



Radio Society of Great Britain



## City of Bristol RSGB Group - G6YB

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

**Chat  
Night**

**Monday Sept 26th 1930hrs**

Always a popular event - do come along and join in !

Bring along a  
subject or two  
to chat about!



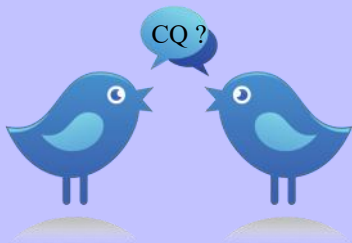
Colin G3YHV will bring along some recently constructed "vintage" equipment.

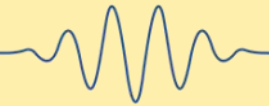
Steve GOFUW has offered to bring a short presentation of the results of the RSGB "Presidential Review"

Plenty of subjects to be talked over !

Plus the famous "raffle" !

Come along for a chat!





## Is GB2RS relevant today?

### A newsreader's reply...

*In the last newsletter Dave (G4NKT) asked " In this age of instant mass communications, is the weekly GB2RS news broadcast still relevant ? "*

I have been a GB2RS newsreader for just over a year now, and only involved with amateur radio a little longer than that (less time in fact than I have had a bus pass)... but, coming from an entire career spent in commercial broadcasting and media management, I can reflect on Dave's thoughts.

I doubt if many readers (or those un-numbered few who listen to GB2RS) would want to get rid of our weekly transmissions but, judging by comments I have heard, many would like the content and style updated.

Before I start recording GB2RS I often wince at the RSGB-approved script, with its tongue-twister URLs to read out. I read out the easy ones, but the long and silly examples I usually offer to pass live on air (if anyone asks) after transmission. The long list of email addresses and phone numbers is relatively easy to read, but still I think important for local listeners.

I was only asked for a URL on the air once... and that was by Dave (G4NKT) who requested a particularly awful one .... just to see if I would "bite" and attempt to read it back. I had a go ... and the result was not edifying (for me) ! We had a chuckle about it afterwards. I am told that a fair number of hams listen in to GB2RS without ever popping up on air themselves... although I have no way of knowing that, other than a tiny band of "regulars" on Sun-day mornings, we aren't in fact just "talking to ourselves". Nevertheless I hope there are enough listeners out there to make it all worthwhile.

To improve the content might encourage more people to listen and would give a better impression of amateur radio to potential new recruits.

"Local participation" would be stimulating for the community, encouraging more listeners. It may help to bring some of the events to life too. I would be happy to edit packages offered by fellow hams for broadcast and include them in a more stylish transmission package. After all, someone at RSGB HQ composes the script we now use, so editorial discretion must be allowed with appropriate guidelines ... but current rules for the newsreaders' NOV don't give that flexibility.

Perhaps we should explore whether Ofcom is prepared to allow us to update our news service. There is scope for improvement over the current offering ... and I see no reason why we should not try... I wonder what others think ?

**John Parris**

**2E0CRI**

## **And a reply from the other local newsreader:**

### **GB2RS News Broadcasts... changes suggested by G4TRN**

Perhaps an answer to the frequent criticisms of irrelevance and lack of engagement could be a small but significant change in the way in which the text is compiled.

My idea is that for local broadcasts (typically those not on HF) the compilation of the section of local news could be delegated to the news reader. We all do this already to a certain extent by omitting items that are outside our broadcast coverage area. The small but ground breaking step would be to trust and allow the newsreaders to prepare their own local news script from submissions by clubs and other parties. These could be made (in writing, by email etc.) direct to the news reader who would work them up into a more up-to-date, lively, informal and relevant section than is now possible.

This would answer many of the criticisms and is in keeping with the easy flow of information made possible by the internet.

I appreciate that not all news readers would be happy to do this but I think it is an idea worth trying out if I could be given the necessary dispensation. I would be very happy to do it, and I know that others would jump at the opportunity.

The success of the approach could be monitored and the scripts could be collected, if necessary, for evaluation and checks on their legality. Ultimately, if the system became standard, the workload for HQ staff would be significantly reduced.

Perhaps a trial could be done in Bristol where we broadcast to a fairly closely defined area on 2m and via GB3ZB.

**John Everingham G4TRN**

*It seems both our local newsreaders would be happy to see a change in the way the local news is produced . OFcom seems to be the restricting influence. Does anyone else have any strong views on news content ? Would **you** like to contribute to the RSGB local news ? What information would you like to hear ?*

**DO** let either of the local newsreaders know your thoughts !

*The recent Presidential review has some figures that have bearing on the news and the way the members take it on board. Come along to the September meeting to hear his conclusions for yourself.*

## Spurious Northern Lights alert !

From Prof Cathryn Mitchell @ Bath University



A red alert was issued via the [Aurora Watch mailing list](#) but was withdrawn after sensor readings were found to be "spurious".

Investigations revealed a lawnmower had got too close to one sensor, triggering a "massive spike" in data.

Aurora Watch said it was looking into ways to avoid the incident being repeated. The bogus alert was issued during the afternoon of 23 August, after a magnetometer at Lancaster University recorded a surge in geomagnetic activity.

Aurora Watch is run by scientists at the university and takes readings from lots of magnetometers to work out when the aurora borealis will be visible across Britain.

The project draws on magnetometers in Lancaster, Aberdeen, the Faroe Islands and further afield.

The alert was withdrawn four hours after being released as it emerged that only one sensor had recorded the spike in activity.

A later update posted to the Aurora Watch webpage said an investigation had revealed that a groundskeeper using a "sit-on mower" to trim grass had been driving too close to the sensor, prompting the spike.

"We'll work with the facilities team to try and avoid an incident such as this occurring in the future," said the scientists.

They explained that any metal placed on the instrument or machinery operating nearby could trick it into recording more activity than was actually present.

Readings from the Lancaster sensor were not typically used to trigger alerts, they said, but problems with the main sensor in Aberdeen on 23 August meant that it had become the lead monitor.

**Professor Cathryn Mitchel** from Bath University obtained her advanced licence earlier this month. Studying for the exam was helped by Steve G0FUW and team in Bath. Cathryn's callsign is **MOIBG**; keep an ear open for her when auroras are around!

*Hear Cathryn at the RSGB Convention talking on Space Wx ... see next page for details*

**7-9th October 2016**

[Kents Hill Conference Centre](#)

[Milton Keynes](#)

[MK7 6BZ](#)

Custom packages and  
further details here

<https://secure.niceltd.co.uk/rsgb/>



**Talks on:**

Amateur Satellites

Diagnosing RFI problems

The story behind the Tim Peake contacts

Antennas

The Raspberry Pi

Remote Stations

Dxpedition videos

How to choose a VHF/UHF radio

Space Weather

QRP on a shoestring !

*And much ,much, more - and that's just Saturday!*



The image shows a man in a dark long-sleeved shirt and jeans hanging a banner on a wall. The banner is for the Chippenham & District Amateur Radio Club, celebrating their 50th anniversary from 1966 to 2016. The banner features the club's logo, the text 'Celebrating 50 Years 1966 - 2016', and the call sign 'G3VRE'.

Chippenham  
Amateur Radio Club  
Radio Rally  
Sun Sept 25th  
1000hrs  
Don't miss it !

Congratulations to the Chippenham Club on 50 years activity !

Come along to their rally and you might catch some bargains !

[Kington Langley Village Hall , Chippenham SN15 5NJ](#)

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

Oct 31st : Terry Ransome: “Beagle to Mars via Kazakstan and Filton !”

Nov 28th : Prof Andy Nix Bristol University

December : no meeting “On Air “ night!

## **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/](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 [www.tdarc.uk](http://www.tdarc.uk)

Weston Super Mare RS [www.g4wsm.club](http://www.g4wsm.club)

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” or “Things you may not know about members of the group” - If it’s publishable it can appear here!

[Robin G3TKF](#)

RSGB Bristol Group Sec.

01225 420442

<http://www.g6yb.org> Don’t forget the history of the group here: [History](#)