

I once had a thing for 'Scully' from the X files so when the Boss said I could go and have a look at Scully I thought a dream had come true, me and the red haired foxy lady together at last. So off I went with a smile on my face which soon went green as I sat on this big boat going up and down, up and down, I feel sick just thinking about it. Once we



dropped anchor. I ran out to what I was hoping was a sun kissed beach and the arms of my Scully to find rain wind and a big sign post that said 'Scully'. Damn the editors miss printed memos, damn them. So I headed for cover and ended up having a cup of tea with **Ker Jones**, Radio Scilly's breakfast show presenter (he's also the boss of the stations, I wonder if I asked him to put a red wig on and I squinted, no stop don't go there Jordy!).

It's quite a community station you have here, what's it like being a presenter and the boss, do you have to tell yourself off a times!
I don't think in terms of boss. I am the employee! I know nearly everybody that I talk with, it's a weird when you play somebody a request and they buy you a pint later as a thank you. Working as part of a small community I know the back story with every appeal for help and assistance. When someone raises cash for a cancer charity, chances are I know why the person wants to do it. We're a local content aggregator and radio is just part of what we do with online and social networking. I was in London once when I got a call from somebody needing help getting a lift to Oxford to see a relative who'd been admitted to the

specialist hospital. I went back to the hotel added a voice track because I knew how important the request was. There is no pretence. I talk openly about automated shows. Everyone knows when you are on Myriad if you're eating lunch in a café and blaring out in a café. I hate that. Seeing a room's reaction to a dodgy gag, I avoid some places during my virtual airshifts.

So how does your output change from lets say mainland? (Barnacle Bill eat your heart out)
There's just no comparison. If mainland radio was a branch of Tesco's, we'd be a trestle table at a farmers market. There's something different every time you sample us but the content is all driven by and made for the market. 3 minute links are ok if you are conveying information. I like it when we're described as useful or a "godsend".

You do the breakfast show which is hard on the mainland (I sound like a real sailor, don't I). What do you fill the air time with as there's not much traffic and travel boat arrived, boat gone!

Local news plays an important part of our broadcasts. I go to evening council meetings and lots of events.

We air 6 to 8 minutes of local news written in two versions - each morning. There's no Islands-based weekly newspaper so if Radio Scilly doesn't cover it may not ever become public. There's a considerable amount of Facebook feedback and people walking into the station each day. We air comments on news, appeals for and we've devised specialist content on islanders' popular interests - like birdwatching, gardening or travel there's never any shortage of content and we repurpose material into a 50 page monthly newsletter and our online TV service for the islands.

Sounds very strange, a bit like a date with Bill Oddy, so what about you, do you wear green wheelies and sing about a funky gibbon!

My first job - volunteering at Gwent broadcasting in 1984 during the school hos. I took leader tape out of old "Decision-makers". My first break was post O'levels, 1986 when I followed Sandy Beach and James Whale on Radio Aire overnights. I held down weekends at Viking and Penine during my degree at Leicester and joined Leicester ended up or drive. I was poached for Devon Air breakfast in 93 and when they I got my first management gig launching mix 96 in Aylesbury. After Chiltern Group and being a token male at Viva 96.3 in London I ran some RSLs, then went home to set up and run Valleys radio for 2 years in 96. I returned to Somerset to launch Quay West, which was a mistake but the learning curve! And then ran Penntrokeshire RSLs, won the licence there with Jason Bryant and I became MD of the group that ended up with Pembs, Carmms, Scarlet and Swansea

Bay before the local directors cashed in our shares and I came here. This was meant to be a semi-retirement hobbyist gig.

I'm starting to think that I may be in an episode of 'Last of the Summer Wine'. Normal breakfast shows can be quite full on with their bad weather reports and news bulletins which are full of crime related incidents, you get to talk about mousstaches growing and Edmund the Meercat, would you like to do the big news stories!

Ta for picking our most twee "and finally" stories! Despite their parish council's size, the islands' council has more county council responsibilities than Essex or Hampshire. Last week alone we've had the government go-ahead for a £50 million infrastructure investments, the future of our helicopter base is doubt, I'll rescued from a blazing boat and a rescue of 37 teenage Polish teenagers on a ship that lost its masts in a gale. Isn't that enough? Are you trying to run me into a grave?!

Actually, it sounds like an episode of the X files, there's a lot going on around Scilly, could it be like the island from Prisoner or Lost! Gee I am starting to spook my self, sounds like they need a good pick me up and Radio Scilly is doing a great job, with all this to broadcast do you find that you're a bit of a star on your little island!
Everybody has their place in the jigsaw of island life and individuals' roles are valued. We all need Rob the dustcarts driver, Bryce the school head and Charlie the police Sergeant, equally.

What a cast for an X file special 'Scully goes to Scilly'. It's all about aliens taking over Meercrats and attacking the mousstached men as they leave the island pub at night, I have dibs on the publishing rights, talking about TV, you had the Top Gear team on Scilly what was that like?
I was interested in how they would portray the islands and the mechanics of producing a TV programme, rather than showbiz stuff. They were quite indifferent and a tad unapproachable to be honest.

That's a shame, so would you give it all up and go to work for lets say Radio 1 breakfast!

I can't think of anything worse. I don't get it. My radio passion is driven by news and communication not music. I'm too old at 40 and a country boy not a cool, urbane.

Sounds like you have found a great place to retire, it's a bit cold and the paper boys not always on time but I can see you're a part of a great community. Look before we go off to catch up with Edmund (the meercat) to talk about publishing and television rights, why don't you drop us a quick shameless plug as I put on my coat and get my hat.
www.radioscilly.com or www.scillytv.com

That was quick, well it's a long ride back on that up and down boat so as I head off into the sunset why don't you give me an easy time and invite me to your studios to see what strange friends work on your show, oh and if Scully's out there 'call me'. Remember to keep writing editor@theradiomagazine.co.uk and we'll speak soon.