

Gordon spends 8 hours in front of the computer

We sure have some "Hawkeye" types out there. **Alec G8GF** spotted two errors in the last issue. Wrong callsigns for **Dennis G3NDN** and **Joe Russon G3APL**, both typing errors I'm afraid. I also said that **Bob XOM** had E-mailed the info about the dinner to the RSGB, whereas, he had in fact, Faxed them. My apologies folks ... and I thought nobody ever read this stuff.!

Gentle reminders in last months issue have resulted in several members coughing up their subs for the current year (No arm twisting) and, although we're not exactly insolvent, it all helps to pay for such small luxuries as a regular newsletter.

Arthur Edge turned up at the first meeting of the month and still hasn't applied for his Licence. Seems he's plodding along at the old CW and hoping to go straight for the "A" Class. Go for it Arthur!

Andrew G8MKK has decided to leave the Society due to an increased workload resulting in longer hours. As you probably know, Andrew (one time President of the Society, I believe) lives on the other side of Birmingham and has not been along to the meetings of late. Many thanks for your support in the past, Andrew, and hope you manage to get some working trips to Europe in the near future. We shall miss your expertise at the Annual Surplus Sale., that's for sure.

Had *another* committee meeting on 12th. Oct. Most of which was devoted to with the 60th Anniversary Dinner ... keeping my fingers crossed on that one.

The NRAE classes seem to be going OK and we have three Old Swinford Hospital lads and a mum and her 8 year old son taking the course. We've had four other enquiries but after quizzing them I passed two on to **Frank RXO**, one to Bromsgrove for the full RAE and one from the school has decided on home

study for the full RAE as his school studies prevent him attending classes. Have told him to come along when he can if he needs any help.

In response to the invitation sent out to former members for the 60th. Anniversary dinner, I received a letter from John Hogg.

Dear Gordon,

I thank you for your kind invitation to the Society's Sixtieth Anniversary Dinner, signed by President Bob Derricott. Unfortunately I shall not be attending due to our advancing ages with their associated problems, my wife and I do not find travelling easy and are very much tied to our new retreat here on Anglesey. However, on the occasion, we shall be thinking of you and extend our most sincere greetings to any old timers who remember us and to the bright new generation who so obviously are perpetuating the Society's good name,

Although not a founder member, I was well acquainted with some of them and in frequent contact with G60I on the regular 160m nets during the mid 1930 s. Contacts with G6OJ(His portable station) were much sought after, often when operating near Cirencester. My friend of very long standing, Alec G8GF was no doubt often at that location as a youth. I was one of his first contacts when he became G8GF and through the Civilian Wireless Reserve in the RAF we both joined up in September 1939 - the first of the few !

Sometime ago, Alec told me that the Society has an archive collection and I promised to send some old correspondence and documents which had escaped clear-out so, accordingly, I now enclose them and you may be able to extract a few items for the amusement and amazement of members attending the dinner

The menu for the 1953 dinner should be of interest but I cannot remember the cost. The pencilled note thereon " Raffle £1 6s 0d. Old money is not the raffle ticket price but the

amount raised at the assembly! My Treasurer Report also indicates the eternal problem of raising money, but what a difference to the amounts involved nowadays!

Select anything you think suitable for the archived and then dump the remainder. You are quite at liberty to use any of these reminiscences at the dinner or to help fill the newsletter as you see fit.

Once again , Very Best Wishes to friends old and new

73s

Yours sincerely,

John Hogg GW2OG (formally G2OG)

Thank you John. Dunno if we will be able to fit in all your reminiscences at the dinner but will be publishing some of the archive material either in this issue or the next. May you enjoy a long and happy retirement at your new QTH. All the very best from all of us at StARS

JOTA / JOTI Oct. 17 / 18th. Eric the Scout had arranged the loan of a mobile Strumech Tower for the event which I was certain wouldn't fit into the forecourt of the Alderman Tye Centre. On top of which it wasn't gonna be delivered until late on Friday afternoon. Always the optimist, Eric was also hell bent on using the Old Swinford Hospital HF Tri-bander. One of Eric's fellow Scouts, **Tim**, had volunteered to collect the tower and on the way back James and I met him at Old Swinford Hospital and loaded up the partly dismantled Tri-bander. This would be about 5.00.p.m. and the rain was pelting down. Eric was right and I was wrong, and the tower went in with room to spare. The main problem was getting the thing level and fitting the rotator and tri-bander and the 2 Metre Collinear on the top, demanding a hairy balancing act on the part of **James HEZ** on a rickety pair of steps. The rotator, by the way, was one that we had bought at a rally for a Fiver. With the help of John, another of Eric's cohorts, James managed to sort out the control cable for the rotator and we were all set to go. Well almost, It was decided to supplement the Tribander with a G5RV but we had forgotten to attach

a halyard to the tower. However we now had some idea of how to operate the thing, so no real problem. **John** also provided some very hefty standby batteries. I left at 7.00.p.m. but I believe that Eric was there until nearly midnight. And the rain never ceased.

Come Saturday, the weather had improved and the aerials had survived the strong winds overnight. The visitors from the various groups started to trickle in with Sea and Air Scouts and other local troops. They were all given the opportunity to pass messages or the air, mainly on 2 Metres, and then on the internet, before being let loose on the computer games. Telewest had provided access to the internet and "YES" computers of Stourbridge the necessary hardware "YES" also designed and printed the QSL cards for the event. **Tony M1CZH** was operating on HF whilst **Eric JWJ** looked after the 2 Metre contacts. After lunch **Jim G4WAC** arrived and took charge of the HF traffic and James set up Packet, sending messages to all JOTA stations. **Thomas Edwards**, one of our NRAE students popped in to see the action and, being pretty nifty on the keyboard was soon enjoying himself typing messages for James on Packet. Then young 8 year old **Jeremy** and mum **Kathy**, also NRAE students, turned up to see the rigs being used in anger for the first time. Think Jeremy will have to learn Morse code 'cos it sure is hard work trying to get him to speak into a microphone. The youngest person to pass a message was 4 year old **Daniel**, who lives next door to Eric, quite a little chatterbox.

On HF the 10,15 and 20 metre bands were put to good use, mostly to European stations but the one of note was a Z2, Zimbabwe, on 28 MHz.

We had a visit from **Frank RXO** on Sunday but can't seem to persuade him to return to the fold. By 2.30 p.m. on Sunday it was all over and the weather held out making it much more pleasant for dismantling the aerials. A good weekend overall apart from the soaking we all got on the Friday evening. That 60 foot tower sure looked impressive. Eric

Thanks to all the Ops and helpers, see you again next year ?

If you want more info about the event then pay a visit to their website on, <http://wkweb5.cableinet.co.uk/west.mercia.scouts/>

MAIN MEETING OCTOBER. AIR AMBULANCE TALK
After the cancellation of the talk last June, we were well prepared for a similar occurrence and Arthur G2DVI was on standby with all his props for his talk on Egypt. However, this time there were no emergency call outs and young **Jenny Clapham** from Bridgenorth arrived looking very attractive in her orange/red (I'm colour blind) Air Ambulance flying suit. Jenny is a paramedic with the air ambulance crew but she originally qualified as a nurse. Jenny outlined the activities of the unit and showed some excellent slides of some of the truly amazing places where the pilots manage to land the Air Ambulance helicopter: the closest to home being the occasion when they put down outside the Bingo hall in Hagley Road, Stourbridge. On this occasion a local solicitor shut up shop and made an on the spot collection of £400 which he handed over to the crew! There were many other similar "tight spots" in villages and country areas sometimes inaccessible to a land crew, even four wheel drive, due to the rough terrain, as well as landings on Motorways where access for emergency vehicles was sometimes denied due to pile ups. The most spectacular landing, to me, was between the crash barrier and a hedgerow on a main road. Seems that they do a good job in hedge trimming as a sideline ... hi. Jenny said that the police were sometimes not too enamoured with the choice of landing spots. The County Air Ambulance has two helicopters at present, one based at RAF Cosford and the other at Strensham on the M5, but is hoping to bring another one into service in the near future. The one at Cosford is a twin engine MBB Bolkow 105 with a cruising speed of 140 mph enabling it to reach any incident in the area covered within 19 minutes. The helicopters are leased: the two pilots at Cosford being ex Army and Navy respectively. The paramedics have to learn

air navigation as sometimes the satellite system is switched off and they may be required to assist the pilot. They spend one week in four with the Air Ambulance Service, the rest of the time at their own ambulance stations on normal duties. The AAS averages 8 call outs A DAY!!! but is often re-called if the normal services can cope. The need for speed and efficiency is to give prompt attention and attempt to get casualties to hospital within the "Golden Hour" when the treatment in the first hour after sustaining life threatening injuries is crucial to survival. There were many questions when Jenny had finished ...and I bet she didn't realise that we had a "Doctor in the House"

A most informative and interesting evening but only 13 members signed in plus 3 apologies. **SHAME ON YOU!!!** ... sometimes I dunno why I bother to arrange these talks!! The County Air Ambulance is supported entirely by charity and not eligible for a lottery grant. If you would care to make a donation to this worthy cause send it to

The County Air Ambulance, Appeals H.Q.,
Burton Road, Dudley, West Midlands, DY1
3BB

60TH. ANNIVERSARY DINNER FRIDAY 30TH. OCTOBER.

An unqualified success, from all the comments I heard, and a pleasure to see such good support and to meet friends old and new. Once again Eric's optimism had proved correct. It was he who had suggested that the dinner be held at Old Swinford Hospital. He also organised the Bar and everything went according to plan. Hor Treas. managed to collect in all the cash and had a pocketful of coins from the raffle which James had organised. Guest speaker **Rob Mannion G3XFD** Editor of Practical Wireless was a little late arriving due to a hold up on the Motorway but had managed to contact us to let us know.

Hon. President, **Bob VPE**, opened proceedings, welcoming all the guests. Old Swinford Hospital Bursar, **Dave Milton** said Grace and we then tucked into a most sumptuous meal prepared by the good ladies

of the Old Swinford Hospital catering staff. (School dinners will never be the same again Hi)

With appetites satiated and the wine flowing freely it was time for the speeches and Hon. Pres. introduced Rob Mannion G3XFD. I say speech, but it was really a dissertation of Rob's highly chequered career (he originally qualified as a doctor) starting with the subject of "being late" and on through various appointments he had held, mainly in journalism with medical associations, and culminating in his present position as editor of Practical Wireless. There were many amusing tales, too numerous to mention here, but **Richard EWH** has video-ed Rob's talk so you will have an opportunity to see it at a later date no doubt. Rob had travelled up from Dorset to attend the dinner and was intending to drive back home the same evening. Such dedication is truly rare and I am sure we would all like to thank him for coming along and making the evening a truly memorable event.

Eric JWJ responded on behalf of the Society recalling some of his own amusing experiences.

Bob then called upon Founder Member **Alec G8GF** to say a few words and propose the "Toast for the evening" "The Society"

As Alec remarked, "It would be difficult to condense 60 years into a few words", but he outlined the of the origins Society which he and the late **Donald Rock G8PR** decided to set up with support from **John Trimble G6OI**. It was originally named The Stourbridge Short Wave Society, meeting at the Toc "H" clubroom. In 1946, after the cessation of hostilities, this was changed to The Stourbridge and District Radio Society and subsequently the word Amateur was added in 1949. There was a large catchment area in those early days, the nearest club being in Wolverhampton and it was after visiting that club that Alec thought it would be a good idea to start a club in Stourbridge. Alec paid tribute to the ladies adding that at one time they were excluded from all the Society's functions. He concluded by wishing the Society every success in it's new venture in combining with Old Swinford Hospital adding

that the facilities now available the Society are like a dream come true for radio amateurs. Alec then proposed a toast to "The Society". Bob VPE thanked Alec and then presented him and Rob with a framed copy of the special QSL card which had been designed for the SES and a bouquet of flowers to Alec's wife, Daisy. Thank you, Alec and Daisy and hope you enjoyed your stay in "Sunny Stourbridge".

Many thanks to all those who contributed toward the success of the occasion and to **Wayne LLT** for his efforts in producing those Special Event QSL and menu cards

Many thanks also to Dave Milton without whose co-operation, none of this would have been possible

Nice to meet **Ivan G3 KLT**, who travelled up from Aylesbury, **Geoff Foster G8UKT**, Chairman of the RSGB ARDF Committee from Stratford Upon Avon who came along with fellow UK ARDF, team member, our own **Robert G3ORI** and **Mr Phil Brown**, Assistant Editor of Birmingham Post, and his good lady **Helen**, at the invitation of **Stuart G7KCC**

Thank you all.

I'm now about to scarp off to the Canary Isles with proceeds ... hi.

James is in charge 'til, and if, I return.

See you all in a couple of weeks 73 Gord.

Jim and Tony at
JOTA



