



Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society

Affiliated to the RSGB

Club Call Sign: G0MWT

President: Harry Heap G5HF

Chairman: John Bowen G8DET

Secretary: David Bradley M0BQC

Treasurer: Brian Thwaites G3CVI

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Web Address: www.g0mwt.free-online.co.uk

January 2002.

We Hope You All Enjoy A Very Happy And Prosperous New Year.

The January Meeting - The Annual Junk Sale.

What can we say that we haven't said before? Very little! As usual Colin G0TRM has been persuaded to act as auctioneer! We would just remind you of the few simple rules we impose. Label your items if selling on your own behalf (the Club will take 10%). Unless labelled all items will be sold for Club funds. All unsold items must be removed by their owners unless accepted for the Club table at the Canvey rally in February.

As usual the doors open at 7-15 and Chairman John G8DET will call upon Colin G0TRM to get the sale underway at 8pm so there's plenty of time to see what's on offer. Don't forget this month's meeting is on **Tuesday 8th January (not the 1st.)**

The raffle is being run by Geoff G7KLV and Colin G0TRM. this month, please support it.

Dates For Your Diary.

Jan 8 Club Mtg. Junk Sale.

Jan 16 CARS C'ttee Mtg. Danbury Vill. Hall 7-30 pm.

Feb 3 Sth. Essex ARS Canvey Rally.

Feb 5 CARS Mtg. 'PSK 31' by Ian Moffat G0OZS.

Wanted.

Has anyone got a spare telescopic antenna for a Trio 2200 GS. This is a robustly built job with a screw mounting. Any accessories are also wanted. Any offers, please contact The Editor on 01245-473822.

The Marconi Celebrations.

Saturday 8th. December.

It has taken a hundred years for the town to give Guglielmo Marconi the recognition he truly deserves. But better late than never! To commemorate the reception of the three dots in Newfoundland the Borough Council arranged a series of events, which included, amongst other things, recognition on the town road signs and the commission of a bronze statue. The Club was invited to set up a wireless station as part of the celebrations in the town centre

At the suggestion of Pat G0SBQ the Club approached the RSGB with a view to operating from their mobile station GB4FUN and after a lot of hard work by your Committee the vehicle duly arrived in Chelmsford on Saturday 8th. December complete with Mike Dennison G3XDV and took up a position in the High Street opposite the Saracens Head. Members soon had aerials up and with power from the in-built 5kVA generator initial contacts were made.

Princess Elettra in the mean while was being transported around Chelmsford in the Council limo to unveil a number of road signs, which proclaimed that Chelmsford, was the birthplace of radio! However she turned up on time and after launching the Council's Book on Marconi climbed the steps into GB4FUN escorted by CARS Vice-President Charles, G0GJS. Charles passed the microphone to the Princess and although there was high local audio and RF noise her message could be heard in the quiet Canadian locations. Her Message was:

"In celebration of the occasion of the Marconi Centenary of the first Atlantic radio transmission, the Princess Elettra sends greetings to the people of Newfoundland and to all who have benefited from the invention of Guglielmo Marconi, my Father".

The Princess then graciously received Honorary Membership of our Society.

Club Members manned the station throughout the day. A contingent from SCARF was also on hand, whose Members established a rapport with younger visitors interested in our activities. As dusk fell the aerials were dismantled and before he departed Mike was thanked for his efforts by our Chairman John G8DET and presented with Honorary Membership.

We have to thank David M0BQC for co-ordinating the smooth running of this historic event.

Wednesday 12th. December.

Although the main event took place on the 8th. the actual anniversary of the Atlantic transmission was actually on the 12th. of December. To mark the event the Club set up a station at Sandford Mill at the invitation of Geoff Bowles of the Museum Service.

The Sandford Mill event was organised by Brian G3CVI who has provided the following account of the day's events.

'Usually the aerial goes up without any hitch and it did so again in preparation for the centenary event on December 12th.... except that due to a knot in a halyard we ended up with the entire wire closer to the Engine House than is normal. The result was that the feeder came down from the horizontal wire at right angles. The whole system tuned up beautifully with unity SWR on all bands and better than ever before. Moral...experiment!!!!

The new rig was very good to use and all the ops remarked on the general ease of use once they mastered the basics We worked about a hundred and thirty QSO's firstly on 80m which was as open as had not been experienced for a long time and then on 17M we toured all round Europe and the US with superb signal reports. On 80 we were surprised to get less than 9+20 and many times we were 9+35 or 40 and so were the stations we worked. Most knew the reason for the event although a few required an explanation and we had the usual problem of refusing QSL cards from the Russian stations who

do not appear to understand that anybody should say they do not require cards. Altogether it was like IMD on a reduced scale with 145 QSO's. We could not work Poldhu because there were hundreds more attempting to do so at the same time. The Club rig was also in use in the School Room, throughout the day, 195 QSO's'.

Tony G4YTG had recently had a kite built to the original Marconi design but using modern materials. This was the occasion of its first flight on Club business! With a deft hand he let out 400 ft. of line with a 100 ft. of aerial attached. It stayed up all day, steady as a rock while he made about 80 QSO's, 30 of which were on a RN net

The Marconi Co. in co-operation with CARS also staged an amateur radio station set up in the oldest radio factory in the World' using the historic call sign 2MR. CARS Member Trevor M5AKA was the organiser of this event at which the town dignitaries were present. The station used standard Marconi equipment which was remotely controlled from the front office in New Street. CW and SSB were used to make a total of 125 contacts worldwide. The same call sign was also used on the previous evening, the 11th., on 144.325 MHz when a number of local contacts were made.

Our Chairman John G8DET wishes to thank all those Members, too numerous to name, who took part to make the events such a success.

Last Month's Meeting - "Kitmaster" by Geoff Carter.

Geoff Carter came to us to talk about Kitmaster, or so we thought, but started by saying he knew nothing about radio or electronics but almost everything about packaging as he has been in packaging since 1974 as MD of Turner Packaging. One of his fellow directors asked if he had ever heard of Greenweld and suggested he should go and have a look. Greenweld was started by a PO engineer named Green in 1965 after he bought some surplus electronics from the then GPO and designed and built a sequencer which sold well and made him enough money to start Greenweld, to sell electronics bits to "do-it-yourselfers-" and electronics experimenters and made good business. As things moved on to the throwaway era and repair and refurbish became more expensive and video's, TV's and domestic electronics became cheaper the business waned. Peter Green sold the business to his manager who put it into voluntary liquidation.

Geoff went to the enormous warehouse in Southampton stacked with a variety of outdated surplus electronics and thought that with the right sort of organisation, cataloguing, marketing and packaging it should be a good operation. He bought the business and moved it all to a unit next to his business at West Horndon. The next task was to use the packaging skills and learn how to catalogue, list and control a vast stock of items to offer to customers via mail order, things they don't think they want and sometimes don't even know what they are or used for! He gave us examples of selling modules to customers by description and after experimenters had "taken the bait" one called to say he had designed it and it was part of a high-tech gyro from a fighter aircraft. An ex Radiospares executive helped him sort out the warehousing and the catalogue was produced containing new items from other hobbies, model cars, ships, planes and kites. It was a great success and a good mail order business 'with packaging'.

Geoff then went into a pet hobby horse saying he was running a one-man crusade to teach by "hands on" doing rather than reading about it or looking it up on the web. To this end he had invited groups of youngsters to his factory to allow them actual "hand on work learning" and the results

were popular and fantastic. Whilst looking for new items for the catalogue he came across an advert for Kitmaster (now we get to it) and asked if a selection could be included. The owner said he did not think it would be a good outlet but suggested some 20 kits. The result was overwhelming, so overwhelming that the existing cottage industry type of organisation could not cope. With the owner's assistance the business was moved into Horndon with Greenweld and tailored to suit the demand. When up and running, the owner David Jones suggested they should release him and buy the business. The range now includes both simple and quick to produce units and also more expensive and complicated valve radio kits using old techniques. Customers are saying "that's interesting", I would like to have a go at that. The original kit building era is now past and most available kits are 80-90% complete. ready to fly for those who cannot be bothered to take the time and trouble, but there are lots more out there who want to feel they have really built something worthwhile and they are beating a path to Greenweld's door.

I thought Geoff was a fantastic and enthusiastic salesman by selling himself. Most of us I am sure rushed over to buy all sorts of goodies! Well done Geoff and most interesting.

Report by Tony G4YTG.

An Unusual Story from Brian G3CVI.

Many years ago after WW1 eight of my relatives were employed at Pirelli Cable Co. Southampton, one being my Mother (she was not aware of it at the time, of course). She was chief of the department which interviewed customers and settled specifications and prices etc. and steered the orders through the works. A very important client always asked to be shown to the office of "Chan"... her maiden name was Channell, hence the shortened version used by everybody in the establishment.

On this occasion there was a complaint that a stranded cable was made of slightly undersized wires so that it was out of spec. and Mother rose to fetch a Micrometer to see by how much. "Use mine" said the important client handing over a millimetric mike. The complaint was genuine and reworking promised along with the placing of several additional orders. When he stood to depart Mother replaced the mike in the case and held it out to him. "No, no" he said "keep it, it is yours as a token of my gratitude for your care", at which Mother said she nearly fainted and did not recover 'till the client was long gone! I will leave you Dear Reader to guess the identity of that important customer.

Mother's family lived in a semi-detached house north of the town and the other half was occupied by THE Kemp family and she knew the "lads" quite well. They all attended the same school, Sunday school and Church. It was years after I finished working at Baddow that a chance remark to Mother brought it all to light.... Bathing in reflected glory??? Yea...why not???

The New Club Rig.

The recently purchased FT847 was used at Sandford Mill and performed faultlessly. Brian CVI will be giving his appreciation next month. No more space!

Joint Editors.

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Deadline for the December N/L is Wed 16th. January.