



# Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society Newsletter

## March Meeting

Tue 5-Mar-2024, 7:30pm  
Danbury Village Hall

## Lightship Talk

By Sarah Case, FACT

For March we are privileged to have the folk behind the vessel - the Fellowship Afloat Charitable Trust, FACT - [www.fact.org.uk](http://www.fact.org.uk), who look after the Tollesbury Light Vessel, but who have quite wide range of other activities.

Sarah Case who is a Funding Officer at FACT will be giving us a talk all about the vessel and their wider and very worthy work.

The vessel itself was the site that CARS have operated from a few times for ILLW - International Lighthouse & Lightship Weekend - most recently as Special Event Station GB5TLV in August 2023

Andy G0IBN will also cover more about our amateur radio experience – on a great salty groundplane  
As usual, we will have the famous raffle - with tea/coffee, biscuits and a warm welcome



**APRIL is coming– Marconi Day Operators required; and...  
Constructors Competition entries**

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## Club Diary

Tue 5-Mar-2024	CARS Meeting – Lightship Talk	Danbury Village Hall
Tue 2-Apr-2024	CARS Meeting – Constructors Competition – with Cash Prizes!	Danbury Village Hall
Sat 27-Apr-2024	IMD – International Marconi Day – the 150 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	BAE Great Baddow

## Club Nets

CARS meets for talks/events on the first Tuesday of the month. The subsequent Tuesdays have club radio nets as follows below and dates listed on our calendar at [www.g0mwt.org.uk/main/events/categories/net/](http://www.g0mwt.org.uk/main/events/categories/net/) :-

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in the Month – VHF**  
The CARS VHF FM Net uses GB3DA from Danbury starting at 8pm (local).  
**GB3DA** is 145.125MHz Input and 145.725MHz Output - and CTCSS-only (110.9Hz), 2min timeout  
If for any reason GB3DA is not available then 145.375 Simplex will be used. Vertical aerials are best for this
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday in the Month - UHF**  
The CARS UHF FM Net uses GB3ER from Danbury and starting at 8pm (local).  
**GB3ER** is 434.675MHz Input and 433.075MHz Output - and is CTCSS-only  
Vertical aerials are best.
- **4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday in the Month - HF**  
The CARS 80m Net on "3756kHz" Night, SSB and starting at 8pm (local).  
Horizontal aerials are best. The idea is to enable distant CARS Members to join the Net.
- **5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday in the Month (when there is one!) - MF**  
This is the CARS Top Band Net on 1947/1950 kHz +/-QRM, LSB and starting at 8pm (local).  
Horizontal aerials are usually used for this Net. A reminder - limit your power to a max of 30 Watts, please.

## Training & Morse Classes

If you are interested in these or other opportunities in 2024, please contact **John O'Connell M0JOC** our training coordinator and Exam Secretary. Please also spread the word to potential candidates!

**We can also accommodate exam-only sessions, or other fast-track courses at Danbury**

John can be contacted via [training2024@g0mwt.org.uk](mailto:training2024@g0mwt.org.uk) or 07868-004380

More info and other updates are at: [www.g0mwt.org.uk/training](http://www.g0mwt.org.uk/training) - and the updated RSGB Course Finder

**Online Morse Classes:** Thursday evenings at 7pm. Coordinated by Andy G0IBN who has on-air practice sessions and via Skype too... <https://join.skype.com/clsfKXKmlNvf>

- "Beginners" class will be starting on Thursday 4th April,
- Other courses available are an "Improvers" class, 10 to 15wpm:
- "Morse Development Group" 15wpm+ : "Advanced" class for the techniques of "Head copying"

- contact Andy via [morse2024@g0mwt.org.uk](mailto:morse2024@g0mwt.org.uk) - or feel free to enquire about the Essex CW Boot Camp

 Follow @TrainWithCARS

## February Meeting: VHF Hands-on & Ofcom Update



The February provided a great opportunity to get hands on using the new club VHF Antenna at Danbury which happens to be one of the highest points in Essex. This let folk get experience on the air as well as a great opportunity to socialise, or catch up after the recent Canvey Rally a few days before.

It was also a unique opportunity to hear a live update on the imminent new Ofcom licence and what it may mean for Operating, Bandplan and Training changes.



CARS is pleased to have amongst its members, Murray G6JYB, who as RSGB Spectrum Chair has been close to the action on the Ofcom changes. The Ofcom consultation ran from June to September last year and received nearly 1400 responses.

### Ofcom Consultation Update

- Ofcom Consultation ran from June to September 2023, covering both licence conditions and the wider policy framework
- Ofcom Statement, Summary and ~1400 responses published on 11 December
- A 'General Notice' period and implementation phases now follow...

**NB: The General Notice has a deadline for comments of 5pm Monday 22 January**


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Following Ofcom's statement in December which basically set the policy direction and draft of the new conditions, a further notice period ran until 22<sup>nd</sup> January which saw ~90 further individual 'representations'.



The changes come in three phases with the new conditions being part of the first phase, whilst various changes to Callsigns and Special Events come later in the year – and eventually a new online IT system

The 2024 RSGB Bandplans have several changes in VHF/UHF in particular to support the licence changes – and remember to revalidate your online details and to re-assess your EMF if using the new power limits

### Ofcom Phased Implementation

Phase 1 (Licence variation required) – by end of February 2024	Phase 2 (Licensing platform modification or other Ofcom action required) - we plan for this to be in 2024	Phase 3 (new licensing platform required) – we plan for this to be later in the 2024/25 financial year
Allow third party supervised operation. RSL use optional and allow wider use of 'E' for England. Special RSL notification. Call sign suffix provisions. Increased transmit power.	New Intermediate M8 and M9 call sign prefix. Restriction on the number of call signs. Liberalisation of the use of the Special Event Station NoV.	Improvements to the online revalidation process. Holding of a single personal licence and revocation of lower licence as a licensee progresses. Choice of wider range of unused amateur call signs via the online portal.

Note: Phase-1 includes numerous other changes as part of the new licence terms


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**Note:** Ofcom's finalised conditions and new guidance were announced on Wed 21<sup>st</sup> February

More on [www.rsgb.org/licencereview](http://www.rsgb.org/licencereview) and [www.rsgb.org/licensing](http://www.rsgb.org/licensing)

## April Constructors Competition

Get ready for our annual competition - complete with Cash Prizes!

Electronics, metalwork or even software are all valid entries. The only entry rule is that it must be safe. The Prizes and certificates are for:-

- 1st Place - £30      *Photo: lasts year's winner Andy G1GKN*
- 2nd - £20
- 3rd - £10
- Newcomers - £20

You will need to present your entry to the audience, who will vote during the break. Don't be shy! - bring your effort along - both hardware and software are eligible. Look at [last years competition](#) to give you an idea,



## For Sale-1 – Hi-Fi Tuners

Murray G6JYB has a pair of hi-fi tuners surplus to requirements, both working. Great audio quality – offers welcome

### Rotel 850AL - LW-MW-FM



Synthesised inc memories and includes a LW/MW loop antenna at the rear

### Videologic-601E DAB inc remote control



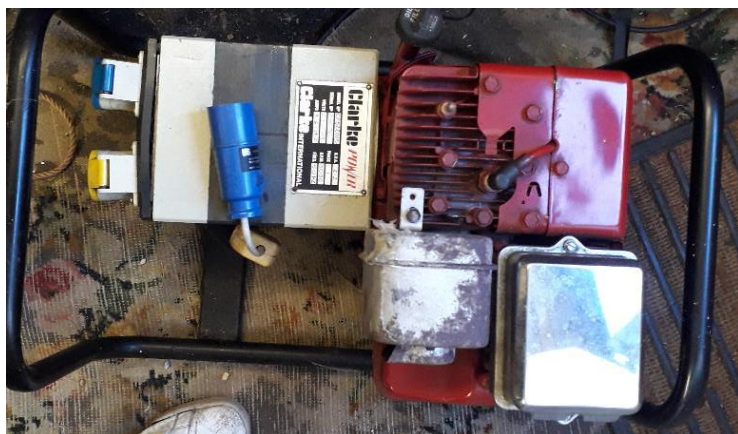
Note: Videologic was the original brand name for Pure - for info this is DAB, not DAB+

**For Sale-2 – Power !**

Andy G0IBN is assisting to clear surplus items – two generators and a Yagi – any offers welcome



**6.5kW Generator**



**2.2kW Generator**



**3- element Yagi**

**Tony Gilbey G4YTG – Silent Key**



Former CARS President and antenna expert Tony Gilbey G4YTG sadly passed away on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024.

More details to follow...

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