



MSARS



G5RV

G3ZMS

G1ZMS

Newsletter for the Mid Sussex Amateur Radio Society

Meetings every Friday at 19:45

Millfield Suite
Cyprus Hall
Cyprus Road
Burgess Hill
West Sussex RH15 8DX

MSARS Net Times

Sunday 0800	3.740MHz
Sunday 1100	145.350MHz
Weekdays 1330	14.330MHz
Tuesday 2030	3.725MHz
Wednesday 2000	GB3HY SU

All times are local

QRG +/- QRM

MSARS Diary

May

24th Radio Night

31st Radio Night & table top sale

June

7th Prep for B-Hill town fair

9th Summer Fayre Burgess Hill

14th DF Hunt - Tim & Sue

Introduction

Hello and welcome to a different looking Mid Sussex Matters news sheet

The last AGM resulted in a change of some officers and committee members, but unfortunately when it came to the task of electing an editor for the magazine no one was prepared to volunteer, so not wishing for it to disappear into obscurity I volunteered to act in a temporary custodian position to produce it

Firstly apologies in the delay but I have various other things I now do and since my retirement from the two way radio industry last July I am now no longer required to work and therefore Sandy and I do what we want including travelling around this country and overseas often at a moments notice !

I do need to ask what is the purpose of the club magazine, Many years ago it was the information point for the club and provided news to the membership that were either too far away or not in a health situation that allowed them to attend the weekly meetings. Then long before the Internet there was also a need to provide meeting agenda's, club activities plus radio related information such as solar data as well as DX reports but today everything has changed.

If you want information we go online and look it up, Tony does an excellent job with the website, pictures and details of meetings are posted there on a regular basis plus we have our email reflector which enables anyone to send a message to the entire membership. Some clubs around the country have membership contests with operating on the bands and that would

also be a good thing to print and have available, but due to the low “on-air” activity level of current Mid Sussex members on the amateur radio bands we do not have a requirement for this - would an inter-club completion help this?

We used to keep all the magazines and file them away as a reference point, I wonder how many members actually bother to print out or in fact store the PDF versions for later reading

So what do we need this publication for? For this particular issue there is an important point in that there are details about the sad loss of Geoff G6MJW and this would not be appropriate to put on the website.

It is no good to say mid Sussex matters is an important publication but nobody is prepared to give content to go in it. So please discuss what we want this for, I will continue to put together MSM until the next AGM when there will need to be a new editor if this is going to continue. Maybe we need to dedicate a club meeting evening to discuss it.

I have just returned from Dayton Hamvention and now have seen the latests trends in equipment and ideas for operating with Amateur Radio - I am sure I will be talking about some of the aspects of this at a future meeting

Phil G4UDU

From The President's Corner

A warm welcome to our new Committee, a new style Newsletter, a revised email server thanks again to Nigel, and an even better Website (if that is possible)!

HF band conditions have not improved and will not do so for a year or so yet but those of you enjoying digital modes will still be able to work the world with FT8 and even FT4 whilst us oldies pick out the odd DX stations still bothering with SSB and dare I say it CW!

In this connection I hope that we are able to get our HF antenna repaired at Cyprus Hall soon since “On the air nights” don’t mean much if we don’t have an antenna connected. My own action in moving the 15m lunchtime net to 20m after more than 30 years on 15 have proved sensible since the participants mainly in the Burgess Hill are can at least hear themselves now and we are getting the odd call in from friends around Europe on 20m that couldn’t hear us on 15.

It also enables those further afield to hear us on Hack Green if they wish.

John Berry’s recent talks on Antennas and propagation reinforced my oft repeated thoughts that it's all about antennas. Please don’t go and spend thousands on a new rig and then hang a long wire onto it that really doesn’t make much sense, rather, go and talk to those in the Club who work lots of DX and ask their advise on what will suit you best or come over to Cuckfield and see some wire antennas that really do work.

I look forward to hearing many of you on HF or even HY in the near future, remember MSARS are a group who are here to help each other so, if you need help, ask for it at any time.

73, Ken G3WYN

Geoffrey Frederick Davis FCA ATII

- G6MJW -

1 September 1931 to 7 January 2019

As many of you know Geoff sadly passed away last month after a long battle with Alzheimer's and other health issues. He was a modest man with a fantastic memory. He qualified as a Chartered Accountant and Chartered Tax Advisor and after working in London and Brighton went on to run his own business for many years. Accountancy is a



pedantic world and Radio gave him some mental relief from the day job.

Geoff was born in Mitcham in 1931 and grew up during the Second World War. Even as a youth his love of radio listening was born and he admitted he was often in trouble with his parents during the war for listening to Lord Haw-Haw (strictly forbidden then!) His school friend described to me Geoff's love of music and the speakers he built with "suitable woofers and tweeters, plenty of oomph and preferably able to make the room vibrate".

He campaigned for Commercial Radio writing lengthy missives to parliament about his views on freedom of broadcasting and was over the moon when Radio Caroline started. When we set up home and I saw the size of the loud speakers that were moved in as bedside cabinets I asked had I married a man or a radio. He woke me once in the early

hours so excited that he had picked up Radio New York on his old valve radio, A freak signal never to be heard again.



He became a CB radio operator in the 1970s with the handle Stingray and from that grew the desire to become a Radio Amateur. He duly passed the then “B” licence exams and earned the licence number G6MJW. He joined Mid Sussex Amateur Radio Society and held various positions on the committee over the years. I have been looking through the website pictures and I think Geoff joined MSARS in about 1982. The Great Storm of 1987

caused devastation to so many trees in the area but Geoff found a Poplar tree branch broken off at the side of one of the local roads. He “planted” the branch and it started to grow ultimately becoming the mast for the HF aerial – no planning permission needed !



Geoff like many of us was relieved when the Licencing rules changed in 2003. He had struggled so hard for many years to try and learn the Morse code but could never achieve the proficiency then required to gain an “A” licence. (*G6 + 3 letters 1981 – 1983. Originally issued to Class B (RAE only) with restrictions to frequencies above 30MHz. Classes A (RAE + 12wpm CW/5wpm CW post 2001) and B (RAE only) were merged into the Full Licence following the removal of Morse requirements for access to HF frequencies in 2003.*) He was so thrilled the evening he heard an Australian Amateur calling and was able to make contact.



Geoff enjoyed assisting with the Brighton Rally (MSARS duties were car park control) which some of you will remember and some years later could be seen on Sundays at Amberley Museum sharing the pleasure of the hobby with members of the public visiting the radio station on the site. There is a lovely 2003 picture on the MSARS website of Geoff with our late President Jack G3JMB and his wife Margaret together with Tony G3XQM by the Museum Shack.



In later years Geoff was not a prolific operator but listening gave him great pleasure. Even as the Alzheimer's robbed him of so much he would ask if the club was active and did I still have the amateur radios. Ken G3WYN had been testing a hand held radio at the nursing home so that Geoff could listen in again but sadly his failing health prevented this happening.



I and our sons have had so many lovely messages relating to Geoff so I would like to finish with just one:-

“Very sorry to hear about Geoff, it must have been 38 years ago when we all met for the first time in the Hassocks hotel.

The CB club was the beginning for many of us.

Geoff was a real gentleman and guided me on many things in those far off days.

I for one will miss him.” Chris G4ZCS

Sue G6YPY

MSARS Officers & Committee

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