



# **Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society**

## **Newsletter**

### **April Meeting**

**Tue 2-Apr-2024, 7:30pm**  
**Danbury Village Hall**

### **Constructors Competition**

**By CARs Members**

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
- 2nd - £20
- 3rd - £10
- Newcomers - £20

You will need to present your entry to the audience, who will vote during the break. Dont be shy! - bring your effort along - both hardware and software are eligible. Look at [last years competition](#) to give you an idea ,

It is also a great social opportunity to meet and chat to friends.

As usual, we will have the famous raffle - with tea/coffee, biscuits and a warm welcome



## **Marconi Day Operators required; and... Constructors Competition entries**

### **In this issue:-**

Club Diary.....	2	Marconi Day – Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> April .....	4
Club Nets.....	2	May Meeting – Multimode Digital Voice.....	4
Training & Morse Classes .....	2	Tony Gilbey G4YTG – Silent Key .....	5
March Meeting: FACT / Tollesbury Light Vessel.....	3		

## Club Diary

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
Tue 7-May-2024	CARS Meeting – Multimode Digital Voice – Oscar Wood 2E1HWE	Danbury Village Hall

## 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

## March Meeting: FACT / Tollesbury Light Vessel

For March we had a great overview and presentation of FACT, the 'Fellowship Afloat Charitable Trust', by Sarah Case who is their funding officer.

Better known by the abbreviation FACT, their website is - [www.fact.org.uk](http://www.fact.org.uk) and are best known for them being the trustees for the Tollesbury Light Vessel. However they have a wide range of other activities; and history dating back to the latter half of the 1960s and earlier vessels.

Sarah started with some background on the work of the trust, its volunteers and earlier vessels, the Sail Lofts where they are based and how Trinity was acquired



The trust is very much aimed at youth development and activities. It also has a company that owns the local berths and boatyard, fees from which provide support for the charitable ventures. Visitors will know it's a major saltmarsh area with the high tide able to catch you out !

Nowadays it also has a bursary fund for those youngsters may not be able to afford the course / accommodation fees.

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 – on a great salty groundplane which really helped!

Thanks Sarah for a really informative evening!



The Sail Lofts (with the tide in!)

[www.fact.org.uk](http://www.fact.org.uk)

## Marconi Day – Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April

Guglielmo Marconi was born on 25th April 1874. International Marconi Day is celebrated every year on the Saturday closest to his birthday – and this year is the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary! (1874-2024).

CARS is registered as an official IMD award station and will be operating as GX0MWT.

This year International Marconi Day will be on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

CARS are able to operate from BAE Systems at Great Baddow, formerly the Marconi Research Centre.

It is hoped to operate a couple of stations on HF (80 to 10m) running from 1000 to 1600 BST. One aim is to achieve the award for working 15 other IMD stations.

### Operators / attendees:

CARS members wishing to attend should email Paul G4PVM – [g4pvm@g0mwt.org.uk](mailto:g4pvm@g0mwt.org.uk) asap to let him know what times they plan to be on site and which bands they would prefer to operate on.

NB pre-registration is essential for site security access etc.



---

## May Meeting – Multimode Digital Voice

Our next meeting on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May is a talk by Oscar Wood 2E1HWE on Multimode Digital Voice Modems (MMDVM).

A wide variety of these are available as either standalone modules or Raspberry-Pi add-ons - most commonly for low-power hotspots and gateways.

The evening will include a demo, as well as an update on Oscar's new multimode repeater 2E1HWE-R, which is one of the first under the new Ofcom 5W erp licence clause.

All welcome – refreshments on offer and our famous raffle too



**Background:** Oscar is keeper of the MB7ISX gateway and gave us a talk in November 2021 on AllStar

## Tony Gilbey G4YTG – Silent Key



Former CARS President and antenna expert Tony Gilbey G4YTG sadly passed away on Friday 23rd February 2024, aged 94.

Tony eventually rose to be the Chief Engineer of BT Maritime Services, from which he retired in 1989.

John M0JOC drafted this RSGB Obituary below for Tony, based in part on Tony's own bio that he wrote for the Jan-2018 CARS Newsletter " My Life in Amateur Radio"

### Funeral

- Tony's funeral will be on Tuesday 9th April at 12-noon,
- St Andrews Church, Melbourne Avenue, Chelmsford, CM1 2DT (near Chignal Road).
- There will be a wake afterwards in the church hall

## Tony Gilbey G4YTG – February 2024 – by John M0JOC

Tony's parents bought him an SX24 Hallicrafters receiver when he left Technical College to start work with the GPO as a "Youth in Training". His family used it as the main set at home and he would listen to "The Shaving Club" on Top band. During his two-year GPO training he was given day release to study 'The National Certificate in Light Current Electrical Engineering (Radio and Telephone)' at Chelmsford college, where he met some Marconi Apprentices. Together they built radio equipment from ex-government hardware "recovered" from the scrap yard at Marconi Wood St. Chelmsford. Most of the kit was new and unused.

During his GPO training, he was sent to work with all the sections for experience of telephone fitting, exchange maintenance and "Poles and Holes" – telephone wires and underground cable jointing, basically a lead plumbing job! Those were also the days of compulsory National Service and his call-up was delayed until he had the certificate. Immediately after came the dreaded call-up and an order to report to Royal Signals, Catterick Camp. After the initial square-bashing, Tony used the radio qualification to persuade them to assign him as a Radio Mech rather than a Tele Mech where most of the GPO employees went by default.

He started the 20-week Royal Signals course which had a test each week that you had to pass or do the week again. Tony managed to pass top of the class each week as it was the same theory as his National Certificate. He finished the course two weeks early, was placed on an instructors course and promoted to Lance Corporal. Within weeks he was teaching regular soldiers including ones who'd failed the 20-week Radio Mech course he was on!

The unit had a fully equipped radio club and the mechs were encouraged to spend some free time in the evenings there. They had two 70ft masts with a 280ft dipole, two 25W army transmitters on a control desk with two AR88 receivers. Anyone with a licence was allowed to operate or listen on the 5 or 6 HROs spread around the hut. Tony was made Troop Sergeant in charge of 20 instructors on the practical half of the course before he was demobbed.

On returning to the GPO, Tony asked for a job in radio and they immediately appointed him "Radio and Television Interference Investigation Officer". The role included amateur inspections where licensees had to have the station inspected yearly to check the power and frequency accuracy of their transmitters (nearly all homemade in those days). He often spent his evenings listening to the very friendly hams he'd met, inspected and signed off in his day job.

In 1960 he was moved to a new position at the Post Office London HQ within the microwave link division and he was involved in the aerials and construction of the General Post Office tower which opened in 1965.

On one occasion he took his wife June to see the tower and aerial arrays before it was fully commissioned into service. Tony realised after leaving the tower that he'd left his watch near the top of the aerial array section. He returned in the early evening but the lifts had been taken out of service for maintenance and so he had to take the stairs all the way up past 16 floors of equipment and to the top of the 115 feet of aerial arrays and back down!

Tony was involved in sorting out the loss of TV services from the tower after an IRA bomb exploded in the toilets above the aerial galleries in 1971.

Whilst in the microwave group, Tony took his amateur licence exam and became G8ZWX with mobile gear in his car being used as he visited the microwave stations in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

His next move was to the Aerial and Structures Group, dealing with the erection of Towers and Dish and Horn aerials for the rapidly growing UK inland microwave service. Tony was then offered the Head of Aerials and Structures post at BT. This included Overseas Services Stations, HF Aerials at Rugby with 900ft masts and Ongar, Dorchester, all the UK MF coast stations and the big dishes at Goonhilly. Tony once commented "What a job for a Radio Ham – I was able to play radio with all this expensive gear, having also by this point passed the morse test, so I was G4YTG – and being paid as my job was my hobby!"

He was also directly involved in the design and development of the 300ft Spyrocone antenna with a company external to BT which was deployed at Rugby and used for BA's Concorde flights.

Tony's final move was to be appointed as Chief Engineer of BT Maritime Services from which he retired in 1989. He was very proudly responsible for Portishead Radio GKA and all its aerial arrays at Somerton.

Tony was a very well-liked and highly-respected member of Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society, serving as President between 2015 and 2023. He stood down in October 2023 due to failing health but kept in touch with the club on a regular basis until his passing in February 2024. I still recall the first time I met him the evening I passed my Foundation exam in November 2018. He asked how I'd got into the hobby and I mentioned having been a Radio Officer in the Merchant Navy in the 70s and early 80s – that was it... we spent an hour talking about GKA, Somerton and everything BT Maritime. He was a very kind man and he recently gifted me his Rugby Morse key, Katsumi EK-150 electronic key and a Racal RA-1217 receiver, all from GKA.

Tony, G4YTG – it was an honour and a pleasure to have known you.

A final word from Tony: "Rapid promotion from "Youth in Training" to Chief Engineer in 44 Years! I enjoyed every bit of it and I try to keep up to date, but I have a certain amount of worry with these tiny three-legged fuse things called transistors."

John O'Connell, M0JOC

**SK Pages for Tony:**

CARS: [http://www.g0mwt.org.uk/society/g4ytg-sk/tony-gilbey\\_g4ytg.htm](http://www.g0mwt.org.uk/society/g4ytg-sk/tony-gilbey_g4ytg.htm)

RSGB: <https://rsgb.org/main/blog/news/silent-keys/2024/03/19/tony-gilbey-g4ytg-23-february-2024/>

---

**Copyright – Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society - All contributors acknowledged**

**Editor:** [editor@g0mwt.org.uk](mailto:editor@g0mwt.org.uk)

**Newsletter and Archive:** <http://www.g0mwt.org.uk/newsletter>