



Radio Society of Great Britain



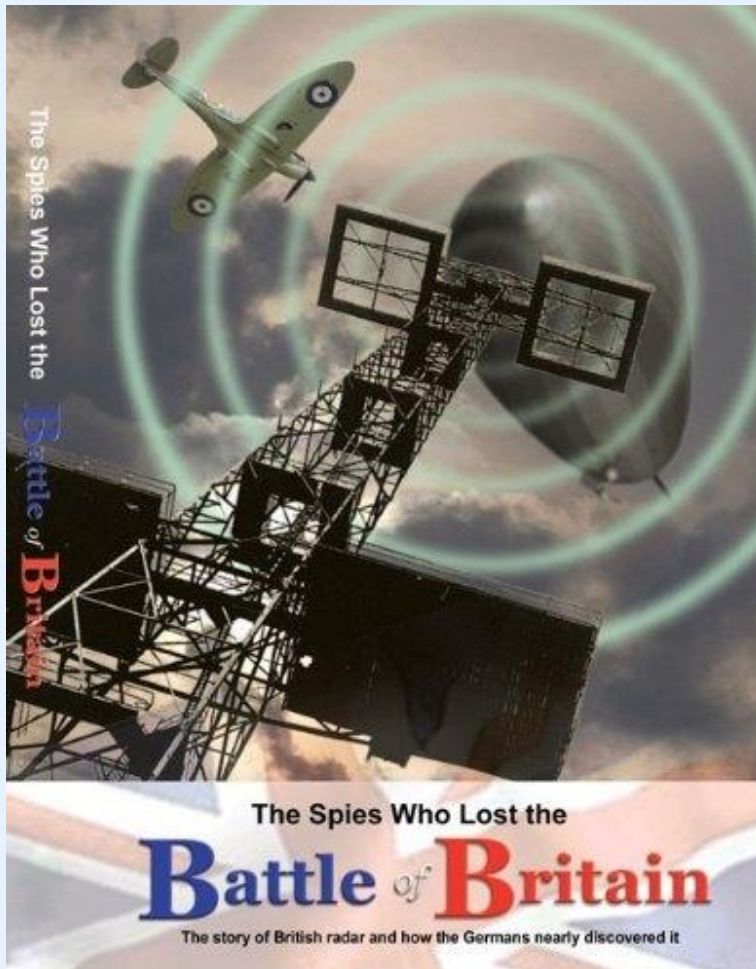
## City of Bristol RSGB Group - G6YB

At the Bristol Lawn Tennis & Squash Club, Redland Green, Redland, Bristol BS6 7HF

**April 28th Video night : WW2 Radar & **Bring and Buy** Sale**

**Tables available from 1900hrs - only a small commission charged**

This video tells the story of the spies who lost the Battle of Britain . A new documentary about the astonishing story of the daring Zeppelin spy mission carried out just a few weeks before the start of WW2; what happened on board the airship on 3rd August 1939 was to decide the future Battle of Britain.



**Bring and Buy**

**Bring all your bits  
and pieces to sell!**

**1900hrs onwards**

## How G3TKF came to be .....



At the age of about 6 I liked to help deliver the bread around a few of my neighbours in Downend, Bristol. The local baker was Maurice Palmer and in his small delivery van along with the large white loaves and collection of cakes was an odd collection of wires and boxes with dials ... you've guessed it, Maurice was otherwise known as G6OZ. I was fascinated by him talking to people all over the country from his van (160m I think). I eventually went to his shack inside his bakery at the junction of North Street and High Street in Staple Hill to see the rest of his station. I can vividly remember seeing what to me looked like a hedgehog on the side of his desk, but turned out to be a large pile of ash (I THINK it was in an ashtray!) from his constantly smoked pipe with a large quantity of dead matches sticking out of it - very odd! Maurice would work the DX on 14Mhz in the middle of the night while the dough was rising next door in the ovens.

In the late 40s my father worked in the drawing office for the Electricity Board in Overhill Road in Staple Hill . One of his chums from the office and his wife became great friends with my parents and they would visit regularly in the evenings. I remember talking about my visit to the local bakery and the radio kit in the baker's van and was very surprised to learn that dad's friend, whose name was Geoff, was also licenced as G2IK. For several years on a Sunday morning I would catch the No 4 bus from Staple Hill to Norton Road in Knowle where Geoff lived and I would be allowed to say "hello" to G2BGA "Bunny" on Geoff's regular skeds with him. I was amazed at hearing Ws and VEs on 10m AM all at S9+... I thought that maybe one day I could do the same. Geoff and Gwen became lifelong friends with my parents and when Geoff and my father passed away, Gwen and my mother would go on holiday together.



Several years passed and like many others I experimented with building circuits from Practical Wireless designed by F.G.Rayer G3OGR. One using an 807 gave me contacts on CW on 7Mhz and this must have been where my interest started in CW - it has stayed with me until the present day!

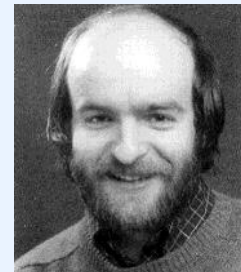
After several years as an avid listener I decided to get a licence (!) A few terms of R.A.E. night classes at Ashley Down technical college with Reg Griffin G5UH and Ted Harris had my callsign details dropping on the mat early one Saturday morning in June 1963. At the time I was working as an apprentice in a radio & TV workshop in Westbury On Trym. At lunchtime I went see if my mate Keith's licence had arrived - we had both applied at the same time - it had, and Keith had already built a transmitter. So G3TKH and G3TKF went straight on to 80m to work Eustace G3RAJ (a blind amateur) in Redland as our first ever QSO (legally!) on the air - DX of about a mile. Unfortunately within a short time there was

a knock on the door and the head of the Radio Interference department and his lackey (Mr Wallington and Mr Blake ) demanding to see if we had a licence – we had of course – but they had yet to be officially informed – so they were left with egg on their faces. HOWEVER it seemed as though our home brew TX was doubling in the p.a. and we were coming out with an S9 + signal on  $(2 \times 1.950\text{Mhz}) = 3.9\text{Mhz}$  !

They were NOT happy !

Two absorption wavemeters were quickly constructed and one 100Khz crystal was bought and shared amongst 4 newly licenced amateurs – it became known as the “Bristol Crystal” and the same serial number appeared on several station inspections list of frequency measuring kit!

I first attended the RSGB meeting at Carwardine’s Restaurant in Baldwin St (is there anyone else left to remember that?) in about 1960; I had an Associate listening number A2821 until I got my licence. I met with the two “locals” in the area G3OLI and G3RAU and all three of us became avid DXers on 160m. I spent many hours digging down into the noise and static on my R1155 listening for USA stations. As a well known station in Keynsham (G6GU) used to say, “Fat watts always helps to work the DX” So did patience and lack of sleep !



To cut a long story short, I am still - 51years later (crumbs!) - chasing stations on the air. Many things in my life, including my wife and all my jobs, are directly attributable to my interests in radio ... but that’s another story!

Many thanks to Keith G3TKH for saving this story over the years - I had forgotten it ever appeared in print! (August 1995 issue of the “Newsletter ”; Clive G4NAQ was the Editor, G4NKT was the Secretary and Tony G4ROX was the Chairman .

*Robin G3TKF*

That’s the last of the “How I started” series as nobody else has put their story in print!

Drop me a line if you have the inclination to tell us your story - I’m sure we would all find it interesting!

## Caption Competition



Can you think of a suitable amusing caption for this picture?

The “winner” gets a free raffle ticket at the next meeting.

Some of the comments received for last month:

“and to think this started life as a mouse trap!” *Mike SWL*

“I’m not going to put my head in front of this lot - I shall have to find another dummy to do that” *G3TKF*

The start of 50 years of BBC2 *John Sutherland*

I could call this knob the “colour” control - that would confuse the Yanks ! *2E1GFC*

This month’s winner however:

Colin’s thermionic hair drier turned out to be more of a hair raiser. *G3ZVW*

Steve has another chance to win the raffle.



If you missed **Prof Cathryn Mitchell** last month or would like to hear her again, she is at the Trowbridge & District club on **May 7th** giving a similar talk on SPACE WEATHER

Well worth a visit

<http://www.radioclubs.net/trowbridgedarc/contact.php>



## NEWSFLASH!

### **Steve Hartley G0FUW elected to RSGB Board of Directors**

Thanks to everyone who voted for Steve . We are certain that the RSGB will benefit from his wealth of experience.

**Congratulations Steve !**

### [Important update: 5 MHz Band](#)

Users of the 5 MHz frequencies will know that this portion of the spectrum is allocated (by NoV only) for amateur use on a secondary basis, available on the basis of non-interference to other services inside the UK. Ofcom have indicated that, during the coming days, there may be temporary increased usage of the band by the primary user and thus particular care should be exercised to ensure that frequencies are not in use before calling CQ.

### [The TX FACTOR](#)

**Nick Bennett 2E0FGQ** talks with RSGB Board member and Chair of the RSGB Training and Education Committee **Steve Hartley G0FUW** about the RSGB's involvement with Youngsters On The Air 2014

Listen to the interview (no pics) at  
<http://www.txfilms.co.uk/txfactor/yota2014.mp3>

TX Factor Talk  
<http://www.txfilms.co.uk/txfactor/txtalk.shtml>

## FOR SALE

Roy G3FYX is disposing of all the equipment below

7.3M Tennamast Adaptamast swingover at 2.3 M mounted on garage wall & swings over onto flat roof; it's complete with two winches & cage, also Ali extension pole.

23cm transverter 15W 13.8V, operates with IC202

13cm transverter 30W+ 24V operates with IC202

9 cm transverter 8W 40V operates with FT290

6cm transverter 7W 13.8 v operates with FT290

3cm home station transverter (used to drive 10wTWT) Based on White Box design 100Mw+, also many microwave parts.

24ghz. Half watt & higher freq but microwave experience would be advised for these units.

He is open to offers but would prefer that any prospective buyers contact him and arrange a viewing first !

Contact : Roy Emery 01454 778288

Or email the secretary and I will put you in touch

## **Coming soon to the Bristol Group**

**May Sat 24th** The Clifton Rocks Railway (One ticket available)

**May Mon 26th** Prof Chris Budd G4NBSG - History of modern coding practices

**June 30th** Happy “Christmas” - No meeting

## **At the local clubs :**

Full details and more on the websites below

**Bath and District ARC** <http://badarc.webs.com/>

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

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

**MidSARC** [www.midsarc.org.uk/](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/calendar/>

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

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

**Weston-Super-Mare Radio Soc.** <http://www.radioclubs.net/wsmrs/>

If you want to buy or sell something, let me know !

I need articles for “How I started in radio” - even if nobody else does, I will find it interesting!

**[Robin G3TKF](#)**

**RSGB Bristol Group Sec.**

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**<http://www.g6yb.org>**