

FM 104.6

Vectis Radio

HOME OF THE AWARD WINNING 4Ps PROJECT



THE STUDIO

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BY POST



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THE RIVERSIDE CENTRE,

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ISLE OF WIGHT

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USEFUL INFORMATION



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COMMUNITY

RADIO FOR THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE

Launched in 2010, Vectis Radio has grown into the community radio station that every Islander can be proud of. One of its many mantras is 'For the people, by the people' and it's exactly that. Radio made for Island residents, by Island residents. It truly is the Island's voice!

The journey has been a long one, full of trials, tribulations and relocating, having moved six times, starting from a cupboard at the Quay Arts Centre and ending up just the other side of the water at the Riverside Centre. The move to the Riverside in 2014 finally gave Vectis Radio the stability to evolve.

Since 2010, the station has grown from strength to strength due to the support of our listeners and sponsors, not to mention the small band of volunteers who donate so much time and effort. There is an obvious collective desire to make Vectis Radio bigger and better year on year.

In 2012, Vectis Radio set up what would become the 4Ps Project. A ten week course for young people aged 11-19 to learn the key skills in radio while improving their communication skills and building their confidence.

FM104.6 & ONLINE

In October 2015 Vectis Radio applied for an FM community licence. After months of waiting, fingers firmly crossed, the licence was finally granted in June 2016. Thanks to the generosity and dedication of our supporters and volunteers, the station was able to raise £10,000 to enable the FM dream to become reality. Vectis Radio arrived on FM 104.6 on November 4th 2017.

The journey has been a rocky ride full of ups and downs, but along the way the station has grown into a true community project that has covered local elections, live sports, Royal County shows, music festivals and countless other Island events. Vectis Radio also showed its full support to the inaugural UK Pride event which took place in Ryde in 2017, and was the only radio station to broadcast live from the event.



In June 2020 Vectis Radio was honoured by the Queen with the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. The station also picked up three silver and a bronze at the Community Radio Awards which made the year the most successful in the stations history even in spite of the global pandemic. Other achievements during a problematic year included increasing the station's FM power from 25 to 150 Watts.

What is Vectis Radio? It's fun, it's informative, it supports local events and activities. It champions local music, it gives publicity to good causes, it supports young people with and without additional needs. It's simple. It's community radio at its best!

OUR VISION

RADIO THERAPY FOR THE COMMUNITY

Our vision is to involve as many people in the community as possible, boosting their confidence and communication abilities whilst entertaining our audience and promoting many Island charities and local businesses. Our presenters are all ordinary local people whose passion for radio brings the station alive. Vectis Radio is designed to be "radio therapy" involving people of all ages and abilities, giving them the chance to broadcast in their own unique style.

Vectis Radio broadcasts on FM104.6 from the Riverside Centre in Newport on the Isle of Wight and is very much for the people, by the people. There are twenty-six volunteers who broadcast across seven days. During the day we start with 'Hello Vectis', which talks about issues like health, technology, money, travel and life. Following 'Hello Vectis' is our breakfast show, which is hosted on Mondays and Fridays by Shaun O'Brien who remarkably runs the studio desk by himself despite being visually impaired and registered blind. On Tuesday to Thursday, the show is hosted by Dominic Cole, who has been affected in life by social anxiety and avoidance issues. Amazingly it doesn't show on the airwaves at all.

Since the pandemic our aim is to help as many people as we can with on air support for charities and businesses and to get more people involved in our 4Ps Project building confidence and communication skills which has impacted many young people through the pandemic. We have also expanded the 4Ps Training School Charity to include adult learning for people aged 19 and above, with no age limit.



Now that we're COVID free, there's no better way to reach out to our community than to do outside broadcasts across the Isle of Wight, like Cowes Week, the Royal County Show and events at the Donkey Sanctuary.



To keep Vectis Radio running, we host regular fundraisers to bring vital funds into the station. We also have some amazingly generous supporters.



In 2020 we teamed up with the Isle of Wight Council to extend our 4Ps Project to offer adult learning which has helped improve the lives of vulnerable adults like Billy Fuller.

OUR SHOWS

WE BROADCAST ROUND THE CLOCK

DAYTIME

We start the day with 'The Breakfast Show' that has all the usual community information, such as travel news, which is more complicated than most areas, due to the numerous ways to get on and off the Isle of Wight, have a guess how many? There is also the world-famous floating bridge, so lots to update our listeners on as well as dozens of daily events.

We have a 'Mid-Morning show' between 10 am and 1 pm Monday to Friday which incorporates many interviews regarding health advice, business advice and local councillors keeping us up to date with what's happening on the Isle of Wight.

'The Afternoon Show' is like a magazine, it features a main and co-host and many Island characters, business owners, local chefs, owners of places of interest, charity organisations, Fire & Rescue, local vets, entertainers and so much more.

'The Teatime Show' gets you home safely with all the travel details you need to know both on the roads and on public transport, including buses, trains and uniquely, the ferries on and off the Isle of Wight, there are six of them, The Red Jet, The Catamaran, and of course the hovercraft. There are also car ferries travelling between Lymington and Yarmouth, Fishbourne to Portsmouth and East Cowes to Southampton.

EVENINGS & WEEKENDS

The evenings are made up of specialist music shows, we have Jazz on Monday, Sounds of the 60s and 70s on Tuesday, Rock on a Wednesday, vintage tunes on a Thursday and Blues on a Friday.

We have Retro, Reggae and New Music shows and Dance anthems over the weekend, we even have the Home Front Show which is music and stories from the 1940s.



We offer opportunities to presenters with various physical and mental issues that may ordinarily prohibit their chances to take part. Shaun O'Brien is registered blind and is one of our 'Breakfast Show' hosts.



Kitty & Ron host the Monday and Friday Mid Morning Shows. They also both play an important role teaching 4Ps students on the 'Saturday Morning Short Breaks Course'.



We give opportunities to people of all ages and abilities. Robert 'Chip' Clark presents the 'Friday Afternoon Show' with his dad. Robert has learning difficulties but drives the desk because his dad can't!



HELPING THE ISLANDS YOUTH

We have a radio training school for young people with learning difficulties within the station, who are very much part of the output. This is the 4Ps Radio Training School Charity which teaches Presenting, Producing, Podcasting and Promoting and gives young people confidence and teaches them communication skills. After learning the main ingredients of radio, students are given their own radio shows at the weekend which they present and produce themselves. The school has been a charity since 2018.



Short Breaks is a statutory service funded through Children's Services by the Isle of Wight Council and aims to increase activity opportunities available for children and young people with disabilities and/or additional needs to participate in. This in turn provides a 'short break' for parents/carers while their child or young person participates in a safe, fun and enjoyable activity which meets their needs. Vectis Radio's 'Short Breaks Show' recently won a gold award at the Community Radio Awards.



During The week, we have an array of schools taking part St George's School, Medina and Carisbrooke College, Ryde Academy and St Catherine's to name but a few. All the students that have been on the course so far have been a success. Some have read the news, some have produced a promo, some have even taken control of the live studio and conducted live interviews from the main presenter side without any assistance which is a massive achievement!

SUPPORT BEYOND THE COURSE

When young people have completed the 4Ps course we hope they can go on and improve their lives, however we also give them the opportunity to continue being part of Vectis Radio.

During the lockdowns in 2020 we had Saturday sessions that were conducted online from the various participants' homes across the island. This gave us the idea that those people who are housebound could broadcast from home, we currently have registered blind and agoraphobic presenters.



Presenter Shaun O'Brien who is registered blind.

COMMUNITY INTEREST SHOWS

We broadcast a number of special shows, these include:

TALKING COUNCIL



'Talking Council' offers a quick and effective way for our listeners to pose questions directly to the right people from different council departments on the topics that are of most concern. It also means the council can clarify exactly what is their responsibility and point people in the right direction to get things sorted.

SHORT BREAKS

Short Breaks is a show aimed at giving parents respite while children with learning difficulties or everyday problems aged 11-18 broadcast live on a Saturday morning. Radio is for everyone and no one is excluded everyone gets an opportunity. This show won Gold at the National Community Radio Awards in 2022 in the Community Show of the Year category.

Vectis Radio has chosen to support more local charities including the local RSPCA branch, Friends of the Animals, The IW Donkey Appeal, Air Ambulance, The Better Days café and SAAFA.

Vectis Radio also continues to support the Food Bank which it has done since 2011 with a free advertising campaign. We feel we have a moral duty to do so. Child poverty is a major problem on the Isle of Wight so we promote the needs of the food bank on a regular basis to help make sure stocks are replenished.



Vectis Radio's 'Talking Council' is regularly in contact with key members of the Isle of Wight Council to discuss important issues our listeners want to know about.



The Short Breaks team recently won a richly deserved Gold Award at the Community Radio Awards for 'Community Show of the Year.'



At Vectis Radio, we are committed to highlighting the great causes in our community and have supported a large number of charities over the years including the much needed Food Bank.

A FAIR CHANCE FOR ALL AGES AND ABILITIES

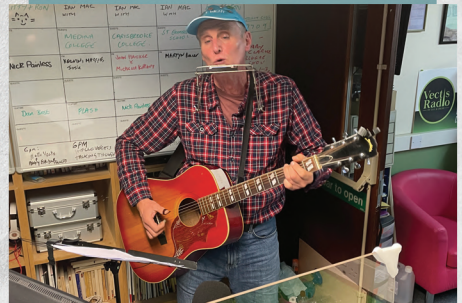
Many of the daytime shows have young, disadvantaged people playing a part as co-hosts. Vectis Radio is also the home of our very own radio soap 'Penny for your Thoughts' which has been running since 2017 broadcasting a brand new episode every Friday at 6pm. It's written, recorded and produced at the radio station, the soap itself is all about family life on the Isle of Wight. In 2023 Penny For Your Thoughts Episode 200 was aired.

The Isle of Wight is a hotbed of local musical talent and we currently have close to 200 different acts on our playlist. We champion local music made by local artists by playing one local music track at least once an hour during daylight hours. Every day more local talented artists and bands are sending us their latest MP3s and we add them to the playlist. The aim is to showcase as much local musical talent as we possibly can.

Twice a year we dedicate at least one whole day's playlist to Island Artists. Every song for a day is home grown and it encourages many more Island Artists and Producers to get in touch to provide music for the day. Sometimes there is so much music from our local bands that we have, on occasion, had a whole Local Music Weekend! It's just another way of championing local people and talent on the Isle of Wight. All our local music output is sponsored by Willy's Guitar Shop in Cowes. They even get a mention in one of the local songs!

Every year we need to apply for funds to enable the 4Ps Vectis Radio Training School to continue. Over the years we have had some wonderful support from the Isle of Wight Council, The National Lottery, WightAid and the Isle of Wight Foundation which supports many organisations like ours helping young underprivileged children on the Isle of Wight. Without their support, we wouldn't be able to run the invaluable sessions which these young people desperately need.

We believe with every year that goes by, we improve our output. But more importantly we improve as people and the community that we serve is richer for us being able to broadcast.





Vectis Radio set up what would become the 4Ps Project in 2012, initially as part of the IW Council's 'Youth Offer' scheme, aimed at helping young people aged 11-19 improve their life chances. This extended up to the age of 25 for people with additional needs. In 2014 it was officially reshaped as 'The Vectis Radio 4Ps Project'. In 2018 it became a registered charity Number 118 9607

The free course is designed to help young people with and without additional needs gain useful skills which will help them in the wider world. Those skills can be work based, which is where the 4Ps comes in with each 'P' standing for a core skill in the radio industry.

PRESENTING

PRESENTING ON AIR WITH AND WITHOUT A CO-HOST

PRODUCTION

CREATING AUDIO FROM SHOWS & RECORDING SESSIONS

PODCASTING

TAKING THE CREATED AUDIO AND POSTING IT ONLINE

PROMOTION

MAKING THE WORLD AWARE OF YOUR NEW CREATION

We have continued to work with the Isle of Wight Council, The National Lottery and also the Isle of Wight Foundation who are supporting us with funds to continue. Since the pandemic, however, and with so many young people suffering with lack of communication confidence, there is still more to do and many more young people need our help. Because of this, we are looking to secure more funds to enable us to do even more in our community. Our dream is to give every child an opportunity to enrol because we know for a fact that it really does work!

The course has had massive success to date with both individual students and groups of young people from the Isle of Wight College, Cowes Enterprise College, Medina College and Ryde Academy attending. We have also worked extensively helping young people with additional needs from St George's and St. Catherine's Schools and also home schooled students.

In all, over 300 young people have completed the course.

Find out how to get involved with the Short Breaks team at: www.4ps.org.uk



ADULT LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR EVERYONE

In 2020 we added adult learning for disadvantaged people aged 25 plus with some amazing results. The course is free and is aimed at people of all ages. The only qualification you need for this free course is not to be in school or in education.

We have found it not only helps with communication and confidence but also social inclusion. All that have taken part so far have said how lonely they have been and how it's a great way of meeting new friends.

THE DRAGONS OF ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL



#TAKING OVER!

INTRODUCING THE YOUNG STUDENTS FROM ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL. A SCHOOL BASED IN NEWPORT THAT CATERS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH SEVERE AND COMPLEX NEEDS.

Since March 2016 a core group of students have been producing their very own show featuring many of their collective interests such as football, music, cooking, TV, gaming and Formula 1. Additionally, the show features up-to-date local news and events. To date, the show has featured over thirty different students. That number will grow each school year when more students will have the chance to try their hand at radio.

Starting with a team of six, it was clear from the start that the team were nervous about talking on the radio and were unsure about what they were meant to do. However, in just a few months the difference in the show was already evident. The students were more engaged and they began to talk with greater freedom as their confidence grew.

The 4Ps was invaluable before the pandemic and is even more so since.

The beginning of the new school year saw a new influx of students. Through the course of the year extra students have joined the show and there are now 12 on rotation. It has been particularly satisfying to see more and more young people benefit from radio. Communication is key! It's no surprise that as communication gets easier for the students, we see a definite spike in their confidence which is great to see, especially as the last few years have been so difficult.

'The Dragons Radio Show' is almost unrecognisable compared to when it began. The extent of how they have collectively improved both on and off air is a testament to all the hard work put in by the students and their supervisors Marion and Paula.

This year has been the most popular so far for students wanting to go to Vectis Radio, and every single one of them have said after the visit, that they loved it!

Ian talks through each procedure of what will happen clearly and slowly so the students are aware as to what will happen each time they go.

Some students are a little nervous before going, but also have a great sense of excitement, with the thought of trying something so different to anything they have experienced before.

The students are all very keen to make a podcast and talk on-air, and although I have had some students who were going to attend just to have a look, all of them once there, without hesitation, participated fully in all activities.

The 4Ps Project helps so much in improving our students' confidence and self-esteem. It gives them a channel to speak about whatever they like and have their voice heard. It is also a fun experience, and priceless in creating a setting where they improve their social skills, work in a team and also show what they have to give to a wider audience, one that they would never ever have thought possible.

Marion Hartley

Work Experience Coordinator



WORKING WITH ISLAND SCHOOLS & COLLEGES TO BUILD LIFE SKILLS

The last couple of years have been very difficult for many students on the Island, so Vectis Radio and the 4Ps Radio Training School reached out to colleges in the local area to specifically work with people with learning difficulties, struggling with life or confidence and communication issues.

The team from Medina College consisted of Bradders, Earlisa and Kye who were all aged 12 at the time they joined us. It was obvious from the start that they were struggling a little with life and all for different reasons. They had recently gone up to big school having had their final years at primary school interrupted by COVID, Bradders was worried about his voice and Earlisa was coming to terms with not just a new school but a different country.



BRADDERS, EARLISA, KYE (MEDINA COLLEGE)

None of them wanted to be on air or record their podcasts first and would invent new ways of avoiding for a few weeks and now they are pushing each other out of the way to get to the studio first. Bradders with his book review, Kye's gaming review and Earlisa with her cooking podcast which she not only wrote, voiced, produced and cooked, off-site of course. She would also bring it in for everyone to try.



CALLUM (NODEHILL)

The team from Medina shared the course with Seventeen year old Callum from Nodehill College who has autism. Callum would create his weekly podcast of Callum's creature facts orangutangs killer whales, bandicoots, and dragonflies all featured.. Callum came to us in November 2019 and was due to start on 4Ps course in March 2020, which of course didn't happen because of the pandemic. Post COVID, We were very keen to get him involved at Vectis Radio, but the only morning we could put on was the very same morning Medina College attended. Mixing schools is something that we normally wouldn't do, but we tried it and in this instance it worked.

There was a magical moment three weeks into the course when Callum wanted to read out a poem about autism so his co-hosts could understand him better, when he did the penny dropped and to see the realisation on the faces was just amazing, it was a beautiful moment where kids had found a way of communicating and understanding each other's differences. Just another example of how radio, the 4Ps training school and communication can bring people together.

MEDINA & NODEHILL COLLEGES

Hi Ian.

We just wanted to thank you for letting Callum be part of the show and visit on a weekly basis.

He absolutely loves going there, and thoroughly enjoys himself. It is so lovely to hear him talk, as normally you can barely get two words from him and hides himself away in his room!

The show has brought me to tears three times in recent weeks. Twice with Callum talking about his autism (which he has never done) and reading his poem about how he perceives the world and those around him.

I think it is absolutely applaudable that you do such a fantastic job, and you deserve more recognition and awards for the greatness you do and awareness you bring!

Spence & Treena



CASSIDY

JAMES

JASPER

OPHELIA

SHORT BREAKS SATURDAYS



Short Breaks is a statutory service funded through Children's Services by the Isle of Wight Council and aims to increase activity opportunities available for children and young people with disabilities and/or additional needs to participate in.

This in turn provides a 'short break' for parents/carers while their child or young person participates in a safe, fun, and enjoyable activity which meets their needs.

Find out more about the 4Ps Short Breaks course at: www.4ps.org.uk

Just as importantly, the young students will gain invaluable life skills such as building confidence by adjusting to new working environments, meeting new people and in turn building their communication skills through interaction with people of various ages and abilities.



Connor (left) and Blake practicing their interviewing skills before putting them to the test at a local ceremony in Ryde to remember forty years since the Falklands conflict.

Saturday mornings with the Short Breaks team has progressed so much over the years that now between 11am and 12noon, its only young people allowed in the studio. All the grown-ups are banned and must stay outside peering in through the studio window. It is an anxious hour, because you never know quite what's going to happen, but the young people have never let us down!

We have worked for some time with the Isle of Wight Council, The National Lottery and the Isle of Wight Foundation who have supported us with some much needed funds. However we know there is still much more to do! Since the pandemic, many young people have been suffering from a lack of social interaction which has dented their confidence and limited their ability to communicate. This is why we are still looking for more funds to allow us to continue this important work. We believe that investing in young people at this stage in their development will give them a better chance moving forward in life.



The Short Breaks team were visited recently by the High Sheriff of the Isle of Wight Kay Marriott. She presented Vectis Radio with a National Crimebeat Award

ADULT LEARNING

BUILDING CONFIDENCE AND IMPROVING COMMUNICATION IN VULNERABLE ADULTS



HELP FOR MORE ISLAND RESIDENTS

We have had so much success with young people on our 4Ps Project that we decided to roll it out to adults to see if we could get the same results. Our thought process was it's not just young people that need a shot of confidence and communication. The results were phenomenal. We reached out people who the system had let down. All the people involved are 19+ and it would appear there is a lot for young people and the elderly but not much for people in between.

The people who have taken part in the course admitted to us that they were socially isolated and felt excluded from life. Being part of the 4Ps for adults gave them a purpose and now some of them are part of the Vectis Radio volunteer team.

How are we funded?

Primarily our funding has come from the Isle of Wight Council, The National Lottery, WightAid and the Isle of Wight Foundation and we thank them for their continued support. Due to the pandemic however, and with so many people suffering with a lack of communication/confidence there is still more to do with many more people needing our help. Because of this, we are looking to secure more funds to enable us to do even more in our community.

"To be able to help build confidence and communication using the main ingredients of radio really does work and we have been proving this since 2012. It's incredible to watch somebody lacking in confidence and suffering with depression change over a short time, it is just as fantastic for us as it is for them. To be able to improve people's lives using the skills that I have picked up over forty years as an entertainer and broadcaster is my way of putting something back."

The Isle of Wight Council initially gave us funds to work with adults on the 4Ps Training School to see if it would work, now that we have proved that it works, we are told that more funding is on the way which means we can help more people. We are currently helping two students per month every month. It's surprising just how many people in our own community here on the Isle of Wight are really struggling with confidence and communication skills not just in light of COVID-19, but it certainly hasn't helped, and the numbers are too high! It is our aim to reduce those numbers little by little and do what we can just using those four main ingredients of radio, presenting, producing, podcasting and promoting".

Ian Mac - Vectis Radio Station Manager



IW COUNCIL

IW Council Service Manager Robert Brindley had this to say:

"The Isle of Wight Council Adult Community Learning Service is pleased to support Vectis Radio to deliver adult learning. The 4Ps programme provides a great opportunity for adults with disabilities or learning difficulties to gain experience in all aspects of producing radio content. I have listened as the participants grow in confidence week by week and become ready to host their own shows or prepare to sign up for further learning opportunities".

We also worked closely with IW Council Quality Officer Kerry Baker who said the following:

"The course is structured around the needs of the individual, taking into consideration their own abilities, needs and personal interests, which supported Josie and Hannah to keep highly motivated throughout the course".



ZACK INCE

Adult Learning with the 4Ps Radio Training School was initially trialled after the wonderful success we had had with young people across the Island. We knew we could boost confidence and improve communication skills in young people and questioned whether we'd see the same improvements in adults with everyday challenges. So far we believe it has been hugely beneficial with many success stories. People like Zack Ince.

Zack was referred to No Barriers Employment Support by his Social Worker John Wilkinson in September 2022. No Barriers is a service provided by The IW Councils Adult Social Care and provides help and support to those with a disability or health condition wishing to seek paid employment or voluntary opportunities suited to their skills and needs.



John met with Zack and his family to discuss what he would like to do, he explained to me that due to the COVID-19 pandemic he had become very isolated and withdrawn over the past two years, this in turn led to a deterioration in his mental health.

"I suggested to Zack he may want to consider Vectis Radio, as other people I supported or knew had really benefited from the opportunities offered there. I explained what Vectis Radio was and the courses and support that could be available to him. I could see immediately the change in Zack's demeanour, he was smiling with excitement and anticipation. I arranged for him to meet with Ian Mac; the station's creator and owner and Ian suggested the Adult Learning course to Zack, he explained that this was an IW Council funded programme for adults with disabilities or learning difficulties to become involved in radio production and broadcasting."



"Zack met with Ian and me at the radio station and Ian explained all the things he would be doing on the programme. For me, it was like watching a fire grow inside him. I will let Zack and his family take it from here as the course comes to an end and a new chapter in his radio journey begins!"

John Wilkinson – Employment Support Worker

ZACK'S PARENTS SAY...

Zack went through a difficult time after COVID-19 and after spending some time in Southampton General Hospital, Zack was referred for some support. John Wilkinson the Employment Support Worker, met with Zack. John was very proactive and arranged an interview for Zack at Vectis Radio.

After the interview, Zack enrolled onto the Adult Learning course and although he was a little nervous at first, he gained confidence each week.

Ian Mac has been a great support for Zack, helping him with the skills required to make, edit and produce Podcasts. Ian also has a great ability to bring the best out of Zack, which is clear to hear when they are having on-air discussions.

As parents, we have seen Zack become much happier, and after what has been a difficult period, his happy character has returned. We can't thank Ian and John enough for the support given to Zack, it has been a great help.

Zack said he has learnt new skills when making Podcasts, however the part he enjoys the most is being on-air. Zack said he is excited although a little apprehensive about moving on to another programme, as he has enjoyed working with Ian on the show.

This experience has been so helpful to Zack's health and well-being, we would thoroughly recommend the course to others in a similar situation.

TEN YEARS+



KELVIN

MAGGIE

DARREN

SIMON

SHANIA

DOMINIC

The Vectis Radio story has been an incredible one with lots of support from many wonderful volunteers. In 2022 there were six volunteers that have been at the station for 10 years each. All of them were given the opportunity to sponsor a local charity with a free commercial for 12 months because of their service. Vectis Radio station manager reflects on the presenters who have been with the station for over a decade.

In 2010, the station launched, and after a couple of weeks we were visited by Simon Steele. He sat behind a monitor in the studio and all I could see from the presenter's side of the desk was a bald head and this is how Simon got his nickname of Humpty. After being involved for a while on the peripheral of the station, Simon got his break hosting his first show in 2012 and has been presenting the Sunday afternoon show ever since with his daughter Shania.

Roughly the same time I met and interviewed Maggie Currie she told me about her business and mentioned her husband Kelvin, who had his own electrical business plus a mobile roadshow. I suggested that he do a show, they also became involved in the station and in 2012 Kelvin started doing the retro show and Maggie started helping out with reading the news which she has been doing ever since along with the weekend breakfast show and on the Tuesday afternoon show with Kelvin, without them, the station wouldn't be what it is today as they do so much more than what's mentioned.

In 2012 whilst at Studio number three in West Street, we were visited by Darren Donkersley. He had radio experience and offered to do an 80s show which went out on Thursday evenings.

Within a few months he let on that he was a Dance show specialist and has been doing his Saturday Mash Up ever since. Dazza has been a great mentor to Robert Clark and other youngsters at the station.

Very early in 2012, I was visited by Dominic Cole my first reaction being honest was a negative one. I couldn't see how this stand-offish chap with quite an aggressive manner would fit in, let alone have any talent. I was so wrong; Dominic Cole is quite simply the most talented Presenter/Producer I have ever worked with in over thirty years of broadcasting. This fact becomes even more incredible when you know he is agoraphobic and comes with a bundle of issues. He opened my eyes and taught me to never judge a book by its cover and he is the least aggressive person I know.

It's hard to believe that a station as small as ours and one that has only been broadcasting for thirteen years already has six people celebrating over ten years of service. Next year we have another couple celebrating a decade at the station and there are seven or eight that have been here for five years plus which says a lot about the friendly atmosphere at the station. Everybody is willing to cover shows or duties wherever necessary, we have a brilliant team ethic which makes for a happy working environment.

OUT & ABOUT

TAKING THE SHOW ON THE ROAD



At the tail end of 2021, we started to feel comfortable with being around crowds of people again and decided to put a plan of action in place for us to cement our place in the community with our outside broadcast unit idea that was put on hold because of COVID. We are a community radio station and there isn't a massive amount of funds so we decided the best way forward was to purchase a caravan that needed a bit of love and attention, the first one was donated and wouldn't have looked out of place on the set of Steptoe & Son. The second one had masses of potential.

We have a great team spirit in the age range throughout the team from twenties to eighties, with that comes of wealth of experience and different talents. All those talents were put to good use in restoring what is now Vectis Radio outside broadcast unit affectionately known as OB-1.

The aim is to reach out to our community to let them know what we are up to and what they could be a part of. We are taking it into as many schools as we possibly can so that young people can see what we do with regards to the 4Ps training school. We are also going to be as many events as possible across the Isle of Wight. It's like going back in time and taking radio to the people.



community radio awards



AWARDS & ACCOLADES



Since going FM in November 2017 we have picked up many accolades along the way. In the first 12 months of broadcasting, we were awarded a Bronze at the National Community Radio Awards in their prestigious community development category.

12 months later, we were again awarded Bronze and then in 2020, we turned Bronze into Silver. In 2021 and 2022 we were awarded Gold. The community development project along with the station of the year, are the two big awards handed out each year and in 2021 we were nominated for station of the year, but did not win, In 2022 we were awarded Bronze. A huge success for us.



There have been many other National Community Radio Awards for us since 2017. Kelvin Currie picked up a Gold for volunteer of the year, and The Short Breaks team, part of The 4Ps Project, won Gold for the community show in 2022 with other Silver and Bronze awards to celebrate.



In 2020, Vectis Radio was awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, which is the equivalent to an MBE. However, due to COVID-19 and the lockdown, the garden party to which all winners are invited was postponed until 2022. Kelvin and Maggie Currie represented the radio station at a ceremony held in the grounds of Buckingham Palace. It was an incredibly proud day not just for the Curries, but the station itself which started in a broom cupboard in 2010, from broom cupboard to Buckingham Palace.

Ian Mac said 'since going FM in 2017 it has been an amazing journey with so many nominations and awards bestowed upon us for all the hard work of many volunteers and credit to our wonderful sounding community radio station. We couldn't win anything else ...could we?'



VOLUNTEER

JOIN OUR AWARD WINNING TEAM

Now you know what we do, would you like to be a volunteer?

Vectis Radio would not survive without it's wonderfully generous volunteers. Some have been around for ten years or more, others approaching ten years and some are just starting on their journey, but all will tell you that they thoroughly enjoy what they do. Everyone brings a unique quality to the station and we are richer for their input.

There are many ways to get involved with Vectis Radio. On air you can be a presenter or a co-host. You can read the news or you could work behind the scenes, for instance, help with fundraising or work on the website organising interviews and meetings, there are also many interesting roles working within production and we are always on the lookout for someone that has a talent for marketing.

Why not get in touch so we can discuss how you can get involved with your very own community radio station right on your doorstep? You won't be disappointed! Remember, you can always help us by staying tuned to FM 104.6 and spreading the word.

Volunteers Kitty and Ron (pictured above) have been with the station for years and have a number of on air roles. Here are their thoughts:-



I can't imagine not being a part of the station, I enjoy the whole ethos and the friendly atmosphere and it's so rewarding, I never ever imagined myself being on the radio, but I've been on air over five years now!! - Kitty

I got in contact with the station in 2016 and have been presenting a number of shows ever since, working both on and off air and on outside broadcasts, they're my family now, I absolutely love it. - Ron Leleux





VECTISRADIO APP

THE ISLANDS VOICE IN YOUR POCKET

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WAYS TO LISTEN

Vectis Radio is available on FM104.6 across the Island, but it's not the only way to listen. You can download the Vectis Radio App which is available for free in the Apple and Android stores. You can also listen on our website vectisradio.com. How about asking your Google Assistant or Alexa device to 'Play Vectis Radio'. They'll know what to do!! We're on Radio Player, we're on TuneIn Radio... We're even available to listen to at St Mary's Hospital thanks to Hospedia who set us up on radio channel 5.





THE JOURNEY HAS BEEN AN INCREDIBLE ONE WHICH STARTED ON THE KITCHEN TABLE IN MAY 2009 AND THEN CAME TO FRUITION IN A CUPBOARD AT THE QUAY ARTS CENTRE IN NEWPORT ON JANUARY 23RD 2010. CUTTING THE RIBBON ON THE STUDIO DOOR THAT DAY WAS THE THEN HIGH SHERIFF AND THIRTEEN OR SO YEARS LATER, THE HIGH SHERIFF CUT THE RIBBON ON AN OUTSIDE BROADCAST UNIT OF OURS. OBVIOUSLY IT WAS A DIFFERENT HIGH SHERIFF BUT SO MUCH CHANGED IN BETWEEN. WE HAD BROADCAST FROM HALF AS MANY STUDIOS AS WE HAVE HAD HIGH SHERIFFS.

IN THE EARLY DAYS, I WAS SUPPORTED BY MY BEST FRIEND, THE LATE MARTYN "BULLY" BULL, IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR HIM AND THE FUN WE HAD, WE WOULDN'T HAVE GOT THROUGH THE EARLY MONTHS, I WOULD'VE PROBABLY GIVEN UP BECAUSE FINANCIALLY IT WASN'T VIABLE. I DON'T KNOW HOW MY WIFE PUT UP WITH ME, I STILL DON'T. I REMEMBER SELLING MY BRAND NEW PEUGEOT MOTOR SCOOTER, MY CAR, A ROLEX WATCH THAT MY FATHER HAD LEFT ME AND ALL OF MY JEWELLERY JUST TO KEEP THE RADIO STATION GOING. DO I MISS ANY OF IT? BEING HONEST, NONE OF IT, ONLY BULLY.

THERE WERE LOTS OF SLEEPLESS NIGHTS IN THE EARLY YEARS, NOT KNOWING HOW WE WERE GOING TO AFFORD TO KEEP GOING, THERE WERE MANY TIMES I THOUGHT THE BEST THING TO DO IS STOP BUT SOMETHING INSIDE JUST KEPT TELLING ME TO KEEP GOING. EVEN WHEN, WE HAD JUST £30 IN THE BANK AND THE RENT WAS DUE, I STILL THOUGHT WE WOULD MAKE IT. MY FATHER IN LAW ONCE CALLED ME A TENACIOUS LITTLE \$&#!@?, WHICH IS STILL TO THIS DAY THE NICEST THING HE HAS EVER SAID ABOUT ME.

THERE WERE MANY PEOPLE THAT I MET ON THE WAY, TOO MANY TO MENTION, BUT MEETING KELVIN CURRIE BACK IN 2010 WAS TO BE PIVOTAL. IT TOOK A FEW YEARS TO COME TO THE FOREFRONT BUT EVENTUALLY HE DID. I USED TO USE THIS ANALOGY, VECTIS RADIO WAS LIKE PUSHING A CAR UP A HILL, KNOWING THAT IF YOU'VE GOT TO THE TOP AND OVER IT WOULD TAKE OFF, FOR YEARS PEOPLE USED TO HELP ME PUSH, AND THEN BEFORE WE GOT TO THE TOP, THEY WOULD DISAPPEAR AND WE WOULD ROLL BACK DOWN AGAIN AND AGAIN, AND THEN KELVIN CURRIE APPEARED. WE WENT OVER THE HILL TOGETHER AND WE'VE NEVER LOOK BACK.