

# RADIO



## Introduction

BBC Radio started as local radio, partly for technical reasons, as it was not at first possible to retransmit the same programme to different areas. The local programmes were appreciated but, by the early 1930s, as the airwaves became more crowded and interference increased, the BBC abandoned local radio and the first national and regional services were born.



This situation continued until 1967, when the three BBC networks – Home (with regional programmes), Light and Third – were renamed Radio 4, Radio 2 and Radio 3 respectively and were joined by the new national Radio 1, designed to counter the loss of listening to the pirate stations, which were taking many listeners away from the BBC. At the same time, the BBC re-started local radio, beginning with BBC Radio

Leicester. A further 19 stations followed over the next six years.

## Gill Billington

“We used to call it the transistor radio, with an earpiece you plugged in. On Radio Luxemburg they had an hour long show on the Beatles at 9 o’clock and we were on a school theatre trip at the time, so we all plugged in our radios to listen to the Beatles while we were supposed to be watching the show”.



## Clive Wheeler

“At our school we used to listen to the radio at the back of the class. One day the Geography teacher came round and caught us listening and confiscated it, but not before checking the latest score in the Test Match, this was when the Australians with the Chappell brothers were over”.

## Janet Springett

“I used to listen to the radio under the bedclothes, when I was supposed to be asleep”.



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