



## On my radio

Transcription of excerpts from interviews with Richard Jones, Chris Ash, Bill Pritchard, Andy Clay, Will Stone, Persefoni Salter and Sean Taylor, talking about the radio stations they listened to in their youth

**Richard:** There was only one radio programme at that time, which was *Brian Matthews' Saturday Club*. Now he played all the latest records, and he also had live sessions from the Stones, Beatles, Kinks, Who, all that crowd. So that was a major, major influence on me at that time.

**Chris:** I remember listening to Radio Luxembourg on a crystal set. Well, of course, you had the pirate stations come along, boats anchored in the Channel or North Sea, wherever they were. And yeah, then the development of Radio One, and disc jockeys becoming far more recognised. So, I guess influenced by the radio, and then of course, later on TV, *Top of the Pops*, *Ready Steady Go* on Friday nights, programmes like that.

**Bill:** We used to listen to Radio Luxemburg on the little crystal set as well, like, you know. But the trouble is you had to get through the religious bit first of the [laughs], before you got onto listening to some of the records. But they used to play some really, really good songs on there, which I used to quite enjoy. I used to lie up in my bedroom and, you know, put my little Bakelite earphones on [laughs]. And yeah, it's cool.

**Andy:** Well radio was *The Light and Home Programme* at the time. I can't remember much about that. And then in 1967 you got Radio One came along, and that was like, wow, pop music on the radio all the time, instead of Andy Williams and goodness knows what else. And then going on beyond that, I don't think my dad had a stereo or anything, so the music memories would be the little black and white telly we had. And that would be remembering things like Herman's Hermits, and Freddie and the Dreamers, that's it, yeah. And yeah, watching that on a little black and white TV, so that stood out. We used to listen to 208, Radio Luxemburg. That was, you know, one of, I should think about 12 or 13 before I was buying records, you'd go to bed and put the radio under the pillow and listen to that a bit later than you should be doing, and fading in and out, just when you were getting to a good bit then it would just suddenly fade away [laughs].

**Will:** When I was probably about 12, 11 or 12, we became huge fans of Alan, er, what was his name? Freeman. Alan Freeman, yeah. And I remember we used to fight, me and my two brothers, over who was going to have the right to tape the songs from the Alan Freeman show on this massive reel to reel tape recorder that my Dad had. And we used to go out and buy the tape, and so we'd all have our own little tape, and then whoever's turn it was, you know we'd all sit there [laughs], and we would be arguing, "Oh why didn't you tape that?" "I didn't like it." [Laughs]. "Why did you tape that?" "Because it was great."

**Phil:** People at school told me about this guy John Peel, who I'd never heard of, he'd got this radio show and apparently, you know, you never really knew what was going to come next. It could be a, you know, a reggae sound, it could be a folk sound, it could be Lonnie Donegan, or it could be Stiff Little Fingers, and you never knew really what was going to come, and I loved that idea of the unpredictable nature of what

was going to be impinging on my life, on my ears, and I really, I was all ears at that time.

**Persefoni:** I mainly listened to Radio Luxemburg, and I had a very small yellow radio that I used to take under the bedcovers, and I was meant to be asleep and lights were out, but I would just be under the bedcovers listening to Radio Luxemburg for hours, playing brilliant music. I think I listened to Radio One as well, but mainly it was Radio Luxemburg.

**Sean:** I also used to listen to Radio One from a very early age, and we used to record it on a cassette recorder, but they always used to talk over the end of it to stop people recording it. And if I remember rightly, the charts used to be Tuesday dinner time when we were in the playground, and everybody used to gather, yeah, everybody used to gather round recording the charts at the time. So that's probably the first thing of radio. But nothing like there is now with local radios, and if you look online there's a punk Internet radio. And I spend most of my time listening to Gold Radio these days, which plays everything from the '70s and it's fabulous.

*Transcripts of the full interviews are available from Rock Around the Hills  
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