

Youssouf recalls running pirate radio stations, and how this led to him meeting his wife Janet.

We was running, well doing pirate radio stations for a long, long time and Jan was just a listener and she just bumped along. It was three radio stations running at the same time, Radio Invicta, Radio Lee Valley and Phoenix. Phoenix was the serious one, Phoenix was the one that Janet was listening to. We moved into this flat in Leyton, running everything from there. To this day I can't figure out how I managed to go to work on Friday, get back, and we'd do all this radio stuff all at night and then go to work on Monday and then come home and sleep.

I'm mostly interested in the technical side of it and always was. Other people were into doing the programmes and stuff. But yeah, it was just providing something that wasn't being provided by other people. Yeah, you wanted to listen to some music, you couldn't listen to some music. And of course, you've got to remember that this is the days before cell phones and spotify and i-whatever it is. So you know, there wasn't even CDs when we started, it was all vinyl and cassette tapes. So yeah, we just built the equipment, put it in high places, in tower blocks or in high houses or top of hills, and put programmes out. Like I say, I was always into the techier side of things, the aerials and the rigs, and other people would build the studios and put the programmes out...

But there was quite a gang of us. A couple of them have actually moved up to Hertford since. My friend Bernard, when we was doing the radio station stuff, he lived in Hainault, but he's moved up here now, he lives just around the corner. People have moved along and moved up as they, as their lives have changed, they needed somewhere else to go.