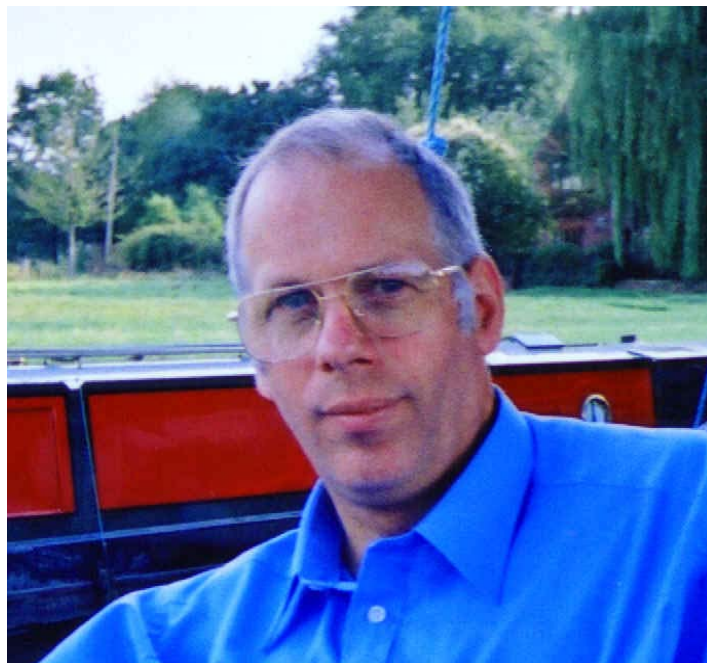


# **The History Of The Oxford And District Amateur Radio Society 1923 - 1955**

**By Paul J Goodhall BRS176562.**

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## **Introduction**

*During early August 1999 Peter and myself was busy writing a Web site Home page for The Oxford And District Amateur Radio Society. After completing the home page we thought that it might be a good idea to expand the Home Page into a more advanced website. However the first problem was neither Peter or myself had the skill required for such a project. Nevertheless we were both prepared to learn and over the next few months the ODARS website grew finally coming of age in the summer of 2000.*

*As the Website expanded so came the need for more detail information and thus was born the Idea of Writing The History*

*Of The Oxford And District Amateur Radio Society. With The help of Past and present members of the Society I have been able to research and write up the following History of The Society.*

*Peter and myself have made available a copy of this text on CD Rom to every current member of The Oxford And District Amateur Radio Society At no cost to The Society or its members As I have financed the project myself. I have also donated a free copy of this CD rom to The Radio Society Of Great Britain. There is also a more detailed account of the ODARS History in Book form which I have also written with Peter as the Picture editor. Which at the moment is not in the public domain.*

*Paul J Goodhall 17.9.2000*

## **The History Of The Oxford And District Amateur Radio Society 1923 - 1955**

### **In 1923 The Oxford And District Amateur Radio Society was formed.**

All that remains of the First Club is a list of officers and the membership card of Mr G. H Day, one of its founders a cherished possession of his son, Mr Geoff Day, G4DED a member of the present-day society. Exactly what the members got up to in those first two years is shrouded in obscurity as indeed the choice of name why radio when everyone at the time called it wireless. Its objects were "the study of wireless telegraphy and telephony, and general research ". and the annual subscription was 7s 6d Which in those days was a substantial part of the average weekly wage. Perhaps this explains why it folded after two years.

Wrote Mr Peter Bradley for The Oxford Times Friday March 13, 1998.

Mr Geoff Day has very kindly passed on a photocopy of his fathers Membership card and from the membership card we find the names of the first officers of the Oxford and District Amateur Radio society which were,

The President Mr W F Beesley. Hon Treasurer Mr J Piggott G2WA. Hon Secretary Mr V T Turner.



**Mr Ben Canning G3HIQ**

Many years later Mr Ben Canning G3HIQ wrote to Mr A Jefferies G8PX the present day President of the ODARS from his home at 4 Essex Street Oxford. for whatever reason Ben Canning did not date his letter to G8PX However towards the closing years of Ben Canning life he was bedridden and it is was during this time that the letter was written.

4 Essex Street Oxford

Dear Jeff,

After you had gone on Sunday, I had a little think about the old club. Well here it is.

Mr Beasley

Was the founder and owner of the old South Midland Bus Co. had an office in St Aldates opposite Town Hall. Owned a couple of old chaises open top , solid tyres, when it rained you covered your legs with a water proof cover. Later He sold out to the present South Midland Bus Co. which is a large Concern.

John Piggott G2WA

Parents owned a farm at Wolvercote John wanted to be a Radio Operator. He went to the training College, but failed to get his P.M.G. ticket, so he came home. On a Saturday afternoon he worked behind the desk in the family Pork Shop in the Meat Market in Oxford. Last year He was still listed in the call book I last saw him some years ago at a Radio Show.

Mr Turner.

Was booking clarke for Mr Beasley also ran a radio spares parts shops at the St Aldates Office. One day after finishing work for the day. He went home on his bike and was found dazed in the Ifley road He was taken home and his bike was not damaged and he spent the night on the coach His Father found him dead in the morning He died of a fractured skull but never found out how it happened.

Mr Day

I think He had a flower shop on the corner of St Johns Road

Perhaps G3HIQ did not relished the significance he letter was to have in helping to write up the

history of the society. And in doing Ben helps bring these Characters back to life and draws back the shroud of obscurity.

## **1925. The ODARS was disbanded**

The reason or reasons why the Society disbanded. I have not been able find out for sure But It is thought that the high cost of membership of 7s 6d Which in those days was a substantial part of the average weekly wage. Was why it folded after two years. Be that as it may The former members of the society would have continued with there interest in Radio And of course new people would also come walk on to the world stage and pick up the batons of Amateur Radio. Mr Howard Long G5LO in an interview with Anthony Wood for The Oxford Times dated 30 December 1971.



Mr Howard Long Who first listened when he was in the Wingfield Hospital now the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre Headington Oxford. Recovering from a spine graft to relieve some of the tubercular spine from which he had collapsed a few days after his 21st Birthday in 1923. The wireless was still in its infancy and he recalls the enormous thrill with which he and his ward mates heard King George V opening the Wemble Exhibition one of the first big out side broadcasts which he heard on a primitive valve set set in 1924. With eager enthusiasm he began to read every radio magazine and book he could lay hands on and when he returned home to Black ditch Stanton Harcourt after nearly three years in hospital in 1926 he quickly graduated from constructing crystal sets to more sophisticated and powerful short wave receivers. The Next Step joining the enthusiasts He heard conversing with one

another on the short wave bands took a bit longer because in order to obtain a transmitting license from the radio branch of the GPO he discovered that he had to pass a test in sending and receiving Morse code at not less than 12 words a minute. But by dint of listening hard to his receiver and copying down any word that he could resolve He gradually mastered the art, applied for the test passed with flying colours and joined the growing army of "brass pounders" tapping messages to one another across the world With His new call sign G5LO which he received in 1932.

## **1934 Local members of the Radio Society Of Great Britain reformed the ODARS**

In 1934 Local members of the Radio Society Of Great Britain reformed the Oxford And District Amateur Radio Society which met in members houses members included Mr. P Tandy G2DU Mr. M Long G2CL. Mr. H Long G5LO Mr. D Dutton G6QQ Mr. I Hill G6HL Mr. F Walton G5FW Mr. E Eggleston 2ABM Mr. E Arthurs 2BHP Mr. F A Jefferies 2AKD later G8PX.

19th May 1934

An effort is being made in Oxford and district to interest amateur wireless enthusiasts in the short wave club in order to conduct experiments and to broaden their knowledge. it seem that one or two amateur transmitters have already banded together and formed the Oxford Short Wave Club to explore the mysterious regions of the five metre wave band. and now there are plans a foot to hold "field days" when small receiving sets will be taken out to a given spot and tuned in to one of the members

who will transmit messages in Morse code with the object of improving equipment and operating skills in general.

But if all this sounds a little like the sort of thing you might be interested in doing your to late. This news item was published on May 19, 1934 and marked the rebirth of The Oxford And District Amateur Radio Society. Wrote Peter Bradley for the Oxford times March 13, 1998.

Ben Cannings G3HIQ in His letter to G8PX on the History of the ODARS had this to say.

In 1934 Local members of the RSGB reformed the club which met in members houses members included Mr P tandy G2DU Mr M Long G2CL Mr H Long G5LO Mr D Dutton G6QQ Mr I Hill G6HL MR F Walton G5FW Mr E Eggleston 2ABM. Mr E Athurs 2BHP Mr F A Jefferies 2AKB later G8PX..

13 year old Arthur Jefferies was to take up the hobby He started as a Short Wave listener and Joined The Radio Society of Great Britain on the 28th of July 1934 The RSGB President was Mr A Watts in 1929 the RSGB gave BRS numbers to non transmitting member and this very keen Amateur was to receive the number BRS1499 from the RSGB. On the 17th August 1934 He was soon to receive the call sign 2AKB and on the 3rd July 1937 He was to receive the call sign G8PX.

In an Interview with Peter Bradley for The Oxford Times Friday March 13, 1998.

Arthur Jefferies G8PX Recalled how it was in the early days. " Magazines like Modern Boy " would tell you how to build a one valve Short wave Receiver. When I made mine I had to borrow a valve from the family wireless set and put it back after I'd finished listening. We used to made our own components, capacitors we called them condensers then were made from a pieces of silver paper and a slip of mica salvaged from the element of an old electric iron. You could make quite a good microphone out of carbon rods from old batteries. " The Club used to be a small group of people who met at each other's houses. We used to carry buzzers about with us to practice our Morse code "1935

Short Wave Club

Oxford and Swindon Experiments on Five Metres

On Sunday the Oxford and Swindon Short wave club met for experimental work on five metres. The Oxford club was represented as follows: Messrs, R.D L Dutton acting vice-president I E Hill, G6HL; F Walton G5FW; E Eggleton 2ABM; F A Jefferies 2AKB; E G Arthurs 2BHP (Secretary) and Mr H Wadley G8LV. and Mrs. Wadley The vice president Mr. F Long G2CL and Mr. P G Tandy G2DU, were unfortunately unable to attend.

The party left Oxford by car for Faringdon where they were joined by Mr. D T Boffin BRS1469. And Mrs. G N Salter BRS 2311 and continued through Childrey to a beech plantation at the top of the Lambourn Downs. Members from the Swindon club had met here together with Mr. R H Kidd G2GH of Newbury who was working his transmitter on five metres.

Contact was effected with Mr. H J Long G5LO working his fixed station at Stanton Harcourt, also on five metres. Mr. Ford of the Swindon club, then toured the surrounding district in his car, containing one of the five metre receivers, and reported on the varying strengths of the signal from G2GG.

The company then moved on to Faringdon folly, where the transmitter was re-erected at the top of the tower. This was made possible by permission of the owner Lord Berners, who afterwards attended. G2GH transmitted at intervals for about an hour, both by morse and speech, while Mr Ford again toured in his car.

At about six o'clock the apparatus was finally dismantled and the party took tea in Faringdon and later re-turned to Oxford, after visiting their president G5LO at Stanton Harcourt.

1936 Saturday 19 December 1936

Short Wave Radio

To the editor of The Oxford Mail.

Sir Sir - Short Wave radio enthusiasts in

The Oxford district may be interested to know that television signals from the Alexander Palace are being received here at this Station .

With no vision apparatus available and it is doubtful at this stage if signal strength would be strong enough to work it. The accompanying sound programs can be followed fairly well. Headington Cumner and Boars hill districts should be particularly favorable for reception of these signals and I would be interested to compare notes with anyone in the district who is receiving these transmissions I - am etc.,

H J Long

(Experimental Radio Station G5LO ).

Stanton Harcourt

Oxford.

## **full and artificial aerial amateur transmitting licenses had been “determined”.**

**During the evening of August 31st 1939 The BBC announced in its nine O'clock bulletin that all full and artificial aerial amateur transmitting licenses had been “determined”. From early the next morning until the end of September, post office officials were engaged in impounding transmitting equipment. Due to the urgency of the situation some of those deputed to undertake the task had little practical knowledge of radio, with the result that arose when an inexperienced official, in the absence of the licensee who had been called up impounded equipment not even remotely connected with the generation of high frequency radio signals.**

**Toregularise matters Radio Society Of Great Britain. Members were advised to press for the immediate return of non-transmitting equipment.**

**Wrote John Clarricoats G6CL World At Their fingertips.**

## Events to the out break of the Second World War

**MARCH 29TH 1939 TERRITORIAL ARMY IS TO BE DOUBLED.**  
**APRIL 5TH BILL TO PROVIDE AIR RAID SHELTERS AND EVACUATE CHILDREN**

**APRIL 27TH A GRAVE AND SUBDUED HOUSE OF COMMONS ENDORSED THE GOVERNMENTS DECISION TO CONSCRIPT MEN OF 20 FOR MILITARY SERVICE.**

**AUGUST 31ST 1939 FORCES ON ALERT AS POLISH CRISIS DEEPEN.**

**AUGUST 31ST CHILDREN LEAD EVACUATION FROM CITIES.**

**SEPTEMBER 3RD 1939. GERMANY AND RUSSIA INVADE POLAND.**

**SEPTEMBER 3RD 1939. IN MOOD OF GRIM SATISFACTION BRITAIN IS AT WAR.**

## At Eleven o'clock in the morning of Sunday September 1939 Britain was at war with Germany.

Howard Long G5LO In an Interview with Anthony Wood for The Oxford Times 30 December 1971.

Amateur Radio Knows no frontiers, politics class or creed, no colour bar, he says "its just one big happy family of enthusiasts, united in their hobby, creating friendship and goodwill amongst all men" And He has proved that again and again but exchanging broadcasts with radio hams in countries that Britain is not on particularly good terms

But when the second world war came of course all that changed A little green Post Office van arrived to impound his equipment. He couldn't join up like his more able bodied friends and put his specialist knowledge to good use. And grimly he had to face up to the prospect of sitting in his wheel chair and twiddling his thumbs.

Then to his joy another radio ham put a word in for him. Some engineers from the Royal Signals Corps arrived to erect a telegraph pole. He was given a Government Receiver and he became an employee of MI5 monitoring Morse signals put out by the enemy agents and passing them on for decoding to the security chiefs. Until 1958. Howard Long G5LO became such a proficient radio spycatcher that when the war was over, his name was found at the top of a Gestapo hit list of people to be dealt with when the Nazis reached Oxford. In 1947 He was awarded the British Empire Medal for his war time service and continued with his security work.





**Mr Arthur Jefferies G8PX In his radio shack in North Oxford**

**Picture taken around 1938.**

When the second world war broke Mr Arthurs Jefferies G8PX was a young man of just 18 years old He was employed at the Cowley car factory as a draftsman which was a reserved occupation. He was to young to join up as a government conscript. By this time he had been a listened radio amateur for the past five years and was experienced in making his own radio gear and a skilled wireless operator. And like many Radio Amateurs for one reason or another could not join the Armed Forces, But they were just as keen to take part in the War Machine and "do there duty" enrolled into the War Office department known as the Radio Security Service, they were to listen for enemy radio signals the organization consisted of voluntary interceptors They were in general radio amateurs several of whom were ladies. Once a week a letter would arrive in the post and the contents told G8PX the time and frequency he was to monitor the band. He would write down whatever he heard and then once a week put it in the post. As well as the Voluntary Interceptor Service work He was a wireless instructor at the Oxford University Officers training school. which up to the end of 1998 was located in Manor Road.



Mr Douglas C Woodford G8IB During the war years spent his time in The Royal Navy as a Wireless operator details of his war time service I hope to be able to add over the next few weeks 6th march 2000 After the War Mr Douglas Woodford trained to become a School Teacher and taught Woodwork at Peers School Littlemore Oxford. Douglas had a Amateur Radio Station in the corner of His Class room which was made up of a home made CW transmitter and the receiver was a CR100. G8IB At the end of the school day would for an hour run the School Amateur Radio Club because of Douglas some were to take and pass the RAE and join the Oxford And District Amateur Radio Society. Douglas as a member of the ODARS was the chief during many of the National Field days Contests. Mr Douglas Woodford G8IB is a very keen QRPer and holds the QRP award for working the world on less than 4 watts

## ODARS Continue to meet during the war



The T. & R. BULLETIN, December 1941. Page 220  
Oxford, - G5HS is building a new receiver, while 2CVD is experimenting with a crystal receiver for emergency use, 2ALG is trying capacity coupling in his pre-selector. 8PX is testing a new circuit for his 100kc\s bar. Welcome new member, BRS4525.

The December meeting will be held at G8PX 1Lovelace Road, Oxford, at 3pm, Sunday 1941 December 21st.

## The war against Hitler's Germany ended,

officially, at one minute past midnight on Tuesday, may 8th 1945. But the struggle against Japan continued until after Hiroshima On august 5th 1945. And Nagasaki on August 9th 1945 had been laid waste by atomic bombs Five days latter after the attack , Japan surrendered, unconditionally, to allied forces in the far east.

During the weeks that followed, conditions near to chaos exited on the amateur bands, mainly because certain allied commanders in widely different parts of the world had given permission for pre-war licence holders to operate service transmitting equipment. Done to boost morale the exercise was, however, in direct contravention of a diplomatic agreement reached earlier in the year but the

united nations assembly in San Francisco that all allied pre-war licensees should be reactivated as from an agreed date, when hostilities had finally ceased.

Although progress seemed slow at the time, less than a month after VE day may 8th a notice appeared in the rsgb bulletin inviting holders of pre-war transmitting licences issued by the postmaster general; to apply for a post war licence and in August a similar invitation was directed to those who had held the pre-war Artificial aerial licences who could produce evidence of Morse Code Proficiency. The first post-war amateur radio licences were issued in January 1946 but most amateur activity was mainly confined during the early months of that year to local contacts

## **The New Year Honour's List,**

Published on January 1st 1946, recorded that F J H Charman G6CJ, F W Garnett, G6XL. Howard J LONG G5LO. Mrs M K H Myler G3GH, H W Stacey G6CX, J N Smith GI5QX, and W X Jones GW6OK. All listed as members of The Royal Observer corps had been awarded the British Empire Medal Those with knowledge of the special work they and many other radio amateurs had been engaged upon during the war were glad to see that the work had received Royal recognition. wrote John Clarricoats G6CL In The World At There Fingertips

## **1946 The Oxford And District Amateur Radio Society reformed.**

Mr Reuben H Farmery BRS7186. set out to find and join the local Oxford Amateur Radio Society but he was soon to find that he was going to be the driving force in restarting the ODARS. During the war members of the Society continued to meet on Sunday afternoons in members homes. The number of people able to attend any of the Sunday afternoon meeting's would not have been very large because the members were engaged in War Service in what ever shape or form. Mr Howard J LONG G5LO was in The Royal observer corps Mr Douglas Woodford G8IB was in the Royal Navy as a Wireless Operator. Mr David Walker G3BLS went into the Merchant Navy as a Wireless Operator But the ODARS did manage to keep going during the war years.

In The Oxford And District Amateur Radio Society Archive is the Dairy that Mr Reuben H Farmery wrote it covers from the 17th April 1946 to 5th November 1946 it should be noted that on The 6th July 1946

letter from W.B.Russell G5WP reference my letter to the General Secretary G5WP is not aware of any local Society activity in Oxford.

Mr Reuben H Farmery BRS7186. Continues in his dairy to say 10th July 1946.

Wrote to G5WP agreeing to the insertion of a note in the Bulletin reference the starting of the meetings in Oxford It also covers the ODARS meeting for May 23rd 1951. This is the oldest minutes we have of any of the ODARS meetings not with standing local newspaper reports and local press cuttings and the following is from that document.

## **ODARS District RSGB NEWS**

ODARS District RSGB NEWS

*17th April 1946*

*Letter to General Secretary asking for address of T.R for Oxford. Main reason to contact Local Members and attend any meetings they may*

*hold*

*26th April 1946*

*Reply to my letter of 17th instant to general Secretary my letter forward to W.E. Russell of Milestones, Mayford, Surrey who is the ( D.R ) District Rep for District Seven*

*6th July 1946*

*letter from W.B.Russell G5WP reference my letter to the General Secretary G5WP is not aware of any local Society activity in Oxford.*

*10th July 1946. 10th July 1946.*

*Wrote to G5WP agreeing to the insertion of a note in the Bulletin re the starting of the meetings in Oxford.*

*17th August 1946.*

*Received letter from J.B.Roscoe G4QK reference note in bulletin.*

*18th August 1946.*

*Letter from R Tidmarsh G3AAD with reference note in bulletin.*

*25th August 1946.*

*Letter to J.B Roscoe G4QK, Letter to R Tidmarsh G3ADD, Letter from P Aldworth. BRS5263 reference note in Bulletin.*

*5th September 1946*

*Letter from G3AAD reference Technical hitch ( appendicistary )*

*14th September 1946.*

*Thanked G3ADD for letter re T - H*

*16th September 1946.*

*Letter from G3ADD reference his holidays*

*20th September 1946.*

*Replied to G3AAD's Letter of 16th instant.*

*29th September 1946.*

*Replied to letter from G.H.C Goodman*

*4th October 1946.*

*Letter from G4QK, reference his attendance at the Oxford University. News of G3ABP and G3AGM.*

*22nd October 1946.*

*Circulars sent out to thirty seven members with reference meeting to be held at 8pm Wednesday 30th 1946 The address 19, Paradise street, Oxford.*

*22th October 1946.*

*Note from associate C.H. Goodman reference to meeting on 30th*

*22th October 1946.*

*Note from associate C.H. Goodman reference to meeting on 30th*

*27th October 1946.*

*Replied to Mr C.H. Goodman, associate grade. Post card from Mrs A Belcher Minster Lovell, reference invitation to her son. To be answered*

*BRS7571. Letter from P*

*Aldworth BRS5263. Reference meeting. Drop us a card reference Sunday's meeting.*

*29th October 1946.*

*Letter from G.G. King BRS 11704 reference to meetings in Oxford. Card to be sent.*

*The Oxford And District Amateur Radio Society REBORN. 8pm*

*Wednesday 30th October 1946 1st November 1946.*

*Letter from E.L Mollart BRS10977, Phone G3AEW Reference to Sundays meeting. Letter to G6CL reference to T.B. election.*

*3rd November 1946.*

*Letter to Bulletin Editor reference report of the Oxford And District Amateur Radio Society.*

*5th November 1946.*

*Letter from G6CL reference both letters to be brought up at the Sunday meeting*

## **The Oxford And District Amateur Radio Society Reborn 8pm Wednesday 30th October 1946**

Mr Arthurs Jefferies G8PX has the letter sent to him by Reuben H Farmery, BRS7186.

Sometime during the 21st October 1946 Mr. Reuben H Farmery BRS7186 from his home at 99. Stanway Road Headington Oxford. Wrote a letter to all local members of the RSGB

**DEAR FELLOW MEMBER, ARE YOU INTERESTED IN THE RESUMPTION OF LOCAL MEETINGS OF THE SOCIETY?**

**IF SO YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND AN INFORMAL MEETING FOR THE EXPRESS PURPOSE OF ARRANGING A PROGRAM FOR THE FUTURE.**

**THE TIME 8PM  
THE DAY WEDNESDAY 30TH OCTOBER 1946.  
THE PLACE FIRST FLOOR (OVER BYARDS OFFICE)  
19, PARADISE STREET,  
OXFORD  
(5 MINUTES FROM THE GWR STATION AND GLOUCESTER GREEN BUS STATION  
HOPING TO SEE YOU THERE  
I AM YOURS FAITHFULLY,  
*RHF***

Ben Canning G3HIQ in a letter date unrecorded to G8PX recalled that the meeting was attained by some thing like 80 people and the first meeting of the newly formed Society was held at The Magdalen arms Iffley road Oxford then moving to the Cherwell arms and latter then to Merton College Sports Pavilion and finally to The Civil Service Club.

## **1946 - 1950.**

Mr John Roscoe G4QK. "I went up to the University Exeter College in 1939. And after a miserable year, with little social activity and a great deal of blackout, I pushed off at the end of the first year to do some radio intelligence work. I got back in 1946. And immediately requested an appointment with the Senior Proctor. No he said Undergraduates are not allowed to join Town Societies- with the exception of the North Oxford Cricket Club. of which I am a member myself. of course he added there can be a certain amount of guessing. And so I found myself on the committee as a University Representative.


We entered the First Post War National; Field Day June 1947 Three of us kept the station going. I think we used my B2 Spy set as a Transmitter but some other receiver. Crystal control, of course, and a simple antenna, we enjoyed it. Field day was won by the South Gate Amateur Radio Club.

In those days G4NT, the Boss of Ernest turner Electrical Instruments, ran a fine Hamfest at High Wycombe, and we went off in a coach to that. Late in 1950, I think, I was invited back to judge the construction contest, which I found quite difficult".

**1949. Sunday MARCH 27th "Oxford HamFest."**

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OXFORD  
HAMFEEST



**SUNDAY, MARCH 27th, 1949**  
at the **CARFAX ASSEMBLY ROOMS**  
**OXFORD**

**THE OXFORD & DISTRICT AMATEUR  
RADIO SOCIETY**

*present the following for your entertainment*

2.30 Assembly  
3.0 Lecture, '2 Metre Transmitter and Receivers', by Mr. E. A. DEDMAN, G3SAI (The Quartz Crystal Co.)  
4.30 Tea  
5.30 Challenge Cup Results  
5.45 Berr!!! by Mr. R. L. OBIEN  
6.45 Photos  
7.00 XYL Contest  
7.45 Lucky Dip and Prizes  
8.15 Competition with Prizes  
9.15 Ragchew

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(They're open at 7 p.m.)      PROGRAMME 6d.



**Ham Feast group Picture**

## **1950 National Field Day.**

The most popular event of the Radio Society Of Great Britain is National field day. The first NFD took place during the first weekend in June 1933 and except for the war years it has continued as an annual event ever since. The original purpose of NFD was to demonstrate that low power portable stations set up at short notice out of doors were capable of maintaining reliable communication with low power portable stations in different parts of the British Isles.  
Wrote John Clarricoats G6CL World at their fingertips.



**Mr Bill Hart G3FMP later to become KC1TX**

Mr Bill Hart G3FMP "I was called up for National Service in 1948/49 and I went into the Royal Air Force and reached the Rank of AC/1. that's were I got my ham license qualification and learnt the Morse code. Then I went to Oxford 1949 through 1952. Which is how I joined The ODARS somewhere in that time

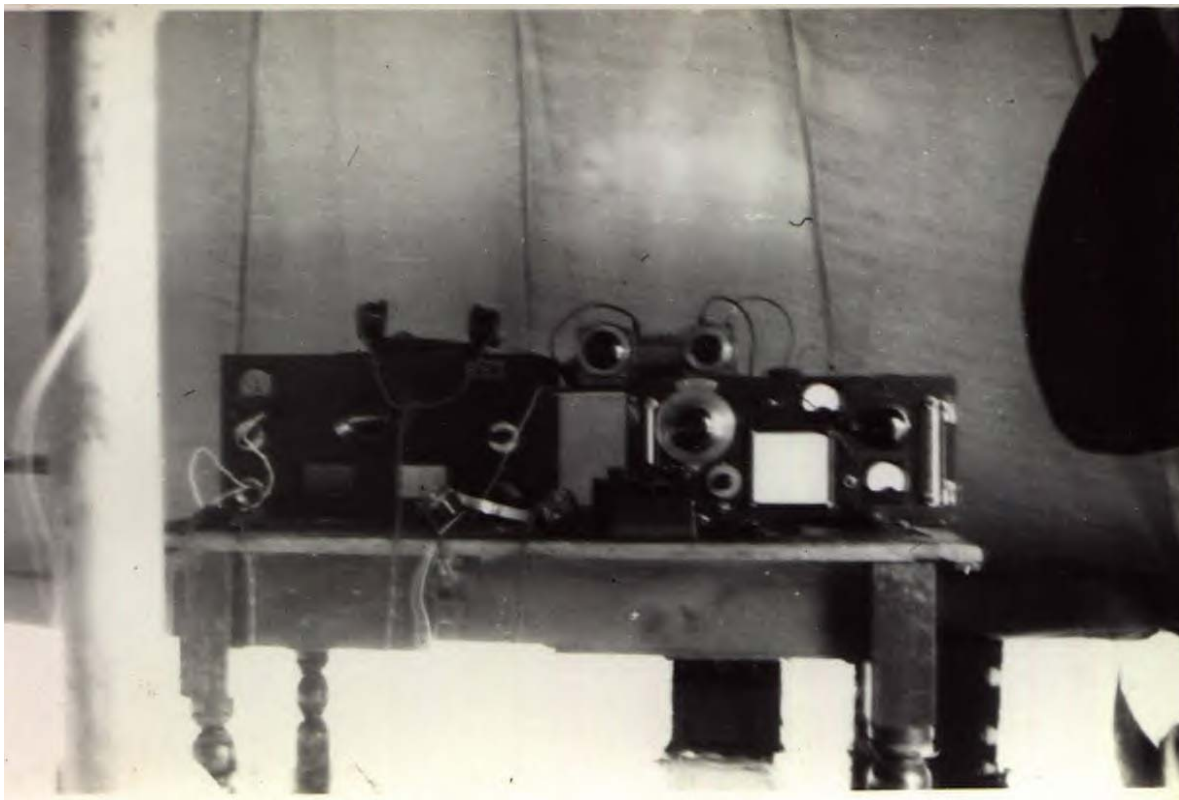




In the picture of the group in front of the tent at Field Day, I am the tall guy just behind Jeff Home to his right, and in the picture showing Jeff G8PX looking down at a group of people sitting on the grass, I am at the far left, smoking a pipe, I went to the United States of America in 1964 and In 1989 I got my present call-sign KC1TX".

While up at Oxford Bill Hart G3FMP was studying at New College. I remember a few people Jeff G8PX and Ron G3ADD now K1UQV, and Phil Tandy G2DU, Jeff Home and John Hinkley – all

three of whom, I believe are sadly no long with us. I remember Bert Collier SP1V that's before SP became a valid prefix There were also, in my dim memory two other University members Martin Swithinbank G3FXY and Peter Haycock, who had no call sign. Bill gave up his membership of the ODARS two years later when he left Oxford to complete his time in National Service with the RAF. .... "I remember taking part in the 1950 National field day Martin Swithinbank , G3FXY set up a camera with a timer and we all lined up for a picture. Then someone thought what a group of nerds we would look to some passer by, all standing in a field looking at an unattended camera on a tripod! by the time the timer tripped we were all laughing"



The Society put on air two amateur radio stations Station A with the call sign G8PX\P and Station B with the call sign G2DU\P That year there was 111 Amateur Radio stations taking part and the result's of the National field day were printed in the August Issue of the Bulletin as Station A

G8PX/P with 323 points and Station B G2DU/P with 242 points giving a total of 565 points the Oxford And District Amateur Radio Society came 51st out of 111.

## **1950 The Fourth Annual General Meeting of The Oxford And District Amateur Radio Society**

The Secretary of the society was able to report that during the past year the membership had been growing and had reached 76 people which included 18 licensed amateur transmitters. The forthcoming activities was in the direction finding contest next Sunday the first of its kind to be organized by the society. The following were elected as officers of the society.

Officers

President Dr A M Payne.

Chairman Mr F A Jeffries

Secretary and Treasurer Mr J Hickling

1950 A press cutting More join the radio Society.

New Contest to Beheld in Oxford

At the fourth annual meeting of the Oxford and District Amateur Radio Society Dr A M Payne was re-elected president Mr. F A Jeffries G8PX chairman and Mr. J Hickling secretary and treasurer.

The Secretary reported that the membership had increased to 76, which included 18 licensed amateur transmitters

Lectures had been given, and lively discussions had taken place on such subjects as high fidelity reproduction of records and BBC programs television recording both on tape and disc, and radio direction finding.

Direction-Finding

Forthcoming activities are to include a direction finding contest next Sunday the first of its kind to be organized by the society. Mr. Jeffries G8PX and Mr. Tidmarsh G3ADD will operate a portable transmitter somewhere in Oxford This transmitter will send out signals for five minutes at irregular intervals during a period of one hour, and competitors with there portable direction finding receivers will endeavor to trace the source of the transmission as quickly as possible.

The First Direction find Contest organised by the society was held on a Sunday. The portable transmitting equipment was operated by Mr A Jefferies G8PX and Mr Ron Tidmarsh G3ADD later to become K1UQV. In an email to Paul J Goodhall dated 5th August



**Mr Ron Tidmarsh**

**G3ADD later to become K1UQV.**

The First find was a bit of a disaster from the searcher's point of view but more on that later. The transmitter was contained in an "IFF" spares box and consisted of the TX, a HT battery and either a small 6v acc or dry batter, don't remember which. Also in the box a goodly length of string with a weight on the end for throwing up into a tree or whatever likely looking object was available and a cut length of wire for the antenna. The TX consisted of a xtal oscillator, 6au6 or similar But I can't remember precisely

followed by a pair of 6c4's in pp. I think it gave about 10 watts or so, on the appointed day Jeff G8PX and I ( G3ADD ) went up St Clements and turned right onto Marston Road and made our way onto the field that one can see looking east from Magdalen Bridge. Reaching the bridge there was an Iron gate opening onto an opening in the abutment, here we set up our antenna and did our stuff with a signal at some regular intervals. Unfortunately the finders did not believe their gear because they all showed up at my home on Bownes Avenue insisting that I was there. Anyway a good lesson learned  
TTFN, RON



*Colin Mather G1PCU crossing Abingdon Weir*



*D F Transmitting Station*



### Group Picture

Bill Hart KC1TX teamed with Martin Swithinbank G3FXY and from the searchers point of view ...” I remember taking part in the Direction Finding Contest Martin G3FXY who had converted a broadcast receiver to cover top band, but it was not calibrated. It was also very insensitive, and we could only hear one signal. Took a bearing, move across took another bearing at the next signal time. The direction was due apparently due east, across the bypass and into the next county. We never found the fox, nor caught up with the rest of the club I am sorry to say but came to the conclusion we must have been right off frequency and picking up the Hilversham carrier.”

1951. Friday 23rd February, 1951 at 7pm  
The Oxford And District Amateur Radio Society Annual Dinner.  
At Long John's Restaurant Hythe Bridge Street Oxford.

### The Menu

Jaff Grapefruit with sugar  
Cream of Mushroom Soup  
Fillet of Sole with Mushrooms

Roast Duck with Apple sauce  
Game chips  
Chateau Potatoes  
Green Peas.

Strawberry Mouse  
Neapolitan Ice Cream.

Coffee

1951 11th may 1951 at 7pm

Farewell Dinner In Honour of Albert Collier SP1V. who was emigrating to Australia.



**Mr Bert Collier SP1V**

Mr Bert Collier was a very well liked member of the society. He ran a shop in Binsey that sold Government surplus Bert was not a listened radio Amateur but a short wave listener members of the society gave him the call sign SP1V during the second world war some one who sold goods for cash was called spiv but Bert was not like that it was just a nick name and no more.

It was Bert Collier who was keen on Direction finding. He thought that this was some thing that the short wave listener could take part in on equal terms with the licensed members of the society and it was Bert who gave the society a trophy for the emergent sport of direction finding. The Collier Cup is still competed for by exponents of D F however within the last ten years the Oxford and District Amateur Radio Society passed to cup to the Mid Thames DFC after the Oxford members became less active in DF due to work commitments

"I first met up with Bert Collier when I managed to run a long wire from my home on Bowness Avenue across my back garden and across my neighbors on Conniston Avenue Bert must have see it because he called on me and introduced himself. He bought job lots of Government surplus of which there was a great plenty after the war and He looked out for anything that would be of interest to a ham. Most of what he acquired in this direction he either gave freely or for a very small charge."  
Wrote Ron Tidmarsh. K1UQV.

## The Menu

pineapple juice  
Cream of Mushroom soup  
fillet of turbot grilled meuniere  
roast chicken with bread sauce  
game chips  
sauté potatoes  
green peas

cream trifle  
Neapolitan ice cream  
cheese and biscuits

coffee.

## Toasts

The KING  
Bert collier SP1V Proposed by the President  
The Society Proposed by the Chairman  
Amateur radio Proposed by the secretary.

## The Oxford And District Amateur Radio Society Meeting 23rd May 1951.

In The absence of the Secretary Mr Canning took over  
There was twenty five Members present  
National Field Day  
G8PX, G2DU, G3FMP, G2CL ( Part Time )  
Volunteers to erect Aerials etc  
Mr Pyain Mr Yates and it is hoped G3ADD  
Transport  
DR Pyain and Martin early on Saturday.  
G8PX, Supply of Food.  
People staying the night.  
Martin, G3FMP MR Collins G2DU, G8PX plus two ( XYL and daughter )







G3ADD Gave a talk on the D.F in High Wycombe

The Transmitter was placed in a small wood about ten minutes walk from the starting point. And the Aerial was about a mile of barb wire fence. The reception of the signal at the starting point was only S1. And some competitors failed to hear this signal at all. And were understandable were just guessing.

Proposed dates for the ODARS D.F contests June 24th, July 8th, July 22nd, September 9th,

The Meeting closed at 9:20pm.

## **1955 The First Mobile Rally to be held in the British isles.**

The first ever Amateur mobile rally was organized by Brian Grist G3GJX on behalf of The Oxford and District Amateur Radio Society. And took place on Sunday October 9th

1955. At The perch Inn, Binsey, Oxford. The Following Amateurs Attend \M  
G2LW, VB YV G3WW XC FZB GJX HCK IES IIR IPR IVP LUF G8IB, FO G5CP CV KW G6AG  
G2HCG G3HYZ\MM and W3WAM. Licensed Amateurs also present were  
G2DU\MM UJ AHL AOK G3ABG G(M)3COV G3DBT ERF GCS HIQ IEY INL ISY JKV JIE  
KKB KLH G4AP G6FO SN, G8DM G8PX.

Ben Canning G3HIQ years latter wrote of the event First Mobile Rally in England. Held at the perch great success introduced an account in the October issue of the Bulletin of another first that made history for the society, yet its significance did not become apparent until many years later "enthusiasm" was the keynote ran the account of the first mobile rally held at Binsey near oxford on October 9 and attend by more than 75 people.... Several hours of mobile operation demonstrated their equipment and discussed the fine points of the absorbing new development in Amateur Radio Thanks are due to Mr. B Grist G3GJX and other members of the ODARS.

**END**

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*16th September 2000*