



Radio Society of Great Britain



City of Bristol RSGB Group - G6YB

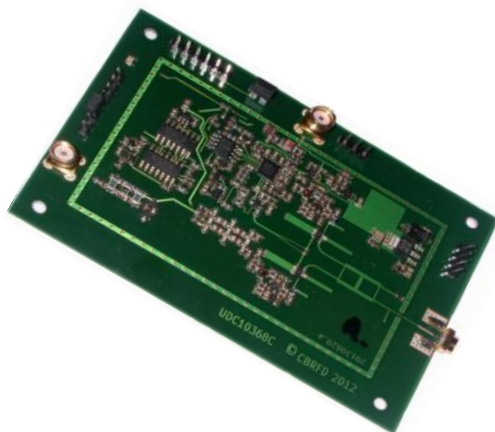
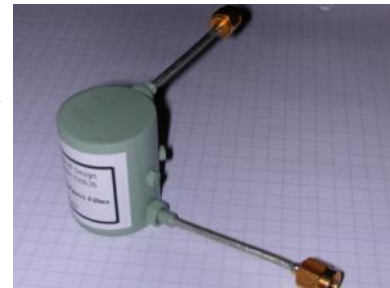
[At the Bristol Lawn Tennis & Squash Club, Redland Green, Redland, Bristol BS6 7HF](#)

March 25th 1930hrs

Chris Bartram GW4DGU - 10GHz for the Terrified!

Chris has operated on the microwave bands since the 1970s. His 10GHz operations started with a klystron, and moved via a Gunn transceiver to narrow-band ssb/cw using a home-designed waveguide mixer in the early 1980s, to working the world via the Moon (on CW) in the last decade. We heard him talk on the latter subject last year. At that meeting, he revealed that he was planning to return to making amateur radio equipment, something he did with some success during the 1980s with his Company, muTek Limited.

The first products to emerge from this new enterprise is a range of PCB system components using contemporary technology, which provides a structured (almost!) plug-and-play path which can take a microwave newbie from making low-power, line of sight, contacts through to being able to work long troposcatter, rain and aircraft scatter paths out to a few hundred kilometres. With suitable tropo conditions, even longer paths are possible.



In this talk, Chris discusses the design of the modules, and reveals some of the innovations, stemming from several decades of work as a radiofrequency circuit designer, which have made this new range of equipment possible.



Another feature from “How I started in radio”

How it all Began: Pt.1 Geoff Plucknett G4FKA



It is difficult to pin down exactly when the fates determined that I would “establish an amateur station for sending and receiving wireless telegraphy”. Various stages in the process come to mind. My parents like many others had an old style radiogram and a valve wireless set and I remember being fascinated by the names on the dial; Hilversum, Kallundberg, Allouis; where were these places?

Eventually a transistor portable came my way and experiments with pieces of wire in those sockets labelled aerial and earth brought up the signal strengths on medium wave. I was also getting interested in pop music and the combination of interests naturally took me to the pirate stations! Living in Tyneside and holidays in Cumberland brought big signals from Caroline North/South and Radio Northsea International. Then there was Radio Luxembourg. Why if it was so close and powerful did it fade so much, why could I hear it on other radio stations, and where on planet earth was K-E-Y-N... (*I lived there ! Ed*)

Another step on the way was listening to the coastal radio station at Cullercoats. In those days it transmitted just below medium wave and being only a few miles away the image on the transistor portable was very strong. How frustrating it was to only be able to hear one side of the conversations at times. I also started to build simple circuits around this time and my biscuit tin receiver was a sight to behold although it only seemed to ever pick up the BBC World Service or Radio Moscow!

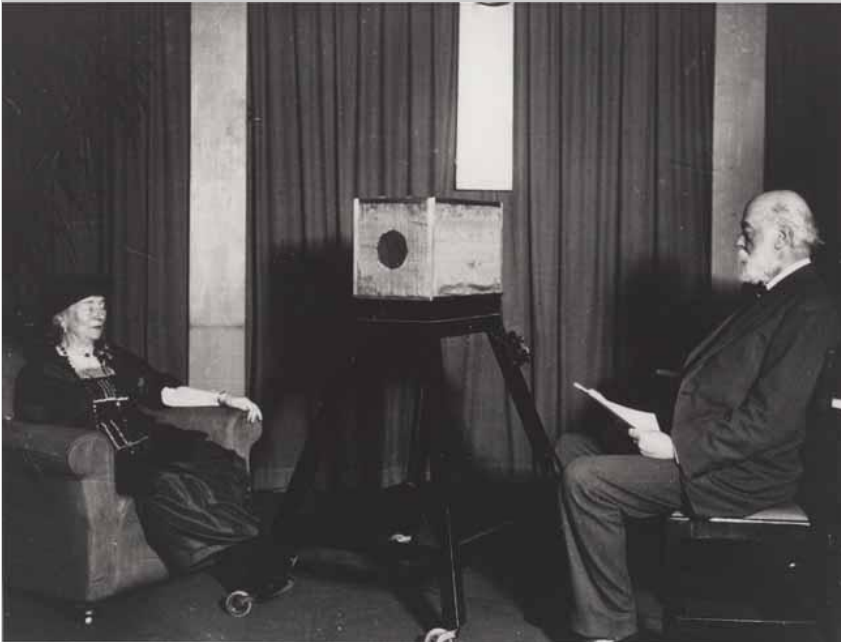
Early in 1971 we moved to Stevenage, a rapidly developing new town in Hertfordshire. My dad joined a company that seemed to have a radio amateur in every department and soon got to know many of the locals. Learning of my interest one of them (George G3ZVE) loaned me a short wave receiver and it was probably then that the bug bit. Up went a wire in the garden and in came the broadcast stations from all over the world. Listening to Radio Australia became a regular activity before going to school. Happy Station on Radio Nederland and Sweden Calling DXers also became essential listening and I got to know all those interval signals. Of course I wanted the station details so the post-box became flooded with QSL cards, pennants and general station information. I still have many of the QSL cards. I even had a question answered about the Horby transmitter site on Radio Sweden!

I got to learn about the Stevenage radio club and went to my first meeting there in November 1971 – a lecture on satellites by a chap called Frank Voyner. A very timely arrival as Bill G3SJR was just about to start a class for the Radio Amateurs Examination so I and three other teenagers listened carefully to Bill for a year and did our homework. In parallel the short wave listening continued and I started to listen to the amateur bands, initially on a small radio that had been modified for 80m and then on an old wooden valve multi-band receiver that became the core of the station for a good few years. I also got to visit many of the local stations, the first being that of Fred G3KSS, with a KW2000 and a very long wire.

Part 2 concludes next month - Thanks Geoff

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.

Last month’s (lower picture) captions included :

“The small CR50 model known as “the wedge “was soon updated “ *Mike SWL*

“SWL R Thompson of Bath tunes in to his local GB2CW slow Morse transmission” *g3zvw*

“Kevin the newspaper reporter found his radio ham skills were in great demand in the office.” *Pete Heaven*

" In the period of austerity after WW II the BBC monitoring station at Tatsfield was reduced to using cut down CR100's" *g3mgs*

“Flying Doctor to Wollumboola Base” *g4fka*

But this month’s winner is from G4TRN

"The new Marconi radio is fine, but it needs a stronger table."

John gets a ticket for the raffle



Send me your captions ! robin@g3tkf.co.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>

At the local clubs

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 (Shepton Mallet) March 26th Have a social at the “Dustbowl”

North Bristol :March 22nd Bring and Buy /April 12th “Antenna Maintenance”

South Bristol March 21st Bring and Buy/April 4th Mobile HF antennas

Shirehampton: Every Friday night

Thornbury : Sunday 7th April [South Glos Radio Rally http://www.southglosradiatorally.org.uk/](http://www.southglosradiatorally.org.uk/)

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/

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.ts Garc.ham-radio-op.net>

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



A few odd snaps that turned up recently - No prizes for guessing - but can **YOU** identify who they are and where and when they were taken?

Answers next month

Just Announced !

The **Trowbridge Club** has been announced as Region 10 winners in the “Club of The Year” competition.

They now go forward to the finals - Good Luck guys and well done !

IMPORTANT CHANGE TO OUR 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

Coming soon to the Bristol Group :

April 29th: Nick Gleed GW8YXM - Electron Microscopes

May 27th Chris Morecombe G3VEH  - their roll at the Olympics

June 24th “Christmas” Party !

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.

That’s all for now

73

[Robin G3TKF](#)

RSGB Bristol Group Sec.

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<http://www.g6yb.org>