

Newsletter

Chesham & District Amateur Radio Society

www.g3mdg.org.uk

July 2022

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

Welcome

My thanks to Jeremy (G3XZG), Guy (M0GUY) and Dave (G8FMC) for their input this month, as always I'm continually on the lookout for anything interesting to put in the newsletter, so why not send in something, no matter how small.

Sadly no photographs were taken at the Ashley Green village fair on the 18th, Angie and I would have done so if we had been able to attend but I was unable to drive on that day, so all I can offer is a picture off the internet advertising the event, thankfully Dave (G8FMC) has provided a few words to describe the day and Guy has provided us with the flyers he produced for the day.

Pages 3-8 (Past contests) show certificates the club has won over the 1997-2000 period, John Hall (G0ODQ) being the one consistent player in each of the contests, it seems they were a force to be reckoned with then.

For those who haven't read Dave's (G8FMC) email regarding the kit list for VHF Field Day, which is this weekend (2nd & 3rd of July), I've repeated it on page 13, please help if you're able.

Thanks to those for promptly supplying the Air Miles logs.

Bryan M0IHY

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Contact details

Chairman - Jeremy Brown (G3XZG)
- Guy Plunkett (M0GUY)

Secretary - Malcolm Appleby (G3ZNU)
- Dave Keston (G8FMC)

Treasurer - Matt Whitchurch (M1DTG)

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

Editor - Bryan Page (M0IHY)

Chairman's Ramble

It seems incredible in some ways that we are already past the longest day of the year. I get the same feeling every year really, that the longest day happens too soon in the summer and should be somewhere in the middle of July. However I have little chance of changing the eternal cycle of sun and earth, so best just to get on with it.

We made good use of the length of day this month by being able to put up an antenna for my chunterings on DX operation on the 22nd. Also, to my amazement, when I looked on 20m SSB, there was actually some DX there to demonstrate what I had been talking about. A demonstration that works as planned is a considerable rarity and my thanks to the crew who put up and took down the antenna, and to Dave for the use of cobweb and mast.

That was not the first antenna we had erected at Ashley Green in June, as we put on a station GB0AGF, for the Summer fair on the 18th. The weather forecast earlier in the week promised thunderstorms, but thankfully they did not arrive. The day was a bit damp though, with the sun only making fleeting appearances, which I suspect may have reduced overall attendance. As with many such events, they had not been able to hold it since 2019. Inevitably, because of the need to put up the antenna where people would not fall over the guy-ropes, we were a bit out of the way, but still had some interest shown in what we were doing.

The organisers seemed pleased to have us there and talked about us doing it again next year. The idea would be to have a stall with the others, front of house as it were, with perhaps some handhelds, a vertical and other things like CW teaching, with the station still down in the field. Thanks to all those who provided equipment and helped on the day, and particularly to Guy for producing brilliant flyers and printed CW alphabets.

We now move on to VHF NFD, at Wigginton, which this year does not clash with any football as far as I'm aware. UNLESS that is someone wants to have a kick-about in the field.

I have been mainly on 50MHz this month, which will shorten my average distance for airmiles. Its hard to gauge how open the band has been as I have not made a great effort to be on when the propagation forecasts predict activity. Whilst I'm sure those predictions are good, I am finding it a little frustrating to be told that there is a great path from Poland to the far east, or from Scandinavia over the pole to the Pacific northwest. I'm sure there is, but its a bit like being constantly told how great it is to live in a Hermitage. Not much use to me, and if I moved in next door, it wouldn't be a Hermitage. There was one "spectacular" opening I gather, which of course I missed. Still I have enjoyed the openings I have found, and also some good DX on 24MHz. Let's see what next month brings.

Finally, congratulations to Ant, who is now M0UBT. It is also a lesson to me (which I continue to ignore), to proof-read my emails. I intended the subject to read "congratulations Ant" but it came out as "congratulOs" which sounds very public school. Even more embarrassing is that of course I had to keep reading it when people joined in the email chain.

Thanks to all again for your contributions over the month. Let's hope for a hot and sunny field day.

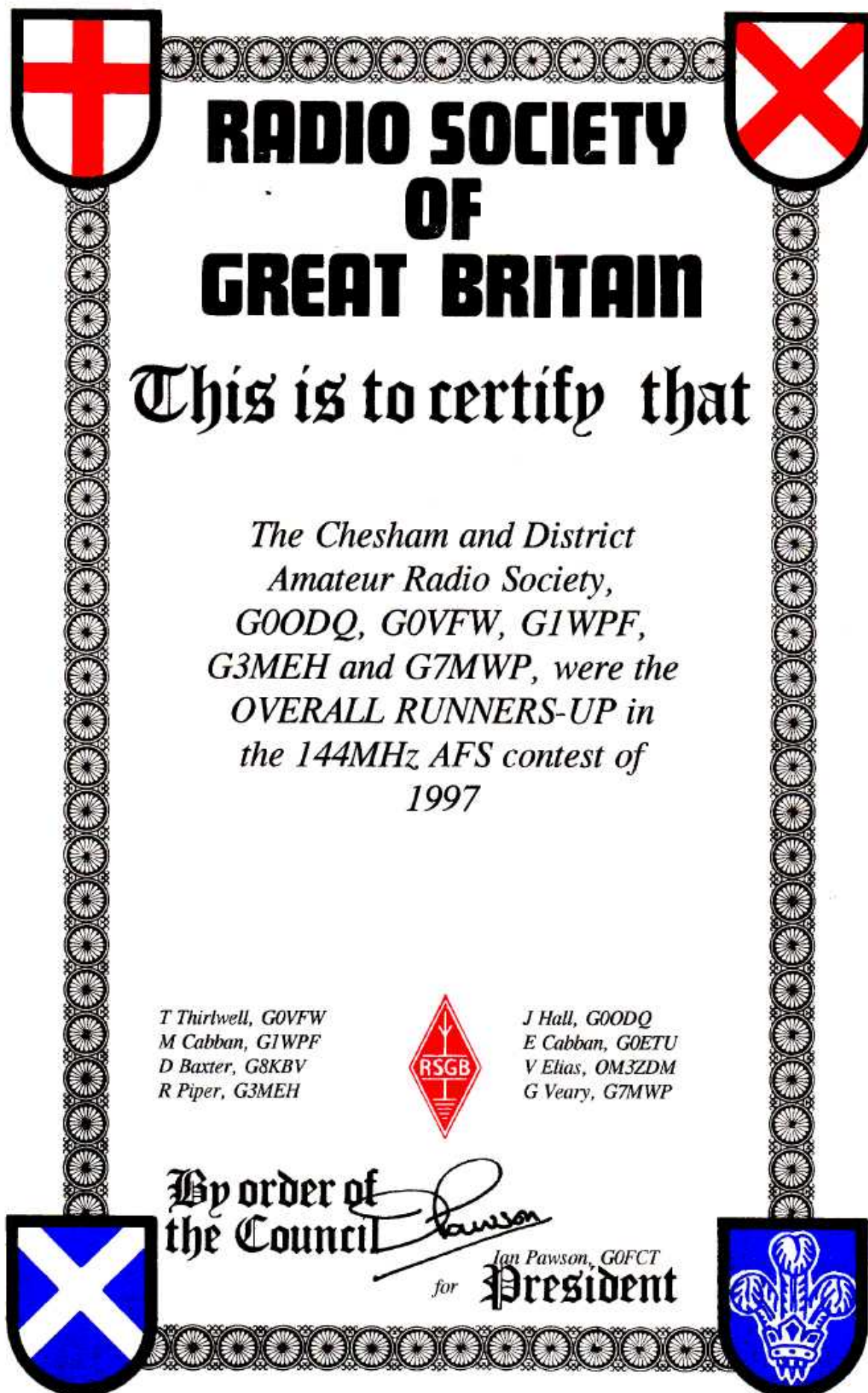
73, Jeremy G3XZG

Editor's Muse

This month has been a little strange for me, no lifting for at least 6 weeks (hernia repair) has meant putting myself on the back-burner, which is a shame as I was unable to drive on the Saturday of the Ashley Green village fair and both Angie and I were looking forward to participating, maybe next year.

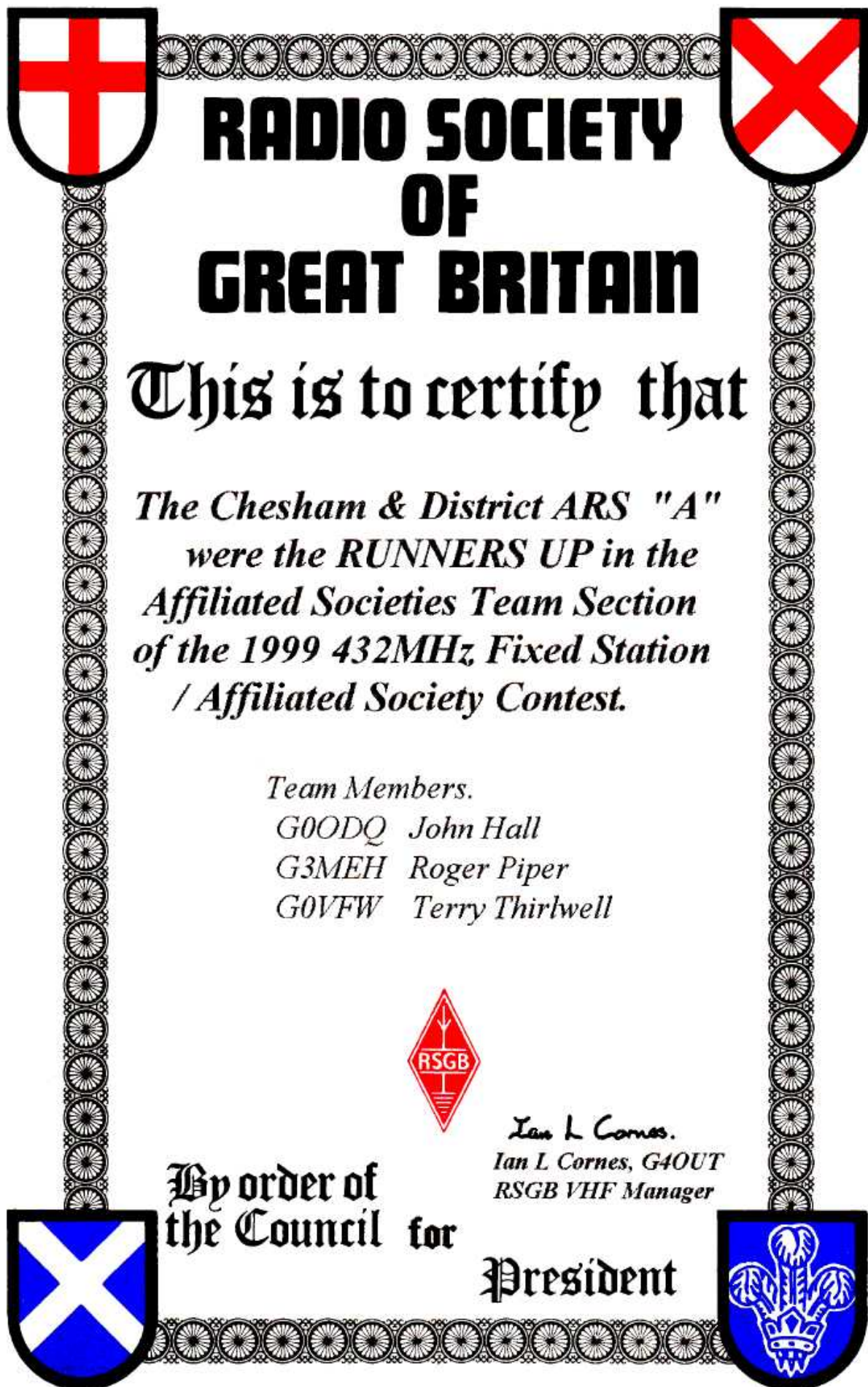
Thoughts must go towards the VHF field day at Wigginton on the 2nd and 3rd of July, again Angie and I will be unable to attend but I'm sure we'll make up for it when I'm a little more mobile (there's nothing to stop us answering your CQ call from home though). Hopefully the good weather we've had will continue.

Bryan M0IHY













Ashley Green Village Fair



Sadly this is all I could find on the Internet regarding the Ashley Green Village Fair on the 18th of June, it seems we didn't take any photographs so this is all I can show you, Guy (MOGUY) has information on the next two pages.

Dave (G8FMC) said: *I would say there were more than a dozen stalls offering all sorts. A Bar & Burger BBQ, plus us of course. Similar to the windmill we had an off-centre Dipole (as an inverted V) plus Guy had a 'white-stick' on a small mast. We had a few visitors, but not that many. The officials did seem to be very pleased we had made the effort. (Rather than just being tolerated, which is sometimes the case?)*

They want us back next year I believe, so that was good.

Ashley Green Village Fair Flyers

Chesham & District Radio Society (CDARS) Usual call-signs G3MDG & G1MDG

Special call-sign for today **GB0AGF** (Ashley Green Fair)

From the RSGB (Radio Society of Great Britain) website:

<https://rsgb.org/main/get-started-in-amateur-radio/what-is-amateur-radio>



What is amateur radio?

Amateur radio is a popular technical hobby and volunteer public service that uses designated radio frequencies for non-commercial exchange of messages, wireless experimentation, self-training, and emergency communications.

Amateur Radio is the only hobby governed by international treaty.

Radio amateurs make use of their frequencies in a number of ways:

- Contacting people all; over the world by radio which often leads to developing international friendships.
- Competing in international competitions to test how effective your equipment is, and how good you are as an operator
- Technical experimentation
 - Many of the leaps forward in radio technology have been initiated by radio amateurs
- Communications through amateur space satellites or with the International Space Station (which carries an amateur radio station)



- Providing communications at times of emergencies and undertaking exercises to ensure you keep the capability to do so.

There is no better way to explore the fascinating world of radio communications than becoming a radio amateur.

A 1910 announcement by the then HM Postmaster General licensed “experimental wireless”, which still uniquely gives radio amateurs the ability to innovate without commercial or statutory controls even in the closely regulated environment of the 21st century.

CDARS (Chesham & District Amateur Radio Society) - <http://www.g3mdg.org.uk>

Ashley Green Village Fair Flyers

Chesham & District Radio Society (CDARS) Usual call-signs G3MDG & G1MDG
Special call-sign for today **GB0AGF** (Ashley Green Fair)

What sort of people become radio amateurs?



Amateur Radio is the original high technology “social network”. Today it is regarded as a “broad church” and numbers in its ranks Kings, pop stars, public figures, the retired, school children And those at work, or unemployed.

Whatever your interest in radio communications, you will find others sharing that interest - from “geeky” experimenters to those just interested in communicating by radio. So as a radio amateur you simply do not know who you might talk to “over the air”. Using call signs as identifiers, there is no status on the air, and you talk, equal to equal, to everyone you contact.

Local radio clubs can help you grow and develop. And remember, Amateur Radio offers enjoyment for you and your family as well. Amateur activities like Direction Finding (similar to orienteering but with a high-tech “spin”), field days, SOTA (Summits on the Air) IOTA (Islands on the air) can be “family friendly”, allowing your family to enjoy your amateur radio activities as well! What can I do with Amateur Radio ?

What can I do with Amateur Radio?

Whilst the Internet has brought us instant world-wide email, VOIP and video communication, it is tied to an infrastructure of enormous proportions.

With Amateur Radio, you are communicating directly, “point-to-point” with no intermediate infrastructure. You are also communicating with people in their cars, on ships, on remote islands, and in under-developed parts of the world. But perhaps more importantly, Amateur Radio is not just about communicating — it’s about exploring the technology that makes radio communication work — the electronics, the antennas, the propagation characteristics of the ionosphere, and even computers that are linked to radio equipment for all sorts of purposes including specialised modes of communication, station logging, propagation prediction, etc.



CDARS (Chesham & District Amateur Radio Society) - <http://www.g3mdg.org.uk>

The use of CW, or Morse code is nowadays more or less restricted to amateur radio. In the past however, it was a primary means of communication.

As we mark the 100th anniversary of broadcasts by the BBC, it is interesting to note that their first speech broadcasts in 1922, were limited to half-an-hour on a Tuesday evening, after which they all went to the pub.

Marconi's first transmission across the atlantic was in Morse and the military and merchant shipping were still using it until around the end of the 20th century.

There are many advantages to using Morse as an amateur, as it gets through more easily in poor conditions, including QRM, though I will not go into these now.

In future CW corners, I will go on to talk about the alphabet and structure of morse and give some tips about learning it, but I thought it would be interesting to start with, to look at its history.

Samuel Findlay Breese Morse was born in 1791 in Charlestown Massachussets, which is now a part of Boston near the harbour and had then a population of around 4,000. His father was an evangelical preacher, the Rev. Jeddediah Morse, though much of his childhood was spent away from home.

He went to a boarding school from age 8, and in 1805, went to Yale, from where he graduated in 1810. This was an age when, of course, instant or even quick long-distance communication was impossible. Electromagnetism had yet to be fully understood but it seems that he did attend some lectures on electricity at Yale. His first career however was as an artist.

In 1811 he persuaded his family to let him travel to England to train under Benjamin West, a member of and exhibitor at the Royal Academy. He concentrated it seems on conventional classical themes, producing a terracotta statue of Hercules, and paintings of the death of Hercules and the Judgement of Jupiter, both of which won some praise.

He stayed in England until 1815, and I can't help wondering whether two events which demonstrated the need for speedy long-distance communication had an effect on his thinking and future.

In 1814, during the war between Britain and the States, as a spin-off from the Napoleonic wars, a convention was held in Hertford, Connecticut petitioning Washington to allow them to raise an army to prevent the British blockading ports, but by the time the delegates reached Washington, the peace treaty had already been signed. The same occurred with the famous (in song at least), battle of New Orleans, which took place after the treaty had been signed. The treaty was negotiated in Ghent, and it would have taken at least 6 weeks for news of it to reach the states. That however is speculation, and his career as an artist continued on his return, first every Charleston Carolina and then New York. Although his painting career continued, his interest in the use of electricity for communication can be dated to 1832.

After the death of his first wife in 1825, and shortly afterwards of his parents, he had travelled to Europe again, spending time in France and Italy.

On his return, and after a couple of unsuccessful paintings were exhibited, he started to turn to inventions. He had conversations with a man called Charles Jackson on his return voyage, (Jackson later claimed that Morse had stolen the idea of the telegraph from him), which rekindled his early interest in electricity and he started to see its possibilities for use in communication.

Early experiments in this had been taking place since 1809 and a working method of sending a current over a distance of 800 yards had been demonstrated by Francis Ronalds in 1816. Morse is quoted as saying "if the presence of electricity can be made visible in any part of the circuit, I see no reason why intelligence may not be transmitted instantaneously by electricity."

Next time, early telegraphs and the code.

VHF Field Day equipment list 2 – 3 July 2022

For those of you who may not have seen Dave's (G8FMC) emails regarding VHF Field Day, hopefully this gets published in time!

Available members:

Malcolm G3ZNU, Dave G8FMC, Roger M7RMF, Matt M1DTG, Peter 2E0PTH (part time TBA), John G0ODQ, James M0JCQ? Adam M7SMI?

'MS' entry, mainly 2m with 100W & single antenna at 12m AGL max.
Also registered for 6m 100W & 4m 50W (for when 2m goes quiet?)

1	1st Rig = IC9700 from Phil, No amp needed (100W)	M0NVS
2	Power supply x 2	Club
3	2nd Rig – FTDX10 for 6m and 4m	G8FMC
4	6m/4m Innov Despole clone (or G3MEH beam?)	G8FMC
5	Coax for 6m/4m Antenna	G8FMC
6	Power/SWR meter	G8FMC
7	2m Beam Antenna = 10 ele DK7ZB (6m boom)	M0NVS
8	2m Coax LMR400-Ultraflex	M0NVS
9	Scaffold Poles for Beam support and guys – 12m	G4CZB/G8FMC
10	Ground stakes for guys	G4CZB/G8FMC
11	Sledge/Club hammer	G8FMC & ?
12	Connectors, adaptors, cable ties etc	G8FMC & G3ZNU
13	Logging PC and/or paper log	Club & G8FMC
14	Tent	G4CZB/G8FMC
15	Main operating table	G8FMC
16	2nd Table	G3ZNU, or M1DTG?
17	Stepladder? To support antenna when setting up	`?
18	18Chairs, 3 or 4 if we can	All (G8FMC = 2)
19	Generator – to be collected from Bryan	Club
20	Petrol containers	Club?
21	Mains extension leads	G8FMC x 3
22	Desk light	G8FMC + ?
23	23Mugs – bring your own	All
24	Speaker set (has stereo plug for PC's)?	Club (ex M0NVS)
25	253.5mm Mono to Stereo adapter (for speakers)	G8FMC
26	Generator sound baffle (Table)	G8FMC
27	Internet hot spot?	???
28	Torches	All
29	Tea, coffee, milk, sugar & kettle	`???
30	Extra PC for KST & Airscout	M0NVS

Questions:

1. Does anyone have a full sledge-hammer? (Not just a club hammer)
2. Who can stay overnight?

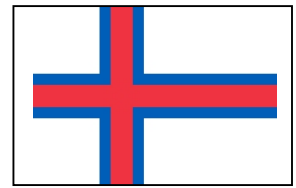
I have the generator, 2 (1 gallon) fuel containers (which Matt (M1DTG) will pick up on Saturday), and a stepladder should you need one.

Bryan M0IHV

Spotlight - Kvivik

QSO with OY1CY, Caen

Band:	28MHz	QTH:	KVIVIK, Faroe Islands
Mode:	CW	Coordinates:	62°12'N 7°5'W
Date:	6 th June 2022	Time Zone:	GMT
Time:	11:50 GMT	Population:	(village) 393, (municipality) 607



Flag

Kvivik is a small village on the west coast of the main Faroe island, Streymoy. The name Streymoy, meaning island of currents.

It sits either side of a small bay (the Vik bit seems to mean bay), and is one of the oldest settlements on the island, with evidence of viking occupation. There are two surviving viking buildings, though on one side, they have been eroded by the sea.



The island itself is one of contrasts. The capital, Tórshavn sits at the end of a fjord on the southeast, and more than 21,000 of the total 2020 population of 24,682, live there. The island is only about 47 Km long, and 10 Km wide, sitting roughly northwest to southeast but towards the northwest, becomes mountainous, with the highest peak, Kóppseni at 789 metres. The west coast also has sheer cliffs at Vestmanna of over 500 feet. The northeast of the island is a major breeding ground for seabirds, which vastly outnumber the total population. Puffins alone number 9000 pairs, though by whom, or how they were counted is something of a mystery to me at least. Apart from anything else, how do you tell one puffin from another?

Whales also commonly visit the island, with one village having the significant name of Vahlvik.

At this time of year, it barely gets dark, with sunset today (21st June) at 11.21PM and sunrise tomorrow at 3.36AM. Although midsummer, the temperature this morning is 8°C.

Generally there are no trees on the island, though some villages have planted trees in park areas. These however have to be kept fenced as a protection from sheep.

One curiosity about Kivik is that it has a rowing club, one of its champion boats being called Junkarin, which must mean something more complimentary than it sounds, in Danish as crews of women and boys have consistently taken the Faroese championship in it. I would guess this is sea-rowing, as the rivers on the island are inevitably small.

The more I read about the village and the island, with its dramatic contrasts in scenery, mass of seabirds and plenty of space outside the capital, the more attractive it sounds.

July HF

Day	Date (2021)	Time UTC	Contest Name
Mon	04 Jul	1900-2030	80m CC CW
Wed	13 Jul	1900-2030	80m CC SSB
Sun	17 Jul	900-1600	International Low Power Contest
Mon	18 Jul	1900-2030	RSGB FT4 Contest
Thu	28 Jul	1900-2030	80m CC DATA
Sat-Sun	30-31 Jul	1200-1200	IOTA Contest

VHF

Day	Date (2021)	Time UTC	Contest Name
Sat-Sun	02-03 Jul	1400-1400	VHF NFD
Sun	03 Jul	1100-1500	3rd 144MHz Backpackers
Tue	05 Jul	1800-1855	144MHz FMAC
Tue	05 Jul	1900-2130	144MHz UKAC
Wed	06 Jul	1900-2100	144MHz FT8 AC
Tue	12 Jul	1800-1855	432MHz FMAC
Tue	12 Jul	1900-2130	432MHz UKAC
Wed	13 Jul	1900-2100	432MHz FT8 AC
Thu	14 Jul	1900-2130	50MHz UKAC
Sat	16 Jul	1400-2000	70MHz Trophy Contest
Tue	19 Jul	1900-2130	1.3GHz UKAC
Thu	21 Jul	1900-2130	70MHz UKAC
Tue	26 Jul	1830-2130	SHF UKAC
Sat	30 Jul	1400-1800	4th 144MHz Backpackers

August HF

Day	Date (2021)	Time UTC	Contest Name
No HF in August			

VHF

Day	Date (2021)	Time UTC	Contest Name
Tue	02 Aug	1800-1855	144MHz FMAC
Tue	02 Aug	1900-2130	144MHz UKAC
Wed	03 Aug	1900-2100	144MHz FT8 AC
Sat	06 Aug	1400-1800	144MHz Low Power Contest
Sun	07 Aug	0800-1200	432MHz Low Power Contest
Tue	09 Aug	1800-1855	432MHz FMAC
Tue	09 Aug	1900-2130	432MHz UKAC
Wed	10 Aug	1900-2100	432MHz FT8 AC
Thu	11 Aug	1900-2130	50MHz UKAC
Sun	14 Aug	1400-1600	70MHz Cumulatives #5
Tue	16 Aug	1900-2130	1.3GHz UKAC
Thu	18 Aug	1900-2130	70MHz UKAC
Tue	23 Aug	1830-2130	SHF UKAC

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

So, how have we done?


It's a 2-horse race this month with Ant on holiday.

CW is the favoured mode with FT8 close behind.






(Running totals in red)

General






Most Miles

G3XZG		78,719	392,111	
G3ZNU		49,538	485,261	
2E0GUB			34,966	
M7SMI			3,721,560	






Longest QSO

G3ZNU		PU5CVB(6206)	YB9BCS(7770)	
G3XZG		XE1XR(5519)	XQ6XF(7707)	
2E0GUB			KF2GV(3400)	
M7SMI			ZL3GAV(11785)	






Average per QSO (miles)

G3ZNU		2,475	900	
G3XZG		1,815	1,108	
M0UBT			254	
M7SMI			1,664	






Most QSO's

G3XZG		71	216	
G3ZNU		55	196	
2E0GUB			102	
M7SMI			2,322	

Shortest QSO (miles)






G3ZNU		GB2HRH(19)	G0ODQ(19)	
G3XZG		G4ANT(86)	G0SWU(22)	
2E0GUB			2E0NEP(0)	
M7SMI			G0BLQ(28)	

Maidenhead Squares






G3XZG		60	166	
G3ZNU		45	138	
2E0GUB			35	
M7SMI			631	

QSO Economy Drive

High miles per Watt

G3ZNU		62.06(100)	77.70(100)	
G3XZG		55.19(100)	77.07(100)	
2E0GUB			68.00(50)	
M7SMI			1178.50(10)	

Low miles per Watt

G3ZNU		0.19(400)	0.05(400)	
G3XZG		0.86(100)	0.22(100)	
M0UBT			0.06(50)	
M7SMI			2.80(10)	



By Band

160m



30m

12m

2m

M7SMI		313	
G3XZG		19	

G3XZG		5	15	
M0UBT			2	




G3ZNU		29	
M0UBT		7	





80m






20m



10m

70cm

M0UBT		12	
M7SMI		11	
G3ZNU		3	

G3XZG		2	40	
M7SMI			401	
M0UBT			18	
G3ZNU			5	

G3ZNU		16	93	
G3XZG		1	4	
M7SMI			26	


M0UBT		40	
G3ZNU		9	





60m

17m

6m

23cm

G3XZG		1	31	
M7SMI			47	
G3ZNU			10	





G3XZG		61	61	
G3ZNU		39	39	

40m

15m

4m

M7SMI		1,381	
M0UBT		23	
G3XZG		17	
G3ZNU		1	

G3XZG		1	29	
M7SMI			143	
G3ZNU			7	
M0UBT			1	





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

By Mode


CW

G3XZG		67	212	
G3ZNU		2	5	

FT8

G3ZNU		53	175	
M7SMI			2,313	
M0UBT			5	

MFSK

M7SMI			9	
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SSB

G3XZG		4	4	
M0UBT			76	
G3ZNU			16	

FM

M0UBT			21	
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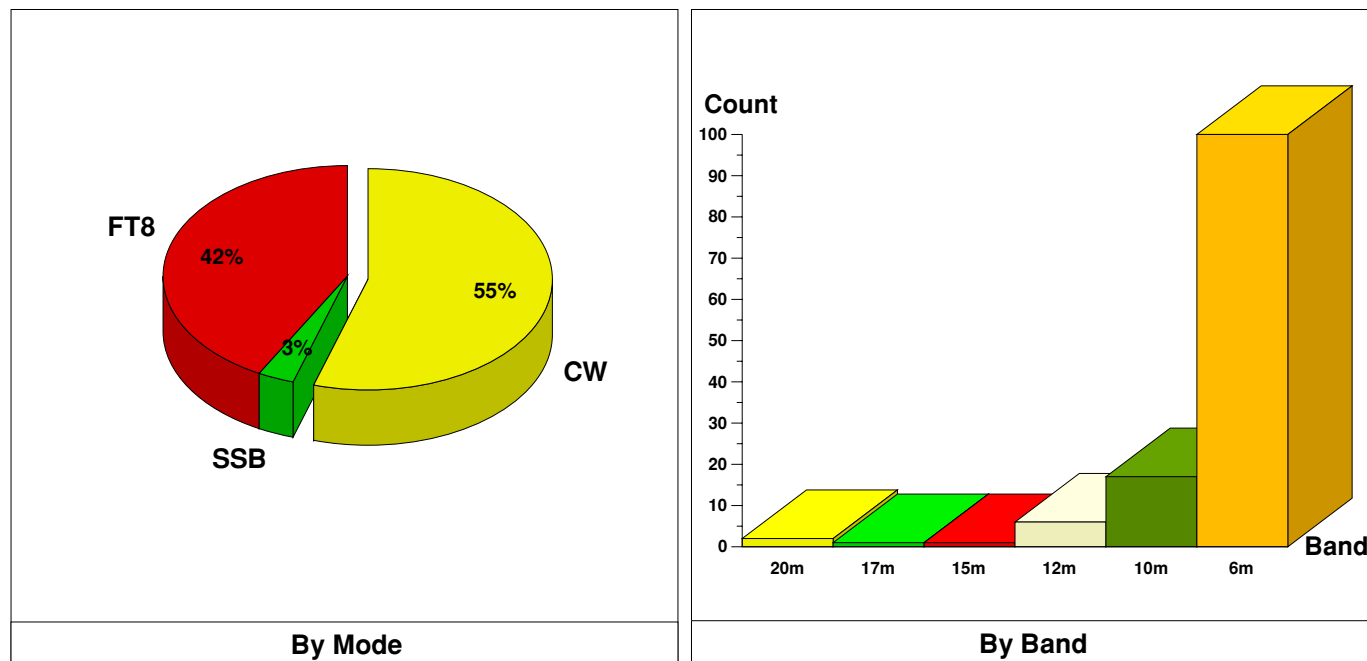
By Country

G3XZG		25	52	
G3ZNU		19	39	
M7SMI			80	
M0UBT			13	

Countries visited	-	34
Most visited Country	-	Croatia England Finland Germany Hungary Italy Norway Poland Serbia Spain All 2 times
Total Mileage	-	128,257
Total QSO's	-	126
Average miles per QSO	-	1,017.91
Total locators visited	-	91
Most visited locator	-	JN76 KP15 JN58 All 3 times

'Air Miles', this month at a glance

This month at a glance (accumulative)



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

Germany	22	Russia	2
Italy	15	United States	2
Spain	9	Kenya	1
Poland	8	Latvia	1
Norway	6	Lithuania	1
Hungary	6	Mexico	1
England	6	Canada	1
Croatia	5	Belarus	1
Finland	5	Romania	1
Austria	4	France	1
Sweden	4	Georgia	1
Estonia	3	Slovakia	1
Serbia	3	Bosnia and Herzegovina	1
Slovenia	3	Brazil	1
Denmark	3	Iceland	1
Czech Republic	3	Egypt	1
Portugal	2	Unknown	1

Any other business

M0UBT

Congratulations to Ant on passing his Full Licence, well done. I feel we should all be giving you the price of a pint towards upgrading your station!



**Click here for
your free beer**