

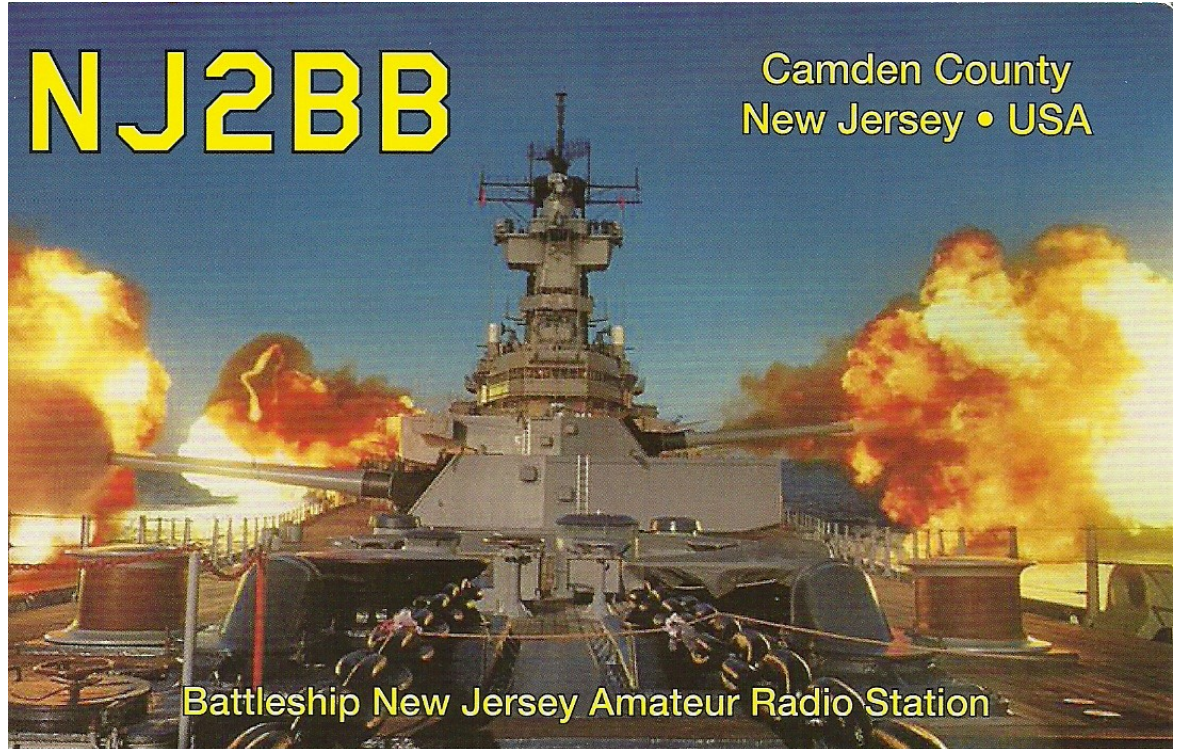


Mid Sussex Amateur Radio Society

NEWSLETTER

March 2020

Mid Sussex Matters



QSL Card NJ2BB from the Battleship New Jersey to Ken G3WYN



In this issue

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Meetings are held on Friday evenings starting 7.45pm at the rear of
Cyprus Hall, Millfield Suite, Cyprus Road, Burgess Hill,

West Sussex

Visitors are always Welcome



Mid Sussex Amateur Radio Society

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From the President's Corner

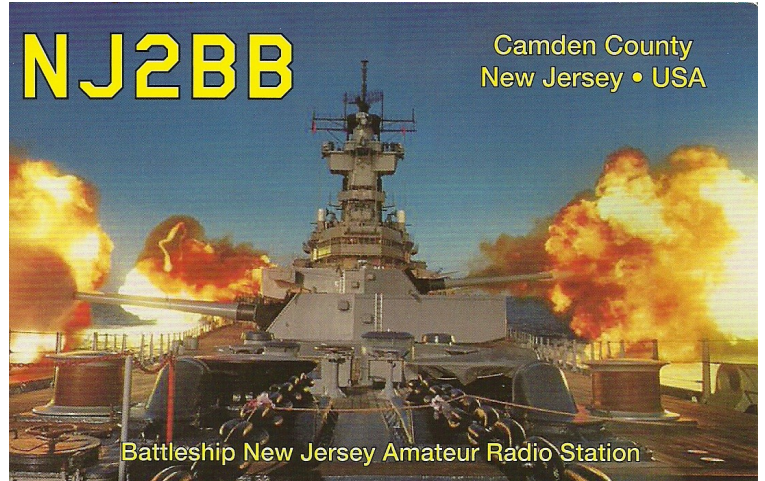
G3WYN

ON: 07-DEC-2017 2WAY: CW

UTC: 15:24 MHz: 14.042

REPORT: 599

www.nj2bb.org



Brief History of this Battleship BB-62

After commissioning on May 23, 1943, the BB-62 proceeded to the Pacific where she was involved in a long list of operations throughout the remainder of World War II.

She was reactivated in November 1950 to provide gunfire support during two tours of the Korean War.

The New Jersey was recommissioned again in the spring of 1968, for deployment to Viet Nam, and was the only battleship on active duty in any Navy.

The New Jersey returned to the active fleet again in December 1982. Throughout the remainder of the decade, she served in a variety of roles including gun action off the shore of Beirut Lebanon, and regular deployments to the Western Pacific.

In February 1991 she was decommissioned for the fourth time. On Veteran's Day 1999, the ship returned to her birth place, the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard.

Amateur Radio Station to Ken G3WYN.

QSL Card NJ2BB from the Battleship New Jersey

Late in 2000 she was towed up river about 2 miles to her new home at the Camden waterfront.

On January 27, 2001 the Battleship New Jersey Amateur Radio Station (BNJARS) held their first work party aboard the ship. This would soon become a weekly Saturday trip for many BNJARS members, and continues to this day.

BNJARS provides restoration services to the ship along with helping visitors enjoy their visit. At the time of printing of this QSL card, NJ2BB has logged over 36,000 QSO's of casual operating time, when the work load allows us to be Hams.





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From The Chair March 2020

This month, the attendance was better.

For the Film & Video night, we were treated by Mike G8KMP, to the viewing of a 16mm black and white film, featuring early motor cars.

Mike thinks the film was made in the early 1950's. The film was about the history of the motor car, featuring many early models.

This was a silent film, unfortunately we didn't have a Wurlitzer handy! Plenty of comments from those present.

Alan G8YKV also showed the members, some of his video collection. Including the 1987 storm damage, and the efforts of the workforce from Seeboard.

The restoring of power to many areas of Sussex, with the help of engineers from other areas of the country. We were also shown video he took whilst climbing the very tall mast near the A20 in Kent.

We also had a very interesting talk by Colin McFarlin from The West Sussex CC Recycling team. Colin told us things we can put in our recycling bins. It appears there are more items than we see on their leaflets.

Also, what we need to take to the tip, and I feel sure that we found it very informative regarding other ways to recycle than the council service.

On the subject of recycling, if you buy your milk in plastic containers, and throw the caps in the land-fill bin. Instead bring them along to a meeting, and I will gladly collect them, as Val takes them to the local church who collect for charity.

As you will all know the Annual General Meeting is on Friday 27th March and you should all have received your notification letter, Proxy voting slip & nomination form.

I hope you have filled them in ready for the meeting. We really need to see some new blood on the Committee, don't delay stand for the future of our Society.

Maybe I will write for the April edition of:-

'Mid Sussex Amateur Radio Society.'

Regards
Russell Nelson G7TMR
Hon Chairman
MSARS



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How I Became interested in Amateur Radio by Chris G4ZCS

It all started long long ago in the 1950s. In our dining room we had an old valve radiogram made by Marconi (Himself, by its age I think).

In the early evenings after tea when the adults moved into the lounge for the evening TV, I stayed behind to listen to Dan Dare on radio Luxembourg, and the Goon Shows on Sunday's Light programme.



R1155 receiver.

For those who don't know, these radio receivers were made during the war for the RAF, and were usually found in the Lancaster bombers wireless operator's position. They are excellent bits of kit with very good two speed slow motion tuning.

This was installed in my bedroom, and with it, the world was open to listen to. In 1957 the sunspot peak was huge, and I was listening to the taxi radios in New York! This really gave me the bug, however I could not find any local source of help or information, the MSARS was still in the future then.

After school I was on a year's residential course, when the caretaker (another G2) tried to convince me to take the RAE course. However, the bright lights of Brighton proved too big a draw, and I never pursued it.

Looking back that was a bad decision as radio and electronics were to become my future, and a G3 call would have accelerated my career somewhat.

In the early 80s I took up flying light aircraft, and as part of the course, I took the VHF radio operators exam. This was essential, as we used to fly over Gatwick and needed to talk to the controllers and the guys driving the BIG planes!



Marconi Radiogram

I soon discovered that this monster of a radio covered most of the short wave bands, and with the addition of some more wire added to the aerial socket, would pick up all sorts of programmes from all over the world.

Tuning around on what I now know to be the top band, I found what turned out to be local amateurs chatting about all sorts of technical things I didn't understand. I started to ask questions, and no one seemed to know the answers, until a relation in North Wales got to hear. He had a G2XXX call & very kindly sent me his spare R1155 receiver.



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Chris flying his light aircraft

When CB arrived in 1981 I took the plunge & joined in the mayhem. What soon became apparent was its usefulness as a means of communication. On a sunny Spring day, probably in 1982, I was listening to the CB in my lunch break, when the voices changed, I heard Geordies & Scottish accents.

Thinking it was a “wind up” I took no notice, however after lunch I spoke to one of the engineers in our office who was a G6. He immediately jumped up & rushed off home!

Next day he returned to work & thanked me profusely for the tip. I had no idea what he was talking about, so I asked him to explain. There followed an hour lecture on sporadic E propagation that I have never forgotten.

He also introduced me to a colleague who had a full call, and as it happened, was an RAE tutor. He convinced me to join his evening class, where I met loads of CBers and school kids, all aiming for a licence. The result of 6 months of hard slog; G6ZRB.

Now for the Morse. This was my introduction to the MSARS in Leylands Road. After the usual strained introduction, I was welcomed and introduced to Mike Sutcliffe, who volunteered to teach me the Morse.

I found this a real struggle, and it took nearly 6 months of Mike’s time. However, on a nice Spring day in early 1984, I convinced my old dad to have a day out in furthest Kent, and I took the GPO test. Now that was really terrifying!

Luckily the examiner had a method of setting the exam room up with a couple of tricks. The swivel chair was 2ft off the floor and needed winding up to reach the key. The key had ¼ inch gaps.

So, after setting up the chair, and the key, I tried sending my G6 call a couple of times, at which point the guy came in and said “you’ve passed” but we still had to go through the test.

The rest is history as they say.



Midland 40 channel CB Rig



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Solar Panels

When Tony G3XQM found out I had Solar Panels installed at my home and also an Electric Car, he asked me if I could write an article about my experiences. I agreed, so here it is.

Back in 2012 a chance meeting with an old school friend Gerry, at the Ardingly Vintage Transport Weekend, led Stella and I to visit the stand of PDP Solar, at the show where he now worked.

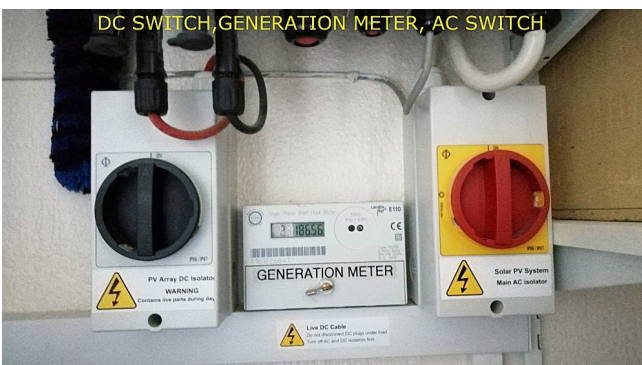
We had talked about getting solar panels a while before, so this was opportune.

We agreed for Gerry to come and do a survey the following week. He reminded us that the tariffs were to be lowered at the beginning of August.

Following the survey he said that it would be possible to fit 16 panels on the roof, to give the maximum non commercial rate of generation of 4Kwh.

Due to the orientation of the Bungalow, 12 panels would be fitted to the east pitch of the roof and 4 on the west.

We were happy with this and asked for the panels to be fitted. So on the 31st July the panels were installed, along with the necessary inverter, just in time to get the higher tariff rates. The invoice was duly paid.



Continued next page



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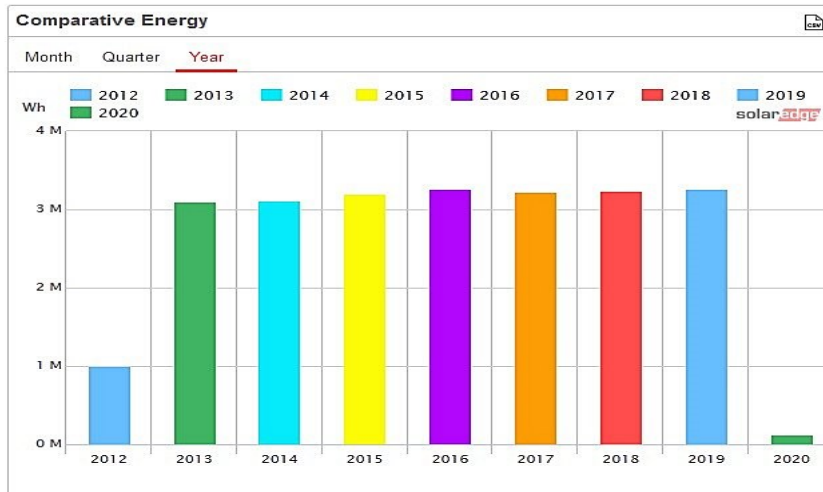
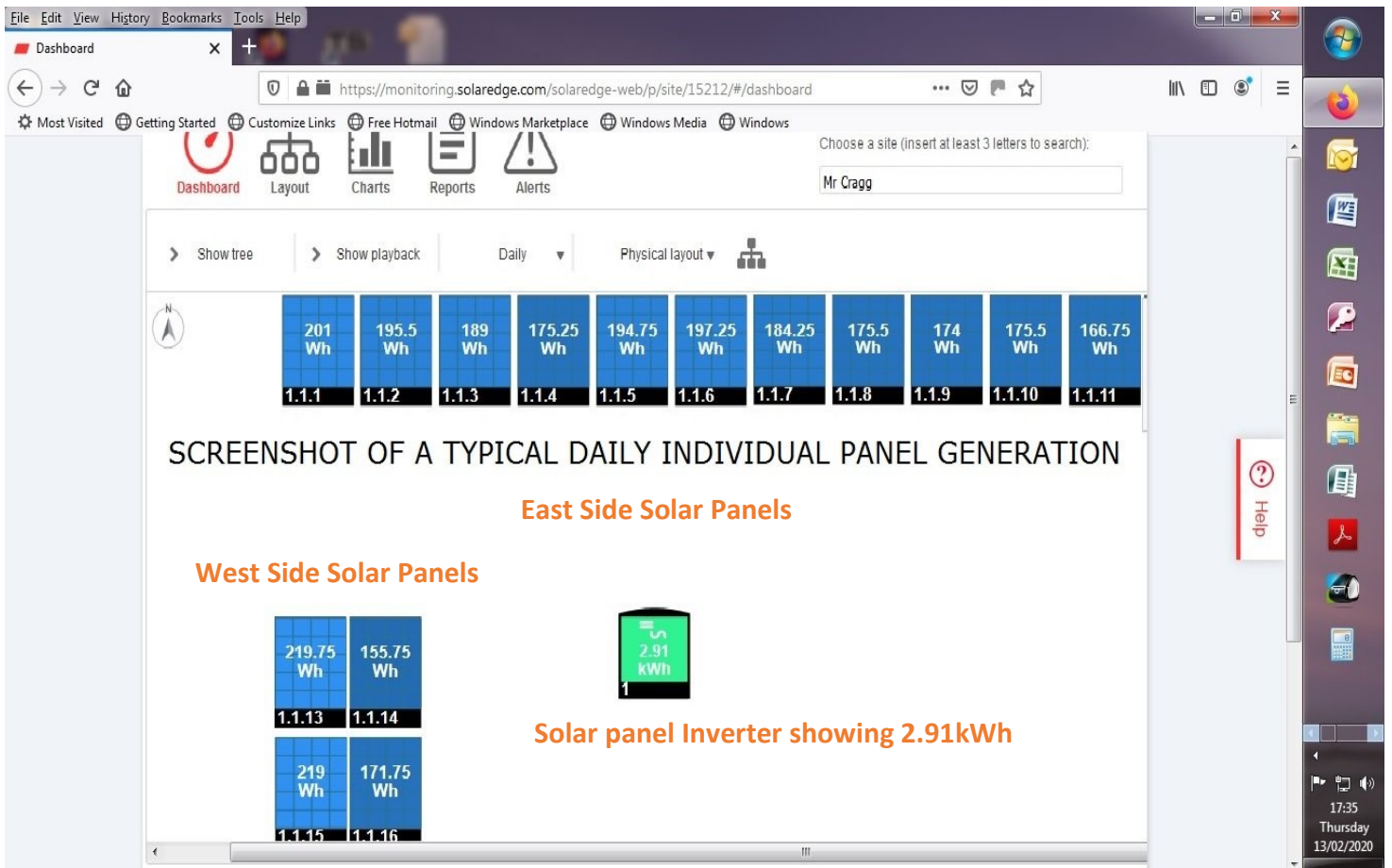
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Solar Panels Continued from page 6

It turned out that the system was fully interrogatable via the internet, this provides access to the individual solar panels overall power generation.

Looking at the annual power generation, it is a surprise that year on year, the generation is pretty even, considering the different years weather we have had since 2012





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Solar Panels Continued from page 7

SCREENSHOT OF TYPICAL MONTHLY GENERATION
Mr Cragg

Dashboard
 Layout
 Charts
 Reports
 Alerts

Current Power	Energy today	Energy this month	Lifetime energy	Lifetime revenue
0 W	2.91 kWh	56.74 kWh	23.74 MWh	£4,943.04

Choose a site (insert at least 3 letters to search):

Power and Energy

Day Week Month Billing Cycle Year

01/02/2020 - 29/02/2020

System Production: 56.74 kWh

Feb 2020
Apply
◀ Previous month | Next month ▶

Site Status

✔

ID	15212
Name	Mr Cragg
Address	28 Damian Way, West Sussex, Keymer, England, United Kingdom
Installed	30/07/2012
Last Updated	13/02/2020 17:27
Peak Power	4 kWp

Partly Cloudy
9 °C
Feels like 5 °C

Wind W, 28 km/h
Humidity 75 %
Sunrise at 07:18
Sunset at 17:13

<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Thursday</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.7em;">9 - 2 °C Rain</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Friday</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.7em;">11 - 10 °C Cloudy</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Saturday</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.7em;">12 - 12 °C 70% Chance of Rain</p>
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Environmental Benefits

CO2 Emission Saved

6,068.76 kg

Equivalent Trees Planted

31.1

Comparative Energy

Month Quarter Year

201220132014201520162017201820192020

Help

Next Month: Alan and Stella's Electric Car



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The Capacitor Plague

The **capacitor plague** was a problem related to a higher-than-expected failure rate of non-solid aluminum electrolytic capacitors, between 1999 and 2007, especially those from some Taiwanese manufacturers, due to faulty electrolyte composition that caused corrosion accompanied by gas generation, often rupturing the case of the capacitor from the build-up of pressure.

High failure rates occurred in many well-known brands of electronics, and were particularly evident in motherboards, video cards, and power supplies of personal computers.

Prevalence

Most of the affected capacitors were produced from 1999 to 2003 and failed between 2002 and 2005. Problems with capacitors produced with an incorrectly formulated electrolyte have affected equipment manufactured up to at least 2007.

Major vendors of motherboards such as [Abit](#), [IBM](#), [Dell](#), [Apple](#), [HP](#), and [Intel](#) were affected by capacitors with faulty electrolytes.

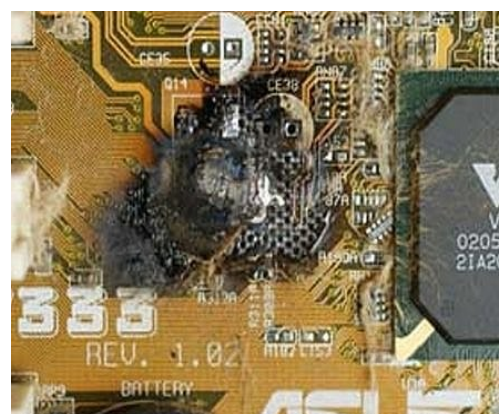
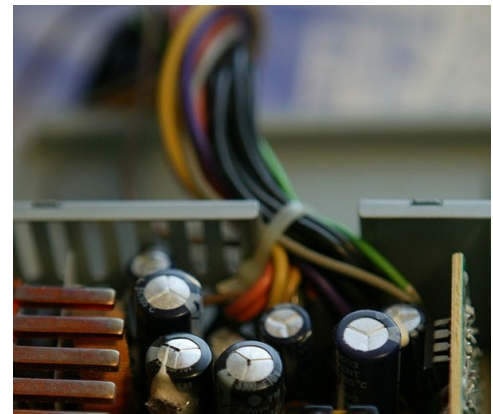
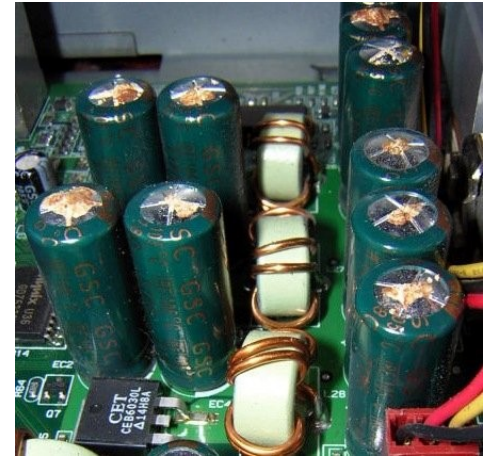
In 2005, Dell spent some US\$420 million replacing motherboards outright and on the logistics of determining whether a system was in need of replacement.

Many other equipment manufacturers unknowingly assembled and sold boards with faulty capacitors, and as a result the effect of the capacitor plague could be seen in all kinds of devices worldwide.

Because not all manufacturers had offered recalls or repairs, [do-it-yourself](#) repair instructions were written and published on the Internet.

Acknowledgements: Wikipedia and

Phil G4UDU.





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Spotlight on Tony Bailey G3WPO

Like many amateurs of the 60's, home construction was very prevalent. At the time there was a mass of components available for the budding enthusiast.

Even ex government surplus equipment shops in the Brighton area, namely Arthur Sallis in North Road, and Hay and Son in Trafalgar Street, stocked a lot of components, ideal for the radio enthusiast.

Technical Trading was another source of components who were also located in Brighton.

Then of course that 'Trip to London' to pay a visit to any number of radio component stores, Tottenham Court Road, Lyle Street and many more...

It will come as no surprise that a number of MSARS members were employed in the 'electronics world' which in itself, may have been a useful source of components.

An early member of MSARS was Tony Bailey who later became G3WPO. Tony was a prolific builder of amateur radio equipment including, HF Single Side-band Transceiver, 4M "Hot Line" for use on the 70MHz band, and the 2 Metre 'Woppo' Box as it was known. A number of members built the Woppo Box transceiver, some of which are still around.

On the 15th March 1974, Tony Bailey and Chris Gaston G8FBR, put the clubs telescopic mast to good use.

It was the launch of the OSCAR 7 satellite that autumn. They received data from the satellite as it passed over England, with Tony G3WPO then sending the details to GB2SM the Science Museum in London, to provide the first report of the actual telemetry to go to NASA, for correction of the flight on the next orbit.

All this was largely homebrew or converted surplus equipment! (For reference OSCAR stands for Orbiting Satellite Carrying Amateur Radio)



Oscar 7



Tony G3WPO 2m 'Woppo' Box'



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The April Issue of Mid Sussex Matters
Includes:



Home Charging Point



Bong for Brexit. Terry GOSWS President of
the Mablethorpe and District British Legion

Alan and Stella's Electric car



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Home of the Mid Sussex Amateur Radio Society

All contributions of copy for the newsletter please send to:

[Tony Finch](#)

(Tel: 01444 254511)

Details of club events etc go to:-

[MSARS Web Site](#)

General enquires about The Mid Sussex Amateur Radio Society Tel Sue 01273 845103