

# Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society

Established 1936

Affiliated to the RSGB  
President: Harry Heap G5HF  
Secretary: Martyn M3VAM

Club Call Sign: G0MWT  
Chairman: Chris Chapman G0IPU  
Treasurer: Brian Thwaites G3CVI

Newsletter No 471

Web Address: [www.g0mwt.org.uk](http://www.g0mwt.org.uk)

May 2005

## This Month's Meeting The Rodrigues Expedition 3B9C by Don Field G3XTT Tuesday 3rd. May at 7-30 pm at MASC

Organising an expedition like this one must be just one hell of a job! This month Don Field is going to tell us how it is all done and it should be an object lesson for those of us who couldn't even manage an event in the proverbial brewery! One of the objects of the organisers was to involve a wider range of amateurs than usual and involve those who would not normally contact the expedition.

Incidentally Don is author of the RSGB Operating Manual and an acknowledged expert on such matters. He might be persuaded to sign Member's copies of said tome. An evening not to be missed.

This month's raffle is being run by Trevor M5AKA assisted by Ron M3CAM.

### Dates for Your Diary

May	3	CARS Mtg. The Rodrigues Expedition by Don Field G3XTT
May	11	CARS Committee Mtg. 7-30pm DVH All Members cordially invited
May	8	Dunstable Downs Rally, Stockwood Park near Luton. M1 juncn.10
June	7	CARS Meeting MASC. The Constructors Competition

The Club Net Controller for May is David M3BQC and Chris G0IPU for June

### The Constructors Competition

Just another reminder! Hopefully you are well into your entry. If not there's still time

### Amateur of the Year

Can you be thinking about this one as well! Let any Committee Member have your nominee.

### Foundation Course

The next Radio Amateur Foundation Course will be run on Thursday evenings from 9th June until 14th July at Danbury Village hall. The cost is £35 which also covers the manual and exam fee. If you know of someone who might be interested in taking up the hobby tell them to contact Clive Ward M0SIX Tel: 01245-224577  
Mob: 07860-418835 Email: [training2005@g0mwt.org.uk](mailto:training2005@g0mwt.org.uk)

CARS meets at 7-30 pm on the first Tuesday of the month at the MASC, Beehive Lane, Chelmsford.

For details contact our Secretary: Martyn M3VAM on 01245-469008

Club Nets: Tuesdays 8-30pm: (2nd) 145.375 : (3rd) 1.947 : (4th) 1.947 : (5th) 145.375. All +/- QRM.

Newsletter Editor: Geoff G7KLV 01245-473822 or email: [geoff@g7klv.free-online.co.uk](mailto:geoff@g7klv.free-online.co.uk)

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Please advise change of address to Geoff G7KLV

## **Last Month's Meeting Radio Meets Radio by Simon Baldock**

Music, road and traffic reports, expected weather details, up-to-the-minute news stories and listeners comments are all part of the early evening output of our local radio station BBC Essex. How all these component parts are combined to make a programme heard daily by some 50,000 listeners was described by Simon Baldock at our April meeting. Simon, with co-presenter Ian Wyatt broadcasts from 4 to 7pm each weekday, and on the day in question, he came straight from finishing in the studio to tell us about his life and work in a very amusing and interesting way. Displaying a BBC Essex leaflet, he told us about the other members of staff and presenters who make up the very successful and popular team. We learnt he had been broadcasting for some 10 years now but before that he worked at quite a variety of jobs, some of which may have equipped him for his current post.

Leaving school without too many qualifications and seeking work he decided to attend catering College and left after 2 years as a fully qualified Chef and spent some time in the catering business. Then followed a spell at Marks and Spencer selling men's suits very successfully and later ladies blouses with a stint in between helping M&S with their accounts but that was not quite to his liking so it was time to find something else.

Work as driver delivering medical equipment kept Simon busy for a while but on leaving he left his mark. The mark, which can still be seen, is in fact a patched up brick wall in London where Simon had inadvertently driven his van, uninvited into the side of a Birds Eye food factory.

Public Relations next received Simon's attention and he thought he had made a breakthrough when staging an event for the 'Keep Sunday Special Campaign' in Downing Street. Film and TV Cameras and reporters were there in abundance taking pictures, which Simon and his team thought were there solely for their benefit. Suddenly the door of number 10 opened and out came Michael Hesiltine having resigned from the Government and was driven away at speed, at which point all the reporters and cameras immediately followed, leaving Simon and his team deflated and alone looking very crestfallen at the half of a cow they had brought to make a point to the Prime Minister.

Time to move on and Simon found himself in America working with an old college friend on a luxury yacht having the time of his life. The yacht, was one of two belonging to a very rich gentlemen, so rich in fact, that deciding to get married, he bought a Model Agency, thus enabling him to choose at will, a suitable partner. The good life ended when Simon's work permit expired and it was sadly back to England, this time to find work as an Estate Agent. Some difficult situations arose when attempting to

sell unsaleable houses or when compromising situations arose that required careful handling.

Running his own company occupied his time for a while but then his partner Jan, suggested that a long-term occupation should be seriously considered, but what to do proved a problem. As they both had experience in catering and management, becoming publicans seemed appropriate and after a two-week course, membership of the British Institute of Innkeepers was gained and the search for a suitable Public House began. In the meantime whilst listening to the radio, Simon heard a local radio broadcast asking for householders willing to be interviewed about their unusual homes. The resulting interview and subsequent broadcast whetted Simon's interest and when a plea from BBC Essex for volunteers to assist with the 'Help' line he applied immediately and was accepted. A life changing decision now had to be made, as they had found suitable premises and passed the tests to begin as publicans, but much to Simon's delight other circumstances prevented that happening and the BBC won the day. That was eleven years ago and at last he had found his niche in life.

Ten of those eleven years have been spent working on 'Drive Time' and have given Simon the opportunity to meet and interview all sorts of interesting people, including Dame Judy Dench and Joan Collins whom were very pleasant and a joy to talk to but others were not quite so nice. As a result of hearing another interviewer, he passed on some tips to us. Never ask an ageing star about her age, about cosmetic surgery or if she is wearing a wig. I will bear that in mind. Another point he made was to make sure you get peoples names correct when doing interviews.

Simon went on to say how the technology has changed, instead of bulky reel to reel tape recorders for off-site interviews with the need to cut and splice tape, interviews are now all recorded digitally and back in the studio they are transferred to the inevitable computer, all editing is done electronically, quickly and cleanly. As all the music is also stored on a computer background effects can be added with ease, as some 2500 tracks are available for instant use. Three different screens provide information to the presenter and one of them, using Radioman software, displays the chosen music, the news reports and interviews, all stored as .wav files and played back in sequence as required. Should it be necessary to change things, manual intervention is possible. Of course being computer based, crashes occur, then the skill and expertise of the presenters takes over and things revert to hands on operation and CDs and minidisks come to the fore until all is well again.

Local Radio depends largely of course on its listener's response and Simon is always impressed by the friendliness and generosity of the public. This was the case when he did a sponsored cycle ride in China for Mencap, of which he is the local President. Although unable to seek sponsorship on air, the financial results were exceptional and he was indeed very grateful for the support he had from listeners.

'On Air 'mistakes do happen of course and Simon played back a few examples to us, but he hastened to add that none of them originated at BBC Essex. We heard one reporter having trouble trying to describe a fierce fire at the Firestone tyre factory and another had trouble comparing play in the Bath half in the first half of Rugby match and the Bath play in the other half after half time with regard to the second half in the Bath half. Another interviewee refused to answer any questions and gave the same negative reply each time but with the interviewer staying polite to the end.

Asked a question about funding it was explained that out of every TV licence paid for at £121, eight pence went to pay for local radio and also, for comparison, for the cost of two hours for a 2 hour BBC drama production, BBC Essex could be funded for a whole year. Funding is usually a problem but at the moment things are not too bad. Simon is salaried which has advantages and he is happy with his situation, but more and more these days some staff are freelance with the consequent freedom to do other work.

Asked about coverage Simon stated that signals reach well into Suffolk and Kent and Birmingham and now with Internet so active, worldwide coverage is possible. One listener on his boat in the middle of the Mediterranean even emailed in the answer to quiz question, so really the total number of listeners is not known. Volunteers play a large part in the BBC Essex output both in programme preparation and during outside events and their help is greatly appreciated by the permanent staff.

A few changes may take place in future and Simon may leave the programme to do far more interviews and offsite work, a change he is looking forward to very much.

Our thanks to Simon for a first rate amusing presentation. I may well take up the offer to pay a visit to the studios and see in person how things are done.

*Report by Colin G0TRM*

## May Contests by Steve G4ZUL

**CQ WW WPX / CW** 28/29 May, 48HRS Exchange: RS + serial number.

Categories: Single operator (single band & all band)  
Multi operator (single TX, Multi two, Multi TX)

Scoring: 3 points on 28, 21, 14Mhz / 6 points on 7, 3.5, 1.8Mhz if on different continent and if same continent then 1 point & 2 points respectively.

Prefix multipliers: The number of valid prefixes worked. For full details please see refer to February issue of CQ magazine or [www.cq-amateur-radio.com](http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com)

**RSGB Club Championship.** Dates for May as follows: SSB 02 May. 20:00 – 21:30 UTC

DATA 11 May. 20:00 – 21:30 UTC

CW 19 May. 20:00 – 21:30 UTC

Further information & rules from [www.rsgbhfcc.org](http://www.rsgbhfcc.org)

**VHF Contests. 07 May:** 432Mhz Trophy Contest  
Starts: 14:00 - Finishes 22:00 UTC

Sections: SF, O. (special rules S6).

**21/22 May:** 144Mhz May Contest

Starts: 14:00 - Finishes: 14:00 UTC (24HR)

Sections: SF, SO, M, 6S, 6O. (special rules M1)

Further information from [www.blacksheep.org/vhfcc](http://www.blacksheep.org/vhfcc) or email Steve: [contests2005@g0mwt.org.uk](mailto:contests2005@g0mwt.org.uk)

Steve G4ZUL & Trevor M5AKA are now members of the BAE Systems ARS and can utilise the radio shack which comprises a large Portakabin together with a 60 ft tower and 3 element triband yagi beam for 14, 21, 28Mhz. There are also 2 Metre & 70 Centimetre beams for VHF.

We are hoping to organise some contests from this venue during the year and would welcome your ideas and/or support. The shack can be found at: BAE Systems Social Club, Gardiners Lane South, Basildon, Essex. SS14 3AP.

Locator; JO 01 FO. WAB: TQ71. NGR: TQ717907.

## The Essex Windmill Award

This year the Havering, and District Amateur Radio Club (G4HRC) will be taking part in the National Windmills On-the-Air weekend, this takes place on Saturday and Sunday 7/8th May.

This event supports the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (Mills Section) UK with the coordination of the Denby Dales Radio Club G4CDD (Brian G0GFJ).

The Havering Club will be putting no less than four mills on-the-air. The callsigns of the windmills, and operators are as follows:

**Uppminster - GB2UW.** This mill will be run by M0MAC, G3JSR, G3SVK, G0PIA, M3DOQ, M3DOV, and help from SWL Chris Lester. NGR: TQ557868  
<http://uk.multimap.com/map/places.cgidb=grid&cat=loc&place=TQ557868&scale=25000>

**Mountnessing - GB0MW.** This mill will be run by M0JKA, G4UNS, and G0BOF.  
NGR: TQ631980

<http://uk.multimap.com/map/places.cgidb=grid&cat=loc&place=TQ631980&scale=25000>

**Aythorpe Roding - GB2ARW.** This mill will be run by G3TPJ, and M1MOG.  
NGR: TL590152

<http://uk.multimap.com/map/places.cgidb=grid&cat=loc&place=TL590152&scale=25000>

**Stock - GB5SW.** This mill will be run by G3VOF, G3RJI, and M0BOB, G3TTB.  
NGR: TQ698989

<http://uk.multimap.com/map/places.cgidb=grid&cat=loc&place=TQ698989&scale=25000>

The Havering Club will be running its own award programme for working the windmills run by their own Club. This will be the **Essex Windmill Award**. This award is offered not only in the UK, but to EU, and the rest of the world.

The requirements for this award in the **UK only** are as follows:- Work any two of the Windmills **GB2ARW**, **GB2UW**, **GB5SW** or **GB0MW** any band any mode

For EU and the rest of the world just one Windmill will qualify for the award.

In future years there will be silver, and gold endorsements (once the basic award has been obtained) for achieving a more difficult operating goal. Details will be given before next year's Windmill event.

**The Awards Manager** for this Certificate is Fred Curtis **G3SVK**, qth on **WWW.QRZ.COM** or direct:- 32, Elgin Ave, Harold Park, Romford, Essex, RM3 0YT, England. UK. The cost of the award will be **UK £3.00** Inc p&p.

Check log is all that's necessary. SWL's can send also send for the award on a heard basis.

**EU**.14 IRC's or 5 EUR, Rest of the world 16 IRC's or \$8 US.

Suggested frequencies for the windmills:-

**GB2UW**, SSB: 3735, 7055, 14.155, 18.120, 21.255, 28.455, 50.160, (FM) **145.400** and 433.400.

CW: 3510, 7010, 14.010, 18.075, 21.010, 28.010.

**GB0MW**, SSB: 3745, 7065, 14.165, 18.130, 21.265, 28.465, 50.165, (FM) **145.425** and 433.425.

CW: 3515, 7015, 14.015, 18.080, 21.015, 28.015.

**GB2ARW**, SSB: 3755, 7075, 14.175, 18, 140, 21.275, 28.475, 50.170 (FM) **145.450**, 433.450.

CW: 3520, 7020, 14.020, 18.085, 21.020, 28.020.

**GB5SW**, SSB: 3765, 7085, 14.185, 18.150, 21.285, 28.485, 50.175, (FM) **145.475**, 433.475.

CW: 3525, 7025, 14.025, 18.090, 21.025, 28.025

## Silent Key Sale ex Jack G1TCF

**Kenwood** TS440S HF T/CVR DSP £175, **Kenwood** TH215E H/Held £45, **Kenwood** H705 HF DSP £700, **ICOM** IC217E 2m incl Mutek Front end £120, **Diawa** PS30 XM11 25A PSU £35, **Diawa** Cross Needle SWR Meter 150Watt £15, **Datong** D70 Morse Tutor £10, **Noise Bridge** 0 - 200 MHz £5, **Welz** SP300 SWR/PWR Meter HF - 500 MHz £20, **BNOS** 25 Amp PSU £35, **BNOS** 6m All Mode Transverter £35, **BNOS** 2m Linear Amp 160 Watt £40, **Philips** PM3233 'Scope Offers, **RadComs** Approx 100 £5. Most items with boxes and manuals.

For further details, offers and near offers contact **Roger on 01621 851572**

## A Message from Sunny Devon

Hiya all,

Just to let you know that we are changing our e-mail address to go Broadband. Just in case you don't get it from the header it is

ericlawley@tiscali.co.uk

This is active now and the old one will be shut down in the near future. We are both OK and settling down in our new abode in Devon.

Best regards Eric G8ADX & Kate

## Did You Know?

Murray G6JYB has just pointed out to us that you can renew Amateur Radio Licences online, as well as apply online for new Maritime or CB licences. See:  
<http://www.radiolicenseforms.co.uk/>

## New RSGB Deputy Regional Manager by Trevor M5AKA

Due to personal circumstances I have had to retire from the post of Deputy RSGB Regional Manager. I have enjoyed my time as DRM and consider myself privileged to represent the most dynamic county in the country - Essex.

Essex has more clubs than any other county and they are certainly very active. I shall remember Harwich for it's Contest activities. Colchester for their Annual Rally and Foundation courses - over a 100 new Foundation licencees from this club alone. Clacton now turning around and rebuilding membership. Braintree for their work with the scouting movement, special event stations and a really excellent monthly newsletter. Essex Raynet for their invaluable emergency service. Essex Repeater Group for their superb repeaters and the pool of technical expertise that they provide. ScARF for their work in getting over 45 Scouts through the Foundation and 18 through Intermediate. Chelmsford for their first class Foundation/Intermediate/Advanced courses and programme of talks. Harlow for what is arguably the best club meeting place in Essex a wonderful 16th century barn fitted out with equipment for all bands and a 50 foot tower. Vange (Basildon) as a friendly club with a good website. BAE Systems Basildon for its superb club station. Dengie a small friendly club who always make visitors welcome and run a first class Inter-Club Quiz. The Southend Club and the South Essex (Canvey) ARS who combine forces to make the Canvey Rally the success it is. Loughton & Epping Forest for introducing Amateur Radio to a New Generation through their work with the Local Technical College. Havering for their brilliant publicity and finally Barking who were the only club to have the initiative to provide Pizza when I visited - it tasted great!

Each club in Essex is different and has it's own unique strengths. They are all a credit to the Amateur Service and together make up a great county.

My successor is James McGinty M0ZZO who takes over tomorrow. He joined the hobby 3 years ago through Colchester's Foundation Course and rapidly progressed to an Advanced licence. I have no doubt that he will do a superb job in his new role. His contact details are: Tel: 01255242746 Email: "JamesMcGinty/M0ZZO"james@mcginty.net

## The Donald Imber Dedication by Geoff G7KLV

On the bright sunny afternoon of Sunday 17th. April nearly seventy guests gathered outside the ship's radio room in the Engine House at Sandford Mill. In a brief opening address Geoff Bowles, the Keeper of Science and Industry, welcomed our guest of honour Fiona Imber accompanied by her brother, three sons Michael, James and Thomas, her brother-in-law Bernard and their family Priest on the occasion of the unveiling of a plaque in memory of her late husband. The guests consisted of members of the Radio Officers Association (ROA), Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society (CARS), the Friends of Chelmsford Museums (FCM), Marconi Veterans Association, Councillor Christopher Kingsley, the Council's Executive Member for Arts and Entertainment, friends and their ladies. Geoff explained that in the circumstances a traditional unveiling was rather impractical due to the small size of the radio room and he suggested that a door opening ceremony instead would be far more suitable and practical in the circumstances!

Geoff then introduced Professor Brian Cotton, Chairman of the ROA. Brian said that we must all feel a profound sadness that Donald is not here with us today. Although in many ways a quiet man, he made and left his mark on the ROA. He was ever ready to man a stand at an amateur radio exhibition, give a talk to a school and would always answer with authority any historical enquiry that came our way. He was held in very deep respect by us all and he was always excellent and amusing company.

Brian continued,

"Today, marine radio communication is in the hands of the trained non-specialists using automated computer and satellite based equipment. For virtually the whole of the twentieth century it was in the hands of the specialist radio officer of which we have many represented here today. From primitive beginnings with the Marconi experiments with crude apparatus to the relative sophistication of some of the equipment you see here today, civil marine radio equipment and its operators in that century had a very distinguished history in peace and war.

The ROA is somewhat gripped by the notion that history and achievement should not be lost in the records. All too often we hear of documentation and equipment being destroyed. We do what we can to save such items but are handicapped sometimes by the quality of what can be saved and often by lack of space to store it.

Donald knew this and was one of a small number of the members of our Association making a personal collection which he kept in his own home. He found equipment mainly through persistence and once he had it he nurtured it, catalogued it in the most meticulous way and restored it to good working order. He also created a superbly catalogued sub-collection of documentation. We felt it a great honour when Donald's widow, Fiona, offered us this equipment and we do thank her and her family for making it available to us.

Having been offered the collections we had to consider where to site them. That's where Geoff Lovegrove, Charles Shelton and others in the Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society came into play. They made approaches to Sandford Mill and carried out some negotiations on our behalf with the Geoff Bowles. When this had been done they all turned up to hump all the gear from Fiona's home and after that they set it all up. Two FCM members have also been deeply involved in the project, Don Manning and Peter Watkins. Peter, a one time marine radio officer, has offered continuous invaluable advice throughout the project. All parties represented in this room today have reason to be grateful to them and others for handling all that for us.

After that, all I had to do last November was to put a cheery signature on the accession documents which Geoff Bowles and I had agreed. That was the first time I had met Geoff and seen the Museum and since then we have been in correspondence and telephone contact. Taking into account the ambience of this location, I don't think that this collection could be in better hands than those of Geoff Bowles and his colleagues.

Geoff of course is backed by the Chelmsford Borough Council and Councillor Kingsley. We must express our grateful thanks to the Council for ultimately backing the arrangements that have been made on our behalf and I hope you will take back to the Council our appreciation of all that has been done.

I cannot think of a more fitting place to hold this collection. Marconi, radio and Chelmsford, a distinguished trio that embrace the distinctive history of marine radio to which I have referred. We know it could not be in better hands than those of Geoff and the Council, with input from the Friends and CARS. Above all, the family must feel proud that this will be called the Donald Imber Collection."

Geoff then introduced Councillor Kingsley who said that although the early Marconi memorabilia and equipment had left the town and gone to the Bodleian at Oxford he was pleased that there was a good collection of the more recent post WW2 Marconi equipment preserved at Sandford Mill. This was the result of a donation from the MIMCO depot at Newcastle and complemented by the present donation from Fiona and the ROA. There was a note of nostalgia as he recalled his younger days when, as an apprentice at the Basildon factory, he was involved with one of the Company's very successful marine receivers, the Atalanta. In conclusion he thanked all those involved in the creation of the ship's radio room and particularly to Fiona Imber and to the ROA for presenting Donald's collection to Sandford Mill.

Geoff Bowles then invited Fiona to do the honours by opening the door, which had been draped with the ROA banner to reveal the ROA shield and an engraved plaque mounted on the wall of the radio room. To applause from the assembled company, Fiona offered her thanks to all those involved in preparing this lasting tribute to her late husband Donald Imber.

The formal proceedings over, tea and delicious cakes baked by WI Country Markets of Danbury, provided by courtesy of the ROA, were served by Jane Vidgeon-Hart, of the Museum, in the Writtle Hut. Friendships were made

and old friendships were renewed on this very happy occasion. Nick Wickenden, Museums Manager, sent apologies for absence. This is a suitable opportunity to acknowledge the help and advice which we have received throughout the radio room project from Jim Leadbitter and Joe Ryan, both ex MIMCO employees.

The proceedings were recorded by photographers from the Essex Chronicle and the Weekly News and Michael O'Beirne G8MOB was busy preparing for an article to appear in the nostalgic publication, Radio Bygones.

## **OFCOM - The Future of Amateur Licensing**

Ofcom have announced details of their forthcoming document on Amateur licensing. This document is of great importance to the future of the hobby. Thanks to the combined efforts of the RSGB and those of you who responded to the Spectrum Framework document we have succeeded in getting Deregulation (no exams or licence required to operate) removed from the agenda. We need to ensure that when the Licencing document is published there is a large response from individual Amateurs and well as clubs to ensure Ofcom take our views into account. I would urge you to register at the website given below to ensure you are notified as soon as the document is released.

The announcement made by Ofcom on 18<sup>th</sup> April reads as follows:

On 26 May Ofcom will publish new proposals to reduce the regulatory burden on the amateur radio community whilst retaining the necessary safeguards to ensure the integrity of this important use of the radio spectrum. The proposals will be published for public consultation; and Ofcom believes it is very important that as many amateur radio users as possible are willing and able to share their views on the different options presented.

In order to receive an email notification as soon as this consultation document is published please register for Updates from Ofcom on radio spectrum matters. Users can register at

<http://www.ofcom.org.uk/static/subscribe/radiospectrum.htm>

For clarity and transparency, below are the key points Ofcom wishes to set out in greater detail in the formal public consultation on 26 May.

Ofcom believes that:

- 1) The amateur radio community is an important radio spectrum user group. Ofcom must continue to take the community's interests into account and ensure that the needs of the community are reflected in policymaking.
- 2) Ofcom wishes to seek the least intrusive means of regulating wherever possible and is committed to reducing the regulatory burden (and therefore, costs) for all of its stakeholders. However, Ofcom will balance against that the need to retain all necessary safeguards to ensure the integrity of radio spectrum use, including use by the amateur radio community.
- 3) Ofcom therefore believes that radio amateurs must hold a valid WT Act amateur radio licence and must hold a valid Radio Amateur Examination Pass Certificate in order to obtain a licence.

The public consultation document will propose two changes only:

- 1) To make amateur radio licences valid for life (they are currently renewable annually).
- 2) To make electronic licences (probably issued as Adobe PDF® documents) available online and free of charge.

Specifically, Ofcom believes the following would NOT change if these two proposals were put into effect:

- 1) Existing standards would be maintained.
- 2) There would still be a legal requirement for radio amateurs to hold a valid WT Act amateur radio licence.
- 3) The licensee would retain the responsibility for ensuring that licence details are amended as and when necessary (upon a change of address for example).
- 4) Ofcom would retain the power to revoke the licence should the radio amateur breach the terms of the licence.
- 5) It would still be a requirement to hold a valid Radio Amateur Examination Pass Certificate in order to obtain a
- 6) For radio amateurs who wish to operate overseas, there would still be a licence document (licence available for inspection by foreign administrations).
- 7) Ofcom would continue to hold a database of the names and addresses of all licensed radio amateurs.
- 8) Every amateur would continue to hold their own unique call-sign(s).
- 9) Ofcom would continue to notify amateur radio licence holders of changes to their licence terms and conditions.
- 10) It would still be possible for radio amateurs to apply for a Notice of Variation to the licence if required.
- 11) It would still be possible to operate amateur radio repeaters.
- 12) It would still be possible to operate packet radio.
- 13) Current spectrum access rights would be maintained. Ofcom's spectrum management and enforcement activities are not determined according to the level of the licence fee.
- 14) All licensed radio amateurs would automatically receive a 'licence for life'. No action would be required on their part unless their licence had lapsed at the point when 'licences for life' were introduced.
- 15) Ofcom, or its agents, would continue to provide a postal service for applicants who do not have access to the internet or who prefer not to use the internet.

For the avoidance of doubt, whilst the formal public consultation will put forward a number of other options for the future, those options are explicitly not recommended by Ofcom. Specifically, Ofcom will not recommend any options to make the amateur radio service WT Act licence-exempt; however, for transparency and completeness, this will be put forward as an option in the public consultation in order to gather the community's views.