

Lockdown boost for local radio

Name _____ Date _____

Adapted from Positive News 28/5/20: <https://www.positive.news/society/it-brings-back-a-sense-of-community-in-isolation-local-radio-stations-thriving-in-lockdown/>

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“It’s lovely to know that somebody down the road is listening to the same thing as you. It makes you feel part of a community even if you are on your own.”

That’s what they say about [Bromyard FM](#), a local radio station that started up in late March 2020. It is broadcast online by two mobile DJs: Richie Palmer and Nikki Ivison.

There are other extra-local radio stations that have set up since COVID 19 hit the UK. They mix happy music and entertainment with public health and local information.

Richie Palmer explains: “I was tired of the endless bad news so I tried to broadcast online using gig software. Listeners started tuning in through Facebook. The next morning, Nikki and I set up Bromyard FM.”

The two hosts say that running the radio station makes them feel better. “It’s made me very happy to know that we are entertaining listeners and providing useful shows like the Virtual School Disco and Kids’ Story Time.”

Studies show that local radio brings the community together. You feel like you get to know the host and you feel part of the chat. You can find out about local services and hear music that people of all ages enjoy.

The Community Radio Association says that there are now more than 300 community-run stations in the UK. Most of them use the internet but some also broadcast on FM for people who aren’t online.

Lots of the new stations hope to carry on after lockdown so long as they can get the money to do it.

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Reading questions

1. What does the article say began in late March 2020?

_____ (E2.7, E2.8, 1 mark)

2. What 4 things do extra-local radio stations combine in their broadcasts?

_____ (E3.8, E3.9, 4 marks)

3. Why did Richie Palmer start broadcasting online?

_____ (E3.8, E3.9, 1 mark)

4. How can you listen to local radio if you don't have the internet?

_____ (E2.7, E2.11, 1 mark)

5. Why do listeners like local radio stations? Give 2 reasons.

_____ (E3.8, E3.9, 2 marks)

6. How can you tell when the article uses the words that somebody has spoken (a direct quote)?

_____ (E3.8, 1 mark)