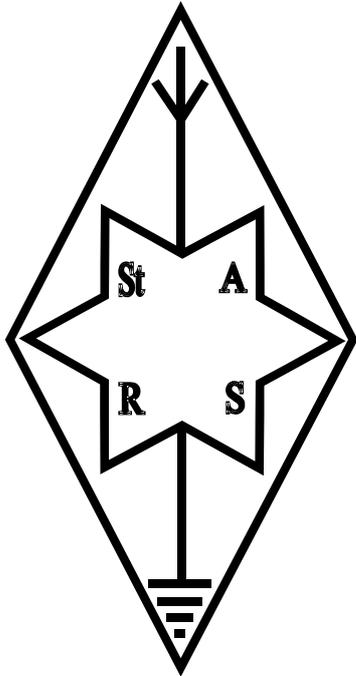


# STARLITE

G6OI  
1938

*The Newsletter for Members and Friends of*  
**Stourbridge and District  
Amateur Radio Society**  
incorporating  
**Old Swinford Hospital School Radio Club**

G6SRS  
1938



G4CVK

1969

**ISSUE**  
**06/12**



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# STARLITE

## MEETINGS

Visitors always welcome

The Society holds its full meetings on the  
1st and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month at

**Old Swinford Hospital School  
Heath Lane  
Stourbridge  
(8.00pm – 10.00pm)**

Additionally the shack is open during the same times on the  
intermediate Mondays

Telephone Enquiries to :-  
Hon Secretary  
John Clarke M1EJG  
(01562) 700513

Or by e-mail to :-  
honsec@g6oi.org.uk

All correspondence/enquiries should be  
addressed to the Hon. Secretary :-  
STARS  
c/o The Mill House  
21 Mill Lane  
Blakedown  
Kidderminster  
DY10 3ND

STARS Web Site URL :-  
[www.g6oi.org.uk](http://www.g6oi.org.uk)



# STARLITE

## EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

As always I would be interested to receive contributions and feedback on any of the articles. I aim to make Starlite available for the first day of each month, so please can you submit any articles in time for this deadline.

Adrian Bryan (G0NLA) Editor.

## NOTICES

The committee is pleased to announce that Doug G4FYQ has accepted the committee's offer of life membership.

As you are aware we are entering the SSB Field day, this is the first weekend of September, (1st and 2<sup>nd</sup>). Please keep this weekend free if possible, approx time will be 10am on the Saturday until 3/4pm on the Sunday. We shall also be having some Monday night sessions in preparation for the contest, including checking of kit / rigs and contest operator training.

Adrian (Hon VP) is coordinating a visit to Bletchley Park on Sat 7th July, please contact him for further details and look at opportunities to car share.

Dr Bob has recently had a knee op and won't be at the club for the next few weeks or so, we wish him a speedy recovery.

We have booked a date for the next Foundation course, this will start Monday 10th September, if you know of anyone interested please pass their details onto the Hon Sec.

And finally - A few members have not yet visited Honorary Treasurer with their membership subs!



# STARLITE

## TAKING THE RADIO ON HOLIDAY

### Introduction

I've been away on holiday this month and I have had less time to prepare an article for Starlite. This has resulted in a shorter article than usual.

Going away this early in the year we picked somewhere that is likely to be warm and ended up deciding on Malta. I did take an HF rig to France one year, but that was before all the travel restrictions we now encounter and besides we travelled on the cross channel ferry. I have never taken a hand held radio on a plane before and in retrospect should have done more preparation, added to which I have always been apprehensive about taking a radio in my luggage and getting it confiscated. Having recently bought a cheap dual band 2M/70cms Chinese hand held I thought it would not be the end of the world if the radio ended up getting impounded. I nearly got my radio confiscated crossing from the Irish Republic into Northern Ireland once, when I was stopped at an army checkpoint during the troubles. I was asked what frequencies the radio operated on and I managed to convince the soldier that I had passed exams and had a licence issued by H.M. Government. When I got back to the UK I checked and found there wasn't a reciprocal licence agreement with the UK at the time.

Getting back to the trip to Malta, I looked up what repeaters were available on the island and found a web site run by G0DEO who is the keeper of the 9H1BBS which has 2M and 70 cm repeaters



Above is a view similar to that from the repeater antenna over towards the north coast of Malta.

The repeater antennas are centrally located and are “white stick” Diamond X-50N located at 475 feet above sea level and as can be seen from the picture command a good view of the Maltese mainland. I made a note of the frequencies and CTCSS settings and packed my handie deep in my hold baggage. I still can't find any UK Border Agency advice on the rights and wrongs of taking a transceiver on a plane. I suppose if you stop and think about it a mobile phone is just as versatile, if not more so, than a dual band handie. Having a reasoned argument and being confronted with a Border Agency Official who is following rules and I think the Border Agency will win the argument every time. We arrived at Malta around 21:15 with no complications.



# STARLITE

## Contact Made

The following day I tuned in to 9H1BBs with suitable CTCSS setting from the 4<sup>th</sup> floor hotel balcony and eventually picked up a 57 identification Morse signal . I tried several calls but didn't hear any activity on 2M. Eventually I heard a G0 station and remembered that the repeater is also internet linked. Later in the day I thought I might stand a better chance on the 8<sup>th</sup> floor of the hotel where a swimming pool and bar are located. I was getting a 59 signal from the 8<sup>th</sup> floor and decided to try a call out on the repeater again. I got a reply on my second call. However during the contact I was told that Malta does not have a reciprocal licence agreement with the UK, although some one who was probably internet linked said this was untrue. I was told it was easy to get a temporary permission to operate in Valetta, the capital of Malta. To obtain the temporary licence I would need to present my validation certificate to an office in Merchant Street in Valletta and pay a fee. It sounded like a possible nightmare. Having said this, it would not have been too difficult as there are only two main streets in Valletta which was a Euro 2.60 ferry ride away. Merchant Street is one of the two main streets with Republic Street being the other. Also Valletta despite being a medieval city is set out in grid like fashion like New York. Sadly I didn't have my validation certificate so I didn't apply for a temporary licence.

## So what lessons can be learned?

It would be good to quote chapter and verse if one was stopped at any security checks at the airport. I should certainly have taken my Ham Radio Licence with me. I should have gone into the reciprocal licence with more care and had just assumed that I would be ok, as Malta is in the EU and would have implemented T/R 61-01. If the repeater in the country you are going to is Internet linked, then spend some time listening to the repeater and ask advice of the locals and also get an idea if there is much traffic on the repeater. I was lucky that the contact I had made was speaking English, he could just as well have been speaking in Maltese. If I had just taken a 70 cms rig I would have been disappointed. There are a large number of ships of all shapes and sizes around Malta and it would probably have been interesting listening on the vhf marine band. I did not work out the cost of a reciprocal licence as the information I found was in Maltese Pounds and Malta moved to the Euro in January 2008 which does not inspire confidence in the information. I understand that granting a licence is a smooth process and temporary licences are often granted on the next working day.

As far as I can determine from the Radio Agency web site. there is no reciprocal licence agreement with Malta as of May 2012. It is almost impossible to give a definitive answer regarding the legality of taking ham radio equipment from the UK abroad. Transceivers do not seem to be specifically prohibited by airline security. With regard to Malta, qsl.net carries the following advice :-

If the proper application is made to Malta Wireless Telegraphy Office in advance, this will allow reasonable time for WTO to inform the Customs Authorities of the applicant's arrival and equipment being brought along. On arrival, once applicant's name and other details are already known and approved, Custom's final clearance will be greatly facilitated thereby saving precious time!

So the moral of the story is do your homework before you take your ham radio abroad.

Adrian Bryan (G0NLA)



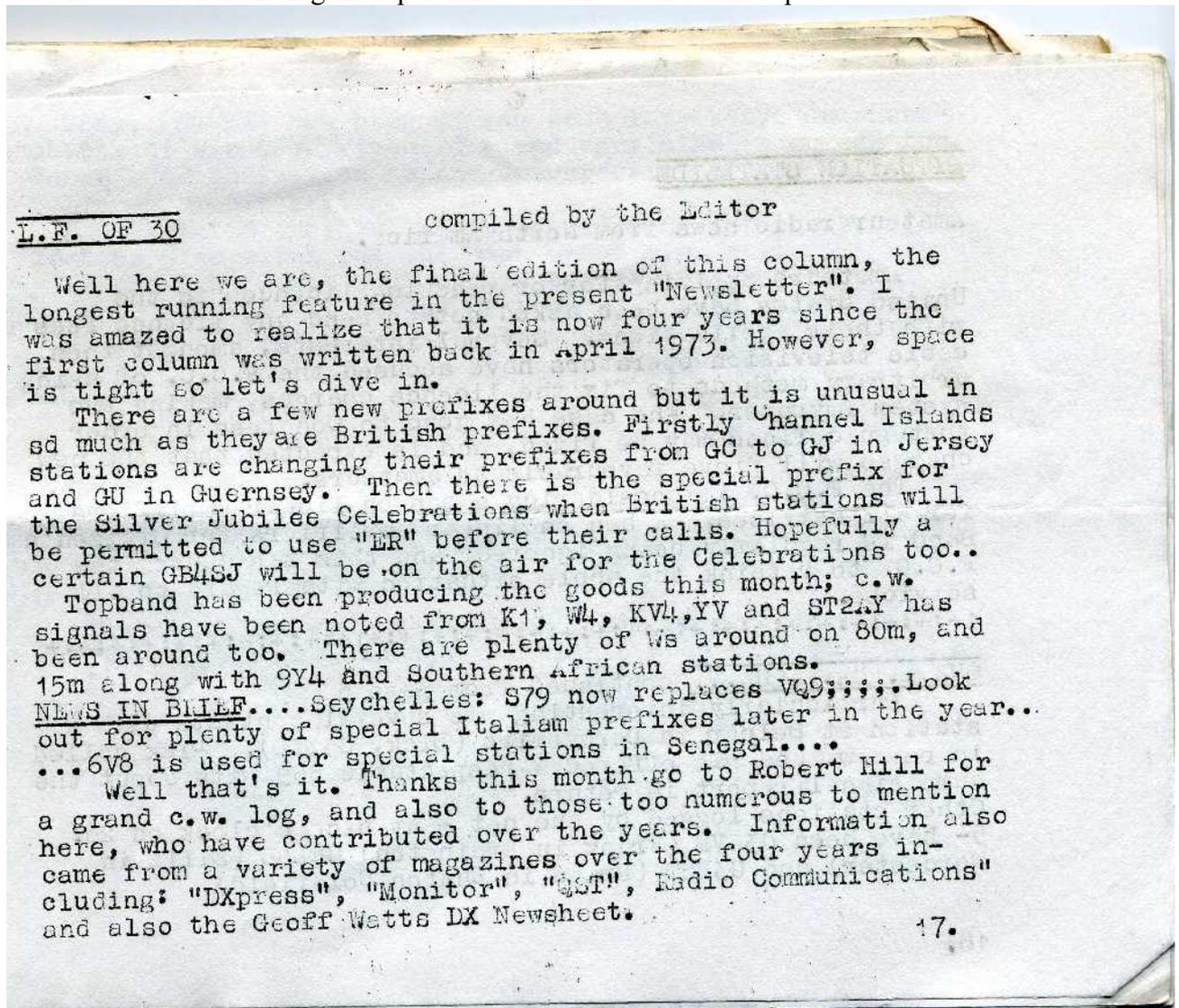
# STARLITE

## FROM OUR ROVING REPORTER

### Starlite Report May 2012

I was very impressed with the research Adrian had done for the last Starlite, going back over the years of S T A R S. Being the third oldest long serving member, I recognised all the names on the list. Sadly some have become silent keys and others are still around but getting on in years. One I see from time to time is Mike Bristow. Like myself, Mike is a volunteer on The Severn Valley Railway. When I do come in contact with him, I always ask him to consider joining STARS again. I do not think he has the interest in Amateur Radio now, like he used to have. I like to look back at STARS history and I am able to do that from some of the news letters I have saved going back well over 40yrs. I have seen some changes in that time but with the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2013 every thing must have been correct to have survived 74yrs. Wolverhampton A R S have been going much longer than STARS.

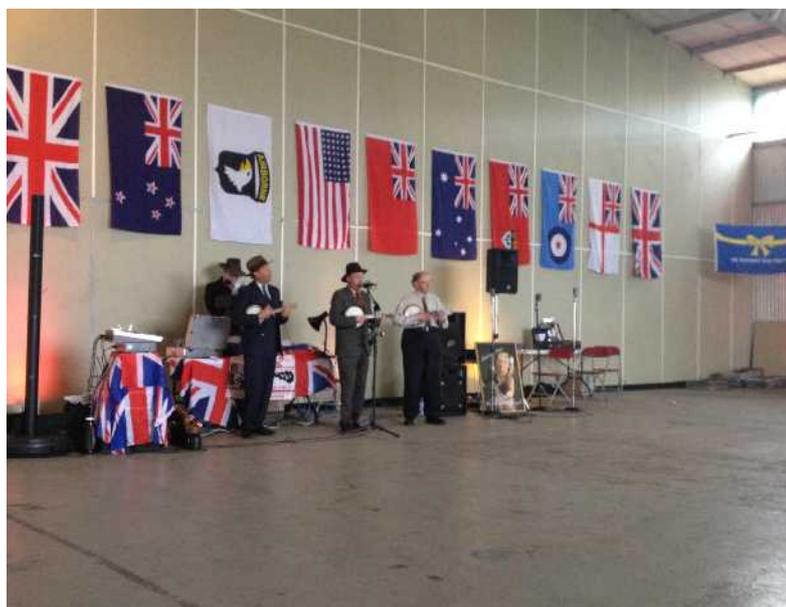
Now it is time to look back for the last time to the newsletter 1977 and the final report of the editor Nick Hingley who after four years decided it was time to retire and pass the post on to some one else. Instead of transcribing the report I have scanned it in Nick's report.



# STARLITE

I do not know where Nick is living now. It would be nice to have a get together of past members next year; just a thought. I was on the committee in the early 1970s and during the 12 months, committee meetings were held odd times away from main meetings at The Shrubbery Cottage. I found it awkward in those days working full time at Contactor Switchgear Wolverhampton factory. After 12 months I stepped down from the committee. It's different now being retired.

Now moving on to Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May, I decided to visit Halfpenny Green Aerodrome because there was a 1940s weekend event on. It was the first time I had been there since 1988, when our next-door neighbour was taking a course of flying lesson paid for by his son and daughter. I decided to go along with him to take some photos while he was up in the air. It got better when he asked if I would like to go up with them. It was the first time I had seen a view of the Aerodrome and Bridgnorth from the air. Back to the 1940s weekend, I was hoping to see some of the military radio equipment. We did have not good weather for the event, so I ended up in one of the hangers where there was war time entertainment going on, including one of the fellow members of The George Formby Society from Yorkshire - Paul Casper. Paul invited me and another GFS member, Geoff from Harborne, who had one of his vintage cars, there to join him in his final number – Lamp Post [see photo] it was not such a bad afternoon but it was cold.



The May STARS meeting was most interesting, with Vaughan M0VRR explaining about RSGB. I have always been a supporter of the RSGB and encourage any one who has a interest in Amateur Radio to become a member. The RSGB is a representative body between Radio Amateurs and Ofcom. If Amateur Radio is to survive RSGB must remain and thrive and that can only happen by increasing in membership. Finally many thanks indeed to Mark Hedges for taking me to the May meeting following my afternoon visit to Eye Clinic at Russell Hall Hospital. I was unable to drive after having eye drops. Very many thanks Mark.

Best 73s for Now.

Malcolm Palmer G8BOP Your Roving Reporter



# STARLITE

## YOUR COMMITTEE

Hon. President	JAMES	G7HEZ	
Vice President	ADRIAN SIMMS	M3HBA	
Hon. Secretary	JOHN	M1EJG	(01562) 700513
Hon. Treasurer	JOHN	G8UAE	
Committee Members	NICK	G6DQN	
	MARK	G7EDZ	
	MALCOLM	G8BOP	
	ANDREW	M6APJ	
	ADRIAN BRYAN	G0NLA	

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**It should be noted that the Shack will be open every Monday evening unless shown otherwise in the Calendar**

June	Mon 4th	Bank Holiday - Queens Diamond Jubilee
	Mon 11th	Open Shack Night - On air or natter
	Mon 18th	BAR-B-Q Sheepwalks 7:00 p.m.
	Mon 25th	Open Shack Night - On air or natter
July	Mon 2nd	Open Shack Night - On air or natter
	Mon 9th	Open Shack Night - On air or natter
	Mon 16th	Talk by Tony Whitehead on his Military Vehicles
	Mon 23rd	Open Shack Night - On air or natter
	Mon 30th	Open Shack Night - On air or natter
August	Mon 6th	Open Shack Night - On air or natter
	Mon 13th	Open Shack Night - On air or natter
	Mon 20th	Open Shack Night - On air or natter (note no talk)
	Mon 27th	Bank Holiday
September	Sat 1st	SSB Field Day contest
	Sun 2nd	same location as last year
	Mon 3rd	Open Shack Night - On air or natter
	Mon 10th	First of the Novice's Licence Courses
	Mon 17th	

