

# Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society.

NEWSLETTER No.305

Callsign G0MWT

June 1991

## H.F. FIELD DAY 1991.

This Newsletter should reach you in time to spread the word for the big event.

The site is again Howletts Hall Farm on the Highwood/Blackmore road, map ref. TL616018.

Helpers to erect the station will be welcome on site at 9.00am on Saturday 1st June, in case the weather becomes inclement, wellies and an anorak are advisable.

Interest will centre this year on the first use of our Society's new FT-7476X (now all paid for!) which will radiate the callsign G0MWT from the array of wire antennas.

For any final arrangements or offers of help, please contact Dick, G3WHR on 0621-891868 or Gwyn, G4FKH on 0245-260831. VISITORS TO THE STATION WILL BE VERY WELCOME ON BOTH DAYS.

## NEXT MEETING - Constructors' Competition.

To quote a member at the last committee meeting "the item doesn't have to be perfection to enter but it should be radio related".

No doubt constructors' have been beavering away over the past months, preparing their entries for the rest of us to enjoy viewing at the meeting on Tuesday 4th June.

Paying particular attention will be Harry, G2HPF and Andrew, G4KQE who have kindly agreed to be our official judges for this years competition.

Depending on the number of entries, the prizes will be £7, £5 and £3 for 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively, in addition and at the discretion of the judges a £3 'Novice' prize may be awarded to the best entry from a member who has not previously won a prize.

Note: For the benefit of the Chairman and Judges will competitors please provide a card with their name and the title of the entry - these are also useful to aid the report in the next Newsletter

The meeting starts at 7.30pm at The Marconi College, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

- |          |                                                         |
|----------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 1/2 June | HF FIELD DAY - Howletts Hall Farm.                      |
| 4 June   | CONSTRUCTORS' COMPETITION - Is your project ready?      |
| 18 June  | VISIT TO HARWICH HAVEN - Afternoon tour for members.    |
| 2 July   | CLUB MEETING - "Amateur Satellites" by Pat Gowen G3IOR. |
| 6 August | CLUB MEETING - General Discussion Evening.              |

## VISIT TO HARWICH HAVEN TUESDAY JUNE 18TH - Brian G3CVI.

Ever since Nelson, as a young "snotty", discovered the Medusa Channel leading into and out of the Harwich anchorage the port has developed into the most important group on the east coast. Ipswich, Mistley, Felixstowe and Parkeston all come under the control of the Harwich Harbourmaster at Angel gate.

We shall divide into two groups at 2pm and the first will be shown round the recently re-equipped control centre while the second is free to explore the locality ensuring that it is back at the establishment promptly at 3pm.

We are attempting to have the Maritime Museum or the Redoubt opened specially for us but there is no confirmation at this moment.

The sea wall is open to the public and a free car park can be found a little way past the Harbourmasters Centre. How about a picnic if the elements look set fair?

There are a few places left so please check with Brian G3CVI at the June meeting for final briefing and a sketch map. If numbers and interest justify we shall try for a second visit later this year.

## NEW MEMBERS.

The Society extends a welcome to Vincent Cumberbatch, 8P6AG.

## QSL CARD COMPETITION.

As outlined in the last newsletter, we look forward to your entries.

## COMMITTEE MEETING.

The Committee will meet in the Telford Lodge at 7:30pm on Wednesday, 12th June.

## TRIP TO RSGB EXHIBITION AT THE NEC - Ela G6HKM.

I am pleased to say that this trip was self funding. It was a pity that we could not get more people interested in filling seats on the coach thus reducing the cost of £10 per person, however this price did include the tip for the coach driver.

John, G8DET our Chairman joined forces with the spokesman from another coach, that arrived at the same time as we did, to negotiate for concessionary rates (which had been advertised by the RSGB), after a lot of haggling they succeeded, then guess what happened, the Box Office ran out of concessionary tickets, just 10 minutes after they opened on the FIRST DAY! Once this hurdle had been crossed we had a good day, it was not crowded, good for us but not so good for the RSGB, no crush or squeeze to get to the stands.

Some members attended the lectures during the course of the day and by all accounts everybody had a good time. Thank you to all those who supported the trip.

**DF NEWS - CHELMSFORD EVENT 17TH MAY - Dick 63WHR.**

Richard Witney provided the hidden station, using a newly constructed transmitter.

Best dressed man at the start was Mike Hawkins, who arrived in suit and tie, with no time to change.

The start bearing went towards Halstead with subsequent bearings confirming a site near the river/railway track. I arrived at the riverbank for the 8.10 transmission. This was a very strong signal but with a bearing straight across the river into the field and woods beyond.

Back to the car and drove round to the woods. At 8.30 the signal strength indicated 'not here' and the bearing was back to river/railway. I returned to the river for a more thorough investigation and encountered a more suitably attired Mike Hawkins. This time I went a bit further and discovered Richard hidden at the junction of river and railway, fortunately on my side - since the bridge had gone.

The aerial was only a quarterwave but coupled nicely to nearby overhead cables causing the totally misleading bearings close in.

Results:-

1 Philip Cunningham	8.30	4 Peter Graves	8.48
2 Dick Brocks	8.45	5 Roy Emeny	8.53
3 Mike Hawkins	8.47		

Future events:-

- 31st May = Colchester.
- 9th June = RSGB Slade.
- 23rd June = RSGB Torbay.

**THE MAY MEETING - "CO-ALL CHELMSFORDIANS" - Charles 606JS.**

Patrick Allen an archeologist employed by the Planning Department of the Essex County Council gave members a fascinating talk on the origins of Chelmsford - or CAESAROMAGUS as the Romans called it "Caesar's Market Place".

Patrick explained that "rescue Archeology" really began 20 years ago with the commencement of Parkway and he was careful to emphasise the necessary relationships with developers and builders. Although his talk was centred on Roman Chelmsford he was keen to describe the setting of our town commencing some 4000 years prior to the Roman invasion with a view to stressing that our ancestors were not savages awaiting the arrival of an Italian civilisation!

Our present Chelmer Village is built over a Neolithic Ceremonial "Temple" (3-4K.BC) and is the oldest evidence of earthwork in the Chelmer Valley - a funery area was excavated. By the Bronze Age (1-2K BC) a dense population was settled around Chelmsford. A soil mark detected by aerial photography led to excavations near Heybridge which revealed a "round house". We saw a slide depicting a reconstructed village centred on the "round house" which showed cattle farming on a large scale and excavated 'post marks' indicated cattle husbandry arrangements; confirmed by the enormous amount of cattle bones that were unearthed; recovered seeds also pointed to extensive cereal farming.

The site for our future high technology park at Springfield Lyons had other high technology at work between 1000-800BC. A Chieftain's stronghold was discovered complete with a foundry for manufacturing bronze swords - the man obviously appreciated the view across the Chelmer Valley though for reasons which differ from to-day's planners.

Excavation work at Stansted Airport revealed very large family buildings of the Iron Age (800-0AD) and are considered to be typical of a Celtic British village. Potin coinage was unearthed which points to marketing activity for cash (PRIOR to the arrival of the Romans) as against barter trade. The Romans who had made a number of investigatory visits before the invasion in AD43, knew that there was wealth to be had. Emperor Hadrian wrote on his Wall that our country was rich in minerals, agriculture, slaves and hunting dogs!

A late Iron Village at Chignall St.James (south side of the modern village), really a rural farmstead, benefited from the Roman culture at the end of the second century AD with the establishment of a 'posh' Roman villa. Patrick Allen's depiction showed a villa with formal fields, deer park and landscaped surroundings with grazing cattle, horses and deer - a very desirable residence.

Turning more specifically to the Roman influence on Chelmsford, we learned that the strategic value of Chelmsford with its network of routes leading to other important towns and places - Braintree, Coggeshall, Colchester, Dunmow, Heybridge (Maldon), Billericay, Blackwater Estuary - was not lost upon them. Established originally as a fort to combat the revolting Boadicea, Chelmsford became a government staging post, but it was never a major Roman town. The invaders found it convenient to mount an attack on Colchester from here in order to dislodge the Chief of the defending forces which resulted in Colchester being sacked twice - once by Boadicea.

Moulsham Street formed part of the main London-Colchester road and the river crossing in the town is still in evidence.

Roman Chelmsford had a population of circa 1000 people and it was mainly ribbon development along the Moulsham Street area by artisans, hawkers and sellers as shown by evidence of small shops, a market centre and an iron mongery. The Masio building in Grove Road was a local centre of Roman government housing administration, local law courts and other government departments; it is large compared to the rest of the Town, measuring 100 yards long by 40 yards wide. The Godfrey Mews site (adjacent to Grove Road) proved to be a supply compound where the Romans kept their animals, food, waggons, etc. Later after the fort was abandoned and a civilian settlement established (AD200 onwards) building took place and excavations revealed timber framed houses with fired clay bricks. Usually when a building was no longer required the occupants removed all their belongings, but one house was discovered showing a kitchen complete with a corn milling stone and a full range of cooking pots. The civilian settlement of Chelmsford included the building of strong timber palisades with 12' x 10' earthworks for defence against the marauding hordes from across the North Sea who came after the considerable mounds of coins collected by the Romans. The stronghold at Bradwell is an example of a forward fort built by the Romans about the middle of the third century AD and was coincident with the abandonment of Chelmsford.

A temple was built around AD300 by the Odeon roundabout; it was octagonal in shape and is the culmination of a whole series of timber buildings close by. The temple is a shrine with an open area at the end of a long approach - Taj Mahal style. Sacrifices and other rites probably took place in the open air in front of the shrine.

For the latter part of his talk, Patrick returned to the Mansio House and its bath. The house was built onto the bath house which was part of the fort and the soldiers' perks! A sauna facility providing dry heat and sweating chambers was the delight of many Romans. The various parts of the bath house were described in great detail - caldarium, frigidarium and plunge pools with heating systems supplied by brushwood fired furnaces. A type of waterproof cement which contained ground tiles lined the pools. Pangs of regret must have been felt by many members of the audience that this once marvellous facility is now buried in sand and sealed by concrete beneath sheltered accommodation in Mildmay Road. The baths were in use for 250 years- quite a precedent for the Management of 'Riverside'!

Patrick's final slides showed the sandy limestone coffin remarkably complete with the skeleton of its occupant - a notable of those times who now resides in our local museum. On the site of Lasts' Garage opposite St.John's Church a 99% complete skeleton of a young colt sacrificed in Celtic style by Chelmsfordians during the Roman occupation demonstrated the determination of our forefathers to continue with their old ways regardless of the Roman culture and indeed to use the oppressors' utensils as part of Celtic sacrificial ritual. I am sure we all slept well and snug in our beds that tuesday night.....

73 from Roy & Ela Martyr, G3PMX & G6HKM  
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