



BBC Radio Northampton's Stuart Linnell will be presenting his last show on the station tomorrow. Friday, after he announced he would be stepping down

'I will miss it...I love being in the studio'

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A much-loved voice on local radio has announced this Friday will be his last show after 10 years on the county's airwaves.

BBC Radio Northampton's Stuart Linnell announced on his afternoon show on Monday he would be leaving the station at the end of the week. Stuart's voice has become well known on BBC Radio Northampton over the past 10 years, including seven years hosting the breakfast show. But at the start of Monday's

show, he mentioned almost in passing that it would be his last week hosting a regular show before retiring.

He told the *Chronicle & Echo*: "I will miss it. I love being in the studio. Sometimes I talk nonsense but I really do love it all."

"But I will keep in touch. Hopefully I will be back from time to time if they ask me."

"Northampton has come to mean an awful lot to me."

His last show tomorrow will mark the end of a 50-year career in broadcasting that has seen him present in Birmingham, Northern Ireland and Coventry, including work for gLive and Sky Sports.

He said: "I've been doing this for 50 years and at the end of the day it's time to take a break."

"Once a broadcaster could wander in and play whatever they wanted and talk about whatever they wanted. The producer has much more control over the show but probably quite rightly. A good team around you is important and Northampton without a doubt has a great team."

Stuart is retiring to Coventry where he will take on the volunteer role of chairman of Healthwatch Coventry and hopes to outline some new writing projects as well as return to the studio from time to time.

'I've detected a different attitude'

The award-winning broadcaster, who was recognised with an MBE in 1995, also launched in the past year the 'Love Northampton' debates to highlight issues in the town and discuss new ways to regenerate the high street.

He said: "I've detected a different attitude in Northampton in recent months, to move it forward and find a new era of regeneration. Change can't be led just by politicians."

"It's got to come from a lot of people working together really, really positively."

Poet brings positivity to commuters

Life-affirming lines of poetry are cropping up on tube station boardings around the capital thanks to the work of a Northampton scribe.

Abington dad-of-two James McInerney, 40, has been writing verses since 1998 and is currently working on his sixth published collection.

But the poet's works are now starting to be seen by an even wider audience after the

managers of some of London's busiest tube stations agreed to start displaying some of his shorter verses on their information boards.

"I had this idea of seeing what places I could get poetry into where there isn't usually poetry," James said.

"When I went to visit London I saw these information boards - and some of them had quotes on."



"With them being written in pen, I thought I would just contact a few station managers and see what they felt about the poetry. All the major stations said yes."

James' poetry talks of 'love and life' and aims to inspire a bit of positivity among London's commuters.

"It's something a bit different, it's something you don't normally see at train stations."

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