Today… talking about Radio – in The Book vs today
There will be a UK bias

What we covered in RT1

- Community Radio

- Pirate radio

- AM vs FM

- Amateur Radio

- Community TV

- 'AT Radio'

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Here's what's in The Book
Community Radio
Pirate radio
AM vs FM
Amateur Radio
Community TV
'AT Radio'
We DIDN'T talk about existing community radio such as Pacifica in the US
despite the fact I had experienced Pacifica first-hand in 1974
My 'AT Radio' piece is **thoroughly impractical** – in the same way that you can argue Cliff Harper's "Visions" are.
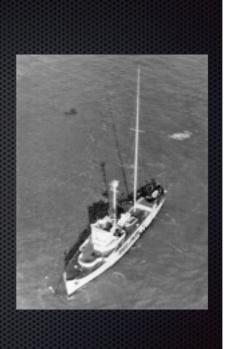
Radio in 1976

- Offshore 'pirates' essentially off the air since 1967

- BBC Local radio, then commercial radio (UK) 1973

- No (legal) community radio as such

- Land-based pirates since 1968

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Let's look at what radio was about – at least in the UK – in 1976
Offshore 'pirates' essentially off the air since 1967
BBC Local radio, then commercial radio (UK) 1973
No legal community radio as such, though some BBC local stations were close
Land-based pirates since 1968

Offshore radio was still around, but decimated by the Marine &c Offenses Act in 1967
Significant investment required
Commercial, not community or "free" radio – whatever we said in the FRA/FRC

'Land-based' Pirates

* Began to proliferate after off-shore demise

* Urban, and especially in London

* Initial philosophy (1968–73 especially) was to promote legal commercial radio

* Initially fixed, later portable locations – and then fixed again

* AM initially, FM increasing from 1971

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Land–based pirates really DID exemplify "Free Radio" and "Community Radio" BUT…
INITIALLY, they were mainly showing what commercial radio could be like. They would have applied for licenses were there any.
They would have run ads if they could (and some did). But this was to change post–1973
Began to proliferate after off–shore demise
Urban, and especially in London
Initially fixed, later portable locations
– and then fixed again
AM initially, FM increasing from 1971

'Land-based' Pirates

- Latterly, transmissions from tower blocks etc
- Live programming with studio-transmitter links
- Stations came to promote musical genres and local, eg ethnic communities
- Still significant today
- Examples of community radio, albeit illegal

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Back to fixed locations
Often technically sophisticated
Promoting musical genres unavailable on the soundalike commercial stations
Also stations serving ethnic communities – although there is an argument that you can now do this legally via Community Radio
Land based pirates are still important and represent a continuing effort for popular access to the airwaves.

Radio today

* Radio as we knew it may be going – but radio is not gone

* AM is in decline

* FM is still popular, especially with pirates

* Community Radio is a reality

* DAB becoming accessible via opendigitalradio.org

* What about Citizen's Band & Amateur Radio?

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Radio may be going, but it's not gone
AM is still around and you can still run an AM pirate station
FM remains widely available and there are hundreds of pirates in the UK
Community radio exists but a limited number of full-time licenses are available and there are restrictions
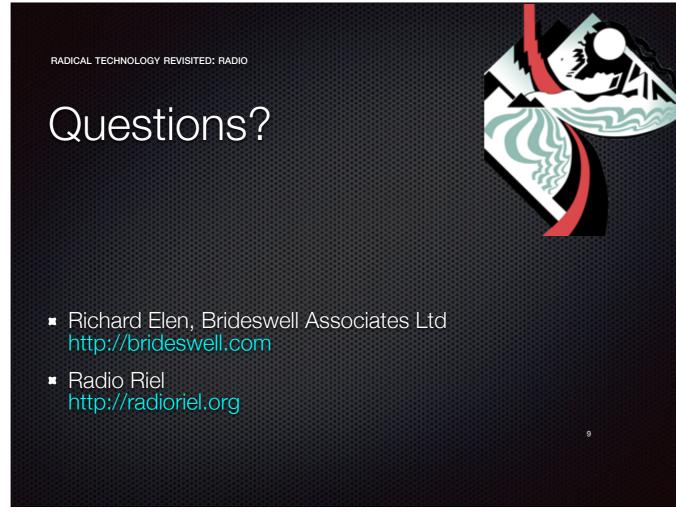Special Event licenses are available
Amateur radio: limited access, technical knowledge required, not widespread. CB was set up to fail in the UK: very limited usability.
BUT THERE IS MORE THAN RADIO – there's **The Internet**…

The 'Radio Space'

* 'Radio' is now many different things

* Open access for internet radio stations

* Internet streaming of live events – audio and/or video

* 'Radio' programming on demand – podcasting, Mixcloud etc

* Live programming & production via the internet

* Traditional AM, FM and DAB are still viable

Broadcast terrestrial radio is just one aspect of the "Radio Space" – credit Bill Thompson with the term
Other aspects are often internet-based. Internet radio worth a presentation on its own – something I do
Stream live events from a smartphone
Publish recorded programmes as podcasts or on Mixcloud etc
Use Skype for live interviews and drama, etc production across the world – SL experience
Satellite radio – possible but tricky

And there you have it…