



Above: Marconi with members of the Poldhu Amateur Radio Club. Above right: Lady Mary Holborrow sends the Morse 'Ss' to VO1S. Right: Lt Mickey Rooney RN and the Thunderer Squadron spark transmitter.



in Cornwall, Worsley Communications and Linear Amp UK. Even Mullion Parish Council funded two Morse keys.

The centre on the cliffs overlooking Poldhu Cove (Locator IO70IA, WAB SW61) is open to the public - see the panel on page 43 for times. Entrance is free although donations are welcome - the whole project has completely emptied the club's piggy bank.

The day's event's ended with a celebration dinner. Lady Mary Holborrow said that she felt Guglielmo Marconi senior had been with them in spirit during the day's events, a view echoed by all who attended.

... At Chelmsford, by members of CARS*

ON SATURDAY 8 December, members of the Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society (CARS) operated GX0MWT from the RSGB GB4FUN van located in Chelmsford High Street to mark the centenary of the first transmission across the Atlantic. The highlight of the day was when Marconi's daughter, Princess Elettra, escorted by CARS Vice-President Charles Shelton, G0GJS, sent the following message to VO1S on Signal Hill, Newfoundland: "In celebration of the occasion of the Marconi Centenary of the first Atlantic radio transmission, the Princess Elettra sends greetings to the people of Newfoundland and to all who have benefited from the invention of Guglielmo Marconi, my father."

Four days later, on the actual anniversary, members of CARS operated a station with the very special callsign 2MT from the Marconi New Street factory in Chelmsford. 2MT, or '2 Emma Toc' as it was known, was the callsign of the station originally set up in Chelmsford by Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Company and run by Captain P P Eckersley in order to provide the first regular public broadcasts.

Special event station 2MT was established just 12 metres from Guglielmo Marconi's original office in New Street. It comprised all Marconi-produced equipment: H1550 /



Princess Elettra Marconi sending her greetings message to VO1S on 20m SSB from the station in the RSGB GB4FUN van located at Chelmsford.

H2550 drive/receiver, H1086 400W transmitter and H1482 ATU to an AWW whip antenna.

The operators used a variety of Morse keys during the day including a replica of the Grasshopper key, named after its distinctive shape, and originally used in 1896. This key proved a 'challenge' to those who attempted to use it, and only Donald Imber, G0VIS, managed to perfect the technique for sending readable Morse with it.

In addition to 2MT, the Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society also operated GX0MWT from the Chelmsford Science and Industrial Museum. One of the antennas used was an aerial kite similar to that used by Marconi 100 years ago. The kite, which stands over 2.5m high, was flown by Tony Gilbey, G4YTG, and put a very strong signal into Newfoundland. In all 85 kite contacts were made.



Donald Imber, G0VIS, operating 2MT (in this case, using an ordinary Morse key).

* Details from David Bradley, M0BQC, e-mail: DavidWBradley1@activemail.co.uk or visit the club's website at www.g0mwt.free-online.co.uk/