

## Tony Thinking Aloud cxxviii

The Radio has always been with us ...well it will have been as the BBC is 100 years old this week. It has a Centenary. The radio for years was not called the radio but the Wireless – in the corner! It was like the beginning of television; you asked your neighbour – have you got one?

So, the radio call signal 2LO was first heard 100 years ago – November 14<sup>th</sup>, 1922. There was a license required from the beginning. Originally ten shillings a year. I have found it difficult to work it out its value in today's money – perhaps you would like a try! You did not need a wireless set you could receive the signal on earphones.

I can remember perhaps you can too! Announcers wearing Evening Dress on Television – McDonald Hobley, Sylvia Peters and Mary Malcom I was surprised to learn Evening Dress was required for the wireless – when they could not be seen!

Folk listened in good numbers over the years and grew bigger in the 1930s. King George V's famous first Christmas Broadcast was in 1932. Just as Television came into its own at the Coronation in 1953, the Wireless became greatly important in the war to hear the latest news.

My grandparents did not have a power point in the house, just two electric light bulbs! The wireless was listened to with power from the accumulator which was charged twice a week. In the war, news was listened to at 8a.m., 1p.m. 6p.m. and most importantly 9p.m.! The wireless was seldom put-on in between as the accumulator might run out!

Over the years more light programmes were the diet for everyone. They were talked about the next day! The programme everyone listened to was ITMA (It's

that Man again) with Tommy Handly. On Saturday night there was 'In Town Tonight' and personalities like Elsie and Doris Walters were very popular. I guess folk will remember many more!

There is much to recall, at this Centenary we can reflect and give thanks for this what was new means of communication. It brought people closer together. The way to know what you should listen to – every house seemed to have a copy of the Radio Times...

Radio and television we take for granted but reflect on how it has changed our lives. We discuss it with each other, another means of that much valued relating to each other .... Particularly to those who for various reasons find they spend much of their time alone!