



Real Community Radio for Watford

Silver FM has been back on the Airwaves across the Watford area since the 5th December on 87.7 FM and also available online.

The station is a charity project part of W3RT (Watford & Three Rivers Trust) which has been providing a unique learning experience to first time broadcasters from local schools in Years 10-13. The radio station has been licensed by Ofcom (the governments office of communications) and will broadcast on FM up to and including Christmas Day.

The students broadcasting on the radio station have so far interviewed MP Richard Harrington, and today Cllr Frances Button, Chair of Hertfordshire County Council. (pictures attached)

Plus, the radio station has taken on an ambitious plan to broadcast LIVE from across the town over the 3 weeks. Including ASDA at the Dome, B & Q at Bushey Arches, Francis Combe School & Kings Langley School so far, with more broadcasts planned over the coming week from The Market, The Ice Rink & the offices at W3RT.

All Day on Christmas Day the radio station will play non-stop Christmas Songs with no commercials for you to enjoy listening to whilst you tuck in to your Turkey at home with the family.

David Rees, Project Manager, said "What a rewarding project! The last 2 weeks, we have turned over 20 young people into broadcasters, built their confidence and created some great (and some not so great) radio to boot. On top of it all, the team have been hugely ambitious and delivered more outside broadcasts than any other RSL Radio Station we are aware of, plus interviews with MP's, Councillors and hopefully our Mayor Dorothy this week. We are delighted with the response from local people & businesses and I can't wait to listen to the station on Christmas Day with my family. Merry Christmas Everyone"

Silver FM History

Sometime in 1995, a bunch of students at Bushey Hall School (now Bushey Academy) asked the Headmaster, Mr Geoff Hunter, if they could set up a radio station. He liked the idea, said to leave it with him and off he went to talk to the team

who had run the national Radio Cracker RSL in Harrow (one of them being a parent at the school).

They hatched a plan, and in July 1996 Silver FM went on-air for the first time. 87.7FM all across South West Herts. The station was on-air for a month; at the end of the school year; once the GCSE and A-Levels were finished.

From 6am till 8pm the children were in charge. They chose the songs, produced the features and ran the news team. In the late evening and over-night the adults, who helped put the station together, took over and presented specialist shows.

The pupils of Bushey Hall not only got a chance to be on the radio, but they were given a unique educational experience of working as part of a team that had the daily challenge of producing radio shows, being creative and learning about all aspects of the technology that make a radio station.

For the next two Julys, in 1997 and 1998, Silver FM returned with many more pupils involved. A final broadcast, which was just on-line, was done in 2000.

Since then, several students have gone on to take up careers in radio, but many simply took the practical life experience, grew in confidence and made new friends for life.

Wind forward 15 years, and those life-long friends met up, got to talking about the old station and wondered - could we bring it back and inspire the next generation the way they had been?

The Silver FM story continues...

SILVER FM OBJECTIVES

To promote local, community driven radio

To give children a dynamic and social learning experience and to participate in their local community.

To raise money for local charities

- ENDS -

For more details & enquiries:

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