

C.D.A.R.S.

June 2026

CHESHAM & DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Mills on the Air Weekend Report

We meet the 2nd Wednesday each month at The Golden Eagle Pub in Ashley Green and every 4th Wednesday each month at the Ashley Green Memorial Hall, Ashley Green, HP5 3PP

Mills on



the Air.

For Sale & Wanted

Still Lots of Items
Up For Grabs

Regulars

- *Dates For Your Diary
- *Radio Rally Dates
- *Contest Results

Want to write something for the newsletter?
Then you can contact me on
cdarsnews@gmail.com

Can't find that elusive part or have anything for sale?
Why not drop me an email and put it in
'For sale and wanted'.

Learn About.....

What are you interested in? Here are a few useful links:



FISTS CW Club

Promoting Morse Code for 36 years 1987-2023

<https://fists.co.uk>

VK3TBS

Learn About VARAC

<https://vk3tbs.home.blog/2024/03/06/vara-varac/>

Essex Ham

FT-8 Basics

<https://www.essexham.co.uk/ft8-basics-explained>

Essex Ham

What is PSK31? The Basics.

<https://www.essexham.co.uk/psk31-the-basics>

Welcome to LCWO.net

Learn Morse Code (CW) Online!

<https://lcwo.net/>

Electronic Notes

What is RTTY? The Basics.

https://www.electronics-notes.com/articles/ham_radio/digimode/s/what-is-rtty-radio-teletype.php

Meshtastic and MeshCore

Information and Downloads to build your own LoRa Node or Repeater

<https://meshtastic.org/>
<https://meshcore.co.uk/>



Morse Code by Ray Burlingame-Goff (SK - 29th July 2021)

<http://www.g4fon.net/>

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Welcome

Welcome to the June edition of the CDARS Newsletter. Having been unable to be available for the Mills on the Air weekend at Brill it was good to see that everything went well and everyone enjoyed themselves.

There is a short respite from playing radio in the open air this month but in a months time it is National Field Day and, once again, we will be setting up camp at the usual field in Wiggington. Watch out for emails regarding the event. If you are into aircraft it's the perfect spot to watch the large number of helicopters transiting Wiggington to and from Silverstone. The British F1 Grand Prix is the same weekend.



Roger M8TGU

With regard to club activities at Ashley Green Memorial Hall we have a couple of future months meetings covered but would like to here from members some ideas of anything they would like to do/see later in the year. Let us Know.

As some may know the club has recently purchased an Icom 9700 which means the the clob's Yaesu FT897 will get less use. If anyone wants to borrow the FT897 at anytime please contact the committee and we can get it arranged.

Thats all from me for this month.

Roger M8TGU

Chairmans Ramble

I have just got back from my 2nd trip to Romsey, in Hampshire. This was for the formal Cremation & wake for my friend Paul, who I mentioned last month.

I stayed in The White Horse again (in a newer part of the Hotel, with a horizontal floor!) on the evening before the funeral. Six of us got together for an evening meal & get to know some new friends that had not crossed paths before. Paul had many interests, hence several groups of friends, most of whom had never met each other.

These included classic motorbikes & cars, modern Jazz dancing, fishing (to a fairly serious level, with big catches) & his big passion of power boating. He had owned for 40 years a 'Fairy Huntsman' all wood power boat built in 1962 called 'Here and Now' & used in the 'From Russia with Love' Bond movie. (Google it if you are interested).



Dave G8FMC

Close to about 100 people attended; so Paul had an amazingly large circle of friends. How did he remember all those names? I struggle with a much smaller group (as club members will know!).

The Brill Windmill weekend event on the 9-10th May was quite well supported, in spite of some usual supporters being away on holidays! (Don't let that happen again) The Saturday was lovely with sun-cream & hats the order of the day, whereas the Sunday was a bit windy & bl***y cold! I hope there is a bit of a report & some photos elsewhere in this News Letter? (See *pages 7 & 8 - Ed*)

For the VHF/UHF station we used the new club radio, the Icom 9700, instead of our old Yaesu 897. Some of us are still finding our way around the touch-screen & menu system, but a favourable overall experience. It will get a more serious work-out for the VHF FD event, where we have borrowed members radios before.

We have got VHF Nation Field Day coming up on the weekend of 4-5th July. As well as operators, we will be looking for helpers with setting up & taking down of the club tent & mast etc. More on my Contesting page & future emails.

I have the half-size G5RV antenna that Jeremy G3XZG used & have put it up temporarily at my QTH. I am performing some comparisons with my other wire antennas. Initial impressions are quite favourable. Ultimately it will be available for purchase by members. Being only about 60ft long & still covering 80m with loading-coils, it might fit in a small to medium garden, without being seriously compromised? (The ends can drop down, so the horizontal length can be as little as about 50ft) On that note, I am scheduled to talk about 'compact' wire antennas at our club meeting on 24th June, so hopefully my 'homework' will be complete by then? Weather permitting we may put this antenna up on my 30ft mast for some practical operating.

Until next month,

73 all, Dave K, G8FMC (Chairman & Contest Coordinator)

UKAC's 2026: (CDARS + Associate members only)

Still a bit of a backlog, but some results of last month are in. We are holding onto 4th place overall, and still heading up 2m & 70cm, although Guildford are very close on 70cm. NRC have slipped to 2nd place behind Guildford on 4m.

80m CC Series (Northampton):

No great change on this series, although NRC have gained a place or two. Now 15th out of 44 teams. I am continuing with the 10W Unassisted category for all modes. My Normalised scores are maybe a bit better? My table position is definitely higher though. The formulae used for 'Normalisation' on HF contests is rather different to that used on VHF! In VHF contests it approximately equates to one's position in the table; i.e. a normalise score of say 660 means you are about 1/3rd down from the leader. In HF contests it equates to your actual score relative to the leader. Thus with folks like Andy G4PIQ way ahead of the rest, it is possible to get only say 685 but be in 2nd place!

HF Field Day (CW only):

CDARS as a club are not involved with this, but John G4CZB & friends (the Flying Ducks) will be doing their usual thing from the Northampton field. It is possible that they may get a back-up operator on-loan from our ranks?

VHF Championship:

CDARS came 3rd in the 432MHz Trophy, behind Hereford & Sheffield. Hereford are now well clear overall in top spot, with CDARS hanging onto 2nd place by a whisker after just two events.

The May 144MHz event has taken place but with a fairly nominal entry from CDARS. Hereford look like extending their lead, with Parallel Lines & Sheffield a strong entry. The 10GHz event has also taken place where Dave G4RGK was the only CDARS entry. I think we are likely to be heading for 3rd or 4th place as the Championship progresses?

VHF Field Day:

This is not so far ahead & we intend to try to get a 'Hat-trick' 3rd successive win in the MS category, in the usual Wigginton field. Put 4-5th July in your diaries. We are likely to do the initial mast erection on the afternoon/evening of Friday 3rd July, as in previous years. We will not have support/backup from Roger G3MEH this year as he has re-located to the Leicester area. We hope this will not impact our efforts too much? I will just have to double-check that I do not leave anything vital behind this year!

I will shortly be sending out an email asking for availability for this; helpers for setting up & break-down as well as operators.

73, Dave K, G8FMC

2026 Mills on the Air Weekend

CDARS at Brill Windmill – GB0BWM

CDARS was once again in action at Brill Windmill as part of the national, and international, Mills on the Air weekend on 9 th and 10 th May. Weather in the past has been, to say the least, variable. This year we were blessed with lovely weather on the Saturday, which made setting up the stations so much easier and pleasant.

Andy, the Mill Keeper climbed to the top of the mill and let out a rope for us to haul up the centre of the HF dipole, and we ran the two legs of the dipole out to fibreglass push-up masts suitably positioned. We had to be quite careful about placing the guys, as the whole area is criss-crossed with footpaths.

Meanwhile the second team put up the VHF vertical on another push-up mast attached to the handrail on the steps up to the mill's first floor. As the weather was calm we erected the tent borrowed from the Northampton Club and all operating on the Saturday was outdoor. Just to add to the interest, Paul 2E0VPS set up his solar-powered HF FT8 station complete with ground mounted vertical.

One previous year the HF bands were all but closed due to a massive solar flare, but this year both 40m and 20m were running well, and we could work stations at good signal levels, important for any public-facing Special Event Station. We had, once again, been granted the callsign GB0BWM and all stations used the same call, including Paul's stand-alone FT8 station.

When we packed up on Saturday afternoon we noticed the wind had started to blow a little. We were also a bit worried that the tent might attract some unwanted attention from the less charitable locals, so we decided to take it down for the night. This was just as well, for by Sunday morning the weather had taken a turn for the worse, dry but colder and windier, so we decided to forego the tent and operate from inside the mill. Paul decided not to put up his stand-alone station and also retreated to the mill.

Most of the QSOs we made on HF were SSB, and on VHF were on FM. We also dabbled on FT8 with the main station, on 40m and 20m, if nothing else to show how effective the mode is when you want to work plenty of stations. Indeed it only took one CQ call and we immediately had multiple replies. Clearly those on frequency had already worked one another and were galvanised into action when they saw a new callsign!

Altogether we had 139 QSOs, of which 82 were on 40m, 33 on 20m and 24 on 2m. Of the HF QSOs, 93 were on FT8 and 22 on SSB – so we worked more phone QSOs on 2m than on the HF bands!

The Mills on the Air weekend is always a good social event as well as radio, and all who came up to Brill – either to help set up / take down, operate or just to drop in – were both very welcome and, I think, had a good time.

Honour roll: G8FMC, G3ZNU, M5TEA, 2E0VPS, G0SGV, M1DTG, M0UGA, 2E0PTM and Tracy (who have I forgotten?)

Malcolm G3ZNU.



Contest Calendar for June & July 2026

June - HF

Day	Date	Time (UTC)	Contest Name
Mon	1 Jun	1900-2030	80m CC DATA
Sat-Sun	6-7 Jun	1500-1500	NFD -CW
Wed	10 Jun	1900-2030	80m CC CW
Mon	15 Jun	1900-2030	RSGB FT4 Contest
Thu	25 Jun	1900-2030	80m CC SSB

June - VHF

Day	Date	Time (UTC)	Contest Name
Tue	02 Jun	1800-1855	144MHz FMAC
Tue	02 Jun	1900-2130	144MHz UKAC
Wed	03 Jun	1700-2100	144MHz FT8 AC (4 hours)
Wed	03 Jun	1900-2100	144MHz FT8 AC (2 hours)
Tue	09 Jun	1800-1855	432MHz FMAC
Tue	09 Jun	1900-2130	432MHz UKAC
Wed	10 Jun	1700-2100	432MHz FT8 AC (4 hours)
Wed	10 Jun	1900-2100	432MHz FT8 AC (2 hours)
Thu	11 Jun	1900-2130	50MHz UKAC
Sun	14 Jun	900-1300	2nd 144MHz Backpackers
Tue	16 Jun	1900-2130	1.3GHz UKAC
Thu	18 Jun	1900-2130	70MHz UKAC
Sat-Sun	20-21 Jun	1400-1400	50MHz Trophy Contest
Tue	23 Jun	1830-2130	SHF UKAC
Sun	28 Jun	900-1200	50MHz Contest CW

July - HF

Day	Date	Time (UTC)	Contest Name
Mon	6 Jul	1900-2030	80m CC CW
Sat-Sun	11-12 Jul	1200-1200	GR2HQ Challenge
Wed	15 Jul	1900-2030	80m CC SSB
Sun	19 Jul	900-1600	International Low Power Contest
Thu	23 Jul	1900-2030	80m CC DATA
Mon	27 Jul	1900-2030	RSGB FT4 Contest
Sat-Sun	25-26 Jul	1200-1200	IOTA Contest

July - VHF

Day	Date	Time (UTC)	Contest Name
Wed	01 Jul	1700-2100	144MHz FT8 AC (4 hours)
Wed	01 Jul	1900-2100	144MHz FT8 AC (2 hours)
Sat-Sun	04-05 Jul	1400-1400	VHF NFD
Sat-Sun	04-05 Jul	1400-1400	VHF Fixed Station Contest
Sun	05 Jul	1100-1500	3rd 144MHz Backpackers
Tue	07 Jul	1800-1855	144MHz FMAC
Tue	07 Jul	1900-2130	144MHz UKAC
Wed	08 Jul	1700-2100	432MHz FT8 AC (4 hours)
Wed	08 Jul	1900-2100	432MHz FT8 AC (2 hours)
Thu	09 Jul	1900-2130	50MHz UKAC
Tue	14 Jul	1800-1855	432MHz FMAC
Tue	14 Jul	1900-2130	432MHz UKAC
Thu	16 Jul	1900-2130	70MHz UKAC
Sat	18 Jul	1400-2000	70MHz Trophy Contest
Tue	21 Jul	1900-2130	1.3GHz UKAC
Tue	28 Jul	1830-2130	SHF UKAC

Dates For Your Diary



CDARS Net and Club Meetings Dates

(Start times are all at 8pm unless otherwise noted)

June 2026

3rd - Club Net on 2m SSB - 144.320 USB

10th - Informal Meeting at The Golden Eagle, Ashley Green

17th - Club Net on 2m SSB - 144.320 USB

24th - Formal Meeting at Ashley Green Memorial Hall.

This month a talk by Dave G8FMC & Roger M8TGU about HF antennas for small gardens.

Slow Morse most Thursdays at 14.45 BST on 144.060MHz SSB.

Please see the weekly email from Malcolm G3ZNU for any changes to schedule.

Listed below are dates of other RSGB, UK and International contests for April 2026

ARS Spartan CW Sprint 0000Z-0200Z, Jun 2

HA3NS (Hungary) Sprint Memorial Contest 1900Z-1959Z, Jun 5

IARU Region 1 Field Day, CW 1500Z, Jun 6 to 1459Z, Jun 7

ARRL Inter. Digital Contest 1800Z, Jun 6 to 2359Z, Jun 7

Portugal Day Contest 1200Z, Jun 13 to 1200Z, Jun 14

His Maj. King of Spain Contest, SSB 1200Z, Jun 27 to 1200Z, Jun 28

ARRL Field Day 1800Z, Jun 27 to 2100Z, Jun 28

Full details and more contests at: <https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html>

Please double check dates, start/end times etc in good time prior to the event.

Radio Rally Dates.

Full details of the events are available in Radcom & the RSGB website.

June 2026

7th - – Spalding & DARS Annual Radio Rally - Spalding Rugby and Football Club Centenary Park, Drain Bank North, Spalding, Lincs PE12 6AF.

14th – Mendips Radio Rally - Farrington Gurney Memorial Hall, Church Lane, Farrington Gurney BS39 6UA.

14th - Junction 28 Radio Rally, The Post Mill Centre, South Normanton, Derbyshire. DE55 2EJ

17th - Lincoln Short Wave Club Used Equipment Sale. The Village Hall, Alsthorpe, Lincoln LN1 2SG.

20th – Rochdale & District Amateur Radio Summer Rally - St. Vincent de Paul's Hall, Norden, Rochdale, OL12 7QR.

21st - East Suffolk Wireless Revival (Ipswich Radio Rally) Kirton Recreation Ground, Back Road, Kirton, IP10 0PW (off A14).

28th - – Cornish Radio Amateur Club Rally - Penair School, Truro.

July 2026

5th - Barford Norfolk Radio Rally, Barford Village Hall and Green, Barford, Norwich. NR9 4AB.

August 2026

9th - Flight Refuelling ARS Hamfest, Cobham Sports & Social Club Ground, Merly, Nr Wimborne, Dorset, BH21 3DA.

October 2026

11th - Annual Hornsea Rally, Driffield Showground YO25 9FB

25th - Galashiels Radio & Computer Rally, The Volunteer Hall, St. Johns Street, Galashiels, TD1 3JX.

(All information courtesy of Radcom & the RSGB website)



For Sale and Wanted

For Sale: Wouxun KG-UV6D Two-way radio. £Offers (See pic right)

2m (5W) and 70cm (4W).

In original box with charger, handbook and a replacement for lost antenna.

Transceiver works well but I can't guarantee the battery life which appears OK.

Contact: 07909783027 or email g8mfh@aol.com.
You can also find me at the club meetings.

Bob G8MFH



SK sale of the shack contents of the late Bryan M0IHY (Items with Dave G8FMC)

ITEM	ASKING PRICE or O.V.N.O.
1. Power Mag 145 – large magnetic mount + cable (new £30) New & boxed.	£20 (<i>price reduced</i>)
2. Comet CHA-250HD/BXII Multi-Band HF Vertical Antenna (new £350) 250W SSB 75W Data. See March 2024 PW review. As new, unused	£220
5. Modified Cobweb antenna (Polish) (new £200)	£70
6. Sangean ATS-909X2 all-band portable receiver £225 ish new boxed	£150
7. QRM Eliminator X-phase 1-30MHz - £45 new	£25
8. Kent Straight key	£65
9. CW Keyer TC 701 - £70 new	£45
10. Soldering Station (basic) 60W	Offers
11. IGEN Max regenerative receiver. eBay US has an unbuilt kit at £160.	£50
12. Lead-free solder & cleaner (in bag)	Offers
14. Austcol Radiation Meter MT525 -£25 online average price new.	£10
16. Metro VNA in case (£270 new)	£175
18. Prepp Comm multi-band morse transceiver. Approx £358 new.	£225
19. MFJ Super Hi-Q Loop Remote Control . Unknown model.	Offers
20. QRP Kits EFHW Tuner	Offers

Please initially contact Dave G8FMC if interested in any item :- g8fmc547@gmail.com