

Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society
Newsletter No.158

MARCH, 1979

Next Meeting

Words by John Bowen, G8DET

This month your committee has tried to arrange something a little different - straight from Tomorrows World and Nationwide.

With the co-operation of ITT Basildon and the British Post Office the lecture is "Viewdata, with a demonstration of the Post Office's viewdata service - Prestel." The lecture will be given by Mr. Piers Hakluytt of ITT Consumer Products, Basildon. 26 inch colour TV sets will be used for the demonstration. These will be connected to the Prestel computer using a telephone line. The computer is now on-line 24 hours a day apart from occasional breakdowns; let's hope we don't get one. In any case a back-up demonstration will be provided on tape.

Chelmsford is going to have its own Prestel viewdata computer centre sometime in 1980, so the cost of local access will be about 2p per minute plus a cost per page varying from nothing to 10p. (For example, detailed stock market costing prices)

Viewdata is complementary to the information services transmitted by the BBC and IBA, CEEFAX and ORACLE respectively. These are off-air and receive only. Viewdata is on-line TV and as a Keyboard is provided it is interactive, i.e. two-way. Each user has to have a user code.

Why have your own microcomputer when you can have access to a GEC 4080 computer storing some 180,000 pages of information. Each computer will handle many hundreds of simultaneous users although at present there is only a handful.

Come along and see the new communication system. The meeting will be held at Marconi College, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford on Tuesday March 6th commencing at 7:30pm.

Committee Meeting

Wednesday, March 14th Wheatsheaf, 7;30pm.

NFD Meeting

Wednesday 21st March at John Greenwood's house, 112 Long Bradocks, Writtle. Please ring John if you intend to come on Chelmsford 421223. The long range preparations are well in hand but more help is always needed especially near the day (June 9/10).

Treasurer's Note

G8DET will be pleased to see those who have not paid their subscription for this year and also those who would like to join. It is a pity that this year's bad weather has prevented some from venturing out on the ice and snow,

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Direction Finding

Locations have now been associated with the dates of the National Championship Qualifying rounds, they are as follows:-

April 22nd	Chelmsford (first again!)
May 13th	S. Manchester
June 3rd	Dartford Heath
June 17th	Burton-on-Trent
July 10th	Mid-Thames
July 15th	Coventry
August 5th	Salisbury
August 19th	Slade
September 16th	National Final (Rugby)

The CARS events have also been arranged and will take place on the following dates:-

April 8th
May 20th
June 24th
July 22nd
August 26th
September 23rd

The Mid-Thames club is holding a special event, the G.T. Peck Challenge Trophy on April 8th. Further details from G4CUE or from the organiser, Eric Mollart whose phone number is Marlow 3276.

The starting point for the Chelmsford qualifying round will be published in the March "Radio Communication". Will those who intend to take part and have tea please contact Bill, G4CUE. Note that this event will decide the winner of the Mid-Essex Trophy.

Alexandra Palace Exhibition 11/12 May

The club will be running a coach trip to the exhibition on Saturday 12th May. If you wish to go please reserve your seat by depositing one pound with John, G8DET.

73

Bill

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