



Itchen Valley Amateur Radio Club Annual Report 2017 / 2018



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Chairman's Report

A number of very different events this year, from Silent Key Sales to the construction of a Loop Amplifier system.

The Lecture Program has generated much interest and discussion.

Multi-banding the W3DZZ Antenna by Graham G3XSD
Further Thoughts on Ae Measurements Duncan G3RQF
Using N1MM+ Talk by Ray G3HRH & Richard G3OTK
The Wideband LF/HF Active Loops - Wellbrook ALA1530 by Glyn M0XGT
Subjective selectivity and Stereocode" by Richard G3OTK
Performance Signal Analysis in Software by Will 2E0HAI
'Green Radios' by Rhodri M0RHO
IOTA Lundy Social evening
Loop Amp Buildathon
Controlling your house via the Internet by Brian G0UKB

The Loop Amplifier project has generated much interest and activity. Thanks must go to Paul (M1CNK), Raymond, Andy and Glyn for developing such a successful project. The Chairman even managed to get his working!!

Thanks to Paul (M1CNK) for organising the Silent Key Sale, this has raised a considerable amount of money for the Club funds.

There is still more stuff to sell, Local Radio Clubs are being contacted to see if their members have any interest in purchasing any of the remaining items.

The 2018/19 lecture program development is under way, offers of topics/projects for the coming year are needed.

Do you want another "Build" project, station development, the installation/setting up of N1MM or the like?

We still haven't got around to seeing how well most members are transmitting!!! OR are you all radiating all of your available power correctly AND working loads of DX, so don't need to be measured? Do we continue with the measurement program?

Is there still a demand to hold a Club sale for members to try to reduce the quantity of stuff (junk my wife says!) in their shack?

Some members are currently looking at equipment required for Field Days etc. The idea is to make the Club self sufficient. It isn't sensible to rely on someone turning up with some bit of kit, leads or tools in order for the set up to be completed.

A last thought, getting people to volunteer to sit on the Club committee seems to be getting more difficult, partly due to it seems to be thought of as a life sentence!! It would seem sensible therefore if the length of tenure of posts are limited to a maximum of two years. This may encourage more people to "Have a Go" since they can't be stuck with it, which has happened in the past. This does however require a change in the constitution.

Finally thanks to all Club members for making it an interesting year for me.

Duncan G3RQF

Eugen Gerald Marcuse G2NM

Peter G4EOW wrote to report he and Cathryn had discovered an interesting plaque on a bench outside a churchyard in Emsworth.



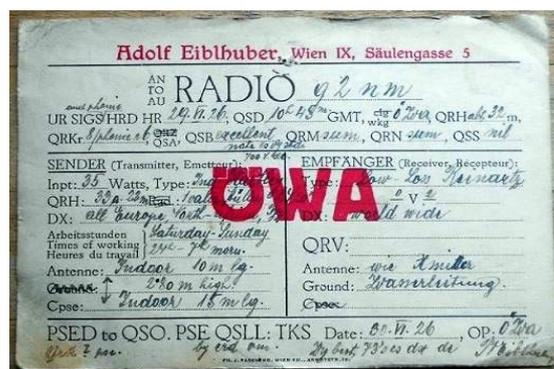
Eugen Gerald Marcuse was born in Sutton, Surrey on 4th June 1886. His interest in radio began in 1910, but it was not until 1913 that he applied to the General Post Office for an experimental wireless licence. His first local contacts were made using a spark coil and a crystal receiver, but the outbreak of war in 1914 brought his experiments to a halt. The war ended in 1918 but licences were not re-issued until 1920. Gerald was then licenced as 2NM in Bristol, where he was a member of the Bristol & District Wireless Society.

On 16th October 1924 he was appointed "Manager of the British Isles" by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) and he later became president of "The Society" (now the RSGB) from 1929-1930.



Gerald's Shack in 1927

Gerald is best known for pioneering Empire Broadcasting when from September 1927 to August 1928 he used his amateur Short Wave station to broadcast concerts, talks and gramophone music to people across the British Empire.



QSL card received by G2NM in 1926

The BBC publicly deplored his actions as an unfortunate publicity stunt. They then started their own experimental short wave transmissions from 5SW at the Marconi New Street factory in Chelmsford in July 1928, and the BBC Empire Service was started in 1932.



G2NM QSL card from 1947

Recommended reading is the excellent 'History of Eugen Gerald Marcuse 1886-1961 by Peter E Smith G4JNU. You will find it here - <http://radarc.org/Files/2015/EUGEN%20GERALD%20MARCUSE27%20DEC2015FINAL.pdf>

A very interesting venue is the fascinating **Amberley Museum & Heritage Centre** where they have a reconstruction of the G2NM Shack (at one stage he was living in the local area). This 'living museum' is a fantastic venue for all age groups because as well as the Amateur Radio section there is a narrow gauge steam railway, a host of exhibitions, crafts people to meet and a free vintage bus service to take you around the vast 36 acre site. Check out their website at - <http://www.amberleymuseum.co.uk/>

IOTA 2017



from the Island of



Lundy

Twelve of us went to Lundy for a holiday which just happened to cover the IOTA contest. It was inevitable, therefore, that we would take part in the contest.

Our party consisted:

Colin G4GBP and his wife Judy
Brian G0UKB and Liz M0ACL
Tony G4LDL and Glenys G8KWD
Rhodri M0RHO and Mo M6MQD
Quintin M1ENU and his wife Sonya
Andy G4JNT
Raymond 2E0DHG

We arranged that we would all be staying in Bideford the night before our departure and met at 'The Rose Salterne,' a Wetherspoon's pub for introductions and a meal with a few drinks. Not too many drinks because we had an early start. The MS Oldenburg sails from Bideford Quay at 09.00 and we all had to be there at least an hour beforehand to check-in and load our baggage into the special wooden crates.



Whilst our leaving the River Torridge was reasonably calm, once we got out into open waters the sea became very rough. It is probably not an exaggeration to say that most of the passengers on the MS Oldenburg suffered 'mal de mer'! Some more so than others. For many, the two hour crossing was

two hours too long, for me personally I enjoyed it.

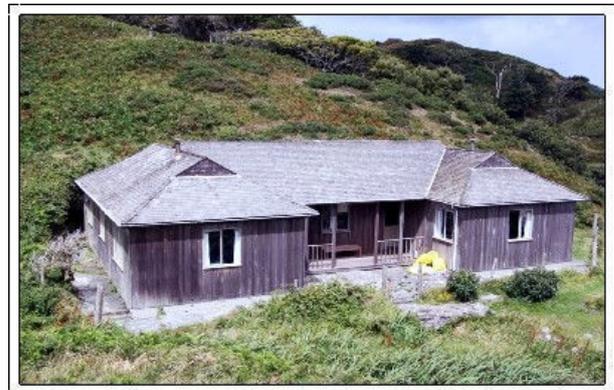
Lundy gradually came in sight, then we were in the lee of Lundy Island as we docked and disembarked.



As per usual, the 'mad keen' were well on their way up the hill before the rest of us had stepped ashore!

Our party duly gathered, made our way up the hill to assemble outside the Marisco Tavern. Our accommodation properties were not ready for us to occupy as the cleaning team were still doing their stuff. We ate lunch and explored the tavern and the shop. Once it was signalled that our properties were ready, we made our way up to see what they were like.

We were taking over Bramble Villas East & West, and 'The Quarters.'



Judy & I, along with Brian & Liz took Bramble Villa East (to the right in the previous photo) whilst Tony & Glenys and Rhodri & Mo had Bramble Villa West.

Bramble Villa is down in a hollow on the eastern side of the island so we had views of the mainland – Woolacombe Bay.

We were in a much more sheltered location than ‘The Quarters’ which housed Quintin & Sonya, Raymond and Andy, and which was located right on top of the island.



The Quarters

We arrived on Lundy on the Thursday, two days before the IOTA Contest. This gave us time to play with various aerials to cobble something together to get us on air. We operated from ‘The Quarters’ as this had an enclosed back garden and a scrubby field next to it. This allowed us to erect our aerials safe in the knowledge that others would not be passing by on one of the many footpaths that Criss-cross Lundy.

Brian brought his neatly packed iPro-Traveller and Raymond brought his Sigma Euro HF X-80 vertical. These were fairly quickly erected and tested.

I brought my 12m Spiderpole, this was erected and held up a 40m (and 15m) dipole. We then went on to make a 20m vertical, using Rhodri’s mast and some lengths of wire and co-ax. Tony used his SARK-110 to help tuning the aerials to length. This had a couple of tuned radials.

Then the weather closed in!

We used the foul-weather time to get all the radios set up and tested. The laptop was connected to the K3S and it worked straight away without any problems. N1MM+ was as



The Spiderpole with the 40m dipole, and in the background, the 20m vertical in the back garden at The Quarters

happy as we were.

Raymond brought his FT-991 and this was connected to his own mini-computer system with N1MM+ already up-and-running. I took my own FT-897 with its 300Hz crystal just in case we were going to do any CW work, (I like rocks for CW!).

For the purposes of signal isolation we used Dunestar filters in the aerial leads. This was definitely a great help and allowed us to use two stations throughout without break-through.





With all of us new to the K3S we all had a play to familiarise ourselves. We were about as ready as we could be.

The Contest operation was fairly straightforward. I had registered us on the IOTA website as G0IVR/P – the Itchen Valley Radio Club call-sign, as the greater number of us were members.

My ears would not settle into SSB, so I operated only CW. The others were happy to work SSB.

The K3S worked SSB on the 40m and 15m bands as and when each band was profitable. The FT-991 worked SSB on the other bands throughout.



The K3S station setup was shared with the FT-897 for CW (as the laptop N1MM+ was happy with the 897)

Some statistics:

A total of 415 QSOs with 352 uniques

A total of 162 IOTA stations on 54 different islands.

QSOs by band

40m- 140

20m – 225

15m – 030

10m – 020

SSB – 234

CW – 181

Conditions were not good. We actually operated for 15.5 hours of the 24. Lundy generates its own electrical power and this is normally turned off between midnight and 06.00.

We had no problems at all with the N1MM+ or the computers.

Interestingly, whilst ‘running’ the QSO rate went up (as expected) but the IOTA Island count was reduced to just about zero.

We worked most of Europe plus US, Canada, Cuba, UA9, PY and LU.

On the Sunday afternoon, after the contest, we continued to work to give others the chance to work Lundy Island. We made contact with one or two of our Itchen Valley Club members. We attempted to contact the Waterside Club but they were out enjoying their ‘HF Picnic’ and we could not find them. We had a pile-up! For the couple of hours the SSB team worked, they made 63 contacts.

Taking the equipment down and packing away took very little time.

Throughout the whole time we were working in ‘The Quarters’ we were looked after by the ladies of the group and I would like to pay particular thanks to Sonya who really looked after us by supplying endless teas and coffees.



I am pleased to say that the dynamics of the group worked very well. Everyone played a part (and to my knowledge) everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. We all loved Lundy and were all particularly impressed with the standard of accommodation that was supplied by The Landmark Trust.

Thanks go to all of you for being such a wonderful team!

Did I hear mutterings of , “Where are we going next time?”

Rhodri MOHRO and his Green Radio.

Rhodri loves green (military) radios. He brought along a complete Clansman setup, radio, battery, mast with antenna and ground radials and all the necessary accessories.



He made many contacts into the farther reaches of Eastern Europe on 20m SSB with his 30 watts on battery. We were all very impressed with the capabilities of the Clansman radio. He even found that having the aerial laid along the top of a dry stone wall worked much better than anyone would have thought.



Well done Rhodri! We all enjoyed seeing your radio and enjoying your QSO success.

Monday was (pretty much) a day without radio. This left us with time to walk around the island. Judy & I walked to the very northern tip of the island and had a look at the northern lighthouse, where we saw more seals, and where we met Rhodri & Mo.



Lundy is home to a breeding colony of about 60 grey seals, but this number nearly doubles in the summer months.

Andy had walked just about every footpath on the island. We met Quintin & Sonya coming back from a walk – Sonya would’nt go any further because of the ‘horny cattle.’ These certainly looked frightening but were very tame Highlanders.



I think many of our group had hoped to see the Lundy Puffins, but we arrived just a few days too late – they had all departed after the end of the breeding season.



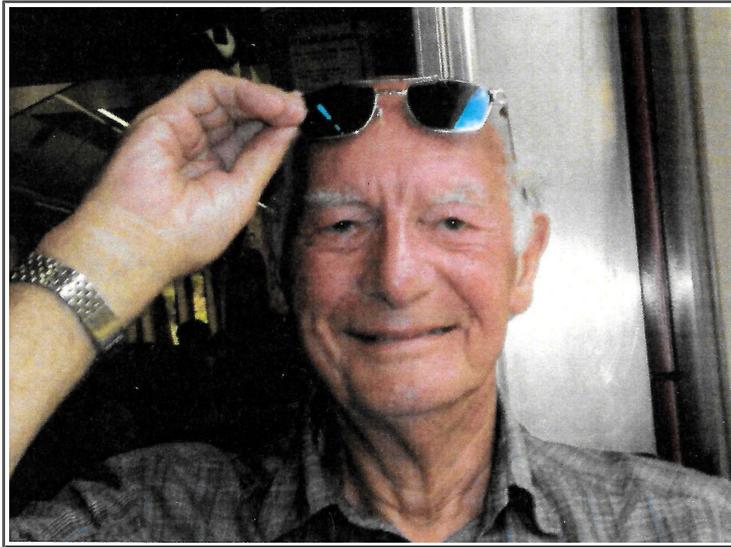
On the Monday evening we all went as a group to the Marisco Tavern where we took over the mezzanine floor.

Then on the Tuesday we had to vacate our rooms and put our cargo items ready for loading onto the MS Oldenburg.

Luckily the crossing to Ilfracombe was a lot better than the outward passage and nobody suffered any form of sea-sickness.

Colin G4GBP

***The Pleasure Of Finding Things Out –
Vic Bryant O.B.E – G3NVB***



The title for this piece is taken from a title of a book of short essays by the late, great Nobel Laureate Richard Feynman, one of the greatest minds of the 20th century. But it was that simple, almost child-like, joy in ‘finding things out’ that also characterised the life of Vic G3NVB.

I recall a few years or so ago Vic decided to try and receive radio signals from a satellite. He spent 3 weeks or so getting all the equipment and aerials together and rather excitedly called me over. He had two computers, one showing exactly where the satellite was and when it would briefly pass overhead Winchester, the second controlling a radio and ready to decode signals from the satellite. At the allotted time the satellite passed overhead and Vic busied himself and excitedly proclaimed “Look, look – here is some data from the satellite”. Three week’s worth of work resulted in this few seconds of success.

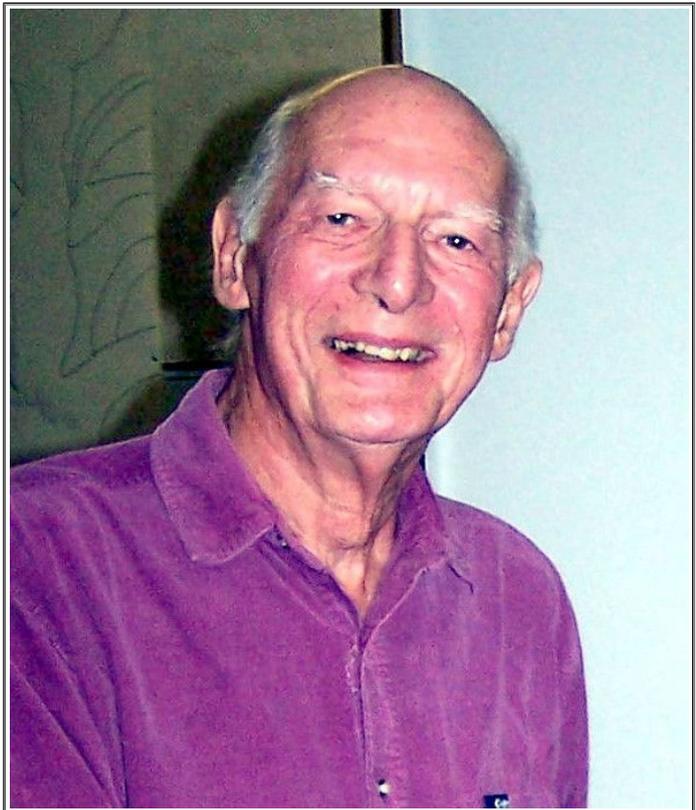
That was it, been there, done that, the equipment was taken down and the next project swiftly moved on to. That was Vic – flitting from one project to the next; many projects abandoned once something newer and more exciting came along.

He was the only person I know that, possibly, had even more unfinished projects than myself!

A couple of years ago, at the age of 88 he decided he wanted to learn to program Arduino microcomputers, so I was persuaded to run a short class for

the club. He was fascinated by this new idea and during the last year or so spent much time tinkering with code, often calling on me for help when it didn't quite do what he expected.

Vic was a leading figure in the life of Itchen Valley Radio Club – he was Chairman for several years and then became President. As previous Chairman, I worked closely with him; his enthusiasm and excitement for the future of the club was definitely contagious. He was also very generous to the club gifting it a new projector, laptop, radio, frequent donations, and many other bits and pieces.



Later he also became the club's quartermaster, turning up at Club Field events with a car full of steaming Cornish Pasties and healthy fruit desserts for all participants – all at his own expense, of course. One year he organised pizza to be delivered for him to bring to the field. The delivery company got it wrong, arriving at Vic's home just after we'd all packed up and gone home. I think he lived on pizza for about 2 weeks afterwards!

Vic always appeared cheerful and was wonderfully pragmatic too. Shortly before his final stint in hospital he rang me to make sure I had instructions on clearing his technical equipment when he left us. You can imagine I was choking on the other end of the phone, tears in eyes whilst Vic was so matter of fact about making sure everything was organised. Visiting him a few days later in hospital he was obviously much weakened and probably in extreme discomfort or pain but he was still enthusiastically discussing his code project; to my great joy I fondly remember sitting on the bed with his laptop and going through code bugs with him, fixing them together.

I'm glad my last and abiding memory of Vic was of him in his element, continuing his life-long pleasure of finding things out.

Rest in Peace my friend.

Brian GOUKB

Secretary's Report

IVARC AGM 23rd March 2018

We met 23 times in the last year.

Of those meetings 8 were general chat nights and 2 were meetings in The White Horse in Otterbourne.

'Thank you,' to all the club members that organised talks and presentations for the 13 remaining meetings.

Special thanks to Rhodri M0RHO from the Waterside club for his talk on Green Radios given on 10th Nov, followed by Colin on the 24th who gave his report on the IOTA Lundy Expedition.

Of course, the main talking point during the last year was Active Loop RX antennas kicked off by Glyn M0XGT on 23rd June followed by Paul M1CNK on 11th July and, as they say, "the rest is history."

This led to a club project with the main players/organisers being Andy, Paul, Glyn and Raymond ending in 2 meetings of club 'buildathons' during Jan/Feb 2018.

Thank you all for the support you gave the Club over the last year

Paul Garland G6MCX

IVARC Membership 2017 / 2018

Callsign	Name	Surname
2E0DHG	Raymond	Holmes
2E0HAI	Will	Ettle
G0BHK	Ted	Stiles
G0UKB	Brian	Jones
G0WIL	Mike	Williams
G0VNI	Sheila	Williams
G3HRH	Ray	Hills
G3NVB	Vic	Bryant
G3OGY	Stan	Andrews
G3OTK	Richard	Harris
G3ROG	Geoff	Morgan
G3RQF	Duncan	Keith
G3XSD	Graham	King
G4DKH	Ken	Hastie
G4EOW	Peter	Baxter
G4GBP	Colin	North
G4JNT	Andy	Talbot
G4YUP	Peter	Thurlow
G6MCX	Paul	Garland
G7LWV	Chris	Ash
G8IPQ	Alan	Badcock
G8TEC	Geoff	Cook
M0ACL	Liz	Jones
M0IKT	Dave	Capstick
M0MMR	Sean	Quinn
M0XGT	Glyn	Thomas
M1CNK	Paul	Wilton
M1ENU	Quintin	Gee

28 Members

UKAC Clubs Final Position 2017							80m CC
Month	Overall	144	50	432	70	1296	3.5
December	20	17	20	11	No Entry	No Entry	
November	19	16	20	9	No Entry	16	
October	19	18	22	9	12	17	-
September	19	No entry	23	9	No Entry	18	-
August	19	13	23	9	No Entry	17	-
July	18	13	No entry	9	No Entry	17	-
June	19	13	No entry	9	20	19	18
May	20	13	25	11	No entry	18	19
April	21	14	No entry	12	25	18	19
March	22	17	26	13	No Entry	No entry	19
February	24	18	27	15	No Entry	20	20
January	27	20	No entry	16	18	No entry	-
Furthest distance by Club member in Kilometres							
December	415	115	192	0	0		
November	525	266	490	0	220		
October	407	367	415	367	220		
September	0	267	415	0	335		
August	504	367	458	0	407		
July	621	0	504	0	187		
June	475	0	475	1586	158		
May	690	266	362	0	276		
April	525	0	415	24	417		
March	503	173	415	0	0		
February	653	226	503	0	202		
January	415	0	415	195	0		

Our final overall position for 2017 is 20th out of 26 clubs in the Local section, the club at 25th had almost twice our score.

Over 750 operators entered, our individual positions were:-

Paul M1CNK 156. Peter G4YUP 170. Ray G3HRH 230.

Paul G6MCX 576. Andy G4JNT 703. Who made a single entry, giving us some extra points.

Congratulations to Paul, CNK, with the highest Club score.

Furthest distance worked was HA6ZB in KN07BV, 1586 k on 70MHz.

In their wisdom RSGB made rule changes for 2017 which contribute to the lack of Club activity. In the same week you can have a UKAC on Tuesday and Thursday and at times a 80m CC on the Wednesday – 3 consecutive contests!

Most of my operation was portable in all weathers, but getting soaked and frozen twice in one week is too much.

In 2017 80m CC we came 18th out of 38, entering all sections, SSB, CW and Data, three members entered, Richard G3OTK, Peter G4YUP and Dave M0IKT. In 2016 the Club was 10th out of 48. Lets hope those wanting to try their new loop will take part in 2018.

We started the 2018 season with continuing very poor band conditions, lets hope things improve, it's all in the taking part!.

Peter G4YUP

Railways-on-the-Air 2017

Swindon & Cricklade Railway from Blunston Station – Saturday 23rd & Sunday 24th September 2017

Another fantastic weekend spent at Blunston Station station courtesy of the Swindon & Cricklade Railway and Railways-on-the-Air. The weather was kind to us as were the radio conditions. We were able to work many stations across the UK and near continent a number of which were other Railways-on-the-Air stations.



Friday 22nd September

Ray, Ken, Chris, Richard and I arrived at Blunston Station to set up our station equipment.

As you know from previous years, the greatest challenge is always that of getting the aerial up over the lake. Holding it up, once we have got it across, is easily achieved by the 40' Racal push-up masts. This year we had Chris and his cross-bow to help us. The bolt of his cross-bow has been modified and weighted so that a light line can be attached.

Early attempts failed, the strength of the cross-bow versus the weight of the bolt and the drag of the line meant the bolt was falling about 20' short.

A solution was found in that there was a small platform at the edge of the lake that moved us about 15' nearer our target. The bolt was fired and only fell a few feet

short, but was fished out with the use of a pole and hook.

A task which in the past has taken about 3 hours was completed in about 1 hour.

Success! (Unfortunately we were all so engrossed in achieving the above that no photos were taken!)

We went on to raise the 2m collinear and the 20m dipole onto the masts, then set up the shelter before retiring for the night.

Saturday 23rd September

Ray and I had stayed at the Tawny Owl, about 2 miles down the road, so were on site by 08:30. All we had to do was set up the radios and make a start. We were joined by Mike G4HGV and later by Rob G4XUT who helped enormously with the operating side of things.

I worked on the 80/40m station whilst Mike & Rob worked 2m and 20m. Dom also made a few QSOs on 20m.

Early attempts at 40m proved the skip to be quite long but bagged PA, DL, OZ, EA and HB9, so a switch to 80m was called for



A couple of hours on 80m was more profitable for inter-G working where we also spoke to a number of ROTA stations.

By midday we were back on 40m for a mix of more distant G stations and easy E1, G1, GM, DL and some of the more distant ROTA stations.

By 6pm local time I was back on 80m for inter-G again, finally packing up about 6:45pm local.

A pint and a good meal at the Tawny Owl was beckoning!



Sunday 24th September

Ray & I returned and set up for the day. Ken was waiting for us and rarin' to go!

With the morning and afternoon spent on 80m and the midday times on 40m it was a very busy time with just over 100 QSOs made.

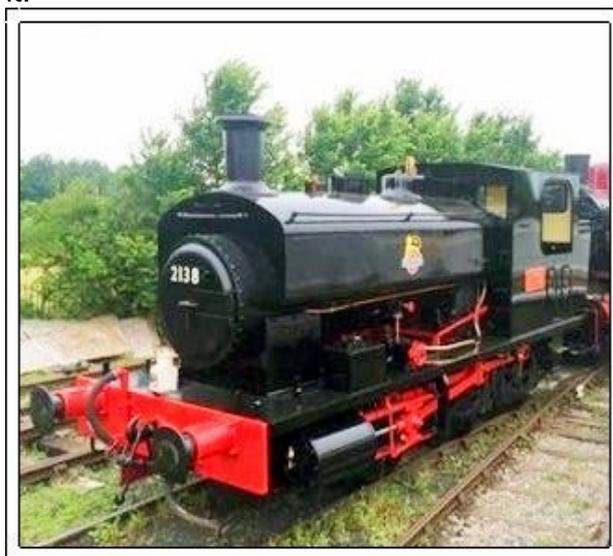
On Saturday the Railway was serviced by a small shunting diesel locomotive with quite a few visitors.



We continued to operate until about 4pm when, threatened with rain we hastily packed up and by 5:15 were on our way home having enjoyed an absolutely cracking weekend.

On the Sunday we were delighted by steam engine 2138 'Swordfish,' a small Great Western Railway saddle-tank locomotive built in 1941 by Andrew Barclay working the line.

The sights and smells were very reminiscent with frequent 'Toots,' steam and black smoke everywhere. What is it about the smell of the smoke? We all loved it.



Weekend Summary:

We spoke over the radio to 17 other Railways-on-the-Air stations. We had 189 QSOs on 80 & 40m, 9 on 20m and 15 on 2m.

We were pleased at how well our signals were getting out and gratified by the signal reports about audio quality. We had many mini 'pile-ups' that kept us busy throughout the days.

We had a number of visitors both members of the public and licensed amateurs.

I am grateful for the assistance received throughout the weekend particularly from:

Ray 2E0DHG

Ken G1NCG

Chris G4AJA for his help getting the aerial across the lake and the fun we had with his cross-bow!

Richard M6VRB for his help setting up on Friday.

Mike G4HGV for his help operating on Saturday.

Rob G4XUT for his help operating on Saturday.
Kelvin M1KDJ for spending time with us.
Matthew 2E0WLF for the fun with his drone.
Russell M0RFI for spending time with us.
Dom 2E0WHQ for his help operating and packing away.
And to all the Railway enthusiasts who made us so welcome! It was great to be so close to a real live steam engine again.

Technical details:

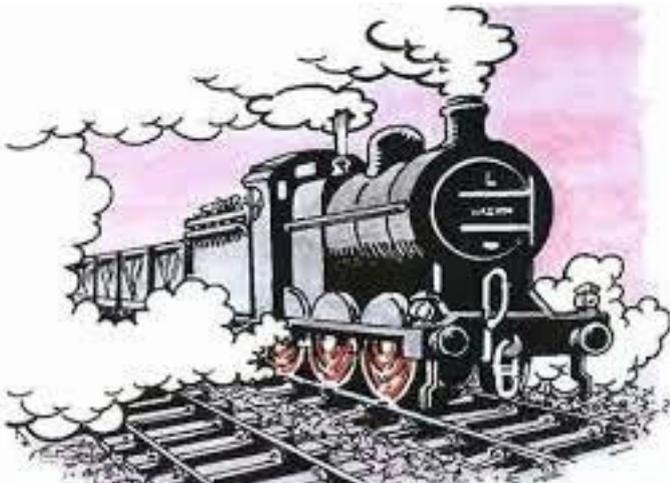
The transceiver used for the 80 & 40m SSB station is the trusty old Yaesu FT-840 with a Heil headset and foot-pedal Tx switch. Aerial matching unit is the MFJ 948 and the antenna is a full-sized G5RV. The masts are RACAL 12m (40') push-up masts and the lake was about 10 feet below us to the G5RV was about 50' above the lake.

The 2m station uses the Yaesu FT-897 with the collinear at 40' above the ground.

The 20m station uses Ray's FT-991 and a 20m dipole sloping from the 40' mast down towards a 20' fibre-glass sectional mast.

All logging was done on paper.

Colin G4GBP



Awards presented at the 2017 AGM



Geoff was very pleased to present the Club trophy 'Clubman of the Year' to Paul G6MCX in recognition of the work he has done for the Club in the past year.



Will Eittle 2E0HAI receives the Club trophy for 'Newcomer of the Year' for impressing the members with his enthusiasm, and completely baffling us with his highly technical presentations.

The Club 'HF Achievement' award was presented to Peter G4EOW who, unfortunately, was unable to attend the AGM.