



Radio Society of Great Britain

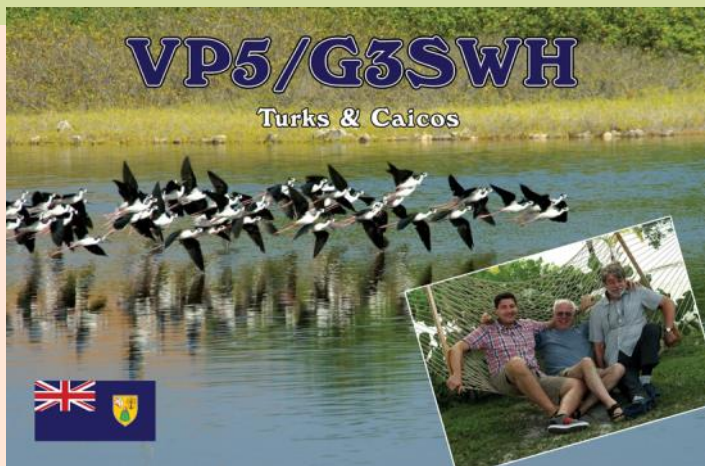


City of Bristol RSGB Group - G6YB

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

Nov 24th 1930hrs Phil Whitchurch G3SWH

“Turks and Caicos” Expedition



Phil activated a fairly rare IOTA, NA-003, which is strange considering it's so close to the USA. He went with Georg, DK7LX who he'd met on earlier DX-peditions and long-standing friend Bill Vincent, who has been with him to Kenya, Montserrat and Swaziland. Phil was there from 1st- 9th Oct this year.

Come along and enjoy the tales !

Film producers thank amateur community

Last autumn the RSGB asked if anyone had HRO or AR88 receivers that they could lend to a company making a film about the life of Alan Turing.

That film, *The Imitation Game*, has now been made and is now on release at your local cinema.

The producers have sent the RSGB a [message of thanks](#) to be passed to all those who helped by offering to lend equipment.

A great film - go and see it and spot the AR88s etc.



(actually having just seen the film, I could only identify ONE HRO in a very brief shot – maybe I blinked?)

YOTA Youngsters On The Air

Look out for special event call GI4YOTA from the Bath area on Dec 1st

It's projected that there will be hundreds of youngsters speaking on stations around the country and this will, hopefully, encourage more people to join local radio clubs and sign up to the Foundation course to get their own radio licence.



If you hear a YOTA callsign on the air then please make contact and have a chat with the youngsters.

The purpose of YOTA is not for a quick 5 & 9, 73, but to have a chat with the people about radio and the activities they're doing that day.

Thanks to G0KYA and G4BAO for the following info : Solar Facts

Old region 2192, which gave a number of X-class flares last month, is due to return. This was the largest visible sunspot in more than 20 years. According to data from the STEREO A satellite, which is able to see around the edge of the sun, 2192 is still active. It could generate further flares and coronal mass ejections, which could disturb the HF bands

28MHz, continues to be open every day, with good afternoon propagation to the eastern seaboard of the USA. The KQ2H repeater in New York State on 29.620MHz has been peaking S9 + 20dB in the UK. It is perfectly possible to hear 5W beacons from the US on 28Mhz as well.

For the current solar conditions and indices see solarham.net. Well worth a look!

How I Got Started in Ham Radio - Tom Boucher G3OLB

Continued from last month

I built another t.r.f set using plug-in coils for 160, 80 and 40, with a 6J5 regenerative detector and an EL33 audio amp. A 132 ft of wire from my attic shack down the garden to a neighbour's line post was the antenna. This worked fine and I found that by winding up the reaction control so that the detector was oscillating, I could get the locals on top band to start complaining about QRM!



There was the daily 1980 Kc/s net with G2FKK, G3IUO, G3IUV, G2DMT and others. Other calls I can remember from the mid 1950s on top-band: G2IK, G6GU ("Keynsham testing in the 160 metre band" every Sunday morning at 9am), G6OZ, G8DA, G3CHW, G3CQJ, G3COP, G3GNJ, G3GYQ, G3HEY, G3IFV, G3ISG, G3IXO, G3KOS, G3MTG (transistor rig), G3NDL, G3NKR, G3NXU. Sunday morning was the peak time for top band nets. Other well known Bristol calls were G2FYT, Cyril G2HDR (who still attends BRSGB), G2BAR, G2HDG, G3BJJ, G6GN.

There were some keen Bristol mobileers on 160 as well; G3IUO, G2HFG, G3CTN who drove a very posh Armstrong Siddeley Sapphire with an ugly Minimitter whip on the roof! Other mobile ops further afield I remember were G3GMN, G3JFH, G5PP, G5UG, G2CDN.

For a while I used to catch the bus to the Bath Spa Radio Club held at the Percy Boys Club in the city where those I can remember are G2CZU, G3III, G3MBN and G3LYW. John 'LYW' used to work with my mother and helped me greatly with tutoring for the CW test.

When I became a little more proficient at CW, I used to listen to the regular high speed CW net on top-band, held at 1pm every Saturday between G3MBN, G6LM, G3PU and G2FIX.

The Bristol RSGB Group used to meet in the basement of Carwardines restaurant in Baldwin Street in those days. G3CHW, G6GN, G2FYT and G3RQ were the leading lights then. Other SWLs who were members were Mike now G3SJI, Julian now G3UHK, Robin now G3TKF and Ray G3OLI who died at an early age.

I obtained my licence in September 1960 and my first QSO was with G3LYW/M on CW. I was using a single 6L6 self excited oscillator (with chirp!) Gordon G3IUV sold me an AR77E for the bargain price of 17/6d (I think). I later bought an ex-WD R109 which was great for mobile use as it had a built in vibrator supply for the HT. I built a rig with a TT21 in the pa and a nice stable VFO in a solid aluminium box with an Eddystone dial, bought from another radio junk shop in Newfoundland Road called Helmore and Hunt. That rig was capable of rather more power than the 10 watts input then allowed on 160!

Later, my folks moved to Thornbury (they are still there), where I had no shack or antennas, so became interested in mobile operation. Probably the best mobile rig I built had a 5B/254M miniature 807 in the PA running from a hefty transistor inverter I built. That rig would run about 90 watts input with screen grid modulation – the audio quality was pretty atrocious!

The LF bands still fascinate me to this day. When 136 KHz was first allocated some 16 years ago, I had great fun with solid state rigs and became quite active with a quarter wave antenna stretched around a field and held up by halyards over 8 trees. When a small band at 500 KC/s (not KHz!) was allocated, I was active there for a while. Top-band still provides me with a lot of enjoyment and I run regular, and sometimes successful, skeds with ZL3IX in Christchurch.

In 1964 I became one of the founder members of the Bristol Amateur Radio Club (G3TAD), which met at the University Settlement, Ducie Road, Barton Hill. But that's another story.....



Tom at the operating position several years ago!

Thanks Tom ... lots of memories there !

If anyone else wants to write their memories of how they started in the hobby please do !

FUNcube-1's Birthday

FUNcube-1 (AO-73) celebrates its first year in space on November 21

It seems amazing that FUNcube-1 – AO73, was launched nearly one year ago, in fact at 07:10 UT on Nov 21st 2013. The very first signals were received by ZS1LS in South Africa at 07:37 UT and he was even able to upload the resulting data to the Warehouse so the results could be seen immediately.

<http://amsat-uk.org/funcube/73-on-73-award/>

Caption Competition

Can you think of a suitable comment to go in the “bubble” ?



The “winner” gets £2 worth of raffle tickets at the next meeting.

Thanks to G3MGS

Send in your caption!

Last month produced

“Stereo RTTY “ would never catch on, Wilfred decided ... *2E1GFC*

A dual toilet roll dispenser could be useful, thought Joe - but he was confused by the holes ...
Mike SWL

This month’s winner however:

It was at that point George realised diversity reception of data signals could help him make more QSOs in the 80m CCs
G3ZVW

Send me your captions for a chance to win the raffle .
robin@g3tkf.co.uk



Coming soon to the Bristol Group

Nov 24th : Phil G3SWH: Turks and Caicos Islands as VP5/G3SWH

December : No Meeting

January : Annual General Meeting

Ideas wanted for speakers next year!

At the local clubs :

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/

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/>. (Please note - new website)

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

Weston Super Mare RS www.radioclubs.net/wsmrs/

If you want to buy or sell something, let me know - Or tell us on the [Bristol RSGB Yahoo Group](#) !

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>