

Soon be Summer!

This is the last report before the summer break, its also a break from the organ concert at Shrewsbury & Radio Rallies. Locally Its the 2nd Sept for the Telford Rally, 21st & 22nd for Leicester and 23rd Sept for the Vintage Communications Fair at the NEC. So there is a lot going on in Sept. I will be busy I guess over the period. I still have lots of jobs to do, around the house not connected with Amateur Radio or Computers.

I wonder if any STARs members watched Through the Keyhole BBC 1 in early June? one of the houses visited was Stanley Unwin [He once worked for the BBC on the tech. Side. His fame was inventing a special language] while on the tour of His house they went into his radio shack. I didn't know but he has a transmitting licence.

As mentioned in the June newsletter Len ,myself & our xyls were at Elvaston Castle on Sun 10th June, the weather was great & there were plenty of bargins to be purchased from the many stalls & traders which it seems to attract. It was the 32nd Rally. During the day I came into contact with one or two STARs member's, one trader that was not there this year was Anchor Surplus, as far as I can recall at every Elvaston Castle Rally. I have been to over the years they have always been there.

The following Sunday 17th was the organ concert at Shrewsbury but this time it was different because I discovered while in conversation with the international organist Chris Powell that He is a very keen SWL. He always carries radio equipment with him when he is on tour not only in this country but overseas to countries like Australia & New Zealand. He listens into 2m & 70cm repeaters as well as LF amateur bands. Although he is in his early 30s, but radio as always been a long standing interest & musi-

cally some time ago was one the resident team of organists at Blackpool Tower. Its a small world, who knows one of the days he may decided to take the RAE & obtain a transmitting licence.

With everything growing in the garden its given me some time to start on the long overdue project first thought of 12yrs ago, the house rewire. It was while working on that project on sat 23 rd June that I received a phone call from our treasure John to inform me that one of our longstanding member John Pearson G3SNY had become a silent key on the 19th June. I had a lot of fond memories of John going back nearly 40 years which is about the length of time he was associated with STARs. I believe His interest in Radio started just before and during the 2nd World War were he recieved injuries that were to keep him in the special wards for war wounded at Wordsley Hospital for over 2yrs. It was during that time that He met His wife to be Doris who He married in 1949. In 1999 they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. The last time that I was in conversation with John was at the Wythall Radio Rally. In the days when I used to operate mobile on route from work I used to have one or two contacts with him on 2m fm. The funeral took place at Holy Trinity Church Wordsley at 3:30 on Wed 27th June. There were members of the British Legion in attendance. I would say around 60 mourners altogether including four STARs representatives John G8UAE, Doug G4FYQ, Eric G3IVQ, & Malcolm G8BOP. Our condolences are expressed to Doris on this very sad occasion.

I mentioned in a early item its a small world it was like wise at the funeral except I wish it had been under better circumstances its not often that three of my main interests come together, the organist I have known over the past three yearrs & nearly purchased a the-

atre pipe organ if we could have found the cash & venue which at one stage we thought we had, the other being with the undertakers who I have known for over 14yrs is a fellow member of the George Formby Society.

I will see you at the July meeting but for those who may not be there have a good Summer Break see you in September or the Telford Rally.

Best 73s Roving Reporter Malcolm G8BOP



Council Letters

Internet Costs

1. I wish to report that tiles are missing from the outside toilet roof. I think it was bad wind the other night that blew them off!!
2. My lavatory seat is cracked, where do I stand?
3. I am writing on behalf of my sink, which is coming away from the wall.
4. Will you please send someone to mend the garden path. My wife tripped and fell on it yesterday and now she is pregnant. We are getting married in September and we would like it in the garden before we move into the house.
5. I request permission to remove my drawers in the kitchen. 50% of the wall are damp, 50% have crumbling plaster and the rest are just plain filthy.
6. The toilet is blocked and we cannot bath the children until it is cleared.
7. Will you please send a man to look at my water, it is a funny colour and not fit to drink.
8. Our lavatory seat is broken in half and now it is in three pieces.
9. Our kitchen floor is damp. We have children and would like a third so please send someone round to do something about it.
10. This is to let you know that our lavatory seat is broken and we can't get BBC2.
11. I have had the clerk of works down on the floor six times but I still have no satisfaction.

Oftel study finds the average cost of unlimited access undercuts both Silicon Valley and Europe

Internet access is cheaper in Britain than in Silicon Valley, if a new survey from telecoms watchdog Oftel is to be believed.

The study will be a boost to both British Telecommunications, which has struggled for credibility in its online efforts, and the government's initiative to make Britain a leader in the Internet age.

Oftel's six-country survey found that Britons spend an average of £18 a month on unlimited dialup Internet access, compared to £19 in California and £39 in Germany. France and Sweden, the other countries surveyed, did not have unlimited access available. Italy, the sixth country in the survey, was not included in the unmetered portion of the study. Observers may well wonder how representative the figures are. Unlimited, or "unmetered", Net access is still a novelty in the UK, compared with the US, where it is the standard. What's more, many of the ISPs originally offering BT's unmetered access plan, Friaco, were driven out of business by the cost.

As many as 40 percent of the nation's ISPs still face closure in the next 18 months, with unmetered access provision cited as one of the main factors leading to bankruptcy.

A recent Oftel study found that 2.3 million British homes are now subscribing to unmetered Net access.

Dear friends it falls to me to inform you that John Pearson G3SNY joined the ranks of silent keys on Tuesday the 19th June. The funeral was on Wednesday 27th June at Wordsley Church. John did his bit for King and Country during the Second World War in REME, taking part in the Normandy Landings. Although recently the "pressures of the world" curtailed his operating he enjoyed Amateur Radio. This is all the more surprising as when he wanted to go for his "Ticket" one member of STARS told him not to bother as he would be wasting his time. The reason was simply that he had not been educated at the grammar school. Apparently only those that had were intelligent enough to pass the RAE. This was in the days when members were called by their surnames as established by the Normans Hi Hi.

John G8UAE (Hon. Treasurer)

Many Congratulations

**to the three Novices who
passed their NRAE exam
recently!!!!**

**So please listen out for
some new 2E1 callsigns
and welcome them to their
new hobby!**

James



ops and assistance from Tony, Richard (DBC), Wayne, Eric (JWJ), Jim, James, Bob (VPE) John (UAE) John (Hon sec)

(think thats all!)

Stars on the Air / Portable at the Old Swinford Fete.
Location, Top Field at the School,
Dx into Quinton and Wrexham on 40m
Generator powered; HF into G5RV and Vertical plus 2M into Slim Jim



Behind Closed Doors!

Report of committee meeting 18th. June 2001

Following further investigations into the suggested purchase of Eric's (G7JWJ) rig it was decided not to proceed but to consider purchase of a new HF transceiver which would have a guarantee. Possible equipment is at present being investigated and a report is to be made to the next meeting.

Further efforts have been made to secure the key to the room adjacent to the Shack for social use on club nights. The OSH Bursar is the only person who can make the room available to us and he is at present away ill. The club will press strongly for the use of this room on his return and it is hoped that the matter will be resolved satisfactorily by September with additional social facilities to follow.

The fixing investigation and erection of the HF beam was delayed by bad weather on the appointed evening and this has now been advanced to the second Monday in July.

The question of awarding of trophies was considered in detail. It was felt that there was pressure to award trophies because they were there regardless of the degree of achievement. In consequence the following recommendations were suggested for consideration by the members and to be taken to the next AGM for voting on :-

That in future two trophies only should be awarded each year, one for services to the club and the other for constructors work. The other trophies not then in use would be archived. Two of the existing five trophies could be used, or new trophies purchased.

The President has traditionally awarded the trophies but members opinions would be canvassed on this matter.

As National Field Day has now been cancelled due to foot and mouth restrictions it

was agreed to investigate a club HF field day on top field in conjunction with the OSH Parents Association Summer Fair.

Clearance of the store room remains to be completed and any items of interest will be published in Starlight shortly. However the 105 military rig has now been fired up and found to be in working order. A valuation of this equipment is currently being carried out. The clearance of Gordons' garage of Stars equipment was delayed due to him invigilating at the novice exam on the date agreed. Revised date now to be 9th. July.

Wayne reluctantly cancelled the Presidents Dinner due to lack of support.

The new Headmasters' Dinner and the Christmas Dinner is to be coordinated by a small sub committee.

As agreed at the AGM Wayne is to proceed with updating the Presidents chain of office.

The RSGB have written to request that we appoint a liaison officer between the club and themselves. The only qualification being that the person should be an RSGB member and have E-mail facilities. Anyone wishing to undertake these duties should contact the club Hon. Sec.

The treasurer reported a healthy position of £1261.00 in the Bank with 25 members fully paid up and 8 members yet to pay. Payment would reduce the postal cost of a reminder.

Finally a member raised the question of the moving of meeting nights from the first and third Monday in the month. President Wayne explained that with great difficulty he had filled twelve months of talks by visiting speakers. In order to do this the club must fit in around the availability of the speakers. Should anyone be able to obtain speakers available for non meeting nights and wish to take up the position of speakers organizer this would be greatly appreciated by him.

