

Inventor's firm says creator of the wind-up radio has died

March 5 2018



An Oct. 9, 1997 photo from files of Trevor Baylis, with his OBE, and a wind-up radio. Trevor Baylis, creator of the clockwork or wind-up radio, has died. He was 80. David Bunting, CEO of Trevor Baylis Brands, says Baylis died Monday, March 5, 2018 after a lengthy illness. (PA File Photo via AP)

Trevor Baylis, creator of the clockwork or wind-up radio, has died at 80.

David Bunting, CEO of Trevor Baylis Brands, says Baylis died Monday

after a lengthy illness.

Baylis developed his best-known invention after seeing a [television program](#) on AIDS in Africa and learning that people weren't getting lifesaving information because they didn't have electricity and couldn't afford batteries to power radios.

Inspired by old-fashioned gramophones, Baylis designed a wind-up [radio](#). The invention won him international acclaim and an audience with South African icon Nelson Mandela, but didn't pay huge dividends. He later formed a company to help inventors protect and market products, but wasn't motivated by wealth.

"Inventing is not about the money," he was quoted by the BBC as saying. "Who wants to be the richest man in the graveyard?"

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Citation: Inventor's firm says creator of the wind-up radio has died (2018, March 5) retrieved 27 July 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2018-03-inventor-firm-creator-wind-up-radio.html>

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