NEWSLETTER

www.g3mdg.org.uk

C.D.A.R.S.

November 2026

CHESHAM & DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

RSGB Convention Photo 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



For Sale & Wanted

Post your 'for sale' or 'wanted' items.

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/digimodes/what-is-rtty-radio-teletype.php

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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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General
WhatsApp group

Scan the QR code to join the CDARS WhatsApp Group.

Cover Image: AI Generated by Google Chrome.

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Chairman - Dave Keston (G8FMC) - Guy Plunkett (M0GUY) - Roger Fellows (M8TGU)
Secretary - Malcolm Appleby (G3ZNU) - John Hall (G0ODQ)
Treasurer - Matt Whitchurch (M1DTG - Peter Holliday (M8PTH)

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

Newsletter Editor - Roger Fellows (M8TGU) newsletter submissions to: cdarsnews@gmail.com

Welcome



Roger M8TGU

Welcome to the November edition of the CDARS Newsletter.

Firstly I really must apologise for the seasonal front cover pic. I had been searching, as I do each month, for a related picture that is copyright free. Unfortunately copyright free pictures are getting few and far between and basically I gave up.

I was about to shut down my laptop and do a bit more head scratching when I noticed a new button on Google Chrome. It said 'create image', so I started playing with AI generated pictures. After several attempts at getting something apt the image on the front cover made the grade. I know as you read this Halloween was yesterday (or several days ago at the point you get to read this) but it's a bit of fun.....isn't it?

I'll try harder for the December Christmas edition. Promise. Enjoy.

CDARS Net and Club Meetings Dates

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

November 2026

4th - Club Net on 2m SSB - 144.320 USB and /or GB3TU

11th - Annual CDARS Quiz Night at The Golden Eagle, Ashley Green

18th - Club Net on 2m SSB - 144.320 USB and /or GB3TU

25th - Formal Meeting at Ashley Green Memorial Hall.
Talk by Guy M0GUY entitled "Born in the Shack". How Guy's business turned from humble beginnings to lasting success.

Slow Morse most Thursdays at 14.45 GMT on 144.060MHz SSB.
Please see the weekly email from Malcolm G3ZNU for any changes to schedule.

Chairmans Ramble



Dave G8FMC

Well, the new carpet was laid & the local guys did a magnificent job. Other than busy making tea, the day was relatively relaxing. I am taking the opportunity to do a lot of sorting & disposal, with hopefully rather less going back onto shelves & in cupboards than before. Thus at the moment I am luxuriating in a rather sparsely furnished lounge, compared to before. (My so-called indoor workshop is stacked high with boxes!) Both Jean & myself have been hoarders over many years, keeping all sorts of bits & pieces for nostalgic reasons; or 'just in case it comes in handy'! There is going to be a concerted effort to move-on quite a bit of 'stuff'. It might take quite a while through?

Guess what, I have the car engine warning light on again. I have it booked in for a service & will get that investigated further.They diagnosed 'excess air' last time, which I considered could be equivalent to lack of fuel? I thought maybe injectors a bit dirty?
A good hard thrash in sport mode & holding it in a low gear seemed to clear things, but the error has now returned. I wonder how expensive that will turn out to be?

RSGB Convention:

A few of us attended the convention this year; Malcolm, Guy & myself both days, with John G0ODQ & Dave G4RGK on Sunday. Also Vic G6GDI on Saturday only.

The Trophy presentations were on the Sunday & a few of us joined John G4CZB & Jason G7LII (NRC) for the official photos. *(See photos on page 9 - Ed)* 2025 was the last year of our cooperation with the Northampton club for the UKAC contest series & our combined forces managed to win, pushing Hereford into 2nd place. There were 2 Trophies; the Bolton Wireless Club Trophy for overall winners & the G6NB Trophy for the 144MHz band winners. Bill G6NB was my first ever contact when I was licenced in October 1971. He was a local AVRS member, living in Oving latterly & before that in Brill. It was a great opportunity to press-the-flesh with those that we talk with regularly on-air, around the UK & sometimes farther away.

I actually attended the RFI workshop on the Friday as well, which was very good, but did have a couple of minor teething problems. It was the first time they had run it, so should be perfect in the future? Each of the 20 delegates needed an X64 PC under their arm, and Andy Carpenter from SDR Play loaned an RSP-1B, which was available to purchase & take home for half price!

We used SDR Connect & RSP Spectrum Analyser downloaded Free software. I have an RSP 2 that I purchased from the SK sale of Geoff G3NPI, a few years ago. I had real problems trying to get it going & the late Bryan M0IHY helped me out. We found that it appeared that the 2 x USB ports on my PC were not identical & the RSP 2 only worked on 1 of them! When I upgraded this Win 10 PC to Win 11 it never seemed to work!

Andy had a look for me & was rather surprised when we could not see the RSP 2 in Control Panel, connections? A quick "I wonder" & Andy grabbed a new USB cable from his bag. Instantly all started working!!! It would appear that Bryan & myself had been struggling with an intermittent USB cable all the time. It looks quite new & undamaged, but is obviously faulty. "If ever an interconnection is not working, try a different cable!" We took away freebies of an H-field RF sensing loop antenna plus an E-field active monopole/probe. Lunch was also provided so really rather good value for money?

.....*continued*

JOTA – with the Milton Keynes club:

I have just spent a Sunday helping Tim G6GEI & the Milton Keynes club with their JOTA event at Cosgrove. A big scouting camp/complex with about 120 scouts of varying ages & sub groups, involving lots of different activities. The MK club had 2 Radio Stations, thankfully in different rooms, with about 6 youngsters at a time passing through.

I was with Tim on a QO100 satellite station using an Icom 9700 plus the remote TX/RX converters etc on a 450mm dish. The dish was mounted a little way up on the bottom section of their clubs P60 trailer tower (60ft Versatower) The line-of-sight to the satellite then just cleared the single story building we were in. I was quite impressed with the clear quality of signals we were getting & after a number of scouts had 'given it a go' talking to a Dutch station, I had my first ever QSO on QO100, with him! I shall not be getting set up for QO100 at home though as my pesky trees block Sky & Free-sat, so not much hope of QO100?! There was one outstanding 12 year old that asked lots of quite deep questions & really impressed Tim & I with his 'Enquiring Mind'. We felt that this young man was destined to go far in future years. Tim invited him to visit MKARS some time. I hope he does.

The other station was using a Yaesu FT710 and a Fan Dipole, in Inverted-V configuration, hung off the P60. They were mainly on 40m SSB, until a 'Worked all Germany' contest started up Saturday afternoon. I gather they did bag a little DX on the 12m band on Sunday, as well as finding a rare gap or two in between the contest stations.

Although you guys know me as a keen 'contester' I do feel that there should be a bit more 'contest-free' spectrum available for those that just want a chat.

I still have not used my FTDX-10 & the CatKnobz unit much. Maybe more on that next month?

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



Dave G8FMC and others at the RSGB Convention RFI Workshop.

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

This year continues to be a bit of a struggle, but we are hanging onto 4th overall, with Northampton in 3rd & Spalding biting at our ankles in 5th. We are 3nd on 2m, but still in the lead (just) on 70cm.

Autumn Series (80m - Northampton):

I have missed a few sessions lately. The last Data session I could not get N1MM+ to open up Fldigi, only MMvari, so ended up a no-show! I think it maybe that I committed the cardinal sin of downloading an 'Update'? I need to investigate further.

AFS Series 2026 – 2027:

John G0ODQ put in a good score for the 50MHz AFS; unfortunately he was the sole CDARS representative! (I was at Cosgrove helping Tim G6GEI with JOTA)
We were 6th out of 17 on 70MHz a few weeks before. We look like the leading 3 man team consisting of Charlie G0SKA, Malcolm G3ZNU & myself, so not too bad.

VHF Championship:

We have now had 9 of the 11 sessions and still in 3rd position. We have pulled away from Parallel Lines in 4th & Harwell in 5th, but Hereford and Sheffield are way ahead of us in points. No hope of catching them! The 1.3GHz & 2.3GHz Trophy events were on Sat 3rd October. We had Phil M0N, Charlie G0SKA & John G0ODQ on 23cm, but no-one on 13cm! Results not yet published, but it might mean that we drop another place?

CQ WW SSB:

This big international contest sort of crept up on me! Rather busy doing lots of other things guess? I usually have a bit of an S&P dabble & give G3MDG an airing, just to see what countries & zones I can work. (i.e. not going for numbers of Q's) As I was seeing one of my daughters on Saturday, I did not bother to switch the radio on until after watching 'Bangers & Cash' until silly O'clock that evening (Sun morning?) I gave a scan across 40m for 1hr 12mins, before going to bed. (Not really that late/early morning, as the clocks changed!) My tally was: 36 QSO's, 28 countries & 10 CQ zones. That was just one pass from 7.060MHz to 7.2MHz.

Countries like Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands, Bonaire, USA, Antigua & Barbuda as well as Eastern Europe were made much easier with my trusty 3/8 wave 40m vertical. The 500W from my KPA500 helped a bit as well! My EFHW for 80m & up was only a little above the bungalow roof (about 6m agl) due to the high winds, so that was far from optimal. I did recognise Andy G4PIQ's voice behind M6T, but did not call him as the rules dictate 'Nil Poi's' for working ones own country! I added a few more towards the end, plus an extra couple of countries.

73, Dave K, G8FMC

RSGB Convention Photo's.



1	G6HPR	6	G4XZL	11	G4CLA	16	M0GHZ	21	G4HWA
2	G8IQL	7	2E0TXQ	12	G8DOH	17	2E0NEY	21	G3OVH
3	G1ZAR	8	G8TIC	13	G4KUX	18	G0FEH	23	G8HQW
4	G0SKA	9	G8AQA	14	M0HMO	19	M6XAK	24	????
5	GW0RHC	10	G0EAK	15	GM4ZUK	20	G4EPA	25	????



26	????	31	????	36	G4CDF	41	G4CZB	46	G4FZN
27	EI8KN	32	G4NBS	37	G4ILI	42	G8NVI	47	G8OVZ
28	????	33	????	38	G8LNR	43	G8CUL	48	G4HGT
29	????	34	????	39	G3WGN	44	G4LPP	49	G4HGI
30	G4AFF	35	G4HLX	40	G1YBB	45	GW4SHF	50	G4YPC

VHF Contesters Convention Group Photo 2026.

There were 2 Trophies; the Bolton Wireless Club Trophy for overall winners of the 2025 UKAC. and the G6NB Trophy for the 144MHz band winners.





	VHF CONTEST AWARDS 2026		
432MHz AFS	G0ODQ Trophy	Leading Affiliated Society	CAMB HAMS A
MGM Contest	Bill Somerville G4WJS Trophy	Overall Winner	G8SEI
432MHz Trophy	1951 Council Cup	Overall Winner	REIGATE ATS & CRAWLEY ARS
70MHz CW	Bill Capstick G3JYP Memorial Award	Overall Winner	GM4ZUK/P
50MHz Trophy	Telford Trophy	Winner Open Section	BLACKSHEEP CG
50MHz Trophy	SMC Six Metre Cup	Winner Single Op Section	G8X (G4FJK)
VHF NFD	Surrey Trophy	Winner Open Section	REIGATE ATS & CRAWLEY ARS
VHF NFD	G5BY Trophy	Winner Mix & Match Section	TROWBRIDGE & DARC
VHF NFD	The Jeremy G3XZG Trophy	VHF NFD Multi Single section winner	ADDISCOMBE ARC
70MHz Trophy	Four Metre Cup	Winner Single Operator	GM4ZUK/P
144MHz Trophy	Mitchell-Milling Trophy	Winner Open Section	BLACKSHEEP CG
144MHz Trophy	Thorogood Trophy	Winner Single Op Section	MW1B (G1YBB)
	VHF CONTESTS - AGGREGATE SCORES 2025		
144MHz Backpackers	144MHz BackPackers Trophy	144MHz Backpackers Section 5B	G(W)1YBB/P
UKAC	G6NB Trophy	Leading Affiliated Society on 144MHz - Local Category	NORTHAMPTON RC
UKAC	UK AC 144MHz Club Trophy	Leading Affiliated Society on 144MHz - General Category	PARALLEL LINES CG
UKAC	Intermediate Shield	Leading Intermediate Licensee on 144MHz	2E0VCC
UKAC	Denis Jones G3UVR Trophy	Overall Leading Single Op in the SHF UKAC	G4CLA
UKAC	Bolton Wireless Club Trophy	Overall Leading Affiliated Society - Local Category	NORTHAMPTON RC
UKAC	UK AC Club Challenge Trophy	Overall Leading Affiliated Society - General Category	PARALLEL LINES CG
UKAC	Bryn Llewellyn G4DEZ Award	Overall Leading Single Operator	G4CLA
VHF Championship	Racal Radio Cup	Winner - Open Section	HEREFORD ARS
VHF Championship	Low Power VHF Championship Trophy	Leading Single Op Fixed Station - LP Section	G3YJR
VHF Championship	VHF Championship AFS Trophy	Leading Affiliated Society - AFS Section	HEREFORD ARS

Roger G3MEH & Tyrone's Civil Partnership.

As many of you will know, Roger moved to Leicester some months ago, to be with his carer & partner Tyrone. Roger had been in our area for many years, initially in Aylesbury, then moving to Wigginton 50+ years ago. He had a superb QTH for take-off to Europe & set himself up with an excellent VHF/UHF station. He was a very active contester, winning a number of awards. Roger was also a GB2RS News Reader for many years on 2m FM; which is were I first made contact with him. (A little over 50 yrs ago!)

Anyhow Roger & Tyrone are now in Glen Parva, the SW side of Leicester. They have a significant amount of work to do on the house to make it suitable for their needs, and hopefully before too long Roger will be back on the air. His setup initially will be quite modest. (But might grow in time?)



A few of his old friends were invited to the Civil Partnership ceremony on Saturday the 12th of September. I cadged a lift off John G0ODQ & Vic G6GDI took Tony M6ARA (both ex AVRS members)

The ceremony was at the Leicester Registry offices, where they have several rooms & quite a brisk throughput of weddings & ceremonies. The weather forecast was a bit iffy, but the rain held off, just! Vic was sat in front of John & I, so the pictures are thanks to him. Also the Registrar took Vic's camera phone to get the shot of us all. After a fairly short but very nice ceremony we all went back to Roger & Tyrone's house, where Tyrone's family & friends provided excellent eats & drinks. Our thanks to them.



We surveyed the quite large garden & mused at where the 135ft Off-Centre-fed-Dipole (Buxcomm Windom) might go? There is plenty of room. In fact due to an extended bit of garden that goes behind his neighbours garden (so L shaped) he might even get a 160m Dipole in if bent round-the-corner a bit? Any VHF/UHF beams will come a little later, but the Buxcomm is usable for 4m & 6m, also 2m at a push. We look forward to hearing you on the air Roger. (Maybe 40m initially?)

Our thanks to Roger & Tyrone for a very pleasant day. Even the M1 behaved with NO breakdowns or road-works! How often does that happen?

73 Dave K
G8FMC

Contest Calendar for November & December 2026

November - HF

Day	Date	Time (UTC)	Contest Name
Mon	02 Nov	2000-2130	Autumn Series DATA
Wed	11 Nov	2000-2130	Autumn Series SSB
Sat	14 Nov	2000-2300	Club Calls (1.8MHz AFS)
Sat	15 Nov	1900-2300	2nd 1.8MHz Contest
Mon	16 Nov	2000-2130	RSGB FT4 Contest
Thu	26 Nov	2000-2130	Autumn Series CW

November - VHF

Day	Date	Time (UTC)	Contest Name
Tue	03 Nov	1900-1955	144MHz FMAC
Tue	03 Nov	2000-2230	144MHz UKAC
Wed	04 Nov	1700-2100	144MHz FT8 AC (4 hours)
Wed	04 Nov	1900-2100	144MHz FT8 AC (2 hours)
Sat-Sun	07-08 Nov	1400-1400	144MHz CW Marconi
Tue	10 Nov	1900-1955	432MHz FMAC
Tue	10 Nov	2000-2230	432MHz UKAC
Wed	11 Nov	1700-2100	432MHz FT8 AC (4 hours)
Wed	11 Nov	1900-2100	432MHz FT8 AC (2 hours)
Thu	12 Nov	2000-2230	50MHz UKAC
Tue	17 Nov	2000-2230	1.3GHz UKAC
Thu	19 Nov	2000-2230	70MHz UKAC
Tue	24 Nov	1930-2230	SHF UKAC

December - VHF

Day	Date	Time (UTC)	Contest Name
Tue	01 Dec	1900-1955	144MHz FMAC
Tue	01 Dec	2000-2230	144MHz UKAC
Wed	02 Dec	1700-2100	144MHz FT8 AC (4 hours)
Wed	02 Dec	1900-2100	144MHz FT8 AC (2 hours)
Sun	06 Dec	1000-1400	144MHz AFS
Tue	08 Dec	1900-1955	432MHz FMAC
Tue	08 Dec	2000-2230	432MHz UKAC
Wed	09 Dec	1700-2100	432MHz FT8 AC (4 hours)
Wed	09 Dec	1900-2100	432MHz FT8 AC (2 hours)
Thu	10 Dec	2000-2230	50MHz UKAC
Tue	15 Dec	2000-2230	1.3GHz UKAC
Thu	17 Dec	2000-2230	70MHz UKAC
Sun	27 Dec	1500-1700	50MHz Christmas Contest
Mon	28 Dec	1500-1700	70MHz Christmas Contest
Tue	29 Dec	1500-1700	144MHz Christmas Contest
Wed	30 Dec	1500-1700	432MHz Christmas Contest

Dates For Your Diary



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

High Speed Club CW Contest - 1400Z-1700Z, Nov 1

YBDXPI FT8 Contest - 0000Z, Nov 7 to 2359Z, Nov 8

WAE DX Contest, RTTY - 0000Z, Nov 14 to 2359Z, Nov 15

JIDX Phone Contest - 0700Z, Nov 14 to 1300Z, Nov 15

CQ-WE Contest - 1900Z, Nov 14 to 0500Z, Nov 16

LZ DX Contest - 1200Z, Nov 21 to 1200Z, Nov 22

All Austrian 160-Meter Contest - 1600Z-2359Z, Nov 21

REF 160-Meter Contest - 1700Z-2359Z, Nov 21

CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW - 0000Z, Nov 28 to 2359Z, Nov 29

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.



November 2026

1 Nov 2026 – Broadcast Engineering Museum Open Day Broadcast Engineering Museum, 41 Capper Avenue, Hemswell Cliff, Near Gainsborough, Lincs DN21 5XS.

1 Nov 2026 – BVWS Swapmeet Golborne (BVWS members only) Golborne Parkside Sports & Community Club, Rivington Avenue, Golborne, Warrington, Cheshire WA3 3HG

21 Nov 2026 – Rochdale & District Amateur Radio Winter Rally St. Vincent de Paul's Hall, Norden, Rochdale, OL12 QR.

29 Nov 2026 – Bishop Auckland Amateur Radio Club Rally
Spennymoor Leisure Centre, High St, Spennymoor, Co Durham, DL16 6DB.
Email Bob Dingle: bdingle@hotmail.co.uk

6 Dec 2026 – Mid Devon Amateur Radio & Electronics Fair Winkleigh Sports & Recreation Centre, Mid-Devon EX19 8HZ. 9am – 1pm.

2027

14 Feb 2027 – Mid Cheshire Amateur Radio Society Radioactive Fair Nantwich Civic Hall. Cheshire, CW5 5DG. 10am – 3pm.

28 Feb 2027 — Dover Amateur Radio Club Rally Boughton Under Blean Village Hall, off Bull Lane, Boughton Under Blean, Faversham, Kent, ME13 9AH.

18 Apr 2027 – Cambridge Repeater Group Rally Foxton Village Hall, Hardman Road, Foxton, Cambridge, Cambs, CB22 6RN.

145 Alive 2027 Dates

23 Jan 2027 - 25 Apr 2027 - 10 Jul 2027 & 17 Oct 2027

This popular event takes place four per year and is designed to promote activity on 145MHz FM and 144MHz SSB. Each event operates between 50 – 65 synchronous nets across all of the UK and Ireland, where possible. During each event between 1,000 and 1,200 operators take part. It is very easy to take part and if you want more information go to the 145 Alive Website [145alive.com] or the 145 Alive Facebook page or send an email to 145aliveuk@gmail.com

POTA - Support Your Park Weekend 2027

Third full weekend of January, April, July & October 2027.

(All information courtesy of Radcom & the RSGB website)

For Sale and Wanted

For Sale : 2 x Anycubic Kobra 3 3D printers each with an Automatic Material System (AMS).



***In fully working condition.**
***Easy to maintain.**
***The AMS allows printing in 4 different colours.**
***All the software required is free.**
***Some spare parts available. (Metal Print Plate, Spare Print Bed, Head Unit and Hotends).**

£150 each. Originally purchased at around £400 each.

Contact: Guy (M0GUY) at ‘ guy@m0guy.com ‘

SK sale of the shack contents of the late Bryan M0IHY.

There are still a number of items available. These items are with Dave G8FMC. See previous newsletters for a full list.

Contact Dave G8FMC if interested in any item by email:- g8fmc547@gmail.com