The Making of Milton Heynes

Channel 40

A unique experiment in community cable television

Channel 40 was a unique project – the first time in the UK that an experiment in community use of cable television had been set up on an entirely independent and non-commercial basis.

Based at a corner block on Fishermead Boulevard it began broadcasting in October 1976, with the last programme being broadcast on July 31st 1979. Three hours of original programming was produced each week, with local people being encouraged to make programmes not only in the Fishermead studios, but also with the aid of black and white portable reel-to-reel video recorders.

The programmes were transmitted to all new city homes using the Post Office cabling system.

The most popular programme was the 'Hot Stuff' cookery show, presented by ex-naval chef Derek Williams and produced by Colin Barrett. It was recorded in Derek's kitchen in his Beanhill home but he would often refer to the 'studio audience' tasting his creations!









