

RADIOFAX - radiofax.org - PROGRAMME TRANSCRIPT

What Listeners Thought, as sent to Members of Parliament and the government.

A few of the telephone calls to the special recording number we set up, 0483 272 888:

<http://www.radiofax.org/audio/opinion1.mp3>

Original recording October 1992. Transcript published February 2019.

Hello. I'm John Adamson, calling from Saxlingham Nethergate in south Norfolk. I'm just wanting to say how very, very sad I am that Radiofax is closing down. I think you have provided a really worthwhile service which is completely different to anything else I've ever heard, on any waveband. You obviously proved there is a demand for this sort of service and also that you're capable of providing it in a responsible manner. I just hope that the Irish or British government will recognise this and will award you a licence to continue broadcasting on short wave. Well, I'm off to write my letter of support now, to my MP and to the Minister for Communication. I just hope it won't be too long before you return. Thanks again for lots of very, very interesting programmes. I'm going to miss you a lot. Goodbye.

Hello, this is Bob Croft from Gateshead, Swalwell area. I support your station for a very long time and listened to it for the last year and a half since I came, stumbled across it. I think you do a very good job. Your programmes are very informative, especially Sparks; also love Jodie's Rock Show. You're going to be a great miss when you go off the air and I hope, if you don't get a licence over the next year, that you will be back on the air somehow, someday. All the best to everybody that's worked on this programme and I, for one, will be writing a letter to my MP.

Hi, this is Dave Burke from Broadstairs in Kent in the UK. I'm very sad that Radiofax is closing down. It has brought a much needed breath of fresh air to broadcasting and I just hope that someone, somewhere, with influence will at last realise that a service of this kind is very much wanted. Best of luck to you to you all.

Hello, this is Phil Muir phoning from Gillingham in Dorset. You may remember a few weeks ago that you got a letter from James Robinson saying that I lived in Shaftesbury in Dorset but I've moved. I'm a self-employed piano tuner and, being a visually impaired person, I really value Radiofax because, as I can't sort of see to read any of the technical features that are available in magazines, it's a really valuable service to me. So, I'd just like to thank Radiofax for all the technical information that you supplied me. Thank you very much. Bye.

Hello Radiofax, this is John Franklin from Ripley in Derbyshire phoning to say how sorry I am to hear of your excellent station coming off the air. As an electronics engineer I find Sparks excellent for keeping up to date with the latest developments in my own and similar fields of electronics. I shall also miss Jodie's Rock Show, it's broadened my musical horizons considerably, and she's wonderfully unpretentious. In forty years as a short wave listener, I think Radiofax must be one of the most interesting and innovative stations I have heard... ever. Even if the British government aren't forward looking enough to grant you a licence, probably the Irish government might if enough people write to them. Thanks for the years of interesting programmes. Let's hope it's not goodbye, just cheerio. Thanks.

Hi, Dave Preston calling from Leicester. As a long term listener to Radiofax and somebody who's been interested in radio for a long time, I'm sorry that the thing's going off the air. Although I have a reader to read various journals to me, I find Sparks covers more material than my reader can get through. So, I'm very sorry that Radiofax is going.

Hello, it's Pete Cook here from (unrecognised) Drive, Tewkesbury in Gloucestershire. I'm very disappointed to hear that Radiofax is being forced to close down. I've tuned into Radiofax nearly every day now for a very, very long time. It's very professional and very interesting. I used to be a Radio 4 night time listener but have now been converted over. I've enjoyed most of the programmes, especially Andy Walker's Radiodaze. So all I can do is wish you all well and say you will be greatly missed by me. Best of luck to you all. Bye.

(Unrecognised), Ayrshire, Scotland. I'd just to say that Radiofax is very informative, makes a nice change from other local radio stations and British radio stations. I would like to see it obtaining a licence to operate legally and I'm very disappointed that it's leaving the airwaves because of pressure from Ireland and other places outside Ireland. I would just like to put that on record and to thank you for a very enjoyable programme and a very professional job that you are doing. So, good luck anyway and hope to hear you very, very soon. Goodbye.

Hello, this is David Croxford and I listen to Radiofax in Northampton. I'd just like to say how very sad I am to hear that my favourite programme of media and science, Sparks programme, is actually going off the air. I'd just like to say how very sad it is and that I shall be writing to my local MP and, of course, to the address in Dublin that you gave. Congratulations on a very high quality radio station which I don't even think is Europe's second best radio station. I think it is actually the best, so there you are.

My name is Terry Cooper in Scunthorpe. I'm sorry about my speech as I am disabled. I am a radio amateur G4CBY and I have listened to Radiofax off and on as long as it has been on the air. I am very disheartened that you have to stop broadcasts. It is Radio Caroline, Radio London all over again. The DTI, RA and the government just get rid of what they do not want to know about. What about us disabled people and the blind people who cannot read but enjoy listening to your serious Sparks articles? I hope you do find a way of broadcasting because this is a station that I love to listen to. I hope you do find a way back onto the air. Good luck from G4CBY. Cheers for now and I'll keep looking out for you.

Mr Albert Stevens from Cardiff, south Wales. I've enjoyed listening to Radiofax very much. All the programmes have been very good. I think that it should have a licence to broadcast on the short wave band. I think that it has put life back into short wave. I will miss it very much when it goes off the air. I've enjoyed the programmes very much and, to all the people on Radiofax, I'd like to say (Welsh): thank you very much for your broadcasting.

Hi, my name's Jenny. I'm from London. I'm really sorry to see that Radiofax is closing down. I particularly like Sparks, I find that a really interesting radio programme and I hope it goes on for a few weeks yet. Okay. Bye.

The name is Graham Page and I'm from Preston. I'd just like to say that I've enjoyed listening to Radiofax very much over the last three months. I tend to listen to particularly the Sparks and the archive material as I feel that music doesn't work particularly well on short wave as it suffers from the almost inevitable fading in and out that short wave signals, you know, always suffer from. As a blind person, particularly, I'm able to get access to articles that I just simply wouldn't be able to read normally, from a wide range of publications and while there are certain magazines available in a taped format these cost a considerable amount to obtain and often don't contain articles from as wide a range of magazines as your articles are taken from. I believe this is partly because the tape magazines tend to be for specific interest groups such as radio hams, hifi enthusiasts, etcetera, whereas your programmes do cover a very wide range of interests from the really dedicated radio enthusiast to the person who is just generally interested in media and may know nothing

about electronics at all. I do wish you all the best for the future and hope that you continue to broadcast maybe. Maybe in a few years time?

Hello. My name's Andrew Howlett of Duckinfield in Cheshire. I think it's absolutely scandalous that Radiofax should be requested to close down in this way and life won't be the same without the Sparks programme on Monday and Tuesday. There will be a big hole in my short wave dial when you close down. Thanks for all you've done in the past and long live the fight.

Oh hello, this is Mark Parfrey speaking from Dublin. I think it's a terrible shame that you're being forced off like this... and best of luck. Thanks for all your work. I'll try and do what I can with the minister here but I don't expect anything. Bye for now.

Hey hello, my name is Mario and I'm calling from the Netherlands from The Hague. Actually, I'm a German living since a few years in the Netherlands. I never had contact to you, but I'm listening to you since a very, very long time and so this is my possibility to thank you for your very nice programmes on short wave and it was really one of the reasons why I bought a new shortwave receiver for nearly six thousand Guilders. Maybe I'll have to throw it away when you're going off the air? I'm merely thinking of support you what's concerning the situation in Ireland, but I'm a lazy fellow so that's why I never sent you a reception report or something like that. But anyway, I'll keep on listening and hope there will be a good solution for you. So, thanks a lot for a good job you've been doing and I hope if you're really going off the air I'll be hearing you back sometime in the future. Thanks a lot. Bye bye.

This is Anders Junemark from Oslo, Norway. I have been a faithful listener on my Icom ICR9000 for a very long time and I really appreciate your programmes. You have to continue! Your programming sets a new standard of quality which should have a chance on life after your earth station in Ireland has closed down.

Hi the name here is Geoff Holden and the QTH is Penrith in Cumbria and I'm speaking on behalf not only of myself but my wife and family. We've been listening to Radiofax since May of last year and also when you were on prior to that. We find that you give us first class high quality programmes, particularly Sparks, World of Country and Reflections on a Sunday evening and I think your programmes are untouched for quality by any other broadcaster. We understand your reasons for closure, but you will be missed and it is our hope that you do get a licence so that in future we can be listening to Radiofax on a permanent basis. Anyway, when you do come back we'll be listening out for you. Best of luck.

Hello, my name's William Shimmin from Much Wenlock in Shropshire. I'm really sorry to hear about the impending closure of Radiofax. I've listened since the original service began in 1988 and Radiofax has clearly demonstrated the viability of commercial shortwave broadcasting. With even the former Eastern Bloc countries opening up their short wave facilities to commercial enterprises there can be no excuse for the UK government sanctioning the continuing BBC short wave monopoly. Radiofax has shown the way forward. Good luck. I'm sure you'll be back, but in the meantime, thanks a lot. I'm gonna miss Radiofax.

Hello, it's Lorna here from near Portsmouth in Hampshire. We listen to Radiofax every Sunday and I have a tweak on my boyfriend's FRG7 every Sunday morning and we really enjoy your broadcasts. We've written to Dublin and hope that they will give you a licence that you can keep broadcasting. We hope to keep hearing you in the future. Bye.

Hi, I'm Colin Forster from the Isle of Lewis, Scotland. I'm sorry to hear Radiofax is closing down. You will be greatly missed as you are the number one station on short wave. I've enjoyed your programmes... very much indeed. I do hope you get a licence very, very soon, I'd also like to wish the staff of the station the very best for the future and farewell from the Hebrides. Goodbye.

My name is Peter Kirsop of Lymm in Cheshire. May I say how sad I am to hear that you're being forced to close down and I particularly lament the passing of the Sparks programme, as that, as far as I'm aware, was absolutely unique. Thank you for the excellent service you provided in the past and good luck in the future.

Hi, I'm John McCullin from Newcastle. Myself and many other listeners, who are amateurs, are going to miss you. That's all I can say. Some of us, anyway, will write letters. I wish you well.

This is Martin James from Andromeda Independent Radio in Manchester, England. We're devastated at the news of the closure of Radiofax. We've written to the Irish Minister of Communications, for what it's worth, and all I can say is that we hope that there's some way that Radiofax can continue. Just what are they frightened of?

Hello, this is Paul calling from the north of Holland, near the West German border. In my opinion, Radiofax is the best thing that ever happened... since March 1964. I do thank Radiofax for its very, very interesting transmissions.

Malcolm Cairns here, Field House Road, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear. I'm shocked and saddened to hear the news that Radiofax is to close down. I can't think of one other single station that has given me so much listening pleasure over the last year. Perhaps, before you do close down, you could perhaps give us the Radiofax story in an archive programme on yourselves. Let us hear some of the information behind Radiofax and the people who are employed in Radiofax.

This is Robin in Redditch, G4UDK. It's a shame to hear that Radiofax is going off the air as I happen to be a blind person and enjoy Sparks. Listen on the 6205 and have listened very regularly now for at least nine months.