



Radio Society of Great Britain



## City of Bristol RSGB Group - G6YB

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

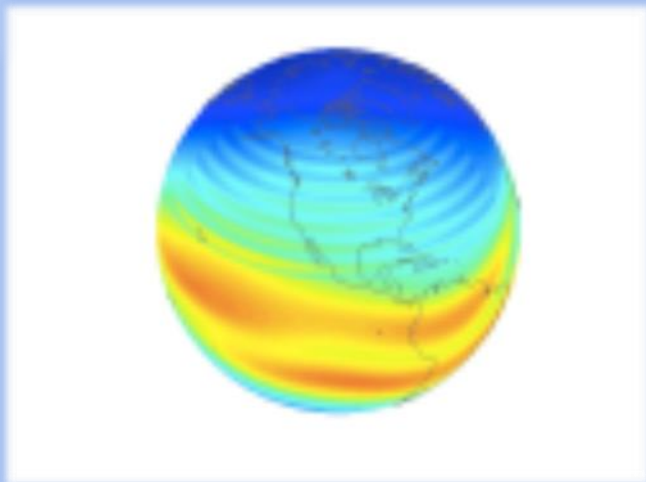
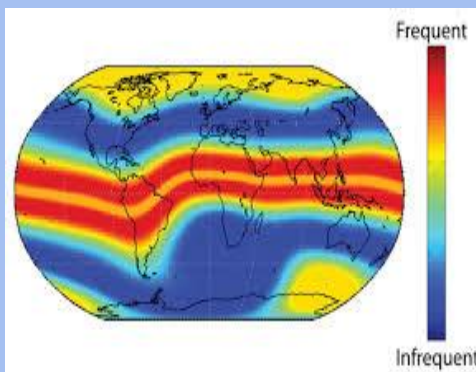
Monday May 25th 1930hrs

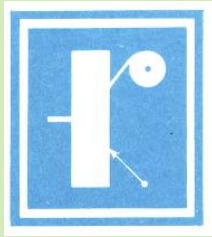
Prof Cathryn Mitchell BSc PhD Bath University

You may remember we had an absorbing talk last year on her studies in the Antarctic involving space weather events and how GPS can be affected by it.

Professor Mitchell is now studying how reception from some standard HF transmitters in the UK varies over the year, especially during times of Travelling Ionospheric Disturbances (TIDs)

Come along and find out much more !





# RADFORD **Revisited**

To many valve amplifier enthusiasts the phrase “Radford Amplifier” prompts feelings of admiration, or even reverence. Radford valve amplifiers designed and built around 40 years ago still command high prices – when you can find one! The 1961 ‘Hi Fi Year Book’ listed just three Radford amplifiers, yet the 1963 issue lists a dozen! So what happened to cause this explosion in activity and a lasting reputation for the man and his products?...

Arthur Radford was born in 1914. He studied at the Merchant Venturers Technical College and Bristol University. He developed an interest in electronics at an early age, getting his radio amateur licence (**G6YA**) in 1930. He sometimes said that the “YA” in this stood for “Young Arthur”! He also became involved in the manufacture of audio amplifiers, microphones, loudspeakers, and public address systems.

*Was this one of the reasons that **G6YB** became the Bristol Group Callsign ?*

*Much more on the story here ; <http://www.audiomisc.co.uk/HFN/Radford/revisited.html>*

*Thanks to Tom G3OLB for spotting the link*



If you haven't looked already , it really is well worth checking out !

<http://www.txfilms.co.uk/txfactor/txf008.shtml>

## Saved from the skip:

### A wartime RCA AR88 receiver rescued

(Ken G3XSJ)

Readers may remember the Christmas Newsletter with images of old equipment available for a donation to group funds. Accompanying text warned that some items were poorly stored but seeing a wartime valved AR88 receiver sparked my interest. With one already I had no need for another but had enjoyed restoring mine a couple of years before.

Many will recognise the distinctive RCA AR88, an American set that for amateurs and SWLs in the 50s and 60s was very expensive and highly desirable. Even as valves were being edged out by transistors an advert in The Short Wave Magazine from 1965 offered AR88s for £40, a considerable sum that perhaps represented a couple of weeks' wages.



*Those are damp leaves !  
And where a mouse had  
lived (and expired!)*



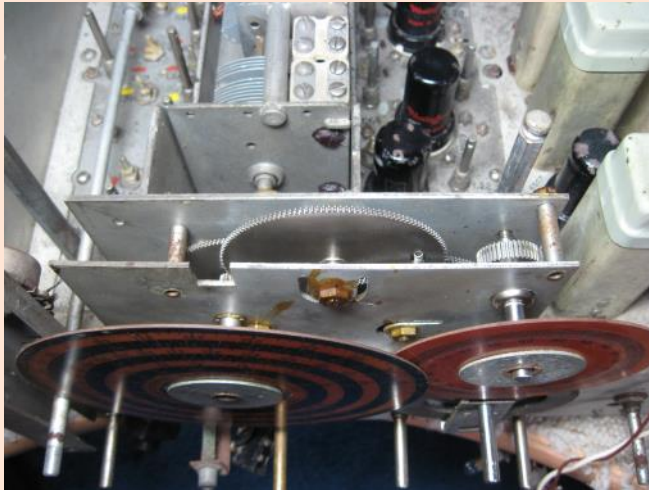
*Original shabby condition*

In addition to their performance, the receivers were renowned for their terrific weight of around 100 lbs, this reflecting the massive style of construction with a heavy gauge chassis and quarter inch steel front panel. Such no-expense-spared engineering helped to ensure stability, robustness and longevity.

But what to do about the receiver now beckoning? A call to Robin revealed that the set was still available and I called the vendor for more details. He offered the alarming news that a previous viewer had just rejected the receiver after a dead mouse fell from the chassis and had declared the receiver as fit only for scrap, with the possible exception of knobs and valves. Despite this highly unpromising news I still thought it worth taking a look and set off on a cold sleety December day. On arrival, a garage door was opened to reveal the set sitting forlornly on a damp concrete floor, very dusty and decidedly down at heel. Lifting the heavy chassis revealed a mass of chewed up newspaper and dead leaves when I should have seen neat factory wiring. On the upside-

other than some replacement capacitors the receiver did not appear to have suffered from amateur “improvement” peddled by popular magazines that were full of such destructive advice. Think of the 19 Set you vandalised in your youth and confess.

Upon arrival home the sorry looking front panel was given an initial clean



*After a good clean up things are beginning to look considerably better*

with a little soapy water and foam cleaner. The incorrectly coloured silver cabinet was washed out and when the front panel had dried, the Allen head knob securing grub screws were given a squirt of WD40 to hopefully free them. The initial clean up continued over the next few days with the upper chassis brushed out of debris and the underside accessed to remove all the newspaper and leaves. It was a real mess and an air gun was used to blow out the residual debris that brushing could not

reach. The rotary switches were very stiff so the bearings and click ball detent mechanisms received a drop of machine oil. This worked wonders and the switches then snapped nicely between positions.

So far, so good but what about the electrics?

*To be continued next month—many thanks Ken.*

**Essex Ham** have made available a number of documents and videos that may be of use to UK amateur radio clubs. They are intended to help with event planning and training.

The new resources page covers

- Special Events Documents
- Training Material
- Promotional Material
- Getting Started Guides

See the Essex Ham Resource Page at

<http://www.essexham.co.uk/resources>

Thanks to Trevor M5AKA

# Propagation de K7RA

16 May, 2015

ARLP020

This week our quiet Sun came alive, and now the visible solar disc is crowded with sunspots. On Monday, May 11 the SESC daily sunspot number rose to 188. That is the highest sunspot number since January 30, when it was 193. Prior to that we have to go back to November 17, 2013 to find a higher sunspot number. It was 282 on that day, which was way over on the other side of the peak in cycle 24, which happened around February and March of 2014.

The average daily sunspot number increased 86 points from the previous week to 146.9 for the current period, May 7-13. Over the same periods the average daily solar flux rose from 115.4 to 156.3.

## Coming soon to the Bristol Group

June: Jeff GW3UZS Developments in SDR and what exactly IS a SDR ?

July : Chat night

August: Steve Nichols G0KYA “Understanding HF Propagation”

**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://tsgarc.uk/>

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

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.g6vb.org>