



**1970**

**SPOTLIGHT**



**Hi!**

**The purpose of this yearbook is to give Full Members an insight into the structure and the work of the Free Radio Association.**

**The FRA Committee hope that SPOTLIGHT will prove to be an informative and an enjoyable publication.**

#### **our aim**

The aim of the Free Radio Association is to see the introduction of legalised free enterprise radio and television in all countries.

We do not say that any particular type of free enterprise radio should or should not be allowed; nor do we specify that the stations should operate on a local, national, or any other pre-arranged basis.

The off-shore commercial radio stations have proved that a demand exists for both "pop" and "sweet" music stations. Only through experiment can it be shown whether a demand exists for other types of station. Similarly, it is only through experiment that it can be discovered whether a demand exists for local, regional, national or international free enterprise radio.

We emphasise that free enterprise radio need not be commercial. However, we have no objection to commercial radio, which, in a "free market", will operate in accordance with the economic law of supply and demand. If a demand exists for local radio, commercial interests will meet it. If there is a demand for international radio, commercial interests will meet it. If there is a demand for an all-day news and discussion station, again commercial interests will be happy to meet it. Whatever the demand, in fact, free enterprise will find the way to satisfy it.

We oppose any form of ownership, control or regulation by the State or by any other public authority, apart from regulations designed to prevent anarchy of the airwaves. We also object in principle to the compulsory levy of a licence fee. No one should have to pay for a system of broadcasting to which he or she may have fundamental objections.

*cover picture:  
Radio Nordsee International  
aerial mast.*

Members have often said they would like to know something about each committee member, and the work he or she does for FRA. It is for this reason that the following synopses appear!



**Sir Ian Maclaggart, Bt.,— president**

Sir Ian, who is 45, was educated at Oundle and Cambridge. He served with the Royal Engineers in Burma and India during the last war. He stood as Conservative candidate for the Gorbals in 1945, and was Conservative member of the LCC for Fulham from 1945 to 1952. Sir Ian has four children ranging from 14 to 20 years old. He is Chairman of the National Council of the Society for Individual Freedom, a Governor of the English Speaking Union, and also a member of the Economic Research Council. Sir Ian has done a great deal for the Free Radio Association behind the scenes. In particular, he has made his office at 55 Park Lane available for important meetings. In the very early days he designed and placed the first orders for the FRA badge and poster.

**Geoffrey Pearl—Chairman**

Geoffrey is 34, and describes himself as a "compulsive campaigner". Even before their marriage 13 years ago, he and June began saving and preparing for the time when he could throw in his conventional job and campaign full-time for the freedom of the individual. Two other campaigns, providing valuable experience, preceded the birth of FRA. In 1963, Geoffrey opposed Anthony Wedgwood Benn in the Parliamentary by-election at Bristol. He is a committee member of the Society for Individual Freedom. One of his hobbies is the football pools, and the FRA Pools Syndicate is based on a method which he has been developing for the past 10 years. Geoffrey's ambition is to see the Free Radio movement completely united, and effectively covering every aspect of the campaign for a free broadcasting system.

**Mike Tickner—General Secretary**

Mike is 20 years old, and a work study officer. He has been an active member of FRA since 1967, and was formerly secretary of the Croydon branch. Mike is especially interested in the political work of the Association. He also organises the annual Trafalgar Square Rally, and various social events. A new responsibility is the annual dance, and Mike is currently looking for a team of people to help plan the event and to act as stewards.

**Margaret Stock—Treasurer**

Margaret is 22, and a member of the revenue department of a local company. In addition to the time-consuming job of drawing up the Association's accounts, Margaret undertakes the weekly form analysis for the FRA Pools Syndicate. The tedious task of adding pages and pages of figures never seems to get her down!

**Martin Baird—in charge of "Sound Advertising"**

"Sound Advertising" was set up as a department of the FRA because of the importance of procuring advertising for SOUND magazine and BROADSIDE magazine. Martin is 23 and was employed by an advertising agency for four years. He helped in the production of spot commercials for the offshore radio stations.

**Bob Craig—Branch Co-ordinator**

Bob, who is 26, lives and works near Portsmouth. He is responsible for looking after all the FRA branches and groups in the UK. He is tireless in his efforts to establish stronger and more active branches, travelling widely in his spare time to achieve this. Bob writes, prints and despatches a special magazine for branch and group secretaries called KALEIDOSCOPE.

**Tim Davies—Research Officer**

Tim is 23, and works in London as a promotions agent for a music company. He has a wide knowledge of off-shore radio. Before membership records were mechanised, Tim spent many a weekend at HQ helping to sort and file the never-ending stream of address cards.

**Alex McKenna—Publicity Officer**

Alex has been an active campaigner for Free Radio ever since his favourite station, Radio City, was closed down. In 1968 he started the Free Radio Campaign, which published a very wide variety of literature and organised frequent demonstrations in and around London. When the Free Radio Campaign merged with FRA, Alex took responsibility for press and public relations and also became News Editor of SOUND magazine. He is 20 years old, and works for Letraset Ltd.

**Roy Brooker—in charge of the "Literature Service"**

Roy first became interested in Free Radio whilst studying Physics at Chelsea College. He soon became a leading light in the Free Radio Campaign, and, after the merger with FRA, took responsibility for the continued production of Free Radio pamphlets and leaflets. Roy, who is 21, obtained his B.Sc. degree at Chelsea College, and is planning a career in optics. His hobbies include 'ferret poaching' and 'gibbon stuffing'.

**June Pearl—Administrative Secretary**

June, aged 32, deals with the general mail, enrolment of Full Members, and the sale of promotional material. She is also responsible for the smooth running of HQ, which includes making sure that FRA does not run out of supplies, providing endless cups of coffee and meals for volunteers, and tidying up at the end of each day. It is a very long working day at FRA HQ. (9 a.m. – 10 p.m.) but June maintains she would never wish to exchange her role for that of a conventional housewife!

**Alan Purnell—Graphic Designer**

Alan took responsibility not only for the design, but also for the production of Free Radio Times. In fact the magazine was printed in Alan's design studio by Alan and Fang (which, as early FRT/SOUND subscribers will know, was the nickname earned by the aged Rotaprint machine bought by FRA). Alan now designs SOUND, but Fang went into a deep sulk when it discovered that Alan had arranged to have the magazine printed elsewhere. Alan is 19, and works as a dispensing technician for a local chemist. Fang is at least 200 years old and hasn't the slightest intention of doing another stroke of work for FRA.

**Tony Young—Features Editor, SOUND magazine**

Tony is 19, and works in the export sales department of a motor manufacturing company. He edited Free Radio Times and produced quantities of literature to promote the new magazine. When SOUND incorporated both Free Radio News and Free Radio Times, Tony became co-editor with Alex McKenna.

**Lynn Strang—Membership Secretary**

Lynn is 20, and works as a records clerk in a local hospital. Before this, she spent a year working full time for FRA. Without any previous typing experience, she taught herself to operate the Addressograph embosser and made nearly 50,000 address plates. She now deals with the enrolment of Associate Members.

*Busy we are, but complacent we are not at all! There are dozens of activities which still need to be tackled at a national level. New sub-committees are being formed, and we intend to SPOTLIGHT the work being done by members of each sub-committee in future issues. Would you like to join the team?*



GEOFFREY PEARL



BOB CRAIG



JUNE PEARL



MIKE TICKNER



TIM DAVIES



TONY YOUNG



MARGARET STOCK



ROY BROOKER



LYNN STRANG

by **Tim Davies, FRA Research Officer**

## **Radio Caroline**



*The Radio Caroline South ship (Mi Amigo) in dry dock at the Orange Wharf, Amsterdam, on March 17th, 1968.*

After the departure of the other offshore stations on 14th August, 1967, Radio Caroline found herself alone and uncertain of her future. Insufficient revenue was pulled in from advertising to run the two ships, the Mi Amigo (Caroline South) and the Fredericia (Caroline North). Between 14th August, 1967, and the close-down on 3rd March, 1968, there were less than half a dozen paid advertisements. Most of the advertisements heard on the two Caroline ships were taped from television or from other radio stations, and of course there were always the old pre-August 14th cassettes to rely on.

As far as is known, no very great effort was made to obtain advertising from abroad. Radio Caroline relied on "plugged" records to finance the running of the ships. Each ship cost approximately £1,000 per week to run and various groups and record companies paid £100 per week for 30 plays of their nominated record. There was delay in getting money out of the country, and large debts began to accumulate in Holland. The biggest debt was to the Offshore Tender and Supply Company, which was a subsidiary of Wijsmuller, a large Dutch tug firm.

## **the final curtain**

Eventually the tender company refused to let the account grow any larger. On Friday afternoon, March 1st, a meeting was held in the company's office, and it was decided to tow the ships into Amsterdam. No one in the Caroline organisation from the boss, Philip Solomon, to Nan Richardson, who worked in the Amsterdam office, had any prior knowledge that the ships would be towed away early in the morning on Sunday 3rd March, 1968.

The Mi Amigo arrived in Amsterdam on March 4th, and the Fredericia (also known as the MV Caroline) on March 9th. Both ships were dry-docked upon arrival. At time of writing the ships are still in Amsterdam, subject to the decision of a court hearing which started as long ago as 27th February, 1969.

There have been various attempts to re-start Radio Caroline. One such was from the former Radio 270 vessel, Oceaan 7. There have also been numerous rumours that Caroline would return on such and such a date. My personal opinion is that there is very little chance that Radio Caroline will ever be heard again.

**CERTIFIED ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIODS 19TH FEBRUARY, 1967  
TO 16TH NOVEMBER, 1967 & 17TH NOVEMBER, 1967 TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1968.**

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

	Period 19.2.67 to 16.11.67		Period 17.11.67 to 31.12.68		
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
Administration expenses:					
Payment to Second Freedom Defence Fund for administrative services	189		523		
Light and heat	30		131		
Telephones	51	270	169	823	
Clerical assistants' meals and refreshments		198		1071	
Printing, postage and stationery		537		912	
Rally and meeting expenses		57		174	
Brighton Campaign expenses				35	
Excess of expenses over receipts per contra					
Local Dances		49			
Appeal				4	
Sundry expenses		54		43	
Accountants' charges		50		130	
Legal expenses				175	
Bank charges and cheque stamps		2		15	
Amounts written off:					
Office Equipment		14		88	
Investment in F.R.A. Publications Ltd.		164			
Cost of photograph copyrights, publication rights and cost of acquisition of potential members addresses				739	
Excess of Income over Expenditure		549			
		£1944		4209	

**CURRENT LIABILITIES**

Sundry creditors and accrued charges	1432
<b>Other Funds Accounts</b>	255

BALANCE SHEET

£1687

**ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT**

We have prepared the above Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account from books, records and other information and explanations given to us by Officers of the Association and certify the same to be in accordance therewith. In our opinion the Balance Sheet gives a true and fair view of the state of the Association's affairs as at 31st December, 1968.

2, Nelson Street,  
SOUTHEND-ON-SEA,  
21st March, 1969.

*Hartley, Keen & Co.*  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS



**FREE RADIO ASSOCIATION**  
**239, EASTWOOD ROAD, RAYLEIGH, ESSEX.**

	<u>Period</u> <u>19.2.67 to</u> <u>16.11.67</u>	<u>Period</u> <u>17.11.67 to</u> <u>31.12.68</u>	
<b><u>INCOME</u></b>			
Subscriptions		1067	1121
Donations		204	183
Ball of the Year receipts	1185		
Less Expenses	<u>716</u>	469	
Local Dances receipts	42		
Less Expenses	91		
Excess of expenses over receipts	£49	-	
Appeal proceeds			99
Less Expenses			<u>103</u>
Excess of expenses over receipts per contra			£ 4
Interest received			1
Commission receivable			316
Sale of forms and sundry receipts		4	50
Share of Pools Syndicate winnings:-			
1967/68 Season			130
1968/69 Season—on account			130
Transfers from other funds accounts of part of the profits earned by those funds on the sale of promotional material		200	1094
Excess of Expenditure over Income			<u>1184</u>
		<u>£1944</u>	<u>4209</u>

**FIXED ASSETS**

<b><u>Office Equipment</u></b>			
At cost		270	
Less Amounts written off		<u>102</u>	168
<b><u>Cost of photograph copyrights, publication rights etc.</u></b>			
At cost		739	
Less Amount written off		<u>739</u>	-

**Investments**

<b><u>F.R.A. Publications Ltd.</u></b>			
At cost		165	
Less Amount written off		<u>164</u>	1
<b><u>Shares in 1968/69 Pools Syndicate</u></b>			
At cost		<u>26</u>	27

**CURRENT ASSETS**

<b><u>Stocks—Stationery</u></b>			
Other funds stocks		20	
Cash in hand and at bank		<u>697</u>	717
			<u>140</u>
			857
			1052

**TOTAL ASSETS**

<b><u>Accumulated Fund Account</u></b>			
Excess of Expenditure over Income for the period 17th November 1967 to 31st December, 1968			1184
Less Excess of Income over Expenditure for the period 19th February, 1967 to 16th November, 1967			<u>549</u>
			635
			<u>£1687</u>



## how the mi amigo was silenced

by **Andy Archer**

During the past year, I've read so many different and conflicting stories about the closure of Radio Caroline that I feel it is about time you were told the truth. And one of the few people who can tell you the truth is me, because I was on the Mi Amigo when she was towed away. Honestly, I would rather have kept the real truth to myself and to the other fellows who were on the ship with me, namely Roger Day, Stevi Merike, Johnnie Walker and Bud Ballou (Henry Morgan and Carl Mitchell were on shore leave). But probably we have kept our secret long enough, and I would rather you know the true story than have lies told you by someone who was not even involved.

On March 3rd 1968, at 2 a.m., I finished the Carl Mitchell show and wished the listeners goodnight, and hoped they would join us again at 5.30 a.m. for the Roger Day show. Johnnie, Stevi and I then went to the mess to drink coffee and chat with "Harry the Mouse", our favourite character amongst the Dutch crew. We all retired to bed at about 4 a.m.

Just one hour later the duty engineer, Ray Glennister, switched on the transmitter. He also switched on the Ampex tape machine to play segway music until Roger arrived at 5.30 a.m. But before this could happen, the tug, Titan, pulled alongside. At 5.19 a.m. the captain of the tug walked into Studio 1, and told Ray to switch off the music because we were to be towed back to Holland. Ray obeyed, and then woke Johnnie who in Henry Morgan's absence was the senior disc-jockey. They were given 15 minutes to clear the cassettes and records out of both studios before they were locked up.

At approximately 7.30 a.m. we started to move towards Holland. All the DJs were now up and wondering if this was the end. The weather was very bad with visibility no more than 800 yards. We had no hope of getting a signal to England to warn our boss, Philip Solomon.

We had nothing to do on the journey except eat, sleep and play cards. Throughout the afternoon we tuned to the BBC and to Radio Veronica, but there was no mention that we were moving back to Holland nor even that we were off the air. I do understand that in his show the following morning Tony Blackburn included a rather sarcastic comment about the proceedings, namely a welcome to his new listeners.

We arrived in Amsterdam at 5 a.m. on 4th March, and were met by Robbie Dale, his girl friend Stella, and Nan Richardson, the wife of our chief engineer who looked after the Amsterdam office. Bud Ballou and Johnnie Walker stayed on the Mi Amigo as duty DJs. Roger, Stevi and I went to the office and after a hectic cat and mouse game around Amsterdam with reporters, we flew to London and went our separate ways.

All the DJs received a cheque and a short note asking us to keep in contact. Nothing further happened, and so ended the life of a fantastic station, Radio Caroline. May she never be forgotten. I hope too, that no one will forget her founder Ronan O'Rahilly.

Well, that's the true story of what happened. The last record ever played by Radio Caroline was "Cinderella Rockefeller" by Esther and Abi Ofarim. The station then closed down with its theme song, "Caroline" by The Fortunes. I have the actual record in my collection, and I wouldn't swap it for anything.

## **a brief history of FRA**

When the offshore radio stations were rising in popularity, no organisation existed to campaign for their preservation. Not until action by the Government began to take effect did people see the need for an association to uphold the cause of Free Radio.

Numerous small campaigns were started. The first to be organised on a national scale was the Commercial Radio Listeners Association, founded on 29th January, 1967, by Miss Catherine Baker.

On 19th February, 1967, a meeting of all the off-shore station managing directors was called by Geoffrey Pearl, with a view to forming a national association which would have the full support of all the stations. Agreement was reached, and the Free Radio Supporters Association was formed.

The first action of the Association was to propose a merger with the Commercial Radio Listeners Association. This was instantly agreed to, and so, on 19th February, 1967, the Free Radio Association was born. The post of President was offered to, and accepted by, Sir Ian Mactaggart, Bt.

Immediate steps were taken to centralise the administration. The regional secretaries became branch secretaries, forming the nucleus of what is now an extensive branch network. Announcements for the new Association were beamed over the various stations, starting with Radio 390. Within weeks, membership of the FRA rose from hundreds to thousands, and all the activities of a national pressure group were developed.

The first big event of the Association was a mass rally in Trafalgar Square on 28th June, 1967.

Letters were delivered to the main newspapers, pointing out that Free Radio and the Free Press were identical in principle, and calling upon the newspapers to support the campaign for Free Radio.

The Association's second major event was the Free Radio Ball of the Year at Alexandra Palace on 22nd July, 1967. 3,000 people came to see "The Move" and other groups. DJs Johnnie Walker and Robbie Dale were mobbed by fans as they left after hosting the event.

Despite the all-out efforts of the stations and the FRA, nothing could stop the Government bringing in its self-confessed "Act of suppression", the Marine Offences Act. On August 14th, 1967, the last FRA announcement was heard on Radio London.

Almost immediately, the Association ran into difficulties. The 5/- subscription was adequate when free advertisements were being broadcast, but covered only a fraction of the expenses when this facility was no longer available. The FRA found itself losing money at the rate of £30 per week.



*The 1967 rally was followed by a huge protest march to Fleet Street.*

Also facing difficulties was Broadside Free Radio Movement. This organisation was founded in April, 1967, by a Cambridge undergraduate, Peter Philipson. It gained 87,000 members, but its income dwindled almost to nothing. It closed down in October, 1967, but its membership and some of its assets were taken over by a successor organisation run by Nick Godwin, Phil John and Geoffrey Pearl.

Unfortunately, the Free Radio Association Committee had been infiltrated by an element who did not have the interests of the Association at heart. They now seized their opportunity to strike when the Association was at its weakest. By disrupting Committee meetings, they prevented the decisions being taken which would have enabled the serious financial situation to have been dealt with. As the only possible means of saving the Association, the Chairman personally made the necessary decisions. The disruptive element then formed an opposing group which made every effort to smash the Association. They persuaded the FRA's bankers that a dispute existed, which resulted in a complete freeze of the Association's accounts. A bank freeze at a time when the Association was running a very heavy deficit could have been expected to bankrupt the FRA within three weeks.

The Association was saved by two bold moves which the opposing group had not bargained for. Firstly, a large loan was made to tide it over the bank freeze. Secondly, a merger was arranged with the successor organisation to Broadside Free Radio Movement. The merger took place on 17th November, 1967, to form one of the largest non-party political associations in the UK. The total membership exceeded 100,000. The name "Free Radio Association" was retained for the combined organisation, and a new bank account was opened. Backing up these moves was a total refusal to accept defeat by those whose job it was to run the Association.

Gradually, many of those who had joined the opposing group began to see its true motives, and started to break away and work for a reconciliation. This was finally achieved, and the two sides came together in March, 1968. The frozen bank account was re-opened. The dispute was over.

As part of the settlement, the opposing group sought a veto over the Association's finances. When they were denied this, they resigned. For a while, they still purported to represent FRA, but when they found that the Association's bankers took no notice of them, they called a meeting of themselves and "wound up the FRA". Once again discovering that no one took any notice, they continued for some time to make trouble, and tried to turn people against the Association by distributing literature full of lies about FRA.

By the middle of 1968, the heavy weekly deficit had been cleared by the development of an extensive range of Free Radio offers and other fund-raising schemes.

Protest demonstrations were held during the anniversary week of the Marine Offences Act. The FRA national rally and march were held on 17th August, 1968.

Although the FRA had solved its financial problems, a new clerical problem had developed. Less than one quarter of the members had been told about the rally. Every envelope had to be written by hand, and it became impossible to maintain regular contact. It was found that the cheapest mechanised addressing system (including the plates) would cost £1,954—a sum completely beyond the reach of the Association. However, an embossing machine was hired, and the job was started. At the same time, members were asked to give enough money to buy the equipment. The response from members totalled £491 but the equipment had to be bought, and FRA went into the red again.

In March, 1969, the first issue of an internal magazine was published. The magazine is called KALEIDOSCOPE, and is sent to all branch and group secretaries.

During 1969, priority was given to converting membership records to address plates. The new mechanised system was used for the first time to send members the Summer 1969 Newsletter and some 30,000 were despatched in time to let members know about our third annual rally, which was held on 17th August.

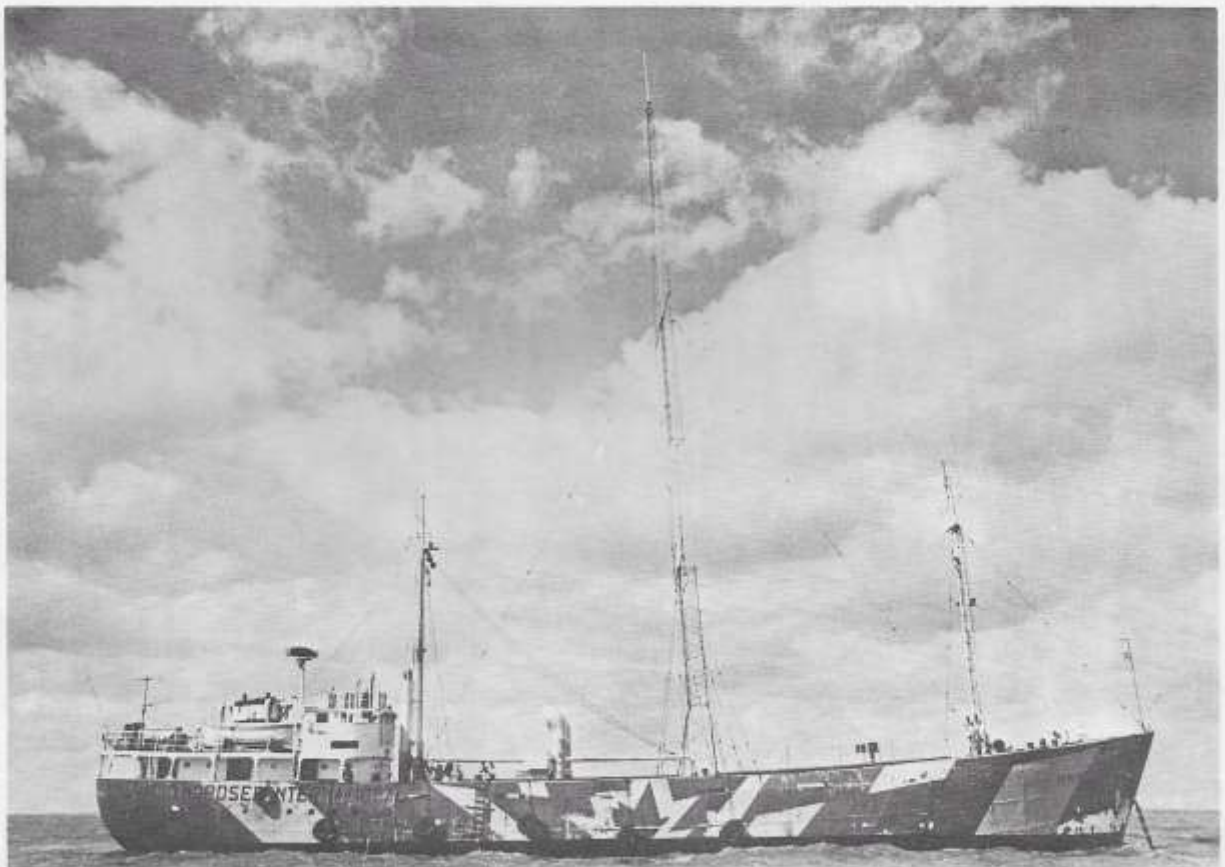
Also during 1969, FRA began to lose money again—quite apart from mechanisation costs. Money had to be borrowed and at the time of writing FRA is in debt to the tune of £2,500. Although highly undesirable, this debt does not represent any risk to the Association. The reason is that the loan is interest free, and does not have to be repaid until the Association is in a position to do so.

On 19th April, 1970, the Free Radio Campaign merged with the Free Radio Association. The Free Radio Campaign, led by Alex McKenna, became well known for its constant output of hard-hitting leaflets and pamphlets. The Free Radio Campaign had 800 members, and also published a magazine called Free Radio News. As a result of the merger, a new Publicity Division of FRA was formed. Headed by Alex McKenna, it combines all the press and public relations work previously carried out by the Free Radio Campaign and FRA.

The first edition of SOUND magazine was published on 27th April, 1970. SOUND incorporates both Free Radio News and Free Radio Times, and is on sale to the general public as well as to members of FRA.

The return of off-shore broadcasting in the shape of Radio Nordsee International has created a tremendous revival of interest. From the moment Radio Nordsee began its test transmissions, FRA was flooded with telephone calls and letters requesting information about the new station. Radio Nordsee's change of wavelength to 190 metres, and the Government's subsequent jamming operation, resulted in another flood of extra work. Numerous press releases were issued, politicians were met and persuaded to ask questions in the Commons. The Association also launched a new appeal to pay for other forms of action against the Government.

As we go to press, we learn that we are only three weeks away from a general election.



## A SHORT PICTORIAL



*239 Eastwood Road, Raleigh, is a detached Victorian house with 7 main rooms, kitchen, bathroom and cloak-room.*



*Let's go in!*



*Sale of promotional material provides much of the finance which enables FRA to operate.*



*June Pearl opening and sorting the day's mail.*

## SURVEY OF FRA HQ



*Bob Craig has the location of every branch pinpointed on the wall map.*



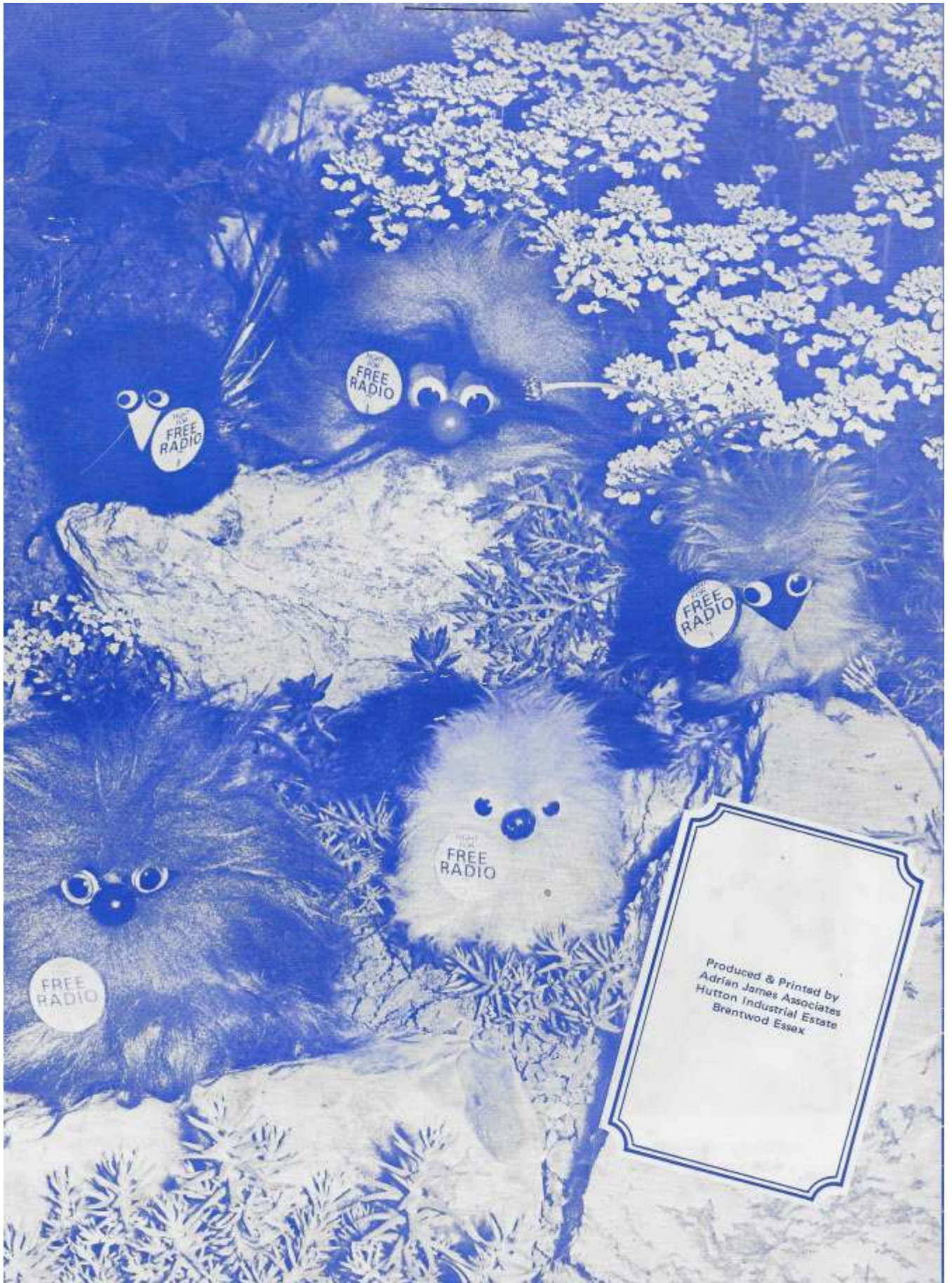
*A historic corner!*



*When members phone in with questions Tim Davies usually has all the answers!*



*A volunteer helper tackles the correspondence.*



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