



Radio Society of Great Britain



## City of Bristol RSGB Group - G6YB

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

**Monday May 28th 1930hrs**

**Change to original talk**

**Tony Bettley G4LDL**

**T32C Dxpediton—The REAL story !**

Almost more interesting than the T32C planners had originally intended – this is the story of how, after a major blow to their plans, the T32C team overcame huge logistical problems to achieve a superb end result.



Coming soon : Dates for your diary

June 25th : Christmas meal ! The Swan at Tockington—Contact [Mike G3SJI](#) for details

July 30th : Potted Talks & Natter Night

August 27th: Tom Boucher G3OLB LF band operations

Sept 24th Phil Whitchurch G3SWH 3DA0PW Swaziland

## Andy M1EBV Silent Key

**Andy Cowley M1EBV passed away on 23rd April 2012 after a short but acute illness.**

Andy was a key member of the Bristol RSGB Group, being a committee member and the group historian. Andy was a very active member of our Contest Group and a regular contributor to the success of our contest teams. He will be a huge loss to the group.



Andy will be remembered for his wide-ranging and deep knowledge of almost any technical subject you could think of, from nuclear physics to jellyfish. He was lovingly known as "The Professor" so there was no need for Wikipedia when Andy was about. He had an interest in history and kindly researched the origins of the Bristol RSGB Group to produce a Short History and built up a large collection of very old QSL cards and vintage valves. Andy was well known in the group as someone who would help out whenever he could. His role as chief of catering during IOTA expeditions to Jersey was greatly appreciated and the catering tent became known as "Andy's Trattoria".

Rest in Peace, Andy

## Stuart Green G3ISG Silent Key

**Stuart passed away at Bath's Royal United Hospital on Monday 30th April 2012**



In the 1950s Stuart was a member of the Redcliffe Radio Club (G3GIS) and lived in the Redland area of Bristol.

He was a keen Dxer, particularly on 160m, where in Jan 1985 he worked ZL1HY near Auckland, a major achievement - he was then based in Kingswood, Bristol. At this time he was an RSGB newsreader and got good reports from around the UK and into EU.

He then moved to Corston just outside Bath where he continued his "aerial farm" - this time featuring three large telegraph poles topped with scaffold poles. Again his interests were mainly on 160 and 80m.

Stuart was an active member of the Bristol RSGB Committee as Treasurer for many years, particularly during the latter years of the Longleat rally. His attention to detail and accuracy in figures helped the group through difficult times.

He leaves a wife Liz, and son and daughter Simon and Clare.

Continuing the life stories of local amateurs :

## **Bob Andrews G4BWB - Born Again Radio Amateur**



Some forty-four years ago, as a schoolboy, I was introduced to the wonderful hobby of amateur radio, which has brought me so much pleasure and lasting friendships over the years. After a silence of twenty years, I re-emerged in 2007, as sort of 'Born Again' amateur in the guise of 9V1RA. There is something magical about this hobby that I just can't grow out of.

In 1968, my physics teacher, Richard Pavey, G3PXM, sat me down and introduced me to an Admiralty B40 receiver. Dr. Dick, as Pavey was known, had set up a radio room in order to engage pupils in a healthy extra-curricular interest and as a welcome escape from the daily Dickensian awfulness of boarding school. From the initial whistles, buzzes, static crashes and other cacophony emerging from the B40 came voices I can still recall today - G3VUC, and G3KNE, amongst others. A few days later, Dr. Dick arranged for a man called Mr. Harold Leonard to give a talk to us about amateur radio. On my next release home, it transpired that Harold and his wife were old friends of my mum and dad. That sealed the deal and from that moment I became terribly interested in radio. Harold Leonard was the sort of jovial uncle everyone would want and was the source of great encouragement to youngsters eager to find out more about radio. He was known to all as "Uncle Len", G4UZ.

Another great source of encouragement came in the rotund pipe-smoking form of Maurice Wilkins G3YOH, who warmly greeted me into the fairly newly formed Shirehampton Amateur Radio Club, in 1971. Maurice was just the best front-of-house man any radio club would need to welcome newcomers. I have had an association with Shirehampton ARC ever since. I'd also like to posthumously thank Maurice for introducing me to beer and Italian Opera.

By this time, I had enrolled on the MPT Radio Officers course at Brunel Technical College. I had applied to become a domestic TV engineer, just like Colin G3YHV, but I walked into the wrong interview room! So radio was now firmly part of my life. On 15<sup>th</sup> February 1973, I became licensed as G4BWB. My great joy from this event was crushed on 13<sup>th</sup> March 1973, when train enthusiast and station inspector, Dennis Hedges, condemned my state-of-the-art F.G. Rayer designed top-band transmitter as a device that promoted stronger harmonic radiation than the frequency it was designed for. Yet, two weeks later, over a cup of tea and a conversation about trains, Dennis relented and allowed me back on the air. I had done nothing about the harmonic issue!

During the years up until 1985, radio was an all-consuming interest. I was very active on 160M, as well as HF. I was also very engrossed in the running of Shirehampton ARC. However, on the 20<sup>th</sup> April 1987, I had a QSO with Clive, G4NAQ. At 10.30 AM, I switched off and remained off the air for the next twenty years. These were the wilderness years dealing with ailing parents, marrying and bringing up a family and trying to earn a living.

In 2007, having lived for many years in Singapore, the chap who ran a business next door to mine asked me to watch a film he was editing, which he told me would not make a lot of sense to me. When, I realised that this was a film about a DX-pedition to the Antarctic we

were both amazed that we had been next door to each other for years, without realising we were both licensed. James, 9V1YC, is well known around the world for challenging DX-peditions and as a great CW man. Then, about a year or so later, I was out buying a part for my bathroom tap when I sought shelter in a shop door way as the heavens opened with great ferocity. When I turned around, I discovered that the shop was full of ancient amateur radio equipment, so I invited myself in for a cup of tea. Frank Aw's shop literally creaks under the weight of old radio gear. He ordered me to attend the next meeting of the Singapore Amateur Radio Transmitting Society (there doesn't appear to be a receiving society). Peter Cook 9V1PC (G4NCA) lent me a TS830 and helped me put up an aerial and in January 2007, after my government station inspection, I came back on the air as 9V1RA - creator of pile-ups.

For twenty years I had drifted away from amateur radio. In the beginning, it had been the amateur radio community who had welcomed me and encouraged my interest. Now, in 2007, it was the Singapore amateur community who had encouraged me back into the hobby. But it is more than the wonderful friends I have made that's been the binding force that has kept my interest even during the dormant hibernation years. And that's really what the point of all this garbage I have written is about is coming to.

It's hard to explain to a generation of internet communicators, what the draw of amateur radio is. I'm not sure I have the answers.

More than ever, though, we need people like Len G4UZ, and Maurice G3YOH, and my Singapore friends to welcome newcomers in order to secure a future for what may well become a fading hobby. So what draws me to this hobby? Well it's the magical element I mentioned at the beginning. I make no other comparison between myself and Marconi other than the belief that we have shared



something quite wonderful. In Degna Marconi's book, *'My father Marconi'*, she tells the story of how Marconi's mother was summoned upstairs to the attic room in the Villa Grifone, which Marconi had secured as a laboratory, despite protestations from his father. What she witnessed must have been a truly magical moment. When Marconi pressed the telegraph key a bell quietly tinkled at the other end of the room. Between the key and the bell was nothing but air. It must have been a similar to the kind of moment that I still feel whenever I transmit the equivalent power of a 100 watt light bulb into the air and get a reply from the other side of the world.

**Thanks Bob - interesting story - Anyone else like to submit something for the future ??**

**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 the Xmas party !**

**June 25th The Swan at Tockington**

**MEMBERS ONLY : contact [Mike G3SJI](#)**

73

**[Robin G3TKF](#)**

**RSGB Bristol Group Hon.Sec.**

**01225 420442**