# Loud, Proud and Illegal: Nottingham's Pirate Radio Revolution 1986-1996

In the mid-1980s, Nottingham was a city on the cusp of change. The old industries that had once been the lifeblood of the city were in decline, and unemployment was rising. But amidst the economic gloom, a new cultural movement was emerging. Fueled by a passion for music and a desire for change, a group of young people took to the airwaves and launched Nottingham's first pirate radio stations.

These stations were illegal, but they quickly became a vital part of the city's music and youth culture. They offered a platform for local musicians, DJs, and activists to share their music and message and played a key role in shaping the city's unique cultural identity.



### Loud, Proud and Illegal: Pirate Radio in Nottingham,

**1986 - 1996** by Steve Jenner

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 5 out of 5 Language : English File size : 277 KB : Enabled Text-to-Speech Screen Reader : Supported Enhanced typesetting: Enabled Word Wise : Enabled Print length : 106 pages : Enabled Lending



The first pirate radio station in Nottingham was Radio 86, which launched in 1986. The station was run by a group of young people who were passionate about music and wanted to share their love of music with the rest of the city. Radio 86 quickly became a popular station, and its success inspired other pirate radio stations to launch in Nottingham.

By the early 1990s, there were over 20 pirate radio stations operating in Nottingham. These stations played a wide range of music, from hip-hop and reggae to house and techno. They also provided a platform for local news and information and were often used by activists to campaign for social change.

The pirate radio stations in Nottingham were a thorn in the side of the authorities. The stations were illegal, and the authorities were determined to shut them down. But the stations had a strong following in the city, and the authorities were often reluctant to take action against them.

In 1994, the government passed the Broadcasting Act, which made it a criminal offense to operate a pirate radio station. The Act gave the authorities the power to seize equipment and impose fines on anyone who was caught operating a pirate radio station.

The Broadcasting Act had a significant impact on the pirate radio stations in Nottingham. Many stations were forced to close down, and others were raided by the authorities. But some stations managed to survive, and they continued to broadcast until the mid-1990s.

The pirate radio stations in Nottingham played a vital role in the city's music and youth culture. They provided a platform for local musicians, DJs, and activists to share their music and message and played a key role in

shaping the city's unique cultural identity. The stations were also a symbol of resistance to the authorities and a reminder that even in the darkest of times, there is always hope for change.

#### The Stations

There were over 20 pirate radio stations operating in Nottingham during the late 1980s and early 1990s. Some of the most popular stations included:

- Radio 86
- Radio Active
- Radio TNT
- Radio Mast
- Radio Freedom

These stations played a wide range of music, from hip-hop and reggae to house and techno. They also provided a platform for local news and information and were often used by activists to campaign for social change.

#### The DJs

The pirate radio stations in Nottingham were staffed by a dedicated team of DJs who were passionate about music and wanted to share their love of music with the rest of the city. Some of the most popular DJs included:

- DJ Hype
- DJ Fabio
- DJ Grooverider

- DJ Randall
- DJ Sticky

These DJs were pioneers of the jungle and drum and bass scenes, and their sets were often legendary. They helped to put Nottingham on the map as a major center for electronic music.

## The Impact

The pirate radio stations in Nottingham had a significant impact on the city's music and youth culture. They provided a platform for local musicians, DJs, and activists to share their music and message and played a key role in shaping the city's unique cultural identity.

The stations were also a symbol of resistance to the authorities and a reminder that even in the darkest of times, there is always hope for change.

## The Legacy

The pirate radio stations in Nottingham are long gone, but their legacy lives on. The stations helped to create a vibrant and exciting music scene in the city, and they inspired a generation of young people to get involved in music and activism.

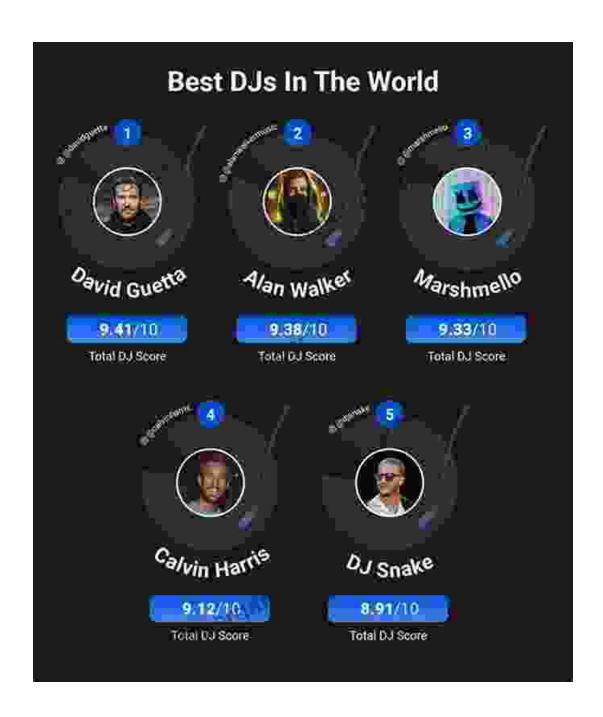
Today, there are still a number of pirate radio stations operating in the UK. These stations continue to provide a platform for local musicians, DJs, and activists to share their music and message and play a vital role in the UK's music and youth culture.

### **Images**





Radio Active was one of the most popular pirate radio stations in Nottingham.





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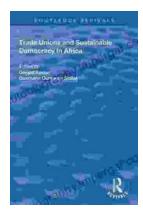
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