

Newsletter

Chesham & District Amateur Radio Society

www.g3mdg.org.uk

June 2021

We meet the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at the Ashley Green Village Hall, Ashley Green, HP5 3PP

Welcome

Unfortunately we were unable to meet as planned on the 4th Wednesday of last month, we are however going to try for this month depending on government guidelines.

The move from the Whitehill Centre went well with thanks to Malcolm (G3ZNU) for doing most of the lifting and carrying. We've now moved the cabinets to enable access to both and have utilised all the drawers/shelves, now everything is neat and tidy.

Although coronavirus restrictions are being relaxed, the weather hasn't been the 'nicest' for this time of year, hopefully things will improve that will enable us to be outside at Ashley Green doing a little transmitting.

My thanks go to Angie for helping scanning, documenting and putting the QSO cards found at the Whitehill Centre onto CD.

At the time of writing this I commented on "where has summer gone" as the weather just what it normally is for this time of year, however, now the 30th of May and we have wonderful hot sunny days, maybe summer was just late arriving this year?

Bryan M0IHY

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Contact details

Chairman - Jeremy Browne (G3XZG) Secretary - Malcolm Appleby (G3ZNU)
Treasurer - Matt Whitchurch (M1DTG) Editor - Bryan Page (M0IHY) Angie Page (M6WTL)

All the above are members of the committee and can be contacted on cdars_committee@googlegroups.com

Chairman's Ramble

Looking back on May, despite the continuing restrictions, I think we have had a successful and enjoyable month of activity.

We were able to operate from Brill windmill on the 8th and 9th of May. The forecast for the Saturday was awful and so we delayed the start. Even so it was very windy and putting up the dipole was a considerable effort. With a midday arrival, however, we were on VHF by 2pm, operating from the first floor, with the HF station on the ground floor starting soon afterwards.

Sunday was calmer and the opening of the Pheasant also helped. One station I worked, commented that CDARS produced the result of the Community Drug and Alcohol Recovery Service in his search engine, which people apposite as just at that moment someone walked in with a beer in their hand to cries of "where did you get that?" and "is the pub open?"

Over the weekend we had in excess of 130 QSO's, as well as winning a category in the Irish Counties 40m contest, which took place for an hour on Sunday. I think there was more than one entrant.

Although the mill was closed to the public, there was quite a lot of interest from visitors, both in the mill itself and in what we were doing, so hopefully the Mill will have got some good publicity for when it does open again.

It was great to see a good turn-out on both days and many thanks to all those who helped and supported the event.

It has also been good to have 50 MHz open. I used to think that the conventional wisdom was that the band was more likely to open in periods of high pressure. However, I now know that it has more to do with jet-streams, unsettled conditions giving random sporadic E, and something called atmospheric gravity waves. From the Propquest website blog, I am learning about ridges, troughs, and other arcane terms and it is fascinating to watch how the contacts vary geographically as conditions change. I also achieved my first transatlantic contact on the band.

We have had two successful meetings, though we were hoping that the most recent one, a lecture on antenna modelling, would have been at Ashley Green, but restrictions did not quite allow that. We are aiming to meet there on 9th June, when we plan a night on the air, partly outside, weather permitting.

Finally, thanks to those who moved the items from the cupboard at the Whitehill centre to Ashley Green and got them into the cabinets there. A sterling job by all.

Let's look forward to meeting up next month.

73, Jeremy.

Editor's Muse

I'm not sure where summer has gone, the weather certainly couldn't be worse for the time of year.

We've been busy this month with Brill windmill and the moving of equipment from the Whitehill Centre to Ashley Green.

An item of interest found at the Whitehill Centre was of all things a QRM Eliminator! I've bought it home with me and will get round to checking it out, I'll have to order a couple of phono plugs before I can test it (these have now arrived and I'm reay to test).

Bryan M0IHY

Brill Windmill



The Magnificent 7 and Angie (and not a horse in sight!) - taken by a passer-by whilst breaking down

Guy (M0GUY) was the first to arrive, we caught up with him at the car park. Malcolm (G3ZNU) must have been lurking somewhere nearby, he arrived with the keys to open up the windmill, fortunately he had a key to unlock one of the posts blocking the driveway right up to the windmill, this meant we could unload our cars directly in front of the windmill, Jeremy (G3XZG) and Matt (M1DTG) arrived at the same time as Malcolm..

With the rain and wind hampering us at every turn we quickly unloaded the cars and set up a 'drinking' station just inside the ground floor, Angie (M6WTL) took charge of making hot drinks for those who wanted.

I set about getting the TS590SG connected to its power supply while others set up the FT897D on the first floor, Malcolm (G3ZNU) and Matt (M1DTG) braved the wind and rain outside and started erecting the push-up fibreglass poles to support the 80m/40m trapped inverted-V dipole from Jim (G3VRY), the whole process must have taken about 2 hours from arrival to actually being 'on air'. At some point the guys needed someone to anchor the base of the second fibreglass push-up pole as it kept slipping, they had problems where the dipole arm was fouling on one of the windmill sails - I attempted to walk back up the bank to get the wire free and promptly fell over and slid down the bank, the long way round was the safest!!

Dave, in the meantime, had erected the Diamond X50N colinear with it just about clearing the top of the windmill.

With both rigs connected it was time to turn the rigs on... The FT897D came to life and was instantly operating, the TS590SG was another thing, it would receive but could not transmit (because the antenna was grossly out of tune), this turned out to be a disconnected dipole arm from the centre connector - fortunately Phil (M0NVS) was at hand and after going up to the top of the windmill managed to reach out and reconnect the disconnected dipole arm.

Brill Windmill



Dave (G8FMC) on the FT897D on the 1st floor.



Bryan (M0IHY) on the TS590SG.

When the weather is nice, the place to be is outside (it's cold inside), however, on Saturday the best place to be was inside, the weather was that awful!

We all took turns in operating and what surprised me most was the number of contacts who thanked us for getting on the air despite the difficulties, it makes it all worthwhile, it would appear quite a few clubs abandoned the idea of setting up on Saturday and chose to operate Sunday only, obviously they weren't made of the sterner stuff that CDARS members are!

At one point on Saturday Jeremy took part in the Irish Radio Transmitters Society 40m Counties Contest for just one hour, he claimed victory in the combined CW/SSB outside EI/GI section, with these words from Malcolm (G3ZNU) commenting "[Despite the two errors in the log, you operating G3MDG easily won the SSB/CW DX station section of the Irish counties contest from the windmill. You had 1560 points from 21 QSOs, the second placed station scored 480 from 10 QSOs. You'd have easily won the SSB only section too, in fact nobody else in the entire contest scored over 1000](#)", well done Jeremy.

Angie and I left at around 3pm, we were wet and cold and had an hours journey ahead of us to get home, dry and warm.

On arriving back at the windmill on Sunday we noticed the antenna's were still up, I think possibly this was a wise thing knowing the troubles getting them up in the first place.

Weather-wise Sunday was better than Saturday, at least it didn't rain!

Dave's (G8FMC) comments regarding the 80m/40m trapped dipole suggests we might use it again, he said "[it might perform rather better on 40m than e.g. a Windom or long-ish Doublet?](#)" - maybe next year then?

Despite the weather the event was a success. Thanks to those who helped/operated for making it so, thanks also go to Phil (M0NVS) for fixing the 80m/40m dipole without which we wouldn't have made as many contacts, Angie for keeping us all 'lubricated' with tea and coffee and fed with biscuits, and Malcolm for the photographs and coming to terms with Log40M (with gritted teeth?). Not shown in the picture are Jules (M0UGA), Phil (M0NVS) and Graham (G0MKI).

Jeremy's certificate



Yet another to the 3, or 4 certificates already gained

A new QSO card for GB0BWM

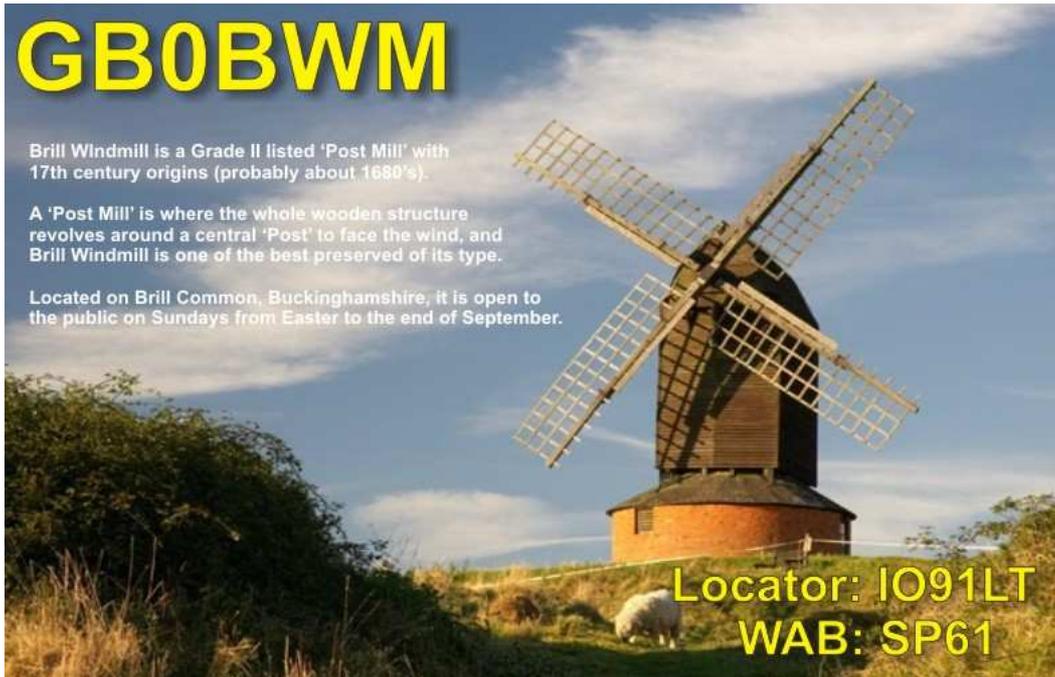
I was talking to Malcolm (G3ZNU) the other day regarding the Brill Windmill event, he mentioned he could get the log data printed onto 63mm * 38mm labels via Log4OM and asked if we had any QSO cards for the event, the answer to that one was 'no', we have a good stock of G1MDG and G3MDG cards but nothing for GB0BWM, this gave me an idea...

Using Corel Draw (ancient software) I knocked up artwork for a QSO card, Malcolm providing me with pictures, and after exchanging emails we settled on the below (next page), the label will be placed in the lower left corner.

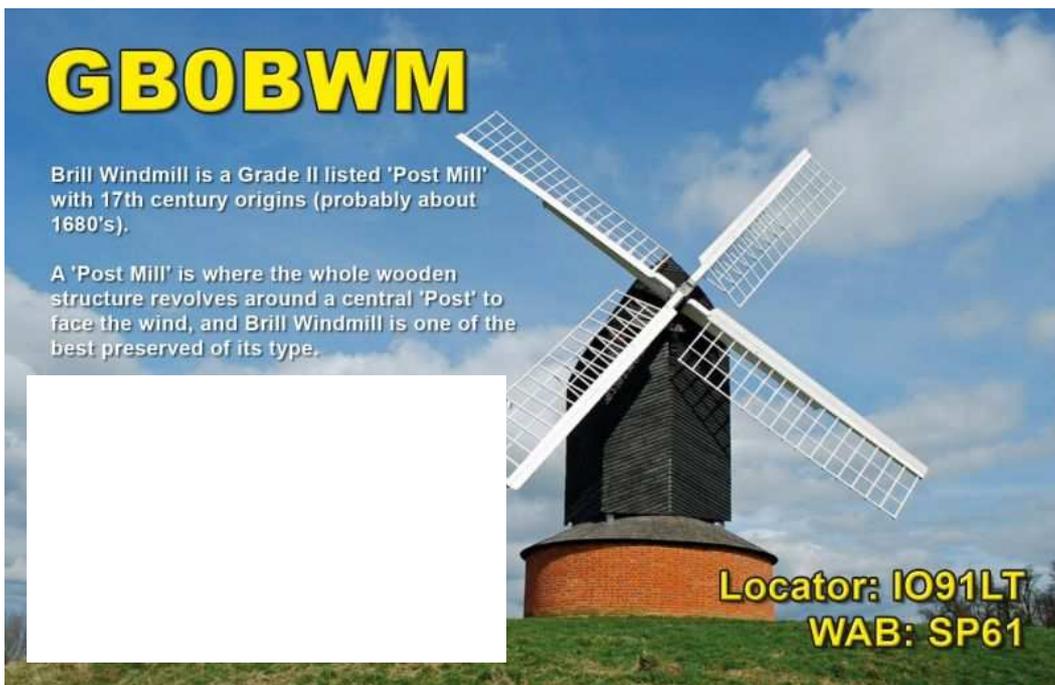
I contacted Tony (LZ1JZ) on his web site (www.lz1jz.com) and asked for a quote for 500 single-sided QSO cards, he came back with a cost of £40 including post and package which I thought was quite reasonable. He asked me to send him just the picture as he will insert the text (I have no idea why), this I did but unfortunately he emailed me to say the quality of the picture was not high enough, he had however found another picture of Brill Windmill and asked if this might be okay.

On checking the new picture I noted the 63mm * 38mm label would not fit on the card without obscuring part of the windmill and text so I emailed him requesting the windmill be moved slightly to the right and the text raising, to this I included his picture with an image of a label on it so he knew where to put the text/windmill, at this time I'm currently awaiting his reply.

A new QSO card for GB0BWM



This is the original artwork (picture supplied by Malcolm)

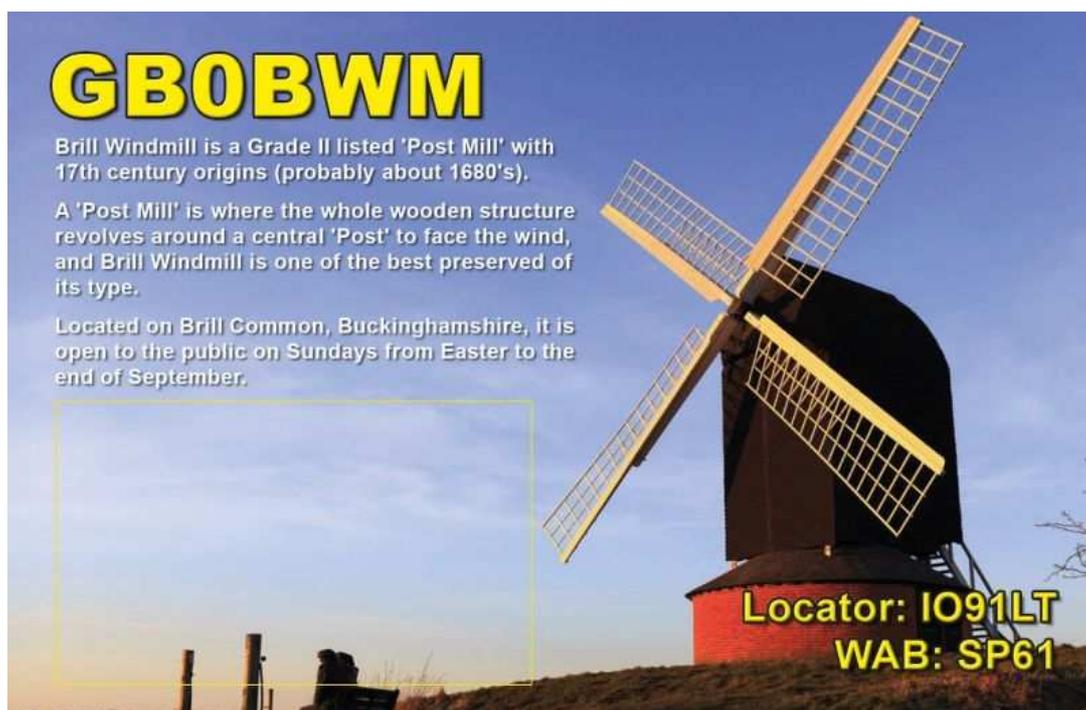


This is Tony's suggestion

The text is too low and the windmill too far to the left, so... I've asked if he could move things to accommodate the label (I've overlaid it to show the problem). Hunting for pictures is awkward as many of them are copyrighted, I usually view the pictures that can be used for our purposes but that limits the number of decent pictures (it's a shame the original picture isn't in higher quality but that was the only resolution available).

After scouring the pictures on the Internet I came up with another that would suit if Tony can't accommodate the label (please see next page).

A new QSO card for GB0BWM



The image we've settled on.

And this is the end result... Tony will now go ahead and print 500 cards, 3rd time lucky it seems!

Goodbye Whitehill Centre

Thanks go to Malcolm (G3ZNU) and Angie (M6WTL) for emptying the shack at the Whitehill Centre, from there we took the 2 car loads to Ashley Green Village Hall and set it out on tables for moving later in the evening, we then made our way home.

At 8pm Jill met us at the hall and we discussed where to move the cabinets, fortunately just one had to be spun round with the freezer having to find a new home, thanks to Peter (2E0PTH) for disassembling, repositioning and reassembling the various draw runners to enable the gear to be stowed.

With Malcolm (G3ZNU), Angie (M6WTL), Guy (M0GUY), Peter (2E0PTH), Matt (M1DTG) and myself (M0IHY, apologies if I've forgotten anyone) we managed to sort out and store all that came from the Whitehill Centre into both cabinets, there was more stuff there than we realised!

All that remains to be done to finalise our 'divorce' from the Whitehill Centre is to employ the services of an antenna rigger to remove the antenna's from the building roof.

RSGB Yearbook entry

CHESHAM & DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (G3MDG / G1MDG)

Despite the lockdown and the inevitable disruption which changes in guidance caused, we have had an active year as a club and been able to maintain a programme of events.

The first lockdown coincided with a change of premises to Ashley Green Memorial Hall which gives us greater scope for using the club's equipment, and, whilst we were able to meet there over last summer, we are looking forward to realising its full potential once restrictions permit, this year.

Through online meetings using Zoom we have been able to run talks by club members on topics varying from antenna analysers to operating practice and have made use of online lectures from the RSGB Convention and "Tonight at 8" series.

Online meetings have also enabled us to keep in touch with members who are not able for various reasons to come regularly to meetings in person. A consideration which we will need to take forward, particularly into next winter.

We have also kept in touch with members through a regular net and the club newsletter, which is sent out on the members' email group, and also published on the club website, g3mdg.org.

To cheer us up in the absence of travel, the newsletter contains an "AirMiles" section, showing how far members have "travelled" on the air during the month.

A member of our committee set up online training for the Foundation and Intermediate Exams, and through this our membership has increased. This has also increased the range of different interests which our members have, within the hobby. We are now looking forward to progressing through the "Beyond Exams" programme.

In 2020 we operated the special call GB0BWM for Mills on the Air from our homes, but this year we were finally able to put both HF and VHF stations on from Brill Windmill again, with appropriate social distancing. We have also taken part in the Affiliated Societies' contests and the restricted version of SSB Field Day.

I am very grateful to the members as we have managed, in difficult circumstances, to maintain and add to a small, but thriving club.

Jeremy Browne, G3XZG. Club chair.

How long would you wait for a QSL card? A month, six months, a year? How about 49 years?

I was recently contacted by my long-standing friend Angelica (G0CCI) who asked for my home address, as she had something of mine. Curious, I sent her my address and waited. A few days later a letter popped through the letterbox from Alderney, and inside was a QSL card to me from OH8SN for a QSO dated April 1972!

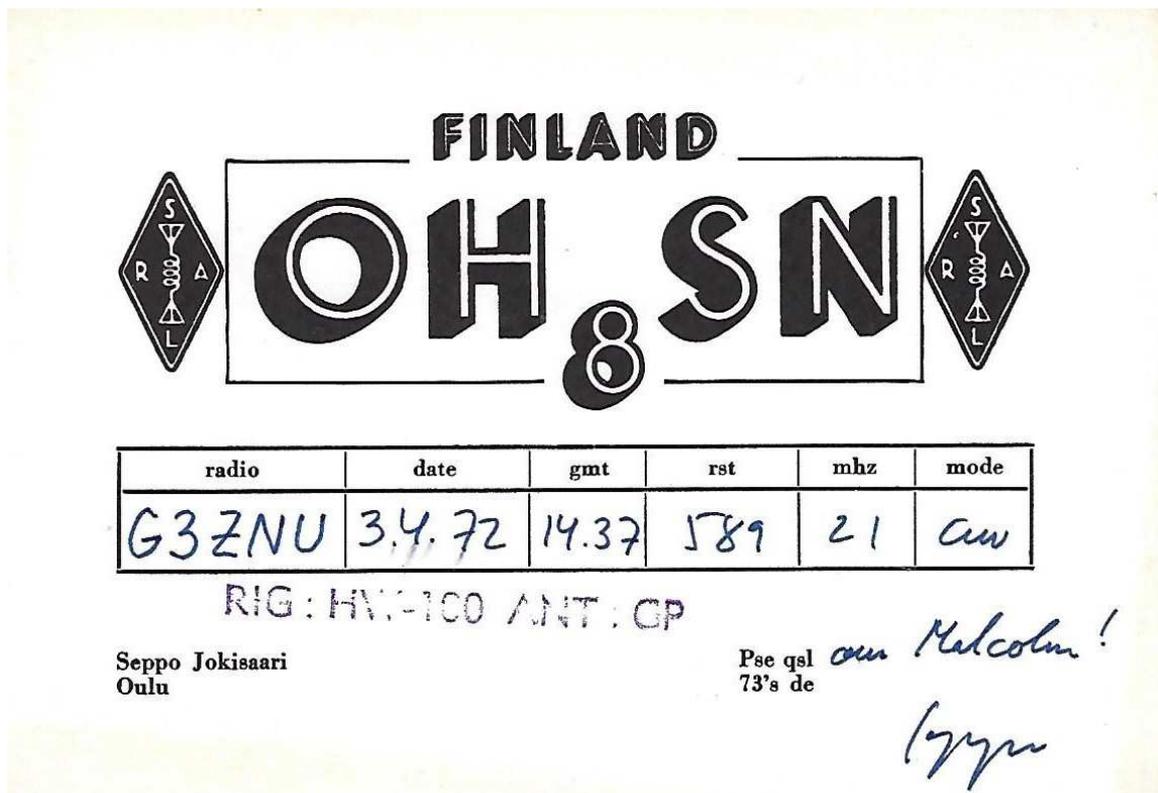
There must be a story behind this, so I got back in touch with Angelica and asked her all about it. Apparently, a lady had stopped her and husband Nigel (GU4JF) in the street asking if they had any idea what to do with a box of QSL cards that had ended up in her possession after helping to clear out someone's house. A mutual acquaintance had suggested that they might be a good people to ask. They ended up taking the cards home, and wondered if the QSL Card Museum in Vienna might be interested in them.

Upon going through the cards (which they were told had belonged to someone called Stanley Green) they discovered that they were from two periods of operation from abroad - as ZC4DA in the late 1950's and as MP4MBM in the early 1970s.

There was no information about any UK callsign for Stanley Green (though they understood he was active from Alderney at some point), but they did find a QSL manager for his activities as MP4MBM. And that QSL manager was... G3ZNV! It seems that whoever was filling the envelopes for the G3Z** series back in 1972 misread the U for a V and put one of my QSL cards in G3ZNV's envelope.

From QRZ.com, it appears G3ZNV became VK6XB but is sadly now a Silent Key. His name was Geoff Green so maybe he was a relative of Stanley Green? The next question I had was, were the QSO details correct? Computer logging was non-existent then (as were personal computers!) and somewhere in the house (or the loft) there may be a logbook from that time, but at present it eludes me. But the QSO left me wondering where I was at that time. The QSO date was 3rd April 1972, which was Easter Monday. I was at university at the time, but my home station was not that great for HF (15m) working, so did I make the QSO at the university station? And if so, why was I back at university on Easter Monday?

Puzzles remain. My thanks to Angelica and Nigel for spotting the card and triggering some memories!



Contest Corner

June

HF

Day	Date (2021)	Time UTC	Contest Name
Sat-Sun	5-6 Jun	1500-1500	National Field Day
Mon	07 Jun	1900-2300	80m CC Data
Wed	16 Jun	1900-2300	80m CC CW
Thu	24 Jun	1900-2300	80m CC SSB
Mon	28 Jun	1900-2300	RSGB FT4 Contest

VHF

Day	Date (2021)	Time UTC	Contest Name
Tue	1 Jun	1900-1955	144MHz FMAC
Tue	1 Jun	2000-2230	144MHz UKAC
Wed	2 Jun	1900-2100	144MHz FT8 AC
Tue	8 Jun	1900-1955	144MHz FMAC
Tue	8 Jun	2000-2230	144MHz UKAC
Thu	10 Jun	2000-2230	50MHz UKAC
Sun	13 Jun	0900-1300	2nd 144MHz Backpackers
Tue	15 Jun	2000-2230	1.3GHz UKAC
Thu	17 Jun	2000-2230	70MHz UKAC
Sat-Sun	19-20 Jun	1400-1400	50MHz Trophy Contest
Tue	22 Jun	1930-2230	SHF UKAC
Sun	27 Jun	0900-1200	50MHz Contest CW
Sun	27 Jun	1400-1600	70MHz Cumulatives # 4

July

HF

Day	Date (2021)	Time UTC	Contest Name
Mon	05 Jul	1900-2030	80m CC CW
Wed	14 Jul	1900-2030	80m CC SSB
Sun	18 Jul	0900-1600	International Low Power Contest
Thu	22 Jul	1900-2030	80M CC Data
Sat-Sun	24-25 Jul	1200-1200	IOTA Contest
Mon	26 Jul	1900-2030	RSGB FT4 Contest

VHF

Day	Date (2021)	Time UTC	Contest Name
Sat-Sun	3-4 Jul	1400-1400	VHF NFD
Sun	04 Jul	1100-1500	3rd 144MHz Backpackers
Tue	05 Jul	1900-1955	144MHz FMAC
Tue	05 Jul	2000-2230	144MHz UKAC
Wed	06 Jul	1900-2100	144MHz FT8 AC
Tue	12 Jul	1900-1955	432 MHz FMAC
Tue	12 Jul	2000-2230	432 MHz UKAC
Thu	14 Jul	2000-2230	50MHz UKAC
Sat	17 Jul	1400-2000	70MHz Trophy Contest
Tue	19 Jul	2000-2230	1.3GHz UKAC
Thu	21 Jul	2000-2230	70MHz UKAC
Tue	26 Jul	1930-2230	SHF UKAC
Sat	31 Jul	1400-1800	4th 144MHz Backpackers
Sat	31 Jul	1400-2000	144MHz Low Power Contest

'Air Miles', how far have we gone? / results

FT8 has resumed its position at No. 1 this month, closely followed by SSB. The band of the month is 6m, things appear to be looking up.

Everybody's had a share of the spoils this month, it's pretty evenly split.

So, how have we done this month?

(Running totals in red)

General

Most Miles

G3ZNU		266,437	563,302	
M0JCQ		212,837	1,272,429	
G3XZG		102,115	396,919	

Most QSO's

M0JCQ		336	878	
G3ZNU		295	535	
G3XZG		86	245	

Longest QSO

G3XZG		VK4DX(10286)	VK4DX(10286)	
M0JCQ		YB3EDD(7627)	ZL2BX(11669)	
G3ZNU		K1RZ(3626)	YB1BML(7316)	

Shortest QSO (miles)

M0JCQ		G3MEH(0)	G3MEH(0)	
G3XZG		G4UZE(8)	G4UZE(8)	
G3ZNU		G4AUE(18)	G4WJS(7)	

Average per QSO (miles)

G3XZG		1,187	1,620	
G3ZNU		903	1,053	
M0JCQ		633	1,449	

Maidenhead Squares

G3ZNU		140	299	
M0JCQ		112	492	
G3XZG		64	212	

QSO Economy Drive

High miles per Watt

G3XZG		102.86 (100)	102.86 (100)	
M0JCQ		76.27 (100)	116.69 (100)	
G3ZNU		36.26 (100)	73.16 (100)	

Low miles per Watt

M0JCQ		0.04 (100)	0.03 (100)	
G3XZG		0.08 (100)	0.08 (100)	
G3ZNU		0.18 (100)	0.07 (100)	

By Band

30m

G3XZG		10	50	
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12m

M0JCQ		3	4	
G3XZG		2	2	

4m

M0JCQ		3	3	
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20m

M0JCQ		68	391	
G3XZG		8	111	
G3ZNU			35	

10m

G3XZG		5	5	
M0JCQ		1	1	
G3ZNU			1	

2m

M0JCQ		171	244	
G3ZNU			80	

17m

G3XZG		2	10	
M0JCQ		1	91	
G3ZNU			44	

6m

G3ZNU		295	356	
M0JCQ		64	113	
G3XZG		59	59	

70cm

M0JCQ		25	25	
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'Air Miles', how far have we gone? / results

By Mode

CW

G3XZG		86	245	
G3ZNU		12	16	

FT8

G3ZNU		253	478	
M0JCQ		77	321	

SSB

M0JCQ		199	255	
G3ZNU		30	39	

MFSK

M0JCQ		60	302	
G3ZNU			2	

By Country

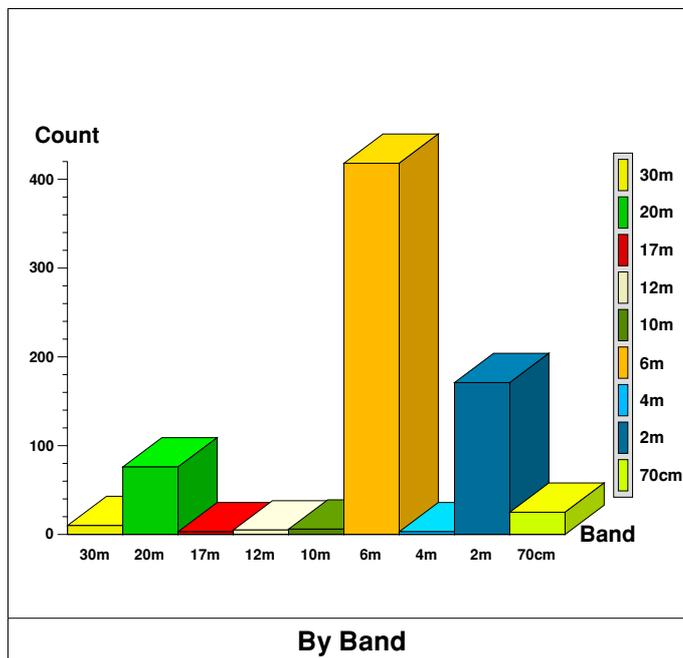
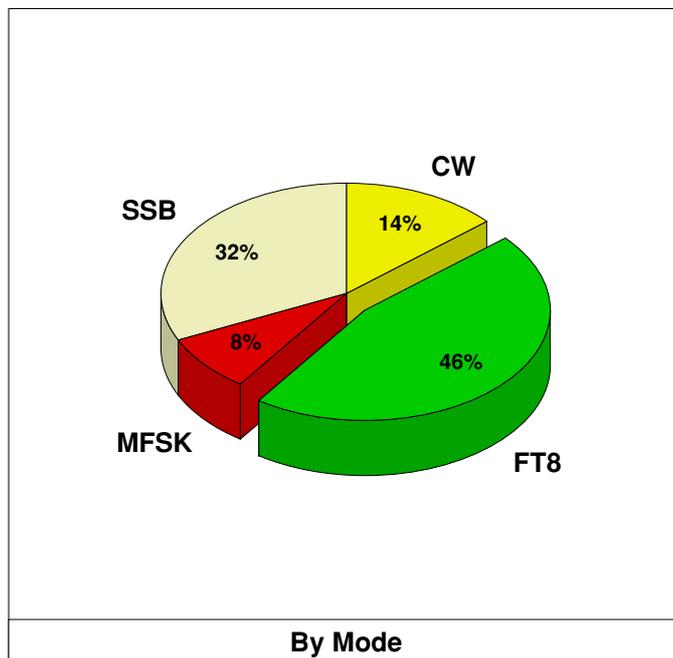
M0JCQ		45	154	
G3ZNU		36	120	
G3XZG		25	105	

This month's totals

Countries visited	-	55
Most visited Country	-	England, 221 times
Total Mileage	-	581,389
Total QSO's	-	717
Average miles per QSO	-	810.86
Total locators visited	-	243
Most visited locator	-	IO91, 142 times

'Air Miles', how far have we gone? / results

This month at a glance (accumulative)



No pretty display this month, far too crowded requiring a magnifying glass to see the results!

England	221	Greece	7	Thailand	2
Italy	89	Slovenia	7	Wales	2
Poland	44	Belgium	6	Algeria	1
Spain	29	Bosnia and Herzegovina	5	Armenia	1
Ukraine	29	Bulgaria	5	Australia	1
Germany	24	Serbia	5	Bahrain	1
Finland	23	Indonesia	4	Belarus	1
Czech Republic	22	Latvia	4	Hong Kong	1
France	20	Montenegro	4	India	1
Hungary	20	Netherlands	4	Isle of Man	1
Austria	16	Portugal	4	Kazakhstan	1
Norway	15	Scotland	4	Lebanon	1
Sweden	12	Slovakia	4	Liechtenstein	1
Croatia	10	Canada	3	Malaysia	1
Romania	10	Estonia	3	People's Republic of China	1
United States	10	Japan	3	Republic of Macedonia	1
Lithuania	9	Iceland	2	United Kingdom	1
Russia	8	Israel	2		
Denmark	7	Switzerland	2		

QSO Countries

Any other business