



Radio Society of Great Britain



City of Bristol RSGB Group - G6YB

[At the Bristol Lawn Tennis & Squash Club, Redland Green, Redland, Bristol BS6 7HF](#)

March 26th 1930hrs : 60 Years In-and-Out of Amateur Radio



Canon Roger Davis G3IUZ Born and bred in Somerset; joined RSGB 1951; licensed 1953 as a schoolboy; joined RAF teaching V Bomber HF Tx/Rx at RAF Yatesbury; BBC TV engineer - then turned his collar round. Anglican parish priest for thirty years in east London, Beds and Herts. Retired to Wells and now spends most of his time building and running the miniature passenger hauling steam railway at the Bath & West Showground. Occasionally active on HF Bands SSB and PSK and 2m.

All in all a very varied life - come along and listen to Roger; you won't be bored !

I asked a few months ago for contributions for the newsletter including the subject “How I started in Amateur Radio” . This is from Martyn G3RFX, our previous Chairman, and is in two parts .

I can't quite remember where I picked up the amateur radio bug, but - like Adrian Mole in one of his Secret Diaries - I must have succumbed to it at around the age of 13³/₄. It had been passed on to me unwittingly by my father, a highly talented practical man who'd turned his hand to most things technical including, for a time, listening to shortwave broadcast stations on a large and shiny Grundig Satellite receiver.

My mother, on the other hand, wanted nothing to do with any of it, especially amateur radio – even less so after I became the proud holder of the callsign G3RFX in August 1962. A much-feared leading light at the local Women's Institute, she swore blind that for one thing my amateur radio transmissions were always coming through on her beloved television set downstairs. Perhaps more importantly, my only antenna, a 132 ft long wire at 25 ft down the back garden, posed a serious hazard to the birds.

Which is why she soon insisted that I string a highly visible series of corks along it at regular intervals as an early warning system for these poor creatures who, she insisted, were always crashing into it and breaking their necks, although there was never any forensic evidence of this on the neatly manicured lawn below.

But at least one of the birds was still very much alive and flying.

“Yes, an extremely rare species and one I've never heard before,” exclaimed veteran birdwatcher Mr Wilson, who lived in the next road beyond the fence at the bottom of our garden. He told my mother that recently he'd heard this most unusual bird call several nights running – and it always seemed to be coming from the direction of our house.

“Which rare species could it be?” asked an increasingly agitated Mr Wilson.

My mother didn't have a clue, but I knew exactly which rare species it was. It was none other than the CW Bird, which regularly flew off into the immediate neighbourhood whenever I was listening to Morse code in the middle of the night with the loudspeaker on and my bedroom window open.

To be continued next month

Coming soon : Dates for your diary

April 30th : Tony Griggs G4KMB A trip to Tristan de Cunha

May 28th : Phil Whitchurch G3SWH 3DA0PW Swaziland 2012

June 25th : Tom Boucher G3OLB 1.8 - 136 LF Dxing



Always a good local rally—make sure you don't miss it !

Bring & Buy

Major Traders including Walters & Stanton, Sandpiper, Westlake , even the RSGB are there !

Check out their website by scanning the QR code or go to their website the old fashioned way!

www.southglosradiatorally.org.uk/

A couple of points from the news

Should you feel the need, you can apply for a Notice Of Variation (NOV) to use a special prefix for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and also a special prefix for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games.

The former allows you to insert a "Q" as a secondary locator in the existing callsign - ie "GQ3TKF" or "2Q1GFC" between 5th May and 10th June 2012

For the Queen's Diamond Jubilee NOV go to www.rsgb.org/operating/novapp/jubilee

And London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games NOV go to www.rsgb.org/operating/novapp/olympics

New 500Khz band

The Plenary meeting of WRC-12 agreed on the revised text for Agenda Item 1.23 in its first and second reading. This means that the conference concluded on a global secondary amateur allocation in the band 472-479 kHz with a maximum radiated power of 1W (EIRP). Administrations, however, may permit stations located more than 800km from the borders of countries listed in a footnote a maximum radiated power of 5W (EIRP).

See you on the band !?

Local Clubs Why not support them and try to make a meeting or two ?

Blackmore Vale <http://www.radioclubs.net/bvars/events.php>

Chepstow and District ARC <http://www.gw4lwz.org.uk/>

Chippenham & DARC <http://www.g3vre.org.uk/archive.asp>

MidSARC <http://www.midsarc.org.uk/>

North Bristol ARC <http://www.nbarc.org.uk/>

Shirehampton <http://www.shirehampton-arc.org.uk>

South Bristol ARC <http://www.sbarc.co.uk/>

Thornbury and South Gloucs ARC <http://www.tsgarc.ham-radio-op.net>

Trowbridge and District ARC <http://www.radioclubs.net/trowbridgedarc/events.php>

Please try to get along to a few talks given at the many clubs in our area .

If you find them interesting please consider getting some details to pass on to me so that OUR group can have a supply of interesting talks !

Have you got anything you would like more information on, or would YOU be prepared to give US a talk ?

Don't forget—if you see anything of interest to the group, or have anything for sale or wanted, drop me an email for inclusion in the next newsletter.

73

[Robin G3TKF](#)

RSGB Bristol Group Hon.Sec.

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