

50 Years of Radio Gibraltar – So What's Next?

Saturday the 16th of February 2008 saw an anniversary of monumental proportions, a very unique occasion indeed, for it was on this day in 1958 that Radio Gibraltar first came on the air. And to this day, the station has remained unwaveringly faithful to its listeners by providing a real mix of today's hits dumbed down with the contrasting sounds of the 'golden oldies', classical tunes played alongside rock, jazz neighbouring metal and all the rest in between, not to mention keeping us all up to date with the latest news and sports from Gibraltar, the UK and the rest of the world around us. 50 years of broadcasting is an incredible achievement, a feat that not even television can boast just yet! But it also begs the question 'where do we go from here'? Is it all downhill from here or can Radio Gibraltar keep up with today's technological advances and ever-wandering audiences? Globe explores...

Radio Gibraltar began at 11.30am on Sunday 16th February 1958 as the familiar lap-dog comforting the airwaves around our homes as we set about our daily chores. The pipe-and-slippers evenings of gentle warmth and familial comfort have made way over the years for a new radio listener, one who faces a constant media battle for his attention. So how, then, has such a small scale local collection of no more than a handful of people lasted the distance from the late fifties into the new millennium?

Fierce pride and a strong sense of community are what make this Rock so supportive, this we know. Yet with the humble radio fading fast into the history books in countless other places, the presence cast forth by Radio Gibraltar seems, against all the odds, to have almost strengthened! It seems the background noise of our household duties has merely transposed into a more up-to-date background noise of our hectic modern day lives.

Far from being a modern day 'radio ga-ga', Radio Gibraltar, headed by Gerard Teuma and backed today by 15 other radio professionals, serves as all things to all people, a massive task, considering our Rock's varied culture, that the team more than healthily pulls off. Offering such a wide variety of programmes, competitions, news updates and community connections has undoubtedly kept the people listening and serves as a veritable backbone keeping us all in sync with each other and the rest of the world.

And listeners are in no way limited to the Rock. With the involvement of the internet, people can listen to Radio Gibraltar from anywhere in the world!

Talk of developing a new station for the overflowing content, involving new technologies and progressing for another 50 years are all in the pipeline according to our Radio Gibraltar team. Video didn't kill these radio stars and with television and the internet failing to touch the audience on such a personal level, the only way is up for our successful Radio Gibraltar!

Sarah McIver