



Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society

Established 1936

Affiliated to the RSGB Club Call Sign: G0MWT
President: Carl Thomson, G3PEM Chairman: John Bowen G8DET
Treasurer: Brian Thwaites G3CVI Vice Chairman Martyn Medcalf G1EFL



Newsletter No 561

Web Address: www.g0mwt.org.uk

December 2012

Seasons Greetings !!!

This Month's Meeting

- NEW DATE: FRIDAY, 7th December, 7.30pm
- NEW VENUE: Great Baddow Parish Hall, 19 Maldon Road, CM2 7DW

“Selling Amateur Radio Equipment on E-Bay” By Belinda, YL of Mark M0IEO

Every Radio Amateur has thought "I do not really want this piece of equipment - but it seems a pity to take it to the Tip". Well now you can sell it on E-Bay - if only for a few pounds – but it may make someone's day.

Belinda will bring her computer and show us how to do it - Online - on the screen - in front of us. She will also tell us the things to be careful of and look out for when buying on the Internet.

Chairman John G8DET will also have another computer - Online - to Relicense your Amateur Radio License with Ofcom. Please bring your 2007 License, your Username and Password, to make life easier on the night. Please email or ring John beforehand to say you would like to do this on the night.

The Bar will be open at 7pm to 7.30pm and again at 8.55pm for the Break Time. Please support the Bar or it may not be available next time.

CARS will have traditional Mince Pies, Shortcrust Biscuits or Chocolate Biscuits at the Break Time.

CARS will have the famous Raffle run by Carl, G3PEM and James, 2E1GUA. Please buy a few tickets – it helps pay for the room and you may even win a prize! Please support them.

Dates for your Diary

Wed 5 th December	Full Licence Exam - Danbury Village Hall
Saturday 8 th December	CARS Christmas Lunch at the Lodge Country Inn, Rettendon – 12 for 12.30pm food.
Tuesday evenings: Dec 4 th , 11 th , 18 th & 26 th	CARS - Net Nights starting at 8.30pm local. 2m, 70cm, 1.947, 28.375MHz respectively. PLEASE PARTICIPATE!! Note – Boxing Day – NOT Christmas Day
Wednesday 12 th Dec	CARS Committee Mtg. 7.30pm, Danbury Village Hall. All Members welcome to attend
Saturday 15th Dec.	W & S Christmas Open Day is being held at Hockley. 10am to 5pm. – Meet CARS/ERG
Friday, 11 th Jan 2013	CARS Meeting - "G5HF SK - Reminiscences of his Life", Gt Baddow Parish Hall, 7.30pm.
Sunday 3 rd Feb 2013	28 th Canvey Rally – Doors open 10:30am

To be/remain a Member of CARS, send a Cheque for £15 – Adult Membership (16s and under are FREE) to:- Mr Brian Thwaites, 118 Baddow Hall Crescent, Great Baddow, CHELMSFORD, CM2 7BU. If you would like a receipt, please enclose a stamped addressed envelope with a 2nd class stamp.

May we remind you that if you have NOT paid your Subscription for this year you may be deemed to NOT be a Member of CARS and NOT entitled to a Newsletter etc.

Thanks to Geoff, G7KLV for sending the postal Newsletters – could it go by E-Mail?

Please inform Geoff, G7KLV by E-Mail of any changes to your callsign, postal or E-Mail address, etc. E-Mail him on g7klv@g0mwt.org.uk Only by YOU sending Geoff your E-Mail address, can we ensure WE get it right!

Club Nets: Tuesdays 8.30pm: (1st) GB3DA: (2nd) GB3ER: (3th) 1.947/50: (4th) 28.375. All MHz +/- QRM.

Net Controller for December is Patrick, M0XAP Thanks to Geoff, G3EDM for November.

CARS Christmas Lunch

On Saturday, 8th December, 2012. 12.00 noon for 12.30pm sitting. (Note the time).

This is to be held at **The Lodge Country Inn**, Hayes Chase, Burnham Road (A132), SS11 7QT near Battlesbridge,. Tel 01245 320060. <http://www.lodge-inn.net/>

CARS are pleased to say that the Christmas Lunch is now FULL and only Reserve Bookings can be made in the event of someone dropping out due to ill health. If you send in money now, please do NOT attend unless you have received a TICKET. No Ticket - No Seat and No Food. Thank you all for your support.

The Lodge Country Inn is located between the new and the old roads from Rettendon Turnpike and Woodham Ferrers.

If the weather is too bad to get there – it will be re-scheduled later at no cost to CARS. Watch the Web Site.

See you all there. Raffle Prizes would be appreciated.

Last Month's Meeting:- "Valve Evening" by Louis Poli, N3OL and CARS Members."

Chairman John, G8DET opened the Meeting by welcoming Members and Visitors to the new venue.

The Radio Microphone and Audio Hearing Aid Loop system worked well once we found out it needed batteries and **Tom, M6BCK** nipped to the Vineyards and bought some. Thanks Tom - you saved the day

Hard of hearing Members must remember to bring their Loop Hearing Aids for quality reception and switch them to the "T" position.

President Carl, G3PEM presented **John Roe, G4IMS** with his Constructors Competition Certificate as he missed the AGM.



Peter, G3SUY sitting by Keith's Codar AT5 TX and his Marconi 1155 Receiver



Part of the large audience.

Keith, G3WRO from Harlow introduced his Codar AT5 Transmitter which was teamed up with Peter, G3SUY's Marconi 1155 Receiver to form a QRP Valve Station and invited everyone to have a look at it and to have a QSO later in the evening.

The Chairman introduced Louis who said that he wanted to cover the following topic that evening: -

- *The Valve, and the Advent of Modern Radio*
- *Breakthroughs, and the People who made them.*
- *Basic Valve Forms.*
- *An Historical Valve Collection.*
- *High Power Safety! (Difficult with the cats around!)*
- *Shop and Test Equipment - Valves of course!*
- *Regenerative Rx and Experimental Valve circuits.*
- *Receivers in Restoration*
- *High Power Valve Transmitters.*
- *Station Equipment and Antennas.*

Louis first sketched the history of communications starting with James Maxwell (1831-79), theoretical physics; Heinrich Hertz (1857-94), applied physics; and Thomas Edison, inventor of the Light Bulb (1881 and lighting Crystal Palace 1882). John Ambrose Fleming (1849-1945) produced the first two electrode vacuum valve rectifier in 1904. Lee De Forest (1873-1961) then added a Control Grid to it enabling it to become an Amplifier or an Oscillator.

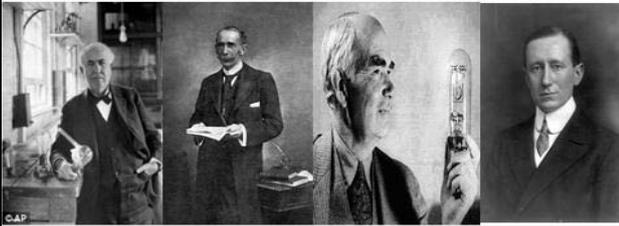
**Sir John A. Fleming. Engineer and Physicist,
Lancaster England**



The Fleming Diode "Oscillation" Valve, 1906

**The Breakthroughs, and the People
who made them.**

- Thomas Alva Edison (The "Edison Effect")
- Sir John Ambrose Fleming ("Oscillating" Diode)
- Lee De Forest (The Triode Amplifier)
- Guglielmo Marconi (Commercialization of Radio)



Guglielmo Marconi (1897-1937), famous for engineering and business in communications used the above to expand his empire based mainly in Chelmsford.

Early valves were primitive, but their advancement was breathtaking. Louis then showed a number of his collection of valves including the Plotron.



A rare 1938 type JAN861 Tetrode amplifier Valve

His shack layout was then shown on screen. He said that in keeping with modern American houses it was wired with 125 Volts and 250 Volts AC. After showing his valve test equipment, power supplies and amateur radio transmitters he showed a number of vintage receivers.

In order to leave his house free of aerials when he was working out of the country, he had devised a series of low profile antennas.



The bolted union between the lower 10' sections.

Two 10ft plastic tubes wound with wire provide a Top Band antenna which could be dismantled easily. Louis was warmly thanked for his presentation.

The Bar opened at 8.55pm and did a good trade. After the break, Luke drew the Raffle, run by Carl, G3PEM and James 2E1GUA, where a number of interesting items were given away.

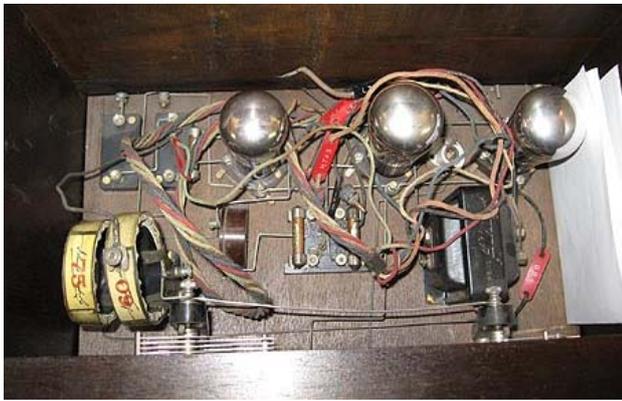
Tony, G4YTG showed a DVD of "Old Ongar Radio Station" which was built in 1924 and dismantled in the 1980s. It provided Reuters and MOD circuits, and had uninterruptable power supplies located in a number of separate buildings. The Ongar Station was used during the Falklands Conflict to communicate with the Task Force.

Tables had been set around the room with displays of Valve Transmitters and Receivers. Keith G3WRO from Harlow set up his Codar AT5 Tx with Peter G3SUY's Marconi 1155 Rx and used it "on-air" QRP to a /Mobile parked in the Vineyards Car Park opposite. The quality of the AM transmission surprised everyone.

On display were some old Marconi Valves and a "wired-in Valve" used by President Kennedy to talk to President Khrushchev after the Cuban Missile Crisis. As it had become microphonic, It had been taken out of the "Hot Line" which was opened on 30 August 1963, and ran Washington-London (Cheltenham)-Copenhagen-Stockholm-Helsinki-Moscow.



Valves Collection: Left is a Marconi PT2 (Tetrode) from 1925, to the right are the "wired in Valves".



A 1920s Radio and looking inside we can see the Coupling Coils and 2Volt Valves.

A Top Band Transmitter made in the 1960s by Geoff, G3EDM and collection of Valves by Andy, G1GKN was also on display.

Geoff, G7KLV brought along an old Marconi Valve in a wooden box from a 1920s Marconi Transmitter together with an Elizabethan Tx built in 1953 by David Bolwell, ex G3JCM.

All these items were on loan from Sandford Museum - thanks to Geoff for bringing them. A fabulous Vintage evening was enjoyed. A number of Members said that the new venue was better than MASC.

John G8DET



Colin, G0TRM with lots of interesting Valves.



Louis, N3OL talking to Peter, G3SUY about his Marconi 1155 Receiver.

December and January Meeting Arrangements

As per the front page the next two meetings will now be at Great Baddow Parish Hall 19 Maldon Road, Chelmsford, CM2 7DW as a result of ongoing building work at MASC.

<http://www.greatbaddowparishcouncil.co.uk/page2/page12/page12.html>

The road access to MASC from Beehive Lane is closed for November and December. Originally CARS were told we could gain access via a torturous route through the dense housing estate built on the playing fields at the rear of MASC, but due to poor weather that access road has not been built. This means MASC is now isolated for December and January.

Your Committee had been quietly examining alternative accommodation and have been pleased to find a room big enough in Baddow for our Meetings, with a Bar, Projector Screen and not far from MASC. There is also a working Audio Hearing Aid Loop – switch to “T” to enjoy quality sound.

The only snag is that the Baddow Parish Hall was fully booked except Friday, 7th December and Friday, 11th January 2013. We have booked these dates in co-operation with TARG, Canvey Island. The Hall will be open from 6.30pm but we have to be out by 10.30pm sharp.

At the Parish Hall we have to put out our chairs and tables and put them back and leave the hall in a tidy state. There will be a “Bar” before and for the Break but NO coffee/tea – soft drinks from the bar instead. Please support the Bar or it will not be available in the future.

Car Parking is on the opposite side of the road in the large Vineyards Car Park – after 6pm it is free to use – but watch the height restrictions. If you have a van or an antenna on the roof of your car – park in the Public Area of the other car park on the far side of the Vineyards. No car ? - the hall is on bus routes – No 31, 36 and 40. Please be careful when crossing the road.

<http://tinyurl.com/Great-Baddow-Parish-Hall> Shows where the Parish Hall is located.

We trust you will support the new Dates and Venue.

This Month's Radio Sport (Contests) - All in Local times, unless stated.

1/2 December – ARRL 160 Metre- CW - 42 hrs

2 December–144MHz AFS – SSB-09:00-17:00 hrs

8/9 December – ARRL 10 Metre- SSB/CW–48 hrs

26/29 December – VHF Christmas Cumulatives – 14:00–16:00hrs

Steve, G4ZUL

CARS Propagation Forecast for this Month, prepared by Gwyn Williams - G4FKH

Asia **Dhahran** - around 14:00 on 24.9MHz for 96 percent of days, with fair signals.

Oceania **Marshall Isles** - around 10:00 on 18.1MHz for 84 percent of days, with poor signals.

Africa **Johannesburg** - around 20:00 on 10.1MHz for 88 percent of days, with poor signals.

S. America **Rio de Janeiro** - around 08:00 on 10.1MHz for 88 percent of days, with poor signals.

N. America **Saskatoon** - around 08:00 on 14.0MHz for 82 percent of days, with poor signals.

See also Gwyn's excellent Solar Cycle 24 article in June RadCom, pages 67-69.

Gwyn, G4FKH

Noise Measuring Campaign – Gwyn Williams, G4FKH

Those of you, who are Members of the RSGB and read *RadCom*, will know about this campaign from the July edition of the magazine. Otherwise full information including the original idea can be found on my web site, <http://g4fkh.co.uk/projects/noise-measuring-campaign/>. Follow the links for specific information but basically the idea is for amateur's around the country to monitor and log their local radio background noise level, once per month. Periodically those measurements will be sent to me, so that I can collate and report on them.

Since inception David Cutter, G3UNA approached Chris Moulding of Cross Country Wireless with an idea to produce an SDR Rx. to enable automatic monitoring and reporting. So began the second (what I call the commercial) phase. Chris has a prototype working, the results can be seen at URL - <http://aprs.fi/telemetry/a/G4HYG-5>. Chris's commercial pitch can be seen at URL - http://www.crosscountrywireless.net/noise_measurement_program.htm.

The receiver will eventually be sold by Chris for £169.95 and is to go into production at the beginning of next year. The specifications keep changing so I will not give them here. However the basic idea is to allow automatic monitoring and reporting via the internet. Development has already started on the display of the data received via the internet; it will take the eventual form of a map of the UK, depicting the location of the various reporters with the noise level at that location.

Those are the first two phases of the campaign, another two are envisaged, the first of these is in the planning stage with the last in the discussion stage. They will be increasingly more technical and scientific.

Gwyn, G4FKH

President's Jottings

Due to unfortunate circumstances we could not meet at the Marconi Social Club last month; however John and Brian were able to book us into a new venue at Baddow village hall at a reasonable price. Most members thought that the hall had advantages over our previous venue. Driving past MASC this morning shows that the building of the new access is taking its time so further bookings at Baddow may be required. I personally found that the acoustics were not as good, so can I request that we have one meeting (two Members were talking throughout Louis's Presentation) so all of us can hear the speaker.

The subject of Valves can be very broad but our thanks to Louis for making the subject very interesting.

I have belonged to the RSGB for over 50 years but never attended any of the Annual General Meetings so I decided to attend the EGM that was held this month.



Gwyn, G4FKH (left); CARS President Carl, G3PEM and Murray, G6JYB.

In the end I was not alone as a total of seven members from CARS and the Thames club were at the meeting. In total just over 70 RSGB members attended the EGM, which made the required quorum. The day was split into two parts, the EGM was in the morning and consisted of the formal notice a question and answer session, followed by the vote. I cannot recall the actual votes in the hall for the new constitution but the overall result was 1453 in favour and 46 against. The "for" total was made up of internet, postal and meeting votes, and it is a shame that with a total RSGB membership of about 20,000 that less than 10% decided to exercise their vote.

In the afternoon John Gould G3WKL gave an interesting presentation of the proposed celebrations for the Centenary Year, some of which is in this

month's Radcom. This was followed by a forum of questions about the running of the RSGB and the afternoon ended with various archive photos and documents showing the setting up of the RSGB being displayed on the screen. Several boxes of this material have come to light during the setting up the National Radio Centre and the process of scanning this material has been started.

Finally can I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

James, 2E1GUA and myself will be running the Raffle and all donations will be welcome.

See you all at Great Baddow Parish Hall in December and January 2013.

Carl G3PEM, President

Training Courses

All Courses are held at the Danbury Village Hall near Chelmsford on Thursday evenings between 7 and 9pm.

The 2012 Advanced Course which started on Thursday, October 25th concludes with the Advanced exam on Wednesday, 5th December. The next Foundation course starts on January 10th for which places are available. If you would like more information on this or other courses, please contact Clive G1EUC.

Help is required for Foundation Training Courses that are held by CARS twice a year! In particular for the practicals, which include HF and VHF operation, station-build, SWR and remote VHF operators. Ideally, anyone joining the Training Team should be committed for the full duration of the Course!

Contact the **Training Organiser Clive G1EUC** on Tel: 01245-224577. Mob: 07860-418835

Email: training2012 at g0mwt.org.uk See also our Training page: - <http://www.g0mwt.org.uk/training/>

Morse Classes

Morse classes started again on Thursday, 1st November 2012 @ 1900hrs in Danbury Village Hall.

If you are a beginner you will be made very welcome. We can start you off on this great aspect of our hobby. If you would like to improve, or just need encouragement to get on the air, please join us. Instruction is also given on all aspects of CW - which include good manners on the air; how to have that CW chat; DX manners; Contesting and operating skills on the pump key and twin paddle keying. Andrew, G0IBN, also operates Slow Morse transmissions at 5, 7 and 10 wpm on 3.550-3.560kHz +/-QRM at 2015hrs (local) every Wednesday evening.

Andy Kersey G0IBN on 01621 868347 or g0ibn@kersey1.freemove.co.uk

Harlow Amateurs - Silent Key

Two well known Harlow Radio Amateurs, Hilda Cox G3YEB (G8BBQ) and Les Cox G3PRN who were the parents of Ian Cox G6ECK, sadly passed away this year. Les passed away May 21 and Hilda on November 19 aged 92 and 91 respectively. They were married for over 71 years. John Petters G3YPZ has written tributes to both of them, see: Hilda Cox G3YEB - SK

http://www.southgatearc.org/news/november2012/hilda_cox_g3yeb_sk.htm

Les Cox G3PRN - SK - The True Spirit of Amateur Radio

http://www.southgatearc.org/news/november2012/les_cox_g3prn_the_true_spirit_of_amateur_radio.htm

Trevor M5AKA

Thames Amateur Radio Group (TARG)

Following a successful meeting on Friday, 2nd November, the next meeting is on Friday, 14th December
Full details can be found at:

<http://www.thamesarg.org.uk/news/targ-club-night-02-nov-2012.html>

The TARG Shack is taking shape with more equipment and facilities gradually being added. Come and spend an evening with real amateur radio enthusiasts. Why not bring a friend?

Meetings will be held at: Jubilee Hall, Waterside Farm Sports Centre, Somnes Avenue, Canvey Island Essex SS8 9RA - There is large free car park. The hall is immediately behind and hidden by the main Sports Centre. Please put 19.30hrs Friday, 4th January 2013 in your diary as the first in the New Year.

Norman Crampton, M0FZW 07899 803714 -- m0fzw@btinternet.com

TV Sound

Seems as though the audio company called "Bose" read the last CARS Newsletter about poor TV sound because they have just produced a "Solo TV Sound System" to "Unwrap the Full Potential of Your TV".

It is a black shelf like box which you stand your TV (up to 32") on it – connect it to the mains and the TV and you get quality sound.

Problem as I see it is - it is Mono – just one speaker outlet and it costs £349.95!

John G8DET

For Sale or Exchange

Please would you let CARS members know that I have a second hand Yaesu VX6E TX/RX. It is too difficult for me to operate. It is with the "Manual and is Boxed". Offers please. I may consider an exchange for a much simplified Rig. WHY?

Melvin Cummins, M6BSX 01245 222047 – melvincummings@live.com

High Frequency Shack Lighting

In my previous life I introduced BT to HF Lighting in new Telephone Exchanges.

Traditional Fluorescent Strip Lights have a ballast which when connected to the British mains, of 50Hz, the tubes flash at 100 times a second. If, like me, you have sensitive peripheral vision – you can see this flicker from time to time out of the corner of your eye.

It has also been proved that 100Hz lighting can induce migraine, headaches and interfere with screen displays, rotating lathes, flywheels, etc.

HF Lighting typically operates at 53kHz to provide far more "flashes" per second – coupled with a persistent Fluorescent Coating on the tube to provide near continuous light – hence no strain. Also "North Light" or 6,000K Colour Rating tubes can provide near daylight conditions.

HF Strip Lighting is usually "Instant Start" – no flicker – flicker – pause – flicker – ON!

I specified Twin 2-foot, 20Watt tubes fed from series Chokes to ensure no HF got back into the mains (there would be large numbers on a BT floor) and to "test" my specification out I fitted a similar light in my shack in 1988. It worked well until 1999 when the Electronic Ballast failed and was replaced for "one week" by a B&Q Special.

Last week I realised it was still there! Flickering slightly and annoying me.

From the Internet I bought two 20 Watt Electronic Ballasts (cheap as they were 20Watt, not 18Watt as is now current) and fitted them on an Aluminium Heat-sink with Thermo- Conductive paste – Bob's your Uncle – back to my original specification complete with "North Light" tubes.

Do YOU suffer from traditional Fluorescent Tube Flicker? Headaches etc? Fit HF Ballasts in your Strip Lights.

John G8DET

More uses of WD 40:-

1. Protects silver from tarnishing.
2. Removes road tar and grime from cars.
3. Cleans and lubricates guitar strings.
4. Gives floors that 'just-waxed' sheen without making them slippery.
5. Keeps flies off cows.
6. Restores and cleans blackboards.
7. Removes lipstick stains.
8. Loosens stubborn zips.
9. Untangles jewellery chains.
10. Removes stains from stainless steel sinks.
11. Removes dirt and grime from the barbecue grill.
12. Keeps ceramic/terracotta garden pots from oxidizing.
13. Removes tomato stains from clothing.
14. Keeps glass shower screens free of water spots.
15. Camouflages scratches in ceramic and marble floors.
16. Keeps scissors working smoothly.
17. Lubricates noisy door hinges on vehicles and doors in homes.
18. It removes black scuff marks from the kitchen floor! Use WD-40 for those nasty tar and scuff marks on flooring. It doesn't seem to harm the finish and you won't have to scrub nearly as hard to get them off. Just remember to open some windows if you have a lot of marks.
19. Dead insects will eat away the finish on your car if not removed quickly! Use WD-40!
20. Gives a children's playground gym slide a 20 shine for a super fast slide.
21. WD-40 is great for removing crayon from walls. Spray on the mark and wipe with a clean rag.
22. If you've discovered that your teenage daughter has washed and dried a tube of lipstick with a load of laundry, saturate the lipstick spots with WD-40 and rewash. Presto! it is gone!
23. Lubricates tracks in sticking home windows and makes them easier to open.
24. Spraying an umbrella stem makes it easier to open and close.
25. Restores and cleans padded leather dashboards in vehicles, as well as vinyl bumpers.
26. Restores and cleans roof racks on vehicles.
27. Lubricates and stops squeaks in electric cooling fans in rigs.
28. Lubricates wheel sprockets on tricycles, wagons, and bicycles for easy handling.
29. Lubricates fan belts on washers and dryers and keeps them running smoothly.
30. Keeps rust from forming on saws and saw blades, and other tools.
31. Removes splattered grease on stove.
32. Keeps bathroom mirror from fogging.
33. Lubricates prosthetic limbs.
34. Keeps pigeons off the balcony (they hate the smell).
35. Removes all traces of duct tape.
36. Folks even spray it on their arms, hands, and knees to relieve arthritis pain.
37. WD-40 attracts fish. Spray a little on live bait or lures and you will be catching the big one in no time. Also, it's a lot cheaper than the chemical attractants that are made for just that purpose. Keep in mind though, using some chemical laced baits or lures for fishing are not allowed in some counties.
38. Use it for gnat bites. It takes the sting away immediately and stops the itch. And for some reason.....spray it on your arthritic knee joints etc and it may ease them!
39. Cleans the plastic covering provided on UPVC porches and greenhouses.
40. Wonderful for cleaning old Radio rig cases.

Colin G0TRM

January Meeting – “G5HF, SK, a reminiscence of his life’s activities”

This is the title of the CARS January Meeting at Great Baddow Parish Hall on Friday, 11th January 2013.

Harry had a wide and varied life. The Committee feel that as a Past President we would all be interested in it. Tony, G4YTG has researched part of it but feels there are CARS Members and friends who may know more.

Did you know Harry? Could you please contact the Editor or a Committee Member and indicate what aspect you knew about Harry.

Would you like to turn up at the January Meeting and tell the Meeting of your involvement with him? If not – how about writing a story about him? **Thanks – John G8DET.**

And Finally:- John, G8DET edited this edition; Murray G6JYB, finalised it, made it a PDF. Distributed most by email; Geoff KLV posted the remainder. Material by Trevor M5AKA; Steve G4ZUL; Gwyn G4FKH; Carl G3PEM; Norman, M0FZW; Melvin Cummins, M6BSX; Colin, G0TRM; Clive, G1EUC and Andy, G0IBN.

Closing date for items in the next Newsletter – Tuesday 27th December 2012.