



Radio Caroline Back On The Airwaves Of Norwich

Radio Caroline, one of the most popular music radio stations in the East of England between 1964 and 1990, is back on the airwaves of Norwich. Future Digital Norfolk Limited the not-for-profit transmission company linked to the city's Community Radio station, Future Radio, is providing facilities to broadcast Radio Caroline on DAB to the Greater Norwich area.

Radio Caroline, joins Future Radio, Radio Norwich, Jazz FM and others as part of a trial service, which will initially operate until June of next year. Future Digital Norfolk Limited, hopes to obtain a permanent licence for this service and to strengthen its coverage by adding additional transmitters around Norwich.

FDN's Technical Director, Lawrie Hallett, who broadcast on Radio Caroline back in the 1980s said: "We've had a great deal of interest in our DAB transmissions for Norwich since they launched in September. We chose Radio Caroline as the latest addition the airwaves not just because of its local history, but also because its rock-based music format adds something extra to the choice of available stations in the Greater Norwich area".

About Radio Caroline

" an iconic giant in the history of UK radio"

Radio Caroline, currently an online and satellite service, was the UK's first ever commercial radio station when, in March 1964, it launched its offshore radio service from the MV Caroline, a former passenger ferry anchored in international waters off Felixstowe. Playing wall-to-wall popular music (a service which was not available on BBC radio at the time), Caroline was soon followed by a plethora of copy-cat stations, which helped put the "swing" in the "swinging sixties".

Caroline, named after Caroline Kennedy, took on the establishment and spawned a "free radio" movement, which eventually broke the BBC's radio monopoly and, by 1973, had seen the launch of the UK's first legally licensed, land-based commercial radio stations in London ("London Broadcasting Company" - known as LBC - and "Capital 539" - now known as Capital Radio). More "independent" radio stations followed and, today, the UK airwaves are filled with all manner of stations and a very broad range of choice for the listener. Subsequently, further legislation was passed to permit Community Radio licences to be granted and the creation of stations such as Future 107.8. Future Digital Norfolk is proud to be hosting Radio Caroline as one of its DAB services and to be making Caroline more accessible to the people of Norwich.

Back in the 1960's, there was a strong following for "pirate radio" in East Anglia, partly because so many of the ships were anchored off our coast and the signal was very strong. There will, doubtless, be many people in Norwich with very fond memories of Radio Caroline in those days. Of course, Caroline continued to broadcast from ships anchored off the English and Dutch coasts during the 1970s and 1980s when, again, it proved very popular in East Anglia. There may be some local folk with equally fond memories of its broadcasts from these more recent times.

About Future Digital Norfolk Limited (FDN)

Future Digital Norfolk Limited (FDN) is a not-for-profit broadcasting company based in Norwich, Norfolk. Founded in 2014, its primary purpose is to provide Digital Audio Broadcasting facilities for the Greater Norwich area within the County of Norfolk.

Future Digital Norfolk Limited is closely associated with Future Radio; two directors of the company are also Trustees of Future Projects, the parent body of Future Radio. Mike Stonard is the Chair of the Board of Future Projects and Lawrie Hallett, is a Trustee with a particular focus on the activities of Future Radio. The company's third director, Tom Buckham, was previously the founding Station Manager at Future Radio.

About Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB)

DAB transmissions provide space for multiple broadcast radio services. FDN is broadcasting a range of services to the Greater Norwich area from a transmitter in the North West of the City. Norwich's local Community Radio service, 'Future

Radio', and the city's commercial radio station, '99.9 Radio Norwich' are key partners in the project.

Other specialist services carried by FDN include: Jazz blues and soul service, 'Jazz FM'; Independent and alternative music service, 'CDNX'; Classic & 21st Century soul station, 'Solar Radio'; and, Non-mainstream and independent service, 'Totallyradio'.

Earlier this year, FDN was awarded a licence by the broadcast regulator, Ofcom. The broadcasts are part of a wider experiment that seeks to make DAB digital radio suitable for a large number of UK broadcast radio operators.

Tuning Advice.

Most modern DAB radios will automatically add new stations as soon as they become available. However, if you live in Norwich and can't receive the various FDN stations on your DAB digital radio, a once only re-scan, or a factory re-set of your DAB receiver should make them available.

More info: **www.futuredigital.info/**

Twitter: **#FDN_DAB**

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