



Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society

Established 1936

Affiliated to the RSGB
President: Harry Heap G5HF
Secretary: Martyn Medcalf G1EFL

Club Call Sign: G0MWT
Chairman: John Bowen G8DET
Treasurer: Brian Thwaites G3CVI

Newsletter No 491e

Web Address: www.g0mwt.org.uk

January 2007

This Month's Meeting – A CARS Triple Decker 2nd.January. 7.30pm at the MASC.

Yes, it sounds rather like one of those concoctions from McDonalds, very tasty and full of calories! It is a suggestion of Murray's and the idea is to have three talks by Members on their pet subjects.

Steve G4ZUL's pet subject, as you might guess, is contesting and he will be talking about that and try to persuade you to get involved. It is probably about ten years since the Club entered National Field Day and he would like to revive our interest. Geoff Bowles has agreed in principle to using the field at Sandford Mill.

Member Jim Salmon is going to tell us all about Chelmsford Calling. He has promised not to be too technical but will tell us about getting a community radio station up and running, and I bet there are plenty of problems to overcome. It broadcasts on 104.4 MHz so have a listen before the next meeting.

Our third speaker is Brian CVI who, in spite of his normally very mild mannered demeanour, has some very strong views which he will share with us! I think he is going to suggest that the claims made for wind and solar power are rather exaggerated. It is clear that these erratic, unreliable forms of power generation aren't going to Save Planet Earth whatever the politicians may claim!

So, there you have it! Our Events Secretary, Martyn (with many call-signs) aims to find something of interest to everyone. Oh, and by the way Murray will probably have a word or two!

We wish all our Members a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year

Dates for Your Diary

January	Net Controller: Colin G0TRM
Tue Jan 2nd.	CARS Meeting MASC A Triple Decker Evening
Wed Jan 10th.	CARS Committee Meeting - Danbury Village Hall at 7.30pm - All welcome
Sun Feb 4th	CARS at the Canvey Rally, The Paddocks, Long Rd., CANVEY ISLAND.

CARS at the Canvey Rally Sunday 4th February 2007

We urgently need all you unwanted electrical, electronic, wireless, radio, HiFi, LoFi and surplus amateur gear for sale on our tables at the Rally. In the past this has been a little goldmine for Club funds. Please root out all that old clobber and give the Organiser Colin TRM (01245 223835) or his helper Geoff KLV (01245 473822) a ring and they will be only too pleased to arrange collection at your (and their) convenience. Don't forget, there are brownie points to be won from the loved ones but you might regret parting with all those goodies!

Subscriptions are now over due

Brian, G3CVI would like to remind Members that the Subs for 2006/7 are now over due. It is the same rate as last year at £10. Please see Brian at the January meeting. If you are not going to be there, please send your cheque for £10 made out to "Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society" to Brian Thwaites, 118 Baddow Hall Crescent, Great Baddow, CHELMSFORD. CM2 7BU. Also, please enclose a stamped and addressed envelope for your Membership Card, thank you.

This Newsletter was edited by Geoff G7KLV with valuable help from Colin, Murray, John and Trevor.
Please keep our Membership Secretary, informed of any changes to your callsign or E-Mail addresses, etc.
For further details contact our Programme Secretary: Martyn M3VAM on 01245-469008 or look on the CARS Web Site.
Club Nets: Tuesdays 8-30pm: (2nd) 145.375 : (3rd) 1.947 : (4th) 1.947 : (5th) 145.375. All +/- QRM.

Last Month's Meeting : My Life with VLF's by Tony G4YTG

It was a full house for Tony's talk, and from the title, I rather expected to hear about his so far undisclosed liaisons with very lovely females. However, apparently only aeriels featured extensively in his working life, as he told us of a career with Post Office Telephones, (later to become BT), and his part in their radio communications.

He started off, like several of us, as a Youth in Training, two years of apprenticeship that let us see many aspects of work before they let us loose on expensive equipment or unsuspecting customers. His over-riding memories of this spell seems to be how to make tea strong enough to stand a spoon in for overhead gangs, and the careful use of moderate language if a man up a pole drops hot lead on a man down a hole.

National Service then intervened, and he instructed on radio at Catterick camp until his return to the Southend Area on Radio Interference duties, where he seems to have learned his renowned skills about domestic and other appliances by fitting suppressers to them. At this time he was also in charge of Kelvedon Hatch microwave link, and when promotion followed to Telecomms HQ, it was to the microwave group. As well as permanent and temporary microwave links, the PO tower was awash with them. Hitherto undisclosed tales of water in waveguides and bombs in the loo were revealed. Further promotion to the HF aeriels group coincided with the decline in HF DX links, because of satellite working, but maritime still needed HF, and his first job was the conversion of the HF aeriels at BT stations to the maritime frequencies.

Promotion again, to head of BT Aeriels and Structures Group, and his photographs from the top of mighty masts proved he was now a hands on (and feet and safety belt on) senior engineer. Further tales followed of taking down the dish feeder at Goonhilly, (and its too fast last minute descent), unbreakable bottle screws for stays, how weird looking aeriels worked and how to climb them safely, radio links to the Falklands, and with the splendid tale of a check of BT aeriels using an amateur rig and aerial to see how well the BT ones compared. The design of the Spiracone, looking like a giant children's top, was one type that several club members knew about, and the tale of the huge aerial at Rugby that turned out to have a dastardly effect on the 60khz national time signal, (by having a half wave component), proved yet again that the well known law about "serious operational difficulties" never fails.

Another promotion, and he became Chief Engineer

of BT maritime radio, with responsibility for the great stations such as Rugby and Criggion. Photographs of giant tuning coils, huge self-assembly valves and more mighty masts were interspersed with references to his new role on a national level for BT radio services. There was the lovely story of the farmer who rented the radio station site, and was putting up a barbed wire fence beneath an umpteen kilowatt aerial when it started transmitting. To justify the talk's title, Tony concluded with a short discussion on the interesting properties and uses of VLF, and the questions, and audience reminiscences began.

Tony's and my BT careers zig-zagged up together from our Youth in Training days, but even so, I had never heard some of the fascinating stories he told, (although I do have an embellished ending for the one he told about me and the haystack). Thanks, Tony, for a very entertaining evening.

Report by Fred G6FXM

The G-QRP Annual Convention by Dave G3PEN

The G-QRP Convention is held in Rochdale, based on St. Aidan's Church and Church Hall, and is officially on the Saturday, for obvious reasons! In part, it comprises a traditional style of rally, with a goodly number of stalls dedicated to real radio, selling both new and recycled items and kits of all descriptions. There is also a good bring & buy (run by the Rochdale ARS), stands dedicated to the G-QRP Club and the American QRP ARCI, and a Fair Trade stall, run by the church members.

However, at least three features make this a lot different from a normal rally. Firstly, special efforts are made to provide a central venue in the main hall for a "meet & greet" Social Area, where visitors can sit, have refreshments and enjoy the company of both old and new friends from the amateur radio fraternity, and particularly QRP practitioners. As the G-QRP club now lists over 11,000 UK and overseas members (not allowing for the inevitable Silent Keys), this can be a very busy area!

Secondly, and allied to the above, is the vital work done by the ladies associated with or members of the club, who provide light refreshments all day, and at lunch time the now world-famous Rochdale "Pie & Peas" (and all at very fair prices).

Thirdly, is the well-attended set of lectures, held in the Church itself (it has a good PA system, and is well-heated if the doors are kept closed), given on a wide range of topics of importance to QRP'ers and amateurs generally, ranging from the really technical to the thought-provoking and social aspects of our hobby. This year (2006) in the morning, Henning Mikkelsen, OZ4XF, spoke on

"The Magic of SWR", while Hans Summers, G0UPL, dealt with practical aspects of QRP construction. You may remember Hans from the excellent talk he gave to CARS a while ago.

In the afternoon, Paul Harden, NA5N, famous for his work at the VLA giant radio telescope in Mexico, discussed "Solar Activity and HF Propagation", which is dear to most of us, I'm sure. This was followed by the Editor of Practical Wireless, Rob Mannion, G3XFD, sharing his experiences of editing the UK's best-selling amateur radio magazine, with a Q&A session from the audience. Rob usually does a session at the Convention, and is keenly questioned by our fraternity, as you may guess. Last of the day is always an "Open Technical Forum", chaired by Dave Stockton, GM4ZNX, in which he deals with any questions thrown at him by the audience, providing valid and often unusual answers to a wide range of subjects. This session usually over-runs to the point where the audience has to be gently evicted from the church, to allow it to be locked up.

Perhaps a fourth feature will also appeal to you - during the lunch break, the church organist (a very gifted lady musician) gives an organ recital, which can be attended whilst eating one's meal. This helps reduce the pressure on space in the main hall, as well as being very enjoyable.

That covers the formal aspects of the Convention. However, this event is led by the Rev. George Dobbs, G3RJV, who was the leading light in forming the G-QRP club, and in developing the Convention - though ably assisted by many keen supporters, of course. His position as the vicar of St. Aidan's Church gave a unique opportunity to both host the actual Convention (which started, I believe, in 1991), and to be host to a number of the attendees, and especially those from abroad. Many of these have stayed with George and his wife Jo-Anna, G0OWH, usually from the Friday to the Sunday, although some close friends and club officials stay longer, enabling club business to be conducted more easily than normal, perhaps. Some members and visitors park their caravans in the church grounds, or stay in local B&B's or hotels. CARS members Derek, G0IZW, and I have attended most of these Conventions (Derek and Melvin G0EMK from the beginning), and we have had the great privilege of staying at the vicarage on each occasion.

Usually, on Friday the hosts and early visitors (up to 20 or so at times) meet for lunch, either in the vicarage or at a local hostelry, and in the afternoon it is all hands to set up the various rooms at the church, ready for the Saturday. In the evening, there is always a grand though somewhat ad-hoc meal for everyone, with delicacies brought in by the visitors, and extra food provided by Jo-Anna and

members' wives. On the Saturday, after the Convention has finished, again everyone helps to clear up for the Sunday services, following which we have a vast Chinese meal at the vicarage (paid for by those attending, with a modest levy for church charities).

This year (2006), there were some 40 people attending in the evening, with about 14 nationalities, including English, Scots, Irish, Swedish, Canadian, American, Australian, German, Polish and others I can't swear to or remember! It probably almost goes without saying that copious quantities of liquid (much imported by the visitors) were imbibed - some even non-alcoholic, I'm told. The evening is otherwise taken up with a wide range of discussion and technical evaluation (and construction at times), and operating from George's station. This year, Hans, G0UPL, brought up his home-brew rig (as per CARS talk), which he showed in his own technical lecture, and this was used throughout the evening. I have a picture of G3RJV using it, plus others of the evening sessions, which I hope will appear on CARS web-site in due course.

On Sunday, many of those at the evening party also attend the mid-morning church service, and then head for home - or to other friends for more visits.

Sadly, because George is retiring from being vicar of St. Aidan's in the summer of 2008, the 2007 Convention will be the last to follow this well-established format, although plans are in hand for an alternative venue and similar activities. However, staying with the Rev, George Dobbs and Jo-Anna will become a thing of the past for Derek and me, to our great regret. We have enjoyed this event beyond anything else in the amateur radio calendar.

Patrick M0XAP wins a Gold

Patrick recently won a Gold in the German Fussballweltmeisterschaft 2006 contest, which as you probably know means Football World Championship 2006! The contest lasted from 1-05-2006 to 31-08-2006 and he actually worked 253 'ordinary' German stations, 26 DQ's and 12 DR's. To qualify for a Gold, the target to beat was 200, 24 and 12 respectively.

Congratulations Patrick!

January Contests from Steve G4ZUL

ARRL RTTY Roundup

06/07 January (operate no more than 24HRS)
Exchange: RST + serial number.

Categories: single op, multi op, high power, low power.

Further information from <http://www.arrl.org/contests>

RSGB Affiliated Societies Contest's

14 January, CW
Start 14:00 – Finish 18:00 UTC
Exchange: RST + serial number
20 January, SSB Start: 14:00 – Finish 18:00 UTC
Exchange: RS + serial number.
full rules from <http://www.rsgbhfcc.org>

CQ WW 160 Metre / CW

27/28 January, 48HRS.
Exchange: RST + prefix or country abbreviation.
Categories: single op, multi op., High power, low power, QRP.
Scoring: own country 2 points, other countries same continent 5 points. other continents 10 points.
maritime mobile 5 points.
Multiplier: sum of states/provinces/DXCC countries worked.
Final score: QSO points x the sum of all multipliers.
further information from
<http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com>

For any further information please email Steve G4ZUL
contests2007@g0mwt.org.uk

Murray G6JYB made RSGB Microwave Manager

Murray Niman G6JYB was appointed as the new RSGB Microwave Manager during the meeting of the Board and National Council held on Saturday November 25th. The post takes effect from Jan-1st 2007 when he succeeds Mike Dixon G3PFR. Murray was a founding member of the UK Microwave Group and is already an active member of the RSGB Spectrum Forum, contributing to its workload on licensing, regulatory and bandplan developments. He had already been serving in a 'designate' role for several months, and was widely welcomed by the amateur microwavers when the vacancy was formally advertised recently. His predecessor, Mike Dixon, has served for an unprecedented length (decades) serving the amateur microwave community and will shortly be recognised for his outstanding contribution to the hobby. Murray's appointment continues the CARS tradition of being a source of RSGB volunteers.

UK Licence Changeover

Ofcom's online licence system finally came on line on Friday Dec 1st for Amateur and Maritime licences. This saw the closure of RLC at Bristol and changes to both the application process and the UK licence itself. The three separate editions of BR68 for Foundation, Intermediate and Full licence classes are replaced by a single new 'lifetime' 5-year licence in Acrobat pdf format which is primarily accessed online by a new Ofcom web service. The detail changes in the licence were described in the CARS October Newsletter including non-mandatory Log Books, club call signs, re-defined but now optional suffixes (/A, /M /P /MM), Satellite/10m/10GHz access for Foundation, extra bands for Intermediates and remote control stations for Full licensees. **A key issue is that until you have been personally issued with the new conditions, BR68 still applies to you.** So see the items below on this transition. One timing issue means that the frequency schedule in the new licence will be amended further on January-2007 when Car-Radar related EU35 and other changes occur in the millimetre-wave bands.

The Transition Process

For legal reasons Ofcom wanted to run a dual licensing system for the first year (that's to say they wanted to despatch the new licence and new terms to amateurs as their existing license came up for renewal). RSGB said that this overlap would be confusing and insisted the approach was dropped. Ofcom have tried to accommodate this, by accelerating the changeover. However the

Special Event Station GB400AA

To commemorate the first English speaking settlement in North America at Jamestown, Virginia in May 1607 the Clacton Radio Club are putting on a special event station with a proposed callsign GB400AA (Anniversary of America). CARS, together with other local clubs, has been invited to take part.

With the co-operation of the Harwich Society and the Harwich Haven Port Authority it is hoped to set up the station on the Halfpenny Pier.

We will get full details later on from the organiser Tom Robinson G0SBW, the Clacton Chairman, who gave us a very interesting talk some time ago. Martyn G0EFL will keep us posted.

Can you help?

Dave Penny would like an out of date Chelmsford Phone Directory. As an ex GPO employee he used to get an up to date one free but BT have withdrawn that perk! If you haven't chucked yours out yet give Dave a ring on 01376 326487

legal issue still stands, as unlike some changes a note on the Ofcom website has does not provide sufficient legal basis. (as users get a new licence, not a change to the current one).

The enormity of this despatch operation to over 60,000 licensees is now being realised. Staff at both Ofcom (and RSGB Potters Bar) are rather busy! Depending how smoothly the first batch goes this will determine when the second and subsequent tranches are sent. Ofcom's aim is to do the first batch of renewals (covering January to March) as soon as possible to test the waters and, depending on the influx of calls and work will then proceed to the next batch. Enthusiasts and the impatient are being given the option to register on the Ofcom website and download their own personalised documents to get ahead of the game.

A Few Online Tips...

You must register yourself and set a password. This is a 'Strong' password which must be 7-15 characters long and **MUST** include a mixture of both uppercase, lowercase and numeric characters. Make sure you don't lose a record of it as you have to log on at least once every 5 years to validate and maintain your licence entitlement. Once registered, Ofcom will send you your user-id, which is based on surname and unique initials. One suggestion is to logon and validate once a year, as it should push the expiry deadline 5yrs ahead each time.

When you have your user-id and access the system, **make sure you set your email address first** under the 'My Details' tab. This will ensure Ofcom acknowledgement emails arrive when you validate your new licence. The resultant personal licence is downloadable in pdf is ~1.5MB large due to the way Ofcom have put the conditions text in as solid un-editable graphics. In reality your licence is the first 2-3 tri-lingual pages which you should print to show to others on demand (eg. for inspections or CEPT use if touring abroad). The remaining pages are the terms and conditions, which are common to all - and a sample of which are on the Ofcom website. Early users have found that they cannot download their licence until you create it first – an early bug perhaps?

When you do download it, if you have difficulty printing it (due to its size or security measures), make sure its printed in greyscale and try the 'print as graphics' option in Acrobat Reader. This should avoid problems with big printer spool files sizes on inkjet printers.

Remember, like your driving licence and many other matters, changes of address and email should be notified/updated to Ofcom. The email database will eventually be use used for licence updates/notices etc.

Postal/Chargeable Cases

For normal use the system is electronic, free and online. As you may have heard before, postal correspondents can incur a £20 charge (unless aged 75+). Licensees cannot change their name on their licence. This can be done by submitting an amendment form to Ofcom ensuring a certified copy of the name change documentation (e.g. marriage certificate or deed poll) is enclosed. If the applicant does not possess an RSGB qualification or has a RAE certificate dated before June 2003 they cannot apply for a new licence online and should use a paper based application form (an original certificate of their qualification certificate and payment of £20 will need to be enclosed with the application). Also, paper-based applications are necessary if the applicant:is applying for an Amateur Club licence;

- wishes to reinstate a lapsed licence;
- wishes to apply for an historical call sign; or
- wishes to apply for a Full (Reciprocal) or Full (Temporary reciprocal) radio licence.

Note: Callsign/Licence class changes due to successful passing recent Amateur Radio Exams can be performed free/online as Ofcoms database will be updated from the RSGB exam bank weekly.

New UK Bandplans

New RSGB Bandplans have appeared in Radcom and are on the RSGB Spectrum forum website. These have been amended to account for both licence changes and feature other changes. Red-lining has been introduced to designate Beacon segments more clearly in all bands for their protection, bandwidth reduced in 6m to 12kHz, and some unused (or unusable) modes go in 6m and 23cms. Several other small corrections and adjustments feature one of which is the NGR tweak (as per the new licence) for the more accurate designation of the 'Harrogate' exclusion zone around Menwith Hill.

Useful Links:-

Ofcom Amateur Section <http://www.ofcom.org.uk/radiocomms/ifi/licensing/classes/amateur/>

USA Drops CW Requirement

In what will no doubt be regarded as a historic change (at least for US Hams), the FCC announced on Dec-15th that the CW Test requirement for all their licence classes will be dropped in early 2007. The current US amateur service license structure contains three classes of amateur radio operator licenses: Technician Class, General Class, and Amateur Extra Class. General Class and Amateur Extra Class licensees are permitted to operate in Amateur bands below 30 MHz, while the introductory (no-CW) Technician Class licensees are only permitted to operate in bands above 30 MHz.

Prior to this action, the FCC, required applicants for General Class and Amateur Extra Class operator licenses to pass a **five words-per-minute Morse code examination**. The FCC Order will **eliminate that CW requirement** for General and Amateur Extra licensees. This change reflects revisions to international radio regulations made at the ITU2003 World Radio Conference (WRC-03) - Something the UK and many other countries have already implemented. The action also affords Technician and Technician Plus licensees (who had taken a CW Test) identical operating privileges.

This overdue change tidies up the three-tier system in the US in line with the WRC-03 decision to drop Morse proficiency. However it does not change the nature of US Bandplans which will continue to have inflexible mandatory segments for certain licence classes/modes, that require FCC agreement for every change. Anyhow, CARS HF users will soon hear plenty of 'new' US call signs in 2007.

UK CB Deregulated

UK CB has been taken further by Ofcom than Amateurs and become 'deregulated'. It was made license exempt by Ofcom on Friday Dec-8, provided standard 4-Watt gear is used. Around 20000 CB Licences were rendered worthless bits of paper as it is now free to everyone (like PMR446) – dissolving another function of the former Bristol RLC. Given the decline in actual CB usage it will be interesting if this move spurs new use or not as some new sets have been recently released.

The remaining CB'ers will shortly be joined on their channels by Churches, Mosques, Village Plays/Fetes etc for Community Audio Distribution (CADS). This new application is already very popular in Northern Ireland and parts of Yorkshire. The upside for CB is that former RA plans to close the UK CB channels have been dropped and they remain accessible as well as the CEPT channels. The downside may come when ranges increase as the sunspot cycle turns up!

IARU-R1 Conference & Consultation

Murray along with his HF/VHF peers is already well into his new role. One of the first public actions will be the Vienna IARU-R1 Interim Conference in February. This event timing is significant, as it is ahead of WRC-07 where Amateur Radio issues are on the agenda. Interim conferences are held between the major policy setting events (Davos in 2005 and Cavtat in 2008). For Vienna, RSGB Spectrum managers have made a major effort and submitted a raft of papers on topics such as HF QRM/Noisefloor, Contests, Beacons, Digital Voice modes, VHF Bandplan changes and FM Specs, Satellite Spectrum etc. In fact the topics cover almost every amateur band from LF to 800GHz! CARS members can see both RSGB and other National papers (all in English) and comment, as there is a short consultation phase ahead of the February conference. Go onto the RSGB Spectrum forum website and follow the HF or VHF links to find the papers and the email discussion lists.

IARU-Region-1 <http://www.iaru-r1.org/> RSGB Spectrum Forum <http://www.rsgb-spectrumforum.org.uk/>.

CARS Training

Monday December 4th saw the conclusion of the 2006 training programme when CARS candidates took their Advanced Exam for their Full Licence. We wish them the best of luck on their results. However there has been no rest for the training team, who are still working up to Thursday Dec-21st. Syllabus changes due to the new licence need to be reviewed and incorporated by March –2007. The team has also been delighted to be approached by KEGS, the Chelmsford Grammar School, to run a special on-site foundation course in Jan/Feb-2007. This will be a bumper size course with 20 candidates, and a new logistical challenge. As a consequence the rest of the first-half 2007 programme has been re-jigged with the Danbury Foundation course being deferred to late Feb/March and Intermediate in Apr/June. Final dates/details will be on the CARS Website Training page, once 2007 hall bookings and Advanced Exam dates are confirmed.

RadCom Changes Diagram Layout

When the editor of Radcom Alex Kearns M3LSZ attended a club meeting a few months ago one of the suggestions put to him by Murray G6JYB was that the unsightly "corners" around circuit diagrams be replaced. Alex said at the time that he always listened to readers feedback and it looks as though he took the request of CARS members onboard. The "corners" have just been replaced with a much neater and cleaner layout for circuit diagrams.

2007 CARS Programme

Hard work by Martyn Medcalf our Programme Secretary has resulted in a full 2007 talks programme. John G8DET has updated the CARS website home page with all these and a list of local IET (formerly IEE) talks which many CARS members often attend as well. Martyn is always on the lookout for suggestions though, so keep forwarding him ideas! He often finds difficulty with December and January which are ideal for local CARS members to offer something themselves.

Morse Demo on TV over Xmas

One of the Worthing and District Amateur Radio Club (WADARC) members, Danny Clapp M0GMT, will be demonstrating Morse code at the Royal Institute Lecture by sending a message to Bletchley Park. The lectures will be televised over five days on Channel 5 starting on December 25th at 7:15pm. At this time it is not certain on which day the Morse demonstration will be broadcast.

GeneSat-1 Successfully Launched

On Saturday December 16th at 12:00 UTC GeneSat-1 was launched as a secondary payload aboard a NASA Minotaur rocket. GeneSat-1 is a 10x10x30 cm spacecraft, which will conduct a cellular biology technology demonstration. Of particular interest to the amateur radio satellite community, is the GeneSat-1 beacon. Operating at 437.067 MHz FM, (8 kHz lower than the frequency previously given) the beacon sends an AX.25 packet at 1200 baud every 5 seconds; containing data about the spacecraft systems operation.

The CARS Christmas Dinner *by Colin G0TRM*

NEW VENUE; NEW MENU; NEW MANAGEMENT.

Following a suggestion by Murray G6JYB, this years Club Dinner was held at the Chimes Restaurant in the Bell at Rettendon and a very good suggestion it turned out to be. After the initial booking at the Bell by Murray, menus: monies and management passed to the capable hands of Julie and Brian Andrews G4CTS to whom our very grateful thanks are due for all their hard work.

A total of some thirty Members, Wives and Guests sat down to a first class meal, promptly served in nicely decorated, comfortable surroundings. After the Grace by Tony G4YTG, diners chosen starters arrived at once and the serious business began of devouring portions of Whitebait; melon; soup and pate and other choices began.

At just the right moment the desired main courses arrived complete with all the trimmings. The deserts, chosen on the night followed by tea/coffee, ended a well-presented enjoyable meal.

To keep our brains working, John and Pauline had concocted a quiz in which the names of London underground stations had to be derived from cryptic clues. Nobody was able to answer all the stations required. A free raffle was won by Harry, G5HF who chose the chocolates, the other prize of wine went to Tony G4YTG.

An excellent evening was enjoyed by all. Many thanks to Brian and Julie, and to Murray for the idea. Also thanks to John G8DET who kept the party going with his usual panache at knowing just what to say and when to say it. Next year's has been provisionally booked for a Christmas Midday Lunch, Saturday, 1st December 2007.

That concludes the CARS Newsletters issued during 2006.

This issue was Edited by Geoff, G7KLV as a Guest. We are very grateful to Geoff for this & thank him.

Would YOU like to Edit a CARS NL sometime in the future?

Contributions for February's NL should reach John, G8DET by January 20th 2007.