RADIO ST. HELENA

Radio Station was officially opened on 25th December 1967 by the Governor of the time, Sir John Field.

The station is registered with the International Registration Frequency Board in London as the ST HELENA GOVERNMENT BROADCASTING STATION, but is referred to as Radio St. Helena here on the island.

For its identification call sign it has four evenly spaced trumpet calls followed by a few bars of music entitled 'LIFE ON THE OCEAN WAVE', which in turn is followed by the announcement that "This is the St. Helena Government Broadcasting Station operating in the medium wave band on a frequency of 1548 kHz, 194 metres".

When it was first opened the station operated on the frequency 1511 kHz, 200 metres in the medium wave band. This changed to the present frequency on 1st November 1978.

The building, which was financed from Development Aid funds, was constructed by the Government's Public Works Department in consultation with the engineering staff attached to the Diplomatic Wireless Relay Service (DWRs) stationed on the island at the time.

In the beginning, the station used two Marconi half-kilowatt medium wave transmitters, one in use and one on stand-by. The transmitters and other equipment at the time were very old and had been modified by DWRs for broadcast use.

The station was established as part of a ten-year plan for education, under the control of the Education Department. Prior to its official opening, a number of programmes for schools and adults were broadcast as test transmissions for a period of approximately six months.

The Education Officer of the time, Mr Alan Johns attended a brief BBC course in UK in order to gain experience in broadcasting so that the output could be improved.

In June 1968, Mr Eric M George, a senior headteacher was sent on a five-month BBC overseas training course in both general and schools broadcasting. Mr George later became Information Officer/Officer in Charge of Broadcasting Station.

In July 1969 overall administration of the station became the responsibility of the Information Services, with time reserved for Education schools broadcasts. Schools broadcasts ceased in the mid 1980s.

The station operated from 7 to 10 pm Mondays to Fridays with two-hour school broadcasts on Friday mornings. The evening programmes, a variety of music programmes, were presented solely
by voluntary producers. Numbers of voluntary producers have varied over the years. In the late 1970s, early 80s these numbered up to 33 people.

In April 1973, Mr Tony Leo was appointed Broadcasting Officer (now Station Manager) and attended an overseas training course in 1982. A few years later an Assistant Broadcasting Officer was appointed. Programming started to change from then onwards with more local material being included e.g. interviews, talks, local recordings, direct relays of church services, St. Helena Day Celebrations, sports events etc.

However, numbers of voluntary producers have reduced to less than twenty and it is felt that the reason for this is because there is a lot more happening in the way of entertainment i.e. sports and other activities in community centres etc. Video and television are probably also reasons for the loss of interest in 'going on radio'.

Equipment has also been gradually updated over the years. The old transmitters have been replaced by two Harris 'Gates One' models which have an output of 1000 watts. The studios are now fully equipped to allow for comfortable presentation of programmes. Almost any sort of recording can be catered for with the exception of large group recordings and this is due to confined space.

The acquisition of a radio bus in the early 1990s has allowed the station to expand its broadcast for location transmissions i.e. relays of Legislative Council Meetings and other special functions.

The station has built up an extensive record library over the years and now has in its Library some 23,000 LPs, 3,979 single discs and 346 compact discs. These have all been catalogued on computer for easy reference.

The aim of Radio St. Helena is to inform, educate and entertain through a wide range of programmes. However, financial constraints and such a small staff puts a limit on how far this can go.

The staff now consists of the following people:-

- Tony Leo - Station Manager
- Ralph Peters - Production Assistant
- Joy Lawrence - Studio Organiser
- Derek Richards - News Editor
- Vanessa Henry - Clerk
- Clarissa Osborne - Trainee Production Assistant
- Colin Benjamin - Trainee Production Assistant
- Larry Francis - Freelance Technician
- Mrs Constantine - Cleaner/Librarian

Station Consist Of 14 Rooms Which Are: Computer Room, Record Library, Studio A, Studio B, Toilet Gents and Ladies, Archives, Storeroom, Utility Room, Main Office, Managers Office,

Relay of programmes from the BBC World Service from 0900 to 1500 hours daily Monday to Friday. World News daily at 2100 hrs, and Local News, Announcements and Advertisements daily at 2000 and 2200 hrs. Epilogue daily before station closes.

When the Station first started in 1967, the only equipment the Station owned was a second hand 4 Channel General Electric Mixer, with a power supply of 110 volts and a transformer to take care of the voltage from 240 volts. Two Decca Transcription Turntables, Two Ferrograph 2 Track Tape Recorders and a small Ribbon Microphone.

This equipment was used up until 1977, when it was found that this very old equipment just could not cope with the day to day use, and being second hand at the time, found its way into the Museum in Jamestown. It was replaced with an 8 Channel Pye Mixer, Two Revox Recorder Decks, Two Shure Microphones, Two Phillips Turntables, Two Sony Cassette Players, Two Boom Microphone Stands and a Portable Uher Recording Machine with relating equipment.

This was a big step forward to what the station originally owned.

As time progressed, funding from our Grant in Aid from Britain was increased and the station was able to almost fully equipped itself to the extent that it could handle almost any situation as far as recording was concerned. This led to an improvement of radio programmes.

The setting up of the station originally was done by the DWRS (Diplomatic Wireless Relay Station) who were operating on the island at that time. They left the island in 1977, and since that time up to this very day the setting up of the overall running of the Station has been carried out by Tony Leo, Station Manager, who has been at Radio St. Helena since 1973.

On the internet you will find photographs from our station, a few of which were taken at the 25th Anniversary of Radio St. Helena in 1992.

It is hoped that a similar occasion can be duplicated involving some 600 people to a 'Cheese and Wine Dance' event to celebrate 30 years of broadcasting on the Island of St. Helena. To celebrate an event such as this, an estimate of £1,000 would be required. We were extremely grateful to those who donated cheeses, wine, cheques and also donated prizes for the evenings ball, without which the event would not have taken place. Being a Government Station, funds are none existent for a celebration of this nature.

The 25th Anniversary will somehow never be forgotten, comments about the organisation of the event still rest in the minds of all those who were there and were connected with the station for
the past 25 years, including broadcasters, past and present.

Radio St. Helena is the only station on the island and we have no rivals at present, that's why it is important we keep up the momentum of all those involved in the field of radio. Anyone who would care to make a donation which should be made known by 31st June 1997. Please address you donation to 30th Anniversary Celebrations, Radio St. Helena, Broadcasting House, Main Street, Jamestown, Island of St. Helena, South Atlantic Ocean.

The following is a copy of our weekly programme schedule:-

RADIO PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

Fri. 27th September

1500 - 1530 From My Collection - Prog. 4* Marianne Musk
1530 - 1600 Master Control SBC
1600 - 1615 World News BBC World Service
1615 - 1715 Afternoon Drive Ralph Peters
1715 - 1745 London this Week* COI
1745 - 1800 Sports Roundup BBC World Service
1800 - 1900 A Date with a Disc Joy Lawrence
1900 - 1915 Story Special Betty Crowie
1915 - 1930 AIDS Today* BBCTT
1930 - 2000 30-minute Theatre BBCRI
   "The Sleeper" by Alec Baron*
2015 - 2200 The Friday Nite Show Tony Leo

Sat. 28th September

1900 - 2000 The Story of Pop BBCRI
   Part 22 - "Listen to Me Me Me" -
   a follow-on to last week's edition
   which looks at the folk protest
   movement and the music of the mid
   sixties.
2000 - 2005 Announcements & Advertisements
2005 - 2200 The Saturday Show Joy Lawrence

Sun. 29th September

1900 - 2000 Twilight Classical Hour Johnny Drummond
2015 - 2130 Stedson's Sunday Selection Stedson Francis
2130 - 2200 Service from the Seventh Day Adventist Church

Mon. 30th September
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Network</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1500 - 1530</td>
<td>Powerline</td>
<td>SBC</td>
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<tr>
<td>1530 - 1600</td>
<td>The Birth of Europe</td>
<td>BBCRI</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Prog. 2 - &quot;The First Farmers&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>1600 - 1615</td>
<td>World News</td>
<td>BBC World</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>1615 - 1715</td>
<td>Afternoon Drive</td>
<td>Joy Lawrence</td>
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<tr>
<td>1715 - 1730</td>
<td>UK/OK</td>
<td>COI</td>
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<td>1730 - 1745</td>
<td>Let's Sing &amp; Listen</td>
<td>Liz Foster and Shea Young</td>
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<td>1745 - 1800</td>
<td>Sports Roundup</td>
<td>BBC World</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>1800 - 1830</td>
<td>Album Time</td>
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<tr>
<td>1830 - 1845</td>
<td>Health Watch</td>
<td>Quantum Radio</td>
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<td>Productions</td>
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This week’s programme provides some very useful information. For example, Migraine - what it is and what to do about it. Then there's Asprin - its benefits and its side effects. June Christie gives some general advise about Analgesics - when to use them and what to avoid; and finally there's some information about Tiger Balm which is well known in the west as a muscle rub, but has been used for centuries in the east as a headache remedy. Dr David Randerson tells Julian Coleman that an Australian study has demonstrated its worth.

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<tr>
<td>1845 - 1900</td>
<td>Story Special</td>
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<tr>
<td>1900 - 1930</td>
<td>Sports Review</td>
<td>Derek Richards</td>
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<td></td>
<td>and</td>
<td>Andrew</td>
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<tr>
<td>1930 - 2000</td>
<td>30-minute Theatre</td>
<td>BBCRI</td>
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<td>&quot;In Flight Entertainment&quot; by J.C. Wilsher - a comedy which confirms one's worst fears of flying. Paul is an airline passenger with a pathological fear of flying. His only solace is the multi-channel in flight entertainment system. He's seated next to Harry, an aviation expert who knows that the chances of a catastrophic failure are millions to one. But some damn fool has assembled both engines incorrectly and a lightning strike has started an argument between the on-board computers. Harry and the crew are</td>
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baffled, perhaps Paul can avert a
disaster by listening to the voices
in his headphones........

and

2015 - 2200 Fine Tuning

John Coleman

Greentree

2015 - 2200 Daphne

Tue. 1st October

1500 - 1530 Streams in the Desert

SBC

1530 - 1545 Eco-watch -

COI

In this edition - gas powered
passenger buses to help reduce
traffic pollution; a campaign
to save Britain's indigenous
red squirrels from extinction;
restoring natural meadows; the
latest Ecowatch news; and a reminder
of the Ecowatch Competition where
you could win a clockwork radio.
All you have to do is write in the
name and number of the environmental
plan on action agreed at the Rio Earth
Summit, to take us into the 21st century
and also state why you like Ecowatch.
Send your entries to -
"Eco-watch Competition", London Radio
Service, Hercules Road, London SE1 7DU.

1545 - 1600 Oratory

BBCRI

Prog. 5 - The After-Dinner Speech.

1600 - 1615 World News

BBC World Service

1615 - 1715 Afternoon Drive

Tony Leo

1715 - 1745 The Birth of Europe

BBCRI

Prog. 2 - "The First Farmers"*

1745 - 1800 Sports Roundup

BBC World Service

1800 - 1830 From My Collection - Prog. 1

Nigel Henry

1830 - 1845 AIDS TODAY

Panos Institute

1845 - 1900 Story Special

1900 - 1930 One Foot in the Grave

BBCRI

Episode 3 - In Luton Airport No
One Can Hear You Scream.
The Meldrews return from holiday,
lose their luggage, find an over-
zeous customs official and learn
their house has just burned to the
ground. "I don't believe it!"

2015 - 2000 Oracle

COI

In this very last edition of the
programme, Rory Johnston introduces
items about - a high-tech camera
mounted inside a car that can catch
vehicle thieves as well as opportunists
breaking in to steal radios; the findings
of research into the mysteries of photo-

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synthesis; a new process for making drugs is showing how to inhibit the replication of the HIV virus; and research is showing that vitamin E could be the answer to male infertility.
Oracle will be replaced next week by a new programme called "New Horizons" which looks at scientific, engineering and technological innovation from the U.K.
The presenter will be Jay Knox.

2015 - 2200  Airwaves Command  Natasha Clingham

Wed. 2nd October

1500 - 1530  Country Crossroads  SBC
1530 - 1600  London this Week  COI
1600 - 1615  World News  BBC World Service
1615 - 1715  Afternoon Drive  COI
1715 - 1745  Oracle*  COI
1745 - 1800  Sports Roundup  BBC World Service
1800 - 1845  Record Hotmix  Andrew Nicholls
1845 - 1900  Story Special  BBC World
1900 - 2000  Twilight Classical Hour*  Johnny Drummond
2015 - 2200  Evening Shuttle  Ralph Peters

Thu. 3rd October

1500 - 1600  The Story of Pop - Part 22*  BBCRI
1600 - 1615  World News  BBC World Service
1615 - 1715  Afternoon Drive  Quantum Radio Productions
1715 - 1730  Health Watch*  Derek Richards
1730 - 1745  Let's Sing & Listen*  Liz Foster and Sheila Young
1745 - 1800  Sports Roundup  BBC World Service
1800 - 1830  Country Crossroads*  SBC
1830 - 1845  UK/OK*  COI
1845 - 1900  Story Special  BBC World
1900 - 1930  Hotch Potch - This is a new programme for all the family. Apart from music, you'll hear your horoscopes for the coming week, a short story, a quiz and some handy hints to save you time and money (so have pencil and paper ready).
1930 - 2000  One Foot in the Grave Episode 3*  BBCRI
2015 - 2020  It's Getting Better  BBCRI
2020 - 2030  Interlude  BBC World
2030 - 2100  Night Flight Jazz  Tony Leo
2100 - 2105  World News  BBC World
Fri. 4th October

1500 - 1530  From My Collection - Prog 1*  Nigel Henry
1530 - 1600  Master Control  SBC
1600 - 1615  World News  BBC World
Service
1615 - 1715  Afternoon Drive  Ralph Peters
1715 - 1745  London this Week*  COI
1745 - 1800  Sports Roundup  BBC World
Service
1800 - 1900  A Date with a Disc  Joy Lawrence
1900 - 1915  Story Special
1915 - 1930  AIDS TODAY*  BBCTT
1930 - 2000  30-minute Theatre  BBCRI
"In Flight Entertainment"  
by J. C. Wilsher*
2015 - 2130  Variety Time  Bert
Constantine
2130 - 2200  A Gentle Alternative  Joy Lawrence

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* repeated programmes.