



The Newsletter of the Radio Society of Harrow

 **G3EFX**

The Radio Society of Harrow meets at 8.00 p.m. in the 2nd and 4th weeks of every month. Please see inside for more details.

RSH Committee 2011/12

- President:** Brian Hodgson G3YKB
Chairman: Chris Friel, G4AUF
Secretary: Linda Casey, G7RJL
Members: Simon Bell 2E0SBQ
Keith Levett M3OJH
Peter Marcham, G3YXZ
Kelly Monib, M1KFM
Tom Reilly G0NSY
David Talaber, G0CAG

Honorary Member

Arnold Mynett, G3HBW

Exam Secretary

Ray Snow G0BSP

Contact Details

Chris, G4AUF - Tel: 01895 621310
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Website:

<http://www.g3efx.org.uk>
email: lcasey@imperial.ac.uk

Also see: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/g3efx/>

Newsletter Editor

Linda Casey G7RJL

Club Net

All are welcome to join the Club net on:

Mondays at 20.15 (local time):

call on 145.500 (V40)
then QSY to 145.350 MHz (V28)
or nearest clear frequency

Subscriptions for 2011


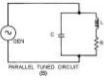
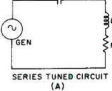
(figures in brackets are the discount rates for paying electronically)

Full membership £20 (£16) per year
Concessionary Rate £14 (£10) per year
Junior membership £6 (£5) per year.
(Junior membership is defined as age under 18 and in full-time education.)

Club Programme




The Radio Society of Harrow meets from 8.00 – 10.00 p.m. in The Elsie Fischer Room, St Lawrence Centre, St. Lawrence Church, 2 Bridle Road, Eastcote, Pinner HA5 2SJ
 Map: <http://tinyurl.com/26dzog>. The church has some parking spaces, and you can also park in the road outside. The car park has a one-way access system – please respect this. Enter on the left as you look at the car park.

November 2011


Fri 11	St Lawrence's	8.00 p.m.	<div style="text-align: right;">GBOPPY</div>  <p style="text-align: center;">Special event station for Armistice Day Tom G0NSY has obtained the Special Event call GB0PPY for the month of November and is organising events throughout the month. Please come along and support our GB0PPY On The Air evening. If you are interested in any of the other events, please call Tom on 0795 1000 530</p>
Fri 25	St Lawrence's	8.00 p.m.	<div style="text-align: center;">The Tuned Circuit Brian G3YKB</div>   <p style="text-align: center;">Tuned Circuits are an essential part of most radio equipment but how do they work and how do we make and measure them?</p>

December 2011

Please note that in December we are meeting on the *first* and *third* Fridays.


Fri 02	St Lawrence's	8.00 p.m.	<div style="text-align: center;">Members Construction Contest</div>   <p style="text-align: center;">Get out those soldering irons and tools and get building: it's the idea and the ingenuity that counts; simple or complex, kit or homebrew, bring it along and show us what you can do!</p>
Fri 16	St Lawrence's	8.00 p.m.	<div style="text-align: center;">Christmas Social</div>  <p style="text-align: center;">Come and enjoy some Christmas cheer, food and drink</p>

January 2012

Fri 13	St Lawrence's	8.00 p.m.	TBA
Fri 27	St Lawrence's	8.00 p.m.	 <div style="text-align: center;">Nikola Tesla Brian G3YKB</div> <p style="text-align: center;">Some people think that Tesla was the greatest inventor ever and others think he was crazy - so was he a crank or a genius?</p>

February 2012: TBA

MARCH 2012

Fri 09	St Lawrence's	8.00 p.m.	TBA
Fri 23	St Lawrence's	8.00 p.m.	<div style="text-align: center;">The Emergence of Modern Humans Mark Wheeler, University of Oxford (G6DOD)</div> <p style="text-align: center;">takes a look at our origins through genetic and skeletal evidence, and how we put a timeline together.</p> 

JOTA in Northolt: GB0TNS, 12th Northolt Scouts

At the end of August 2011 Scout Leader Mark 2E0MBX approached the Society wanting assistance from a Full licence holder with his plans for a JOTA station to operate from a scout hut in Northolt. I felt I was able to offer my services and so I responded.

Beginning: To begin with I had to quickly apply for a Notice of Variation (NOV) to my licence. This was easy enough. When I telephoned the nice man at Ofcom he readily offered a couple of call signs to choose from and I was able to obtain the preferred one which was GB0TNS, for Twelfth Northolt Scouts. Next I listed and partly collected some equipment for the operation, things like a shortwave receiver, Morse code oscillator with a key, copies of the code and optimistically a world map. I produced a couple of certificates that could be awarded to successful achievers.



Preparations: After some chats on the phone and e-mail correspondence, Mark and I met at the Northolt scout hut on a Friday two weeks before the event to set up a station as a trial and to iron out snags. We also did some preparatory work with the young people such as teaching the International Phonetic Alphabet and reading through a script in readiness for their opportunity to send a message. We were unable to activate the station that evening due to some technical difficulties, the anticipated snags! However the following Friday, with the problems solved, we were on the air and some trial contacts were made. The practice in the previous week paid off and the scouts were very proficient at spelling their names and explaining a little about their interests.

Big Day: The big day was Saturday 15th October. Transmissions started at noon and step by step the attending scouts took to the microphone with their prompt sheet and successfully passed their messages. In return they listened to other scouts from around Britain and answered questions. Then as each scout completed their transmission they were given a commemorative certificate. I was pleased with the quality of the young people's efforts and there were very few requests from receiving stations for repeats of information. Conditions on 40 Metres, our best band, were chaotic and it was difficult to find a clear frequency, so mostly it was search and pounce on strong stations within the United Kingdom. From further afield one highlight was a contact with HB9S the World Scout Bureau in Geneva and we also contacted a couple of other Scout stations in Europe. We listened to emergency traffic on 20 metres and on the separate receiver the scouts listened in to other scout stations and to Volmet. One activity the youngsters enjoyed was logging call signs as a task for a Communicator activity badge. Using the oscillator to send Morse code was another popular challenge.

Acknowledgements: The station closed down at 5pm after a very enjoyable afternoon. The young people were very keen and picked up the procedures quickly. Club members Peter G3YXZ and Jim M0YGW came along to help man the JOTA station and Graham M0GDE did a great job entertaining the young communicators when he answered our call on 2 metres. Just for the record the equipment used was a Yaesu FT 897 into a very low slung G5RV antenna while on VHF we made use of a Wouxun hand held transceiver connected to a collinear mounted on a portable aluminium pole.

Over the years I have spoken to many JOTA stations but this was my first JOTA activation and it is one that I would be happy to repeat.

Don GOACK

ANTENNA LINKS

Here are some links from Damian M0SFX who firstly points us towards an article that he came across after doing some experimenting with antennas whilst on holiday recently, which he feels dispels a lot of misconceptions and negates somewhat the claims of particular manufacturers.

Counterpoise? On the Use and Abuse of a Word by LB Cebik, W4RNL

It starts: "The term *counterpoise* has a long history in antenna engineering and amateur practice. Today, it may be among the most misused terms in amateur circles. Indeed, if we examine both the history of the term, its meaning, and its misuses, we might reach an interesting conclusion: there is no such thing as a counterpoise in antenna analysis, even though the term has a long and somewhat respectable use in antenna engineering..."

The full article can be found here: <http://www.antennex.com/shack/Dec06/cps.html>



He also recommends the **M0DAD Radio Website**,
<http://users.whsmithnet.co.uk/m0dad/index.htm>

and this site from the W5ALT:

<http://www.comportco.com/~w5alt/antennas/notes/ant-notes.php?pg=16>

"**Antenna Notes for Dummies; Restricted Space Antennas**" by Walter B. Fair, Jr., W5ALT, who opens his home page with "I have been a radio amateur (ham) for many years and still enjoy the hobby immensely. My radio interests lie in just about every facet of ham radio. I operate on all of the HF bands, as well as VHF and UHF. I use CW, SSB, FM, RTTY, BPSK31, MFSK, FSK31, MT63, Hellschrieber and SSTV. If there's a mode I haven't played with yet, I'll probably be trying it soon. I have to confess that I enjoy CW and the digital modes more than the voice modes, though. I also enjoy tinkering with antennas and electronics in general and also listening to shortwave broadcasts".

Note from the Committee:

If any member could do with a bit of help installing or erecting antennas, let a Committee member know and we will try to organise some assistance.

Peter G3YXZ has asked me to pass on the details of this company who have been employed by him in the past to help dismantle silent key antennas of club members.

<http://www.1stchoiceaerials.co.uk/>; Email: info@1stchoiceaerials.co.uk

174b Alexandra Ave, South Harrow HA2 9BN. Tel: 020 8423 9266

1st Choice Aerials Ltd is a long established company with 45 years experience. We offer a professional business with a quality service that is second to none and have a highly skilled, friendly staff always on hand to deal with your enquiries. We use fully qualified, experienced field engineers who are ready and able to carry out your requirements in a professional, neat and tidy manner. All of our work is fully insured and guaranteed. We offer competitive prices. We are backed by the Confederation of Aerial Industries Plus and The Registered Digital Installer Licensing Body.

Services: Supply & Installation of Both Digital and Analogue TV Aerials and FM Aerials.

Main Agents for SKY and FreeView Boxes.

Supply & Installation of Satellite Systems and Communal Aerials and Satellite Systems

Multipoint Satellite Television Link Up Systems, Extension Points; Aerial and Satellite Repairs

M.A.T.V. & S.M.A.T.V systems installed for Apartments and Hospitals

Estimates & Quotation Supplies for Insurance Purposes. 1st Choice Aerials will also advise on and install your own Aerial and Satellite Equipment where appropriate.

Tom G0NSY recommends



<http://www.radio-electronics.com/info/rf-technology-design/index.php>

Concise guides, information, tutorials and data about radio frequency, RF, technology and RF design:

[Antennas & propagation](#)

[Broadcast technology](#)

[Cellular telecoms](#)

[Circuits & modules](#)

[Design principles](#)

[Electronic components](#)

[Electronics manufacture](#)

[Formulae & data](#)

[Power management](#)

[RF topics & receivers](#)

[Satellite technology](#)

[Technology history](#)

[Telecoms & networks](#)

[Test & measurement](#)

[Wireless technology](#)

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Imperial College - Public Lectures www.imperial.ac.uk/events

23 November 2011, 17:30 - 18:30,

Professor Keith Jeffery

Spies, Secrets and Science: reflections from the history of MI5.

Drawing on the history of MI6 over its first 40 years (1909-49), Keith Jeffery will investigate the extent to which the profession of intelligence might be described as a science, and also explore the role of science itself in both the working and the targeting of British intelligence operations in peace and war.

Open to all. Lecture Theatre G16, Sir Alexander Fleming Building, South Kensington Campus.

Registration in advance: securityscience@imperial.ac.uk **The event will be followed by a drinks reception.**

Training courses: Volunteers Needed

We are starting a new series of Foundation and Intermediate training courses in 2012 but we need volunteer tutors and assistants to run the courses. It is anticipated that the courses will be held on Wednesday evenings at the Scout hut in Roxborough Park.

Over a whole year, classes and exams can add up to a total of 25 three hour sessions which is a big commitment for a small team, so the aim is to find enough volunteers to spread the load. If you think you can help, please contact Brian on g3ykb@yahoo.co.uk or 01923 228121.



Brian G3YKB

RSGB Sub Manager for the M6 QSLs

Could you please let your M6 Members know that I am the RSGB Sub Manager for the M6 QSLs, and I may have QSL cards for them, also I have started a Forum for all M6 members where they can talk about anything, upload photos, files and I have put files on there telling how the QSL Bureau works, other files saying who I have qsl cards for, and those that I have envelopes and cards for.

Here is my address and phone numbers and email:

Roy Taylor M0RRV
2 CHADWICK ROAD
MOORENDS
DN8 4NG
S YORKS
01405 812134 / H
07979 311750 / M
roy024@tiscali.co.uk

We are sorry to report the death of John G4UBB, who will be remembered by many as, among other things, an amateur radio Instructor at Weald College, before he moved to Devon. An obituary will appear in the next issue of QZZ.

RSH Subscriptions for 2012 will soon be due

We encourage people to pay electronically by offering a small discount (rates shown in brackets).

The subscription rates for 2012 are:

Full membership: £20 (£16)

Concessionary: £14 (£10)

Junior: £6 (£5)

Family: £25 (£24)

The Concessionary rate applies to Senior Citizens (65 and over) and may also be applied at the Treasurer's discretion for those who are early retired or out of work. The Junior rate applies to those under 18 *and* in full time education. The Family rate applies for two or more members from the same family and living at the same address.

For more details on the rates and how to pay, click on the Club Details link at our website, <http://www.g3efx.org.uk/> or talk to the Treasurer when you next see him.

How can you pay electronically?

(1) You can set-up a standing order with your bank to pay RSH £16 each year, or

(2) You can transfer the money into our Lloyds current account from your own if you have an on-line or telephone banking facility.

Our current account details are:

Bank Name: Lloyds

Account name: Radio Society of Harrow

Account Number: 1538146

Sort Code: 30-93-92

Please identify your payment clearly, preferably by call-sign or initial and surname (abbreviated if necessary).

We will continue to accept subs in cash or by cheques posted or handed over at meetings for the foreseeable future. However it is commonly accepted that cheques may well be obsolete in a few years.

GB3HR, The Harrow 433 MHz (70 cms) FM Repeater

The new UHF Base Station has now been installed and is running 9 Watts ERP from our site near Harrow Weald. The new transceiver consists of a Tait TB-7100 Software Defined Radio (SDR) running 12 Watts RF output on 433.350 MHz and receiving on 434.950 MHz. The station will relay FM transmissions when a continuous sub-audible tone (CTCSS) of 82.5 Hz is sent. The station identifies as GB3HR D in Morse Code, the D denoting the sub-audible code 82.5 Hz. The station has also had a new 6dbD gain collinear antenna installed and this has greatly improved coverage throughout Watford, Harrow and surrounding areas.

Please listen out for our station and call through if you have 433 MHz FM capability. Several RSH club members can be found there. 73, Peter Marcham G3YXZ

Donations towards the upkeep of GB3HR will be very gratefully received - please contact Peter Marcham for details: peter.marcham@btinternet.com, 07713 155580.

London 2012 usage of 70cm

From <http://www.southgatearc.org/news/>

An update on the operating opportunities and potential spectrum impact of the Olympic and Paralympic Games was given at the **RSGB Convention**.

Earlier in 2011, Ofcom requested up to 5MHz from the 70cms band as a reserve for PMR use around London, Weymouth and South Essex. The timescale for restrictions could stretch from preparations in May to the end of the Paralympics in September, though Ofcom have been advised when major contests such as VHF Field Day are planned.

RSGB, assisted by Spectrum Forum members, having studied the request closely, have provisionally got this down to 4MHz (as two 1MHz pairs) to mitigate the impact, but await final confirmation if this is acceptable - or actually needed! One of the many planning considerations was to align the 'duplex gap' with the inevitable number of licence-exempt 433MHz SRDs that are likely to be present within the venues.

Separate to the PMR requirement is the use of Omega time/distance equipment off Weymouth for the sailing events. This was tested during summer 2011 and found to use spot frequencies spaced 200kHz apart across much of the band, though in practice no problems were reported.

Games organisers and broadcasters are yet to confirm their final spectrum requirements, though clarity is expected shortly, or perhaps early in the new year, following previous Ofcom consultations and amateur inputs in 2009.

Strict airport-style venue security is expected to prevent the use of any amateur rigs or any other transmitter with the exception of mobile phones within the venues. Anyone entering the venues with barred items risks them being confiscated.

Details also emerged of the Special Event Stations being planned. These include four flagship stations in London, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. It is also hoped that Amateurs should be able to use a special prefix to celebrate the event such as Mike Oscar, Golf Oscar or 2 Oscar eg MO3XXX. Further information is expected to be released at <http://www.rsgb.org/olympics> as details become confirmed. Ofcom also have a special site: <http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/spectrum/olympics/>

There are very strict controls on the use of official Olympic logos, such as the 2012 logo or the Olympic Rings and it is understood that these cannot be used on QSL cards. For further information see <http://www.london2012.com/about-us/our-brand/frequently-asked-questions.php>



Seen by my sister as she was walking through Southwark Cathedral courtyard one day this September:

Amateur radio station with the special call sign of **GB400KJB** is operating from 19-29 September as part of the Southwark Cathedral commemoration events, it being 400 years since the King James Version of the Bible was published.

Organised by the Surrey Radio Contact Club and the Cray Valley Radio Society. More pictures and info at

<http://www.qrz.com/db/GB400KJB>

Monday, 14 Nov 2011: Dr Suzanne Aigrain, Extrasolar planets

St John's Ambulance Hall, North Harrow, 8.00 p.m,

Just 15 years ago the first extrasolar planet was detected. Today, we know of more than 550 planets outside our own solar system, and their study is a mainstream part of modern astrophysics. There are new methods of detection, such as the French Corot satellite, which uses a 270 mm telescope to make detailed observations of stars in the hope of detecting extrasolar planets transiting them. This has recently been responsible for some exciting discoveries of planets much closer to the Earth in size than those found using other techniques. One of the participants in this programme is Dr Suzanne Aigrain of All Souls College, Oxford. She will be coming along to describe the search for new planets, and the chances of finding Earthlike planets that lie in the Goldilocks Zone around stars.

<http://www.wolas.org.uk/>

THE HAMPSTEAD SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY <http://www.hampsteadscience.ac.uk/>

8.15 p.m. The Crypt Room, St John, Hampstead, Church Row NW3 6UU

Tube: Hampstead, Northern Line; Buses: 46, 268



Thu 17 Nov	<u>FROM METHANE TO MAMMALS: THE STORY OF CARBON</u>	<u>Dr. Kevin Devine (Dept Health & Human Sciences, London Metropolitan University)</u>
Thu 15 Dec	<u>LIFE ON MARS</u>	<u>Dr Steven Cutts (Doctor and Science Writer)</u>

RSGB Extraordinary General Meeting

Tom GONSY wonders if we could hire a coach to attend the RSGB EGM on 19th November. Please contact Tom if you are interested on 0795 1000 630 or tommyreilly@hotmail.com

From the RSGB: The November edition of RadCom contains extensive information relating to the EGM being called for **Saturday** 19 November at the NEC. You will find an editorial, giving some background, an article on the work of the Advisory Group and its proposals and formal paperwork relating to the EGM and the Resolutions to be considered. This is important to all Members and the Board hopes everyone will read the papers and support the proposed Resolutions by voting either in person at the EGM, by post or on the web.

EGM DETAILS. Hilton Metropole, NEC, B40 1PP (located next to the NEC), in the Arden Room. There is easy access to the motorway network. The venue is just 10 minutes from Birmingham airport and the train station. There is a courtesy bus that runs from the train station to the hotel and a free monorail from the airport to the train station to pick up the courtesy bus. There is a very large car park in front of the hotel that is on a first come first served basis.

The formal EGM starts at 12 noon, registration is from 11am. In the afternoon, following the EGM, there will be an informal discussion and presentation on the Advisory Group's proposals, which will give those present the chance to comment and add input.