

CHELMSFORD AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER NO. 164.

SEPTEMBER 1979.

Next Meeting.

September's meeting will be a talk given by Mike, G8DNO who will talk about CARFAX which is a radio information service for motorists being set up by the B.B.C. If time permits Mike will present a second talk about his experiments with frequency synthesizers for the 2 metre band.

The meeting will take place at Marconi College, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford on Tuesday September 4th commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Committee Meeting.

Wheatsheaf, Wednesday September 12th. 7.30 p.m.

Report on the trip to Woburn Abbey by John, G8DET.

The trip to Woburn Abbey took place as planned on Sunday 5th August. The Radio Society joined the Writtle Art Group so as to enjoy a 53 seater coach - this gave a better ride and more space for equipment. The day was hot and without the traditional Woburn thunderstorm.

The two tents were well stocked with parts but the large distributors of Yinky Pinky Boxes (Lowses etc) were absent. Providing the general rule of "once round to check prices - buy on second trip" was adhered to there were quite a few bargains. These included tape recorders, calculators, multimeters, motors ($\frac{1}{4}$ HP) radiogram chassis, and the usual capacitor, resistors etc.

24 Adults and 4 children took advantage of the 90p to 50p reduced entrance to Woburn Abbey and spent about $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours walking around the house during which time most people are sure they wore $\frac{1}{2}$ inch off their legs.

The Abbey has some beautiful paintings, silver, gold and miniature soldiers on display.

A few very adventurous souls went round the Safari Park in a very old bus (without opening windows). They returned after seeing plenty of game but about 2 lb. lighter due to sweating buckets.

The Club subsidised the trip so it was a pity more people didn't come - why not next time. Our thanks to Frank Piper and his party.

Report on the visit to Chelmsford Telephone Exchange by Andrew, G8KQE.

We arrived at the large building in Cottage Place at 7.15 p.m. and were directed straight to the Canteen to be greeted with a choice of tea or coffee and a plate of food. The Post Office catering department looked after us very well, as those who sampled the fruit cake and had two cups of tea will agree.

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We were then split into three groups to be taken round the exchange. First stop was the manual exchange. This is now largely disused, with the advent of S.T.D. The only calls now taken are operator calls, enquiries and emergency calls.

Down into the "cellar" we went to see the cables coming into the exchange from every telephone in Chelmsford. The biggest of these cables is quite a monster with 4,800 separate pairs of wires inside. The cables are then split down into smaller cables and fed to large frames with separate connections for every subscriber in numerical order on one side and alphabetical order on the other side.

Next we saw the uniselectors and switches that move up in steps when someone dials. There are racks and racks of these switches and every so often one would start up as someone started dialling. There was a demonstration model set up between two telephones so we could see exactly what happened on dialling. Next step was the S.T.D. section which deals with calls to other exchanges and stores the dialled numbers until the other exchange is switched in.

We were then taken to the fault finding room. In here are records of every telephone installed in the Chelmsford area. From the desks the engineers can do various tests on the lines to trace any faults.

The final section to see was the new International Direct Dialling installations which are still being plumbed in. With the equipment being installed here it will soon be possible for subscribers in the Chelmsford area to dial direct abroad. On our trip round we passed many other pieces of equipment such as the meters for recording the number of calls made, but one room was particularly noticeable from the amount of heat being generated. On closer inspection, it turned out that these were p.c.m. multiplexers designed by some members of the party and built by the famous Company in New Street.

The tour was extremely interesting and enjoyed by all, including the three XYL's who came, and our sincere thanks go to John G8DET for organising it and to the Post Office for giving us the privilege of going round the exchange.

Silent Key.

It is with great regret that we record the passing of Geoff Hoare, G8OUF who was very active on 2 m and a well known member of the club. He leaves a wife and two sons. The club sends its condolences to them.

Direction Finding.

This months hunt will take place on Sunday 23rd September at the usual starting point on Galleywood Common behind the Church, commencing at 2. p.m. The callsign of the hidden station will be announced at the start,

The August hunt proved to be interesting; the hidden station was to have been G4CUE/P but an offer of help from Colin, G3VKQ was accepted. We had set up the station in Blake's Wood near Little Baddow and Colin was finally attaching the end of the antenna to a convenient

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300 yard long wire fence when he disturbed a wasps' nest and was set upon by thousands of the unpleasant blighters (severe restraint there !)
The undergrowth was very dense and this made running away very difficult indeed. As a result Colin was stung hundreds of times and was in such great pain that we rushed to the hospital and Colin slowly recovered after treatment. This incident delayed the start of the hunt but Dick, G3WHR offered to take over operation and given a few directions was able to find the transmitter within forty minutes and put it on the air at about 3.45. Everybody found the station and the results were as follows :-

1st.	Andrew	G8KQE	4.24
2nd.	Ian	G4HKL	4.29
3rd.	Geoff.	G8PXT	4.34
4th.	Barry.	G8MMP	4.38
5th.	Ron.	G8PUI	4.51
6th.	Graham.		4.51 $\frac{1}{2}$

Ron's wife actually found the station before Ron, without the aid of a df set and was in at 4.47.

Many thanks to Dick for helping in the emergency.

The Club will be arranging a joint df hunt on a Sunday afternoon in October when there will be two stations to find. The start will probably be at Tiptree Heath but this will be announced in the October Newsletter.

73,

Bill.

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