,

The songwriters had a 1967 hit in "Everybody Knows" by The Dave Clark Five, and another success in 1968 with "Delilah", a Top 10 hit for Tom Jones. Reed and Mason also wrote "The Last Waltz", which became a million selling UK number one for Engelbert Humperdinck in September 1967. In 1968, the duo scored another UK number 1 hit with Des O'Connor's recording of "I Pretend".

Les Reed's most famous association with offshore radio history came in 1970 when his orchestra recorded "Man of Action" - which was adopted as the theme tune for Radio North Sea International until the station closed in 1974.

Many of Reed's songs were also recorded by other artists including Elvis Presley ("Girl of Mine", "Sylvia" and "This Is Our Dance"), Shirley Bassey ("Does Anybody Miss Me") and Bing Crosby ("That's What Life Is All About").

Reed's film score composition credits include those for The Girl on a Motorcycle (1968) (a film co-produced by Radio Caroline's founder Ronan O'Rahilly's Mid Atlantic Films), The Bushbaby (1969), One More Time (1970), George and Mildred (1980), Creepshow 2 (1987) and Parting Shots (1999).

Les Reed also composed music for stage-musical productions including *The Magic Show* (1974), *American Heroes* and *And Then I Wrote*. In 1994, Reed produced an album for Max Bygraves to raise money for the Lest We Forget Association. Reed co-composed, with Roger Cook, the score for the 2004 musical *Beautiful and Damned*, based on the lives of Zelda and F. Scott Fitzgerald.

In 1998, Les Reed was awarded an Order of the British Empire. He died on 15th April 2019, aged 83.

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## Radio Hauraki founder honoured by Queen

**DATELINE** Auckland, New Zealand, 3rd June 2019



David Gapes (76), founder of New Zealand's only offshore radio station, Radio Hauraki, has been made an officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit for his services to broadcasting in New Zealand in the Queen's Birthday Honours list.

Radio Hauraki was established in 1966 by Gapes and three other colleagues to break the then radio monopoly in New Zealand.

In 1970, Radio Hauraki was granted a licence to broadcast legally from land and Gapes became Chairman and CEO, guiding the station through its new land-based existence.

However, he soon grew apart from the commercial side of the radio station and moved on to other ventures, including managing rock group Hello Sailor, editing magazines *Admedia* and *Onfilm*, and founding online newsletter *M+AD*, which he still directs.

Asked if he could have pictured receiving an order of merit as he sailed the high seas in his early 20s, Gapes replied with a firm "Hell no! I've been a bit of a rebel most of my life and here I am part of the establishment."

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## Kenny Everett Christmas Birthday tribute

**DATELINE** 28th October 2019



Radio London DJ, Kenny Everett would have been 75 years old this Christmas Day, so THE

RADIO SHIP is having "A Kenny Everett Christmas".

We have taken about 14 classic Kenny Everett shows from Radio London, Radio One, Radio Two, Capital Radio, Capital Gold etc and (apart from the Radio London show) stripped out all station indents to make them all generic.

They will run at breakfast time on Christmas Day and Boxing Day on The RADIO SHIP network, but will run all day both days on The RADIO SHIP 2 (Pop up) - the 128kbts stream of The RADIO SHIP.

[www.theradioship.net](http://www.theradioship.net)

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## **Award for *Ross Revenge* restoration team**

**DATELINE** London, 27th October 2019



The *Ross Revenge* Support Group has been awarded the 'Marsh Volunteer Team Award for Historic Vessel Conservation' by the Marsh Christian Trust at the National Historic Ships UK Annual Awards Ceremony.

The award was made in recognition of the work undertaken on the restoration of the vessel by many volunteers over the years and the present day restoration team.

The MV *Ross Revenge* has an amazing history going back nearly 60 years, having had a significant role in the British fishing trawler fleet until the 1970s and then as Radio Caroline's offshore broadcast base from 1983. The *Ross Revenge* is now the only surviving historic radio-ship in the world.

George Johnson from the *Ross Revenge* Restoration Team and Radio Caroline presenter Steve Anthony collected the award at the ceremony held at the Queens House, Greenwich.

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# Former offshore radio DJ appointed Deputy Speaker

**DATELINE** London, 19th December 2019



Former offshore radio DJ, turned politician, Roger Gale has been appointed Deputy Speaker of the British House of Commons.

Roger joined Radio Caroline North in August 1964 and he stayed with the station until January 1965.

Later that year he joined Radio Caroline South, becoming one of the Caroline “Good Guys”, but following a number of staffing issues Roger moved to Radio Scotland where he became Programme Director and helped launch the station on 31st December .1965.

In April 1966 he was one of the original team of DJs on Radio 270, helping to save the station's ship when it was involved in a storm during the voyage from the Channel Islands to the Yorkshire coast.

After offshore radio was outlawed in August 1967 Roger became a reporter on BBC Radio London and produced Radio Four's **Today** programme as well as Radio One's **Newsbeat**. He later worked on Thames TV's children's magazine programme, **Maggie**.

In 1983 Roger was elected as the Conservative MP for North Thanet - a seat he has represented ever since.

Roger was awarded a knighthood in the New Year Honours list 2012 for public and political services.

Sir Roger has been a supporter of the Offshore Radio Museum and kindly allowed us to use some items of memorabilia from his personal archive in our Galleries.

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