



A 120,000-word paperback by British journalist and author Steve Anderson pays homage to the "glory days" of offshore radio.

And, although the thriller - called "Karma - Where it all went wrong" - is mainly concerned with the so-called law of cause and effect, Steve was determined when writing his novel to name a few of the stations that have played such an important role in his life. From Caroline to 270 and Laser to RNI and Veronica, they feature on several of the 450-odd pages in his book, which has already been praised by folk-rock legend Dave Pegg.

"Interesting stuff. Having read the first few chapters, I can't wait to read the remaining 50," said "Peggy", bass guitarist for 15 years

with Jethro Tull until he left the band in 1995 to concentrate on his other musical commitments with Fairport Convention.

"Karma", which is published this month (December), is available both as a printed and e-book on Amazon, through York Publishing Services and other retailers worldwide; it explores the consequences of the animal kingdom exacting revenge on mankind for the torture and killing it has inflicted since time immemorial. From Albania to New York and from Kosovo to England, its storyline merges Trump and Kim Jong-un with the Syrian civil war and Thalidomide, all of it intertwined with "adult pastimes" and non-PC humour.

Besides referring to such stations as Britain Radio, 390, Atlantis and Swinging Radio England, Steve also gives a few mentions to his other principal interest, amateur radio. He has been licensed since 1983, initially as G6VBU and, later, as GOEAT, where his callsign is frequently heard just above the medium wave band on the "ham" 160-metre, or Top Band, allocation from 1.8 to 2MHz.

"Writing was my livelihood for four decades - I was with the Hull Daily Mail for 25 years until retiring through anxiety and depression in 1999 - but radio of a "watery" nature (!) was always my main focus when thinking about the media and communications in general," he said.

"Not having worked in offshore radio will be my biggest regret until the day I die."

Steve's latest paperback follows the success of his first, "Growing up with Ginger - the Cat-lover's Book for Cat-haters", which was published 12 years ago. Also highlighted in the Hans Knot International Radio Report, it, too, featured many-a-reference to Caroline, RNI, London, 270 and various other unlicensed broadcasters.

"Karma", which took Steve almost seven months to write, includes such memorable paragraphs as the following:

1. Also in the container were copies of birth, marriage and death certificates; her dad's graduation and technical papers; a faded picture of the first Radio Caroline vessel, the mv Fredericia, which was a former Danish passenger ferry; and 20 or 30 newspaper cuttings about wild flowers, early-American racing cars, the so-called "Space Race" between the USA and USSR, cross-Channel swimming exploits and the decline and extinction of the dodo in Mauritius. In short, nothing about a revolutionary development in combating Parkinson's, CJD and other debilitating and, sometimes fatal, neurological diseases.

2. There was an ancient, round, mains-powered, Bakelite-cased radio with a small "Ekco" badge named after the British company set up in the 1920s by Essex-born electronics pioneer Eric Kirkham Cole.

Don't suppose it'll have DAB, then. Or have ever received Luxembourg, Radio Mi Amigo, RNI, Atlantis and Caroline. And I bet it still uses the original valves.

3. Inside the bag were the ferrite-rod aerial and cabinet of a mid-sixties transistor radio whose dial bore such names as Radio Caroline, Veronica, Big L, 270, the American Forces' Network in Germany, Luxembourg (the famous 208), Radio 390, Britain Radio, the BBC's Light Programme and Home Service and Swinging Radio England.

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ISBN 978 9996814-0-4

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