



# 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 506

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

April 2008

**This Month's Meeting – Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> April. 7.30pm at the Marconi Club.**

## **Amateur Microwaves - Where are we headed?**

**By Sam Jewell, G4DDK.**

Radcom Microwave columnist Sam Jewell, G4DDK will provide an update and some crystal ball gazing regarding the future of Amateur Microwave radio equipment and operations.

Sam will show some old, modern and futuristic Amateur Microwave equipment and discuss where this seemingly niche, but ultimately the future, of Amateur Radio is heading.

Sam is also one of the UK's leading Moonbounce (EME) operators on 1.2 and 2.3GHz and a designer of some of the lowest noise preamp kits available for these frequencies.

Sam's Microwave page can be seen at: - <http://www.g4ddk.com/>

Come along and add to your understanding of Microwaves – remember John Wood, G4EAT's talk to CARS last year?

There will be our usual high quality Raffle.

### **Dates for your Diary**

Thursday, 6 <sup>th</sup> March	New Morse Classes started in Danbury Village Hall – Names to Clive, G1EUC
Wed 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	IEE Essex talk on 'The History of Television' – BAE Gt Baddow Lecture Theatre, 6pm
Wed 9 <sup>th</sup> April	CARS Committee Meeting - Danbury Village Hall at 7.30pm - All welcome
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	International Marconi Day at Sandford Mill. Open to the Public, 10am to 5pm.
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	CARS Meeting – The Beacon Network - Leslie Butterfields, G0CIB
Sat & Sun 7/8th June	HF NFD at Sandford Mill. Not open to the Public but all CARS Members welcome.
Thursday, 12 <sup>th</sup> June	New Foundation Course starts in Danbury Village Hall – Names to Clive, G1EUC

Thanks to Geoff, G7KLV for arranging the Postal Members Newsletter – could it go by E-Mail?  
Please inform Geoff, G7KLV by E-Mail of any changes to your call-sign, postal or E-Mail address, etc.  
E-Mail him on [g7klv@g0mwt.org.uk](mailto:g7klv@g0mwt.org.uk) Thanks.

### **Subs Reminder**

Brian would also be delighted to receive your Subscription for 2007 to 2008 period. It is now £12.  
Send a SAE and a cheque made out to C.A.R.S. to Mr B. Thwaites, G3CVI, 118 Baddow Hall Crescent,  
Great Baddow. CHELMSFORD. CM2 7BU – Thanks.

Club Nets: Tuesdays 8-30pm: (2nd) 145.375: (3rd) 28.375/1,947 (4th) 1.947: (5th) 145.375. All +/- QRM.  
**Net Controller for April is Harry, G5HF. Thanks to Ron, M3CAM for doing it in March.**

## **Last Months Meeting:- The History of Hylands House by Ceri Lowen & Richard Oscroft**

Ceri Lowen is the Hyland House Manager & Richard Oscroft is the Vice President of Hylands House Friends.

CARS Programme Secretary, Martyn, G1EFL likes to include one Social Meeting (not necessarily Radio based) sometime during the year - this was it. The idea is to choose a meeting which Members can invite their Family & Partners to attend to meet others - we had a good turn-out.

After a few announcements Richard started off by introducing himself & Ceri and her assistant. Ceri then gave a history of Hylands using nicely prepared 35mm slides from the 1600s through to today.

After the Raffle Break which was headed up by Tony, G4YTG with 14 excellent prizes, Richard then took over & played a DVD of the event in July 2007 when 40,000 Scouts camped in the grounds during the GB100J event.

In the audience was Doreen Pechey who was one of the 10 named Amateur Radio Operators for GB100J and she gave a few interesting stories.

### **Report by John, G8DET.**

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#### **Ela Martyr, G6HKM – Silent Key**

It is with regret that Ela, Wife of the Late CARS President, Roy Martyr, G3PMX passed away on Monday, 18th February aged 78.

The Funeral Service, led by Revd Fr Trevor Diaper was held in the Church of St Mary and St Lawrence, Great Waltham, near Chelmsford at 11 am on Tuesday, 4th March, followed by a brief ceremony at Chelmsford Crematorium for close family. CARS Members swelled the congregation on a bright but cold day. Afterwards many Members met Ela's Family at the Green Dragon in Great Leighs.

Ela will be missed by all who knew her.

Donations to the RNLI, C/O the Funeral Director, Ms Janet Davies, Fern House, 72 Coggeshall Road, Braintree, CM7 9BY.

We extend our sympathy to the Family.

**John G8DET. Chairman.**

## **Ela Bessie Martyr – G6HKM**

I first met the Martyr family through the late Roy and the subjects of radio and sound systems, and being invited to visit the house. There was Ela, ever ready to welcome anyone and provide refreshments. Roy and I worked in the same Marconi building fairly closely from 1953. The subject of Amateur Radio soon came up and eventually, after much discussion, we applied for our licences. Ela's welcome to me started during the preparation for the exam and the necessary Morse practice. Once licensed (G3PMX) Roy took a very active part in the local radio society (to become CARS) and was soon a committee member.

Eventually, and perhaps inevitably, Ela decided that rather than just listen to the conversations she would join in. (If you cannot beat them, join them.). Initially, she helped Roy with his committee work. It soon became 'Roy and Ela' running the Newsletter and the Raffle (which she did for 18 years), and after joining the Committee, she became the Membership Secretary. To complete the process of joining in, she made a great effort, and with some coaching passed the exam to gain her own licence (G6HKM) in 1981. Not liking Morse, she applied for the VHF/UHF licence, and with Roy doing the engineering, she was soon on both of the 2m and 70cm bands. It was not obvious at first, but Ela was quite competitive and soon embarked on certificate and squares hunting. Her approach was very systematic, and meticulously recorded everything, with maps and her filing system, for QSL card collecting.

Roy and Ela made a good team and Roy was very proud of her achievements. She became a very good operator and although her voice helped, she was very good at penetrating the pile-up and would always get through to the rare stations. She was so well known on the bands that she rarely had to give her name; she would be greeted by "Hello Ela" all the time. Her requests for more equipment, and better signal strength, pushed Roy's expertise to the limit, but she made very good use of it.

It came to an end with Roy's illness and demise. Roy's illness naturally caused Ela to reduce her activities for the CARS Committee. Moving house, she ended up on a new estate which had covenants preventing the use of outside aerials, and she could not be persuaded to break the rule, even using disguised aerials. Consequently, her aerials were inside the roof space. Naturally, the

poorer conditions discouraged her and she gave up operating.

She maintained her interest in CARS and was a very regular member, only missing meetings because of her own illnesses. She will be greatly missed.

## **Ken G3PMW**

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### **Ela G6HKM – A good Friend.**

It was only after Roy had passed away that I really got to know Ela. I had been to Great Waltham, High Houses on a couple of occasions on club business. Their house was devoted to the pursuit of Amateur Radio with VHF in the living room, HF in the garden shed and a wind up aerial in the garden. They had neighbours on one side but generally it was well away from other dwellings, unlike their previous house in Second Avenue, off Broomfield Road. This was why they had moved there.

It had been Ela who had always answered the knocks on the door of the house in Second Avenue by neighbours complaining of TV interference! That was back in the days of 405 lines, weak VHF signals and TVs susceptible to patterning! Much of Roy's time was spent placating the neighbours and installing filters for them! By the time they moved to High Houses, UHF television had arrived and although there could still be problems, they were generally much easier to cure!

Whilst still in Second Avenue, with the connivance of her children, and unbeknown to Roy, Ela had started to study for the RAE. If you can't beat them join them! Eventually she passed, became G6HKM, but try as she might she just couldn't master Morse. No matter, before very long she had become a very proficient operator on the VHF bands and became a very proficient and successful contester. Although Roy wasn't competitive like Ela, he gave her his full support, encouragement and backing.

When Roy died in 1998, Ela reluctantly decided that she couldn't stay at High Houses for various reasons and she started house-hunting and fell in love with a rather unusual house in the up and coming Notley Village. Unfortunately there were restrictions regarding TV aerials so even the simplest VHF aerial was quite out of the question and after a few abortive attempts she decided, very reluctantly, that Amateur Radio was out of the question!

Ela had been a CARS Committee Member and for a time Committee Meetings were held at her house at Notley. Eventually she resigned from the Committee and we transferred to Danbury for our Meetings.

Meanwhile Ela continued to come to Club meetings. I would collect her and after her favourite meal of fish & chips and Vionetta we would go on to the meeting. Sometimes she would run the Raffle just like she had done for many years at Marconi College. Ken Dews or Dave Penny would see her home afterwards.

She always enjoyed the Meetings but as her health deteriorated her attendance dwindled. I am glad that she managed to get to the last meeting in February before she was taken fatally ill.

Ela had three absorbing interests in her life: the main one, her family, followed by Amateur Radio and Cross Stitching, the latter two in that order I think! It was such a pity that for various reasons she was unable to follow her two hobbies. She was in almost daily contact with both Wendy and David and fortunately this was something that she was able to enjoy right up to the end in spite of her failing health. She was so very proud of them and of her three grandchildren.

Ela will be sadly missed by her family and many friends

## **Geoff G7KLV**

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### **XPAntiVirus 2008**

This official sounding name for a computer programme is, unfortunately, rogue spyware that includes a set of features which do not work. It also generates false positives to trick users, forcing them to buy a commercial version of this software. XPAntiVirus maybe dangerous for your computer, causing system errors and slowdowns.

This misleading program can be installed manually or through browser security holes (using trojan horses or worms, installed on your computer). If you are offered XPAntiVirus 2008, say "NO THANK YOU!"

If you think you are infected, do a Google on it. There is a lot published about this horror!

### **John G8DET.**

## Blu-ray Wins

Toshiba has confirmed that it would cease promoting its HD-DVD format for the next-generation DVD after losing the support of key studios and retailers to the Blu-ray technology backed by Sony Corp. A single unified format is welcome but beware of clearance offers on HD-DVD discs and players

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## Internet Speed Check

Thank you – I have had feedback where you report it was useful.

John Greenwood, G3KRZ E-Mailed from 8 miles away from the last Earthquake. He reported BT showed 8128k down/448k up whereas Thinkbroadband showed 6704k down/375k up. He does live next to the Telephone Exchange!

Here is another Speed Test.

<http://www.mybroadbandspeed.co.uk>

This does Download and Upload speed tests.

**John G8DET.**

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## ISP Awards for 2008.

uSwitch.com have announced the results of their latest broadband survey (March 2008).

Award	Winner
Best Consumer ISP	Plusnet
Best Consumer Broadband	NewNet
Best Business Broadband	Datanet
Best Business ISP	Eclipse Internet
Best Wireless ISP	Vodafone
Best Consumer Email	Entanet
Best Dial-up	Waitrose
Best Internet Telephony	Entanet
Best Shared Hosting	Namesco
Best Dedicated Hosting	UKFast
Best Streaming	Astream
Best Portal	BT Yahoo

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## Mobile Broadband

WiFi is the fastest method of computing when away from the home QTH but it can cost. Don't forget there has been a prosecution for using someone else's insecure WiFi Home access link.

A new method is to rent a 3G Dongle (a mobile phone without a screen or a keypad) which plugs into the USB socket on the computer. Providing you can find a signal, you can access the Internet from anywhere in the UK. Take care roaming abroad though, which can cost £15/min!

Five years ago it was not available, three years ago it was £250/month, and last year it was £50/month. However from January 2008 it has dropped to £10/month for a 2 year rental period.

Andy M0TIU & John G8DET use the broadband service from the mobile company 3 and have been supplied with a ZTE 622 HSDPA USB Modem. Vodafone & Orange now offer somewhat similar services.

<http://www.three.co.uk>

<http://www.vodafone.co.uk/press>

<http://www.business.orange.co.uk>

Andy reports: -"I organised [www.m0tiu.com](http://www.m0tiu.com) I then configured Outlook to this POP3 server. At my home QTH I don't have any landline now because all I used it for was the broadband and it was not cost effective.

Coverage varies the speed from the enhanced 3G HSDPA (High Speed Downlink Packet Access) service which is fast to a rather pedestrian base 3G which isn't as fast.

Download is typically 128Kbps and upload 57Kbps.

I have the ability to take the Dongle and use it in conjunction with my laptop and have web access and email anywhere".

Best result is 1.9MB/s Download but only 58Kbytes Upload from the top of the Multi-story car-park in the centre of Chelmsford!

Vodafone and T-Mobile charge (at March 2008) £15/month and have a limit of 3GByte/month usage while 3 have a limit of 1GByte for their cheapest £10/month service – G8DET only uses half of this in practice.

**Andy, M0TIU & John G8DET.**

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## Outing to Bletchley Park

CARS proposed an Outing to Bletchley Park on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May. However only a few people expressed an interest at this early point in the year so nothing formal is organised. Nonetheless if you fancy going it is open from 12:00 to 17:00hrs. May 17<sup>th</sup> is the "Military Vehicles in the Grounds of the Park" event.

If you intend to go contact John G8DET at [editor@g0mwt.org.uk](mailto:editor@g0mwt.org.uk)

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## BT Announcements

On the 1<sup>st</sup> April, BT increases the basic Telephone Line rental by 75p to £11.75 but the rebate for paperless billing increases from 50p to £1.25. <http://www.bt.com/paperfree>.

Also from the 1st April, calls to BT Broadband technical support (mainly 0845/0870 numbers) will be free.

At present other companies charge the following for EVENING Calls (Day Calls are usually more).

Virgin Media, 25p/min + 10p set up fee.  
Sky Broadband, 1.5p/min + 6p set up fee.  
Orange, 50p/min and no set up fee.  
Tiscali, 10p/min (5p if on a Tiscali phone line), + 6p set up fee.  
Talk Talk, 1.5p/min + 6p set up fee.

When you add up the costs a single 17 minute call to support could set you back anything between 96p and £30!

## Cheaper (Free) Telephone Calls

For those with Inclusive landline call bundles (phone free anytime) finding a geographic number (eg 01245 490xxx) instead of dialling a 0844 or 0845 or 0870 or 0871 number can reduce the costs significantly: -

<http://www.saynoto0870.com/>

## John G8DET

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## April Contests from Steve, G4ZUL

### RSGB 1<sup>st</sup> RoPoCo / CW

Sunday 06 April  
Starts: 07:00 UTC; Finishes: 09:00 UTC  
Band: 80 Metres  
Exchange: RST + Postcode received

### VHF Contests - First 70MHz contest

Sunday 06 April, 09:00 to 12:00 UTC  
Sections: SF, O, (Special rules S2)

### RSGB Club Championship (80 metres)

Dates for April as follows:  
CW 07 April. 20:00 – 21:30 Local  
SSB 16 April. 20:00 – 21:30 Local  
DATA 24 April. 20:00 – 21:30 Local  
Further information from: -  
<http://www.rsgbhfcc.org>

### Japan International DX / CW

12/13 April, 30 Hrs  
Bands: 3.5, 7, 14, 21, 28MHz  
Exchange: RST + CQ Zone  
Full details from: - <http://www.jidx.org>

### First 50MHz Contest

Sunday 20 April, 09:00 to 12:00 UTC  
Sections: SF.O, (Special rules M3)  
further information from <http://www.vhfcc.org>

For any further information email Steve G4ZUL: -  
[contests2008@g0mwt.org.uk](mailto:contests2008@g0mwt.org.uk)

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## Radio & Ofcom

History of the old Radio Licences is available at: -  
<http://www.radiolicence.org.uk/>

Ofcom have reported sending only one Warning Letter to a Radio Amateur last year.  
<http://www.ofcom.org.uk/radiocomms/ifi/enforcement/pstats/stats0607>

The question that springs to mind is:-  
"Does Ofcom assign sufficient resources to enforcement to enable the hard-pressed field staff to fully carry out their role ?"

In the past few years Ofcom have only issued two news releases on enforcement actions. Although provision for a Fixed Penalty Fine system was introduced with the UK Wireless Telegraphy Act well over a year ago, as yet, nothing has been set up to implement it.

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## Droitwich Calling

Droitwich Calling is the story of the Droitwich Transmitting Station by John F. Phillips, ex BBC. It is available on the Internet as a 1.5MByte PDF file so if you wish to read the fascinating stories, put the heading into Google UK or use the link: -  
<http://bbceng.info>  
- and look half way down "New Items".

## Finding out your QTH Locator

John G8DHZ of LEFARS points out this very useful (BRILLIANT) web site: -

<http://f6fvy.free.fr/qthLocator/fullScreen.php>

It not only displays the Google Maps full screen, but also gives Lat, Long and the IARU QTH Locator details when you left click the mouse arrow on the map. Note, there is up to a 100m offset inherent in Google Maps/Earth.

Map only, satellite image only or a combination of both can be selected. You can also enter a QTH Locator to see the location of a station you have just worked. Prints out as well!

**Trevor, M5AKA.**

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## International Marconi Day (IMD)

This is on Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> April 2008 and is the first open day of the year for the Sandford Mill Radio Museum.

International Marconi Day (IMD) is a 24-hour Amateur Radio event held annually to celebrate the birth of Guglielmo Marconi on the 25th April 1874. The IMD event is not a contest: it is an opportunity for Amateurs around the World to make point-to-point contact with historic Marconi sites using HF communications techniques similar to those used by Marconi. One can also gain an attractive Award for achieving the requisite number of Marconi stations worked (see IMD Award ).

IMD is usually held on the Saturday closest to Marconi's birthday, when Amateur Radio stations are established and operated from original historic sites, or nearby. These stations are known as the 'Award Stations' and are listed on this Web Site, Sandford Mill is one such station using our now famous call-sign GX0MWT.

The station GB4IMD (CRAC), will this year be operating from Pendennis Castle, Falmouth, Cornwall. This site overlooks Falmouth Harbour where, in April 1923, Guglielmo Marconi spent some 10 days aboard his yacht, Elettra. During that time he operated from the yacht and also travelled overland to his Poldhu station. In addition he entertained local dignitaries aboard the Elettra, and demonstrated his equipment to them.

This year CARS is operating a 100 Watt HF station from the Marconi Hut using mainly SSB

and a HF station running the Legal Limit power from upstairs where Morse will also be used.

Additionally, weather permitting, it is hoped to provide a VHF demonstration station near The Barn.

Operating times are 9am to 5pm with the public free to enter from 10am to 5pm. Car parking is also free.

As well as the radio stations CARS will also be running a demonstration of automatic mechanical Morse transmission and reception using historic equipment from early in the last century. This demonstration run by **Geoff, G7KLV** and **Colin, G0TRM** is always very popular with the general public, especially younger visitors.

Can you help at this event? We need CARS Members to operate, log and explain to visitors what's going on. If **you** can help out in anyway, please contact Brian, G3CVI. Tel: 01245 471919 E-mail: [info2008@g0mwt.org.uk](mailto:info2008@g0mwt.org.uk)

Sandford Mill Page:

<http://www.g0mwt.org.uk/sandfordmill/>

For a map showing Sanford Mill see: <http://tinyurl.com/24xbuc>

**John, G8DET & Trevor, M5AKA.**

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## CARS Committee

CARS Committee would appreciate some support. Could YOU please consider using YOUR talents to the benefit of CARS and its hundred or so Members.

CARS have a number of vacancies and would appreciate more help running the Society.

Please see any Committee Member at the next Meeting.

Thanks

**John G8DET Chairman.**

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**And - Help Wanted – CARS Raffle Table**

Please Apply on-site at Club meetings.

## **Writer Arthur C Clarke dies.**

British scientist and science fiction writer Sir Arthur C Clarke has died in Sri Lanka at the ripe old age of 90.

To the general public he is best known for having penned the novel '2001: A Space Odyssey' that was adapted into a motion picture directed by Stanley Kubrick and won an OSCAR for Best Special Visual Effects. For years Arthur C. Clarke, has held honorary AMSAT membership number 2001.

He is also credited with development of the concept that led to the development of the geostationary satellite for space borne communications relays.

Clarke first proposed this idea in October 1945 in a paper titled "Extra-Terrestrial Relays - Can Rocket Stations Give Worldwide Radio Coverage?" The article was published in the Wireless World magazine. The technology he outlined became the basis for modern communications including Satellite-TV.

For his work, the geostationary satellite orbit was named in his honour as the Clarke Belt

## **Trevor M5AKA**

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### **Computer English**

If you would like to suggest to Microsoft that British English is used on UK computers and MS Word Spell checkers by default, click this link.

<http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/computers/>

## **Murray, G6JYB**

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### **CARS Training**

A new Intermediate Course is now underway. There were a record number of people wanting to do the course and unfortunately there wasn't room for all of them. It's an encouraging sign that so many Foundation holders wish to upgrade to the next stage.

CARS also run a Morse Code training course led by Andrew Kersey G0IBN at Danbury Village Hall on the same night as the Intermediate. The current course was also oversubscribed, showing the popularity of the mode.

Including the tutors, about 24 Amateurs now attend Danbury Village Hall every Thursday evening. This means lots of tea and coffee has to be made for the interval and all those mugs have to be washed and dried after. Help in the kitchen is always appreciated so if you think you can lend a hand, get in touch with Clive G1EUC.

On 12th June the next Foundation course will be starting. You can help us by spreading the word about Amateur Radio and the course. A poster can be downloaded from

<http://www.g0mwt.org.uk/training/poster3.pdf>

The Foundation Course requires the candidates to carry out on-air contacts at both HF and VHF and we'll like to express our thanks to the members who give up their Thursday evenings during Foundation Courses to provide the other end of the link.

For more information about our courses contact: Clive G1EUC

Tel: 01245-224577

Email: [training2008@g0mwt.org.uk](mailto:training2008@g0mwt.org.uk)

Web: <http://www.g0mwt.org.uk/training>

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## **Peter Barnard M0PGB Silent Key**

Just as we went to press we were saddened to here of the sudden and untimely passing of CARS Member Peter Barnard. There is a picture of Peter who was then M3CAI on the CARS website at:

<http://www.g0mwt.org.uk/training/photos/p-intrmd.htm>

Look under 2nd Intermediate Course Passes, 23rd February 2004.

He passed his Intermediate at the same time as Jeremy and is standing next to him in the picture, they both of course went on to do the Advanced.

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## **And Finally...**

John, G8DET edited this edition.

Material by Murray, G6JYB; Trevor, M5AKA; Geoff, G7KLV, Steve G4ZUL, Ken Dews, G3PMW & Andy, M0TIU.

Would you like to edit an issue of the Newsletter? If so let us know.

Items for the next Newsletter should be sent to the [editor@g0mwt.org.uk](mailto:editor@g0mwt.org.uk) by Friday, 22nd April.