

Saturday 9th September 2017 - Felixstowe, Suffolk, England.

A report from reader Stephen Raindle.

'Radio Caroline was on the lips and in the memories of many people in Felixstowe with an exhibition of 'offshore radio' staged in the town's Trinity Methodist Church Hall and in the afternoon a commemorative plaque to Radio Caroline was unveiled in the nearby cliff-top viewing area in Wolsey Gardens overlooking the area of the North Sea where Caroline first began broadcasting from the mv Fredericia anchored a few miles off the coast in Easter 1964.

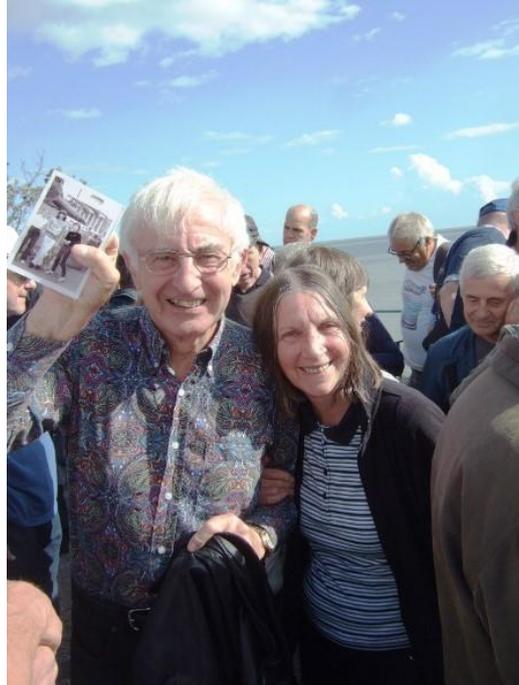


Exhibition. Photo Stephen Raindle

We arrived at the exhibition midmorning and found a fair sized crowd already there, taking in the total nostalgia event which also had a record, CD and memorabilia sale doing brisk business in an ante-room of the hall. The pirate radio exhibition was largely of news, publicity, film and memorabilia items about the era of pirate offshore radio in the United Kingdom, from its start until its eventual fall after government legislation in August 1967.

Reproductions of many newspaper items of memorable events relating to the 'pirates' were the main thrust of the exhibition which also had some vintage radios and television sets on display. An early visitor to the exhibition was Roger 'Twiggy' Day formerly of Swinging

Radio England and Radio Caroline in the sixties. By the time we had seen and enjoyed all the exhibits the hall was thronging with visitors and plenty more still streaming through the doors.



Roger Day and admirer Photo Stephen Raindle

Next item of the agenda on this warm and sunny day was the unveiling of the commemorative plaque which was due to be at 2.30pm subject to the arrival of guest of honour Emperor Rosko transported from London in a cavalcade of skull & crossbones beflagged mini-mokes, which had been held up along the way but arrived in time much to the excitement of the gathering of Caroline fans who by them must have numbered around 200. After brief speeches by representatives of Felixstowe & Offshore Radio - the event organisers, Caroline's former DJs Tony 'Royal Ruler' Prince, Roger 'Twiggy' Day, Ray Clark, 'Neddy' Alan Turner, Alan Clark, Rosko himself and current Caroline presenter Peter Antony, the polished stone plaque set in the ground was duly unveiled to general applause by the crowd of what can only be described as eternal teenagers.



Photo: Stephen Raindle

After much general chat about the good old days of offshore radio, many photographs of the plaque and the guests of honour, the mini-mokes were fired up and Rosko and his entourage left for a visit to the exhibition before returning to London. Back at the Trinity church hall the place was packed with fans of all ages and only after the departure of the various celebrity DJs did the numbers thin out.



Left to right: Sherri Lynn, Vanessa Martin, Glenda Williams and Rosko Photo: Stephen Raindle

All told a very nostalgic, enjoyable and successful event so congratulations to Felixstowe & Offshore Radio group. The event was reported in fully the Ipswich Star which also had several excellent photos: <http://www.ipswichstar.co.uk/news/radio-caroline-legends-return-to-felixstowe-seafront-for-commemorative-weekend-1-5188255>

With thanks to Stephen Raindle of course. Surely my readers have enjoyed reading your report on the event.

I did receive also a report from Sherri Lynn about that special day from a different angle:

For the past few weeks I had been helping to co-ordinate with Mark Peacock of the Moke Club UK and Brian Nichols and Charles Wright of Felixstowe and offshore radio for Rosko, a promo lady from All Oldies Radio and All Retro Radio (owned by Russ Dee), Lora Ricketts and me to being given a ride from the hotel where Rosko was staying in London to Felixstowe for a special event there to be held on September 9th to commemorate Radio Caroline. Our grateful thanks to Brian, Charles and Mark for helping to make this day such a resounding success!

On that day, we met at the hotel before 10:00 AM and at last, when the four mokes scheduled to meet us were all there, we set off for our destination, with Rosko, Lora and me in the vehicle owned by Andy Woolhouse. In his gleaming red Mini Moke with the word 'Californian' emblazoned on the left and right side of the bonnet in gold. The other three mini mokes, with their drivers and passengers, were behind us. (See pics below including the group assembled around the red Mini Moke before setting off for Felixstowe)



We were advised to wear 'moke hats' (which Andy had brought for us) and to wrap up warmly, which we did. Needless to say, we attracted some attention as we drove through London toward Felixstowe. The plan was for us to meet up with the other 5 Mini Mokes with all drivers being members of the Moke Club UK; to whom many thanks for their wonderful support! After traveling from London, unfortunately, by the time we met up and arrived in Felixstowe, which was exciting as we were met by crowds on both sides of the street with cameras at the ready and cheering us on. We got there too late for lunch.

However, we fortunately were in time for the main event which was for the unveiling of the stone in Wolsey Garden on a clifftop overlooking the sea. From Wolsey Garden we proceeded to the Exhibition of Offshore Radio memorabilia, which was open on September 9th and 10th with 'Flashback 67' Exhibition, Felixstowe

related offshore radio history, display of vintage radios and technology, Radio Caroline merchandise and special guests. In addition a Record and CD Fair was there on Saturday only. Radio Caroline was first broadcast from a ship near the Cork Anchorage off Felixstowe on Easter Sunday, 1964 and must have been heard by a few million happy listeners, who still remember it vividly to this day.

There were many people wanting to meet Rosko, have their photo taken with him and to get his autograph! He very graciously made time to greet one and all despite the fact that we needed to get back to London as close to 6:00 pm as possible. We finally left for London in a white Mini Moke driven by Colin Blowers after a super afternoon in Felixstowe.

On Monday and subsequent days until Friday (September 15th), Rosko has had a gig in various cities for a campaign staged by creative agency Atomic London and produced by Wisebuddah. The goal of the campaign is to raise awareness for 'Remember A Charity In Your Will Week', which specifically targets the baby boomer generation, who may remember listening to the original broadcasts of pirate radio. After all, who of us can ever forget Radio Caroline and other offshore radio stations!

Read more at

<http://www.campaignlive.co.uk/article/watch-atomic-london-brings-back-radio-caroline-encourage-people-remember-charity/1444110#2FFIiZ5gKSzWDGTg.99>

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<https://radiotoday.co.uk/2017/09/emperor-rosko-tours-uk-with-last-pirate-fm/>

Sherri Lynn.'