



Radio Society of Great Britain



## City of Bristol RSGB Group - G6YB

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

### Annual General Meeting Monday Jan 28th

Come along and have your say about the running of the group - would you like to see any changes in the committee, the venue, the talks etc.

It will also be time to renew your membership; Ron Ford G4GTD will be along to collect any payments.

**Congratulations!**  
**Cyril Chapman G2HDR 60 Years an RSGB member**

To relieve the boredom of the reports from the committee there will also be a **Bring and Buy** (it was going to be a nostalgic picture evening but due to a lack of material this will be a future event).

Included will be some of the following :

A200 - 50watt 68-88Mhz amp; Sigma Video/Sound editor/enhancer.

Also a virtually unused **300w Honda generator** will be auctioned !

and no doubt MANY other bargains - come along and spot one !



**We begin this month with another feature from “How I started in radio”**

**contributed by Steve G3ZVW, well known for his editing of the RSGB Yearbook and articles in Rad Com. He is also an active member of the Bristol RSGB Contest group.**

### **How it all Began:**



I was brought up in a house where the cupboard under the stairs was stocked with components. It contained lots of

longed to my dad who, in 1949, had built a television from EF50s! He had also built a portable Medium Wave radio using miniature valves. Along with the components, unfinished and non-working projects also sat in boxes in the cupboard, while the TV (which had never worked well and had been replaced by a commercial model) had been relegated to the garden shed. Little boys like to build dens and naturally while I was in the cupboard under the stairs I started twisting wires together, playing with electric bells and buzzers, connecting resistors to meters to indicate voltage, etc. As I was showing interest in such things I was also bought some of the electrical and electronic kits that were available in the 1960s. One of them enabled me to build a crystal set and a 1-transistor amplifier.

where the cupboard under electronic parts. They be-

After a while I went on to wind my own coils and build crystal radios from circuits in books. Some worked better than others and one day I stumbled across something that put me on the path to where I am today. The year would have been about 1967. I had made a crystal radio that I had plugged into my Ferguson reel-to-reel tape recorder (which could also be used as an audio amplifier), but I hadn't wound enough turns on the coil so instead of the tuning range being about 500kHz-1500kHz it was closer to 1MHz-2MHz. Something I heard fascinated me. It was one side of a conversation. Clearly the guy speaking was local. He identified himself as G3WKQ, gave his name as Adrian and location as Palmers Green (I lived there too). Over the following weeks I listened again and again, occasionally hearing him, but also a mobile station. All on AM, of course. This was it, I was hooked. Soon after I was bought a communications receiver for a Christmas present. It was a 'modern' 4-valve receiver from Japan, but extremely basic. It had a BFO, but drifted quite badly. However, now I was able to listen to amateurs on the HF bands and resolve the new mode of the day – SSB!



At about this time I also started to experiment with transmitters. I built a single transistor transmitter that could be heard four houses away on the family's Bush TR81 radio, but when I built a transmitter using two EF50s in a kind of multivibrator oscillator I could hear it several streets away. I was so scared I ran all the way home to switch it off!



In 1969 I joined my first radio club (Southgate) and met – amongst others – G3XSV (Current Chairman of the Bristol RSGB Contest Group) and G8ASR (now G4ASR of the VHF Rad Com column). Also, with the express permission of my school headmaster, I started an RAE course at the local Technical College. In 1970 I passed the RAE, got thrown out of school for not passing my other exams (although I did get to finish building the chassis and case of a Top Band AM transmitter in the metal workshop), passed my Morse test and started ‘work’ as an apprentice in the International Telegraphs division of the Post Office. My first QSO was on 25 November 1970 with G3VWZ. My callsign confused the hell out of him.

So basically you’ve all got my dad to blame!

Sadly I never got to thank G3WKQ for introducing me to amateur radio. In one of his QSOs I heard him say that he was going into hospital for an operation. Although he was quite young, he died.

**Steve White G3ZVW**

*Thanks Steve I’m sure many of us have similar memories . If YOU do , send me a short article - we all want to know how YOU started!*

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2013**

### **HARWELL AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY**

**Radio and Electronics Rally** at Didcot Leisure Centre, Mereland Road , Didcot, Oxon OX11 8AY from 10.30am-3.30pm. There will be radio and electronics stalls, second-hand stalls, Special Interest Groups displays, RSGB Bookstall, Information on Courses for new Radio Amateurs and a Demonstration Station. Refreshments will be available all day. Entry £2.50 (children under 12 free). Details from Ann on 01235 816379 or from [www.g3pia.org.uk](http://www.g3pia.org.uk)

**Have you applied for an NOV for the NEW bands?**

**472 – 479Khz and 5Mhz**

**Apply on line here**

<http://www.rsgb.org/operating/novapp/nov-472-479-khz.php>

## Caption Competition

Can you think of a suitable amusing (and publishable!) caption for this picture?



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

Quite a few for last month (lower picture) - the **publishable** ones included :

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder *John G4TRN*

“Now that’s what I call a wine glass ! “ *G3TKF*

“As recycling had not been invented, Dorothy felt she could drop it into the bin with a clear conscience” *Mrs Everingham*

“I’ve always wanted to blow one as big as this” *G3XSV*

Wow this is a big one ! *G4NKT*

*And so on ..... they got worse!*

But this months winner is *Geoff G4FKA*

“Ooooh -what a lovely baby ! ”

- she should have gone to Specsavers!

Geoff and Philip MOPHI (last month’s winner) will be in this month’s raffle draw.



Send me your captions ! [robin@g3tkf.co.uk](mailto:robin@g3tkf.co.uk)

**Congratulations!**  
**Phil Whitchurch G3SWH 50 years an RSGB member**

### **At the local clubs next month**

Do try to get along to a meeting (and let me know if you would like to hear a talk given to OUR group !)

**MidSARC 12th Feb Morse Evening**

**South Bristol 7th Feb The RNLI**

**Shirehampton Every Friday night**

**Thornbury 6th Feb Rally Planning night**

Full details and more on the websites below

### **Local Clubs**

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>

**Coming soon to the Bristol Group :**

Feb 25th : Captain Roger Francis -Trinity House Deep Sea pilot

March 25th: Chris Bartram GW4DGU - Microwave Projects

April 29th: Nick Gleed GW8YXM - Electron Microscopes

**FOR SALE**

Yaesu TL922 One of the best HF amplifiers £800

It belonged to Andy M1EBV who passed away recently.

G3TKF for further details.

**IMPORTANT CHANGE TO MEMBERSHIP PAYMENT**

You can now pay your RSGB Bristol group £10.00 membership on line.

**BUT** do remember to include details of Callsign and name.

Our account No.02520489 Sort Code 30-94-80 Lloyds Bank plc

Alternatively bring cash or a cheque along to a meeting

As mentioned earlier the plan was to have lots of **nostalgic pictures** at the AGM but only a small handful came to light! Have a dig around and send me copies of those old black and white pictures; if you need a hand digitising them, get in touch.

Thanks to those who have sent me short histories of “**How I started in radio**” ... please send me a few words of how YOU started in the hobby, and attach a few pictures if possible.

They will be published starting from the January 2013 issue.

That's all for now

73

[Robin G3TKF](#)

**RSGB Bristol Group Sec.**

**01225 420442**