## newsletter

# wythall radio club

"having fun with rf"

wythall contest group

facebook.com/wythallradioclub www.wythallradioclub.co.uk

Nov -Dec 2014

Wythall Radio Club meets from 8pm every Tuesday and Friday evening at Wythall House, Wythall Park, Silver Street, Wythall, B47 6LZ, near Birmingham. Visitors are very welcome. Wythall Radio Club is affiliated to the Radio Society of Great Britain. Contact g0eyo@blueyonder.co.uk

### No blood spilt at the AGM!

The Wythall Radio Club Annual General Meeting to place on Tuesday 21st October at Wythall House. Some 32 members attended and behaved themselves. The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer gave their reports on what has been a very successful year for the club. The minutes of the meeting have been circulated to members via the G4WAC Yahoo Forum and a copy placed in the Yahoo files section.

A ballot was taken for the officers and committee member positions and the results were as follows:

Mike G4VPD elected as Chairman with 32 votes

Anita M6DUO elected as Secretary with 31 votes

Ian M0IDR elected as Treasurer with 32 votes

The votes for the 6 committee places were as follows:

Peter M5DUO elected with 32 votes Jim 2E0BLP elected with 32 votes Lee G0MTN elected with 32 votes Kevin 2E0NCO elected with 32 votes Phil 2E0WTH elected with 31 votes John M1JSS elected with 32 votes

David G0ICJ and Chris G7DDN acted as Tellers for the ballot.

The Constitution was amended to reflect the fact that whilst the club year ends on 31st August all subs must be paid by the beginning of the AGM for that year, rather than end of November.

Also on a show of hands the committee's decision in February to recommend an increase in subscriptions from £15 to £20 to cover basic rent and insurance costs was ratified by a majority with only two opposing.



The highlights of the year were a very successful Xmas and Easter Contest, DF Hunt, Xmas party and profitable Rally in March. G100RSGB was also an extraordinary two day event that went off very well and attracted some very high power visitors.

Every month Chris G7DDN has arranged visits from interesting speakers on a wide variety of subjects.

The website continues to be updated and is visually and factually one of the best club websites in the country and the G4WAC Yahoo group continues to be the club's main format for communicating with members.

We have spent a significant amount of money on new equipment and facilities this year with a complete replacement of the main antenna system, feeders and rotator; a new collinear and repeater antenna; two new easy ups for portable and special event use; winkeys, pmr sets and morse sounders.

The classroom and entrance walls and floors have been re-painted, making it a nice environment for training and meetings.

The club held Foundation, Intermediate and Advanced courses through the year and also introduced an on-line Foundation course for those anywhere in the UK that cannot get access to a classroom based course.

Morse classes are held every Tuesday and open Committee meetings every month. We took part in VHF Field Day and SSB Field Day in the park's far field and we assisted the WCA in their hosting of the Fun-

Run, Carnival (which had to be cancelled due to bad weather) and Bonfire night.

We received a grant from John M1JSS's employer Western Power Distribution which paid for the new repeater antenna and also from the Fun-Run committee for our assistance in providing communications at their event.

It wasn't an entirely happy year though. In December we heard of the untimely and sudden death of Colin M0GJM and similarly at Easter we lost Walter M0GRO. We were able to dispose of Colin's equipment on behalf of his family and Walter's family kindly donated his equipment to the club for our use and club funds. We have named the Annual Xmas Fox Hunt after Colin, with a suitable trophy and similarly for Walter, the Easter Contest now has two trophies in his memory.

I have no doubt 2015 will be just as exciting with fresh challenges. We have a new venue for the Rally, back at Wythall Park after 11 years away, and we have the GB3WL 70cms repeater to go live. All the above is possible because a lot of people give up their time to make it so.

For that we thank you.

### RSGB advice for responding to the Ofcom consultation

The Ofcom Amateur Licence Review consultation period finished on 20<sup>th</sup> October and we hoped that WRC members took the opportunity to read the proposals and make their own views known. No-one has much confidence that our views are going to be taken into account by Ofcom and we are our own worst enemy, as at a recent count only 300 radio amateurs had responded (although probably a lot more now). On another consultation this year with regard to extending spectrum access to various parties between 143MHz - 169MHz apparently more CBers responded than did amateurs.

Ofcom proposed a number of changes to the licence and Q1,6,7 and 8 are listed below with the recommended RSGB response. I have not included the more detailed explanations of the proposal, these can be found at <a href="http://rsgb.org/main/operating/licensing-novs-visitors/licence-review/rsgb-guidance-responding-ofcom-consultation-updating-amateur-licence/">http://rsgb.org/main/operating/licensing-novs-visitors/licence-review/rsgb-guidance-responding-ofcom-consultation-updating-amateur-licence/</a>

**Question 1:** Do you agree with the proposal to include, as a matter of course, the 470 kHz and 5 MHz bands into the Licence for all Amateur Radio (Full) licensees?

### Q1 suggested RSGB response:

**'No – Not as proposed.** I agree that the bands should be made available to all Full Licencees but in exactly the same way as other bands to which amateurs have access on a Secondary basis. The standard wording applicable to other amateur bands should suffice i.e:

"Secondary. Available on the basis of non-interference to other services inside and outside the UK"

Furthermore some of the proposed clauses set concerning precedents that if subsequently applied to other bands would radically change specific aspects of amateur radio in the UK. Of particular concern is Paragraph 2.26.6, which should be omitted entirely, as well as the phrase 'electronic equipment' in 2.26.3

With respect to Paragraph 2.26.6, near-field measurements at these frequencies are very difficult to determine with any accuracy and in any case are irrelevant at the power levels in use. Clause (e) in Notes to Schedule1 of the existing licence is sufficient and does not need to be reinforced in relation to the 472kHz entry.'

**Question 6:** Do you agree that Clause 13 of the Licence should be amended to

allow for a simpler, more flexible approach for identifying Amateur Radio stations?

### Q6 suggested RSGB response:

'No – Not as proposed. A clear definition of callsign usage and the current maximum interval of 15-minutes should be retained. However the requirements that a station must be clearly identifiable at all times and that the identity be given in a format consistent with the modulation in use are supported (but that specific terms such as voice or Morse Code should not be used).'

**Question 7:** Given the current uncertainty amongst Radio Amateur licensees in relation to Clause 2(2), do you believe that it would be a practical solution for Ofcom to remove this clause and to insert additional wording into Clause 13, as proposed above?

Note—Q7 and Q8 (for Intermediate Licensees) need to be read together as both affect the use of RSLs.

"The Licensee shall use the following appropriate Regional Secondary Locator after the United Kingdom Callsign prefix "G", "M" or "2" as specified in Section 1, when identifying the Radio Equipment in accordance with Clause 13(1):"

and Ofcom's comments that "we understand that there is confusion as to exactly what Clause 2(2) means"

It has been a licensing requirement in the UK for many decades to use the relevant RSL to indicate the location of the transmitter. As well as a requirement it has become custom and practice amongst UK amateur licence holders and the RSLs are deeply embedded into amateur psyche. This arrangement has also been acknowledged and understood by amateurs outside the UK. The implications of making the RSL optional could be huge including causing confusion in DXCC, contests and within the VHF/UHF community in easily determining beam headings, etc.

The consultation refers to confusion within the Amateur Radio community. However the root cause of the problem appears to be within Ofcom who at times have issued a mixture of licences with the RSL embedded or not embedded in the core main station address callsign. The proposed change will certainly cause confusion resulting from the optional inclusion of the RSL for Foundation and Full Licence holders and the related, but very different, Question 8 mandatory changes for Intermediate Licence holders.

It is clear that the changes outlined in both Question 7 and Question 8 below constitute a major impact. The RSGB's view is that the arrangements for the call sign prefix in our current licence meets the requirements laid down in the ITU Radio Regulations. We thus have the opinion that no change is necessary. We consider Ofcom should listen to and respect the Stakeholder position for "no change" and "if it is not broken don't fix it". A better approach would be for Ofcom to fix the root cause of the problem mentioned in the paragraph above.

(continued on Page 3)



### Is this you? - thoughts on operating

My rant ensues as the result of a recent contest experience..

Imagine the scene. You are in a bar or other social setting and want to chat with someone. You are not successful and for various reasons, so you decide to do the following:

You can't hear the other person and start to shout. He hasn't heard you so you start to shout continuously, drowning out the conversation your mate is trying to listen to.

You can hear the other person but decide to yak away regardless of whether they are conversing or not. You butt into a conversation which has already been started and is still going on.

The person talking asks "Horatio, what do you think"? Your name is Xerxes and you butt in.

The person asks "Is there anybody here from Newcastle"? You answer "Yes I am from Ulan Bator".

Someone who knows that you are from Ulan Bator (not Newcastle) shouts that you should go away, repeatedly. Thus

disrupting the conversation that was going on before.

You are not sure that you can be heard so you start to screech "Waaalow" "Ola" (Pick your language) and start whistling. Or buy a device which makes an horrendous whistling noise which disturbs the conversation of the others.

Not acceptable behaviour, correct?

I recently made a comment on the reflector about this problem (Which has gone on forever).

A few comments made in response spring to mind:

Callers too keen and don't listen (Answer: listen some more)

Un-gentlemanly behaviour (Answer: behave yourself! And listen)

Sometimes there is a lack of information from the Dx station (Answer: listen some more and do not transmit until you know what he is doing/where he is listening).

The "Police". Someone does something wrong (like calling on the wrong frequency,

calling from the wrong geographic area) and half of the world starts yelling about the transgression. In the process, causes even more problems and confusion. (Answer: listen).

I recommend the Dx Code of Conduct page as being worthy of a read. 1<sup>st</sup> point is, I think, the most valuable: listen, listen, listen.

The Code of Conduct page is here: <a href="http://www.dx-code.org/english.html">http://www.dx-code.org/english.html</a>

As a postscript, on the reflector there was some mention of operating split frequency. One member was unsure about how to do this and was worried about trying it as his rig manual made some dire warnings about damaging the tranceiver. A corporation trying to protect themselves from possible legal liability in my opinion.

If anyone needs to find out how to work split frequency, there is plenty of expertise within the club.

Stan G4JGV

### Ofcom licence consultation continued

Q7 suggested RSGB response:
'No – there is no need to change current mandated and widely accepted practice. Any change of current practice will lead to both confusion and disruption both nationally and internationally. To do otherwise would do away with more than 50 years of practice, widely understood throughout the world and would create far more confusion than is currently alleged to exist'

**Question 8:** Do you agree with Ofcom's proposal to amend Clause 2(3) of the Licence to require Intermediate licensees to transmit a call sign that reflects the location of their main station?

Compared to the proposal in Question-7, this introduces a totally different (and potentially discriminatory) requirement for Intermediate Licensees. Furthermore by locking the callsign to the main station address rather than the actual location of the transmission, serious confusion arises (with for example a 2W0xxx station operating as that in Scotland for example). This would be in conflict with

the Q6 requirement for clear identification and be inconsistent with Foundation and Full licensees.

**Q8 suggested RSGB response:**'No I disagree – All call sign classes should be treated in the same way by retaining the current clause in respect of the

Cornwall to get K as RSL

callsign prefix'

We were all shocked when right in the middle of the Ofcom licence review they announced that they had granted Cornwall the special regional secondary locator of K on the grounds that the Cornish parliament was called Kernow. This was done without the RSGB's support.

It certainly looks as if Ofcom are losing the plot. Watch this space for future developments.

# Two dates for the diary: DF Fox Hunt Dec 27th commencing 10am



Wythall Radio Club Xmas Party; Saturday 13th Dec commencing 7pm in Britannia Room



### They are built, now just need connecting up.

The new antenna build at Wythall Radio Club is close to completion! Thanks to an intrepid group of constructors, the dream we had this year of replacing all the antennas on our club mast is almost there. Chairman Mike G4VPD has masterminded the effort, which should see our antennas in place for a good few years to come. Aided and abetted by various stalwarts, he has done an excellent job of bringing the whole project together. Kevin 2E0NCO, John M1JSS, Dave G3YXM and Peter M5DUO probably deserve honourable mentions here, but there are plenty of others too, who have helped in this massive task.

The original antennas where built around 1992 and served us well but they were suffering from corrosion and needed replacing. As the club don't intend to repeat the project again for another 25 years, it was agreed that we should replace the rotator, and feeder cables at the same time. We also took the decision to put a 23cm yagi on the top of the mast so that we can use the 23cm module in the club's IC910.

The stack now includes, from the top:

56 element 23cms Tonna Yagi 19 element 432MHz LFA-LN Yagi, with directive gain of 18.3dBi on a 4.56m boom

13 element 144MHz LFA Yagi , with directive gain of 16.1dBi on a 8m boom 6/6 (12) element 50/70MHz Yagi with directive gain of approx 11dBi on a 5.4m boom

Multiband HF Yagi - XR5-T - 9 element 20 thru 10 m Force12 Yagi on a 3.5m boom, all on a new 20ft stub pole.

A new a Yaesu 2800 heavy duty rotator has been fitted in the cage assembly on the tower and we have replaced the steel



wire luffing ropes on the mast as they are now nearly 25 years old

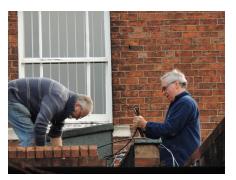
The feeders have been fed through to the shack with just the hardline for the 23cms and rotator cable to do. Then it is just a case of tidying the cables and connecting up and we are QRV on all bands again.

And we suspect there may be a few beers downed in celebration once that is done

Well done Chairman Mike and all the helpers. This has been a mammoth project.











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# Antenna Review: Solacron IMAX 2000 for 12m and 10m band

I always fancied a low-angle vertical for 10m band and after doing my research, came across the Solarcon Imax 2000. It was a toss up between this, a Sigma 4 copy or the Sirio 827. The Sigma 4 is now called the Sirio Vector 4000 and I discounted this one because of the size of the radials which seemed excessive for my plot , Same with the Sirio Vector 4000 which is just too tall. Even so, the Sirio Imax 2000 is still 24 feet in length. But read on, it's actually fairly stealthy for such a tall antenna.

I bought Sirio Imax 2000 from Nevada and it came in a box a couple of days later. Be aware, the box is just over 8 feet long since the antenna is built in three sections. The first two are relatively substantial and the third section is extremely lightweight – although no doubt strong since it feels like solid fibreglass (with the copper wire running up the inside).

This is made for the American market and the first thing you'll notice is that the U bolts – supplied and pre-drilled holes are aimed at a 1.5 inch pole (38mm). I prefer 2 inches and had in mind putting mine on top of a 2 inch steel scaffold tube. I therefore bought a 40mm steel tube, slotted that inside the scaffold tube and widened the holes slightly to accommodate U bolts of 42mm. I'm not a professional engineer so my hole widening was slightly "Heath-Robinson", however I was fairly comfortable with the result.

The base of the antenna is an extruded aluminium section that houses the SO239, the coil and various innards of the antenna and has this integral clamping arrangement. I was quite impressed actually. The factory use a very highgrade glue that perfectly oozes out to weatherproof everything.

The lower section connects to the middle section with a plated screw assembly which I tightened by hand and finally the top section has the same arrangement but in a much smaller design since the top piece is about as thin as a pencil and certainly will waggle around in the wind, although I'm sure with no illeffects.

The two aluminium "wheels" screw up and down which changes the inductance of the coil. As per factory, it seems to come tuned around 27.5Mhz (according to the MFJ analyser) when only 8 feet

off the ground. It's apparent that as you raise this antenna fully, the resonant frequency will rise – as will most antennas to a point. I screwed the wheels right to the top so that I could achieve 28Mhz right through 29.6Mhz however, I have lost the benefit of using this on 15m. If you leave the antenna aimed at around 27.5Mhz, the antenna will behave rather nicely as a half-wave monopole at 21Mhz with SWR of less than 2:1. Changing the resonance up towards 28 (and actually it ended up at around 28.7), my 15m band has gone out of adjustment, just over 3:1 SWR.

Bandwidth is huge, from 21.9 through to 30Mhz, the SWR doesn't go over 2:1. Currently, mine is tuned for 28.7Mhz but the SWR hardly moves from there down towards 25.5Mhz, where the SWR starts to rise, maybe a whisker over 2:1. Then it falls again as it starts to become a half-wave monopole with the SWR falling down to 1:1 at 23.5Mhz. Dropping the frequency further, the SWR just starts to become marginally unacceptable for 15m band. The next time I drop the antenna, I will lower the tuning rings again so that I can comfortably achieve 15m band within 2:1 SWR.

12m is also superb, still behaving like a 5/8th rather well and the SWR seems to stay well under 2:1 SWR. My amplifier copes just fine with anything under 3:1, so I'm happy.

In conclusion, if you can live with the 1.5 inch mounting bracket arrangement, I'd say this was a first-class buy. It is rare that I buy antennas, preferring to make them – but for under £100, I am genuinely impressed.

### Callum M0MCX





## Trying to Build a Successful HF Contest Station

### Episode 4: Where does all the time go?

It hardly seems like two months since writing the last update to the saga. Fortunately there is some progress to report, in that my planning application has been written up and submitted, although I'm about £200 the worse off for the privilege, once the application fee and the costs of the local plan maps are added together.

Last time I mentioned that I'd been collecting examples of successful planning applications, and any suggestions and advice from those that had written them. There was a theme of providing as much information as possible, so I included sections written in a layperson's style on HF radio and antenna theory to describe why I wanted my new antennas to be at a particular height, and of a particular size. It's not just for show, considering the extra effort and cost involved. In the end the "supporting documentation" pack comprised 44 pages, with lots of photos, maps and diagrams. The application is for a lattice mast (retracted height 8 metres, peak height 24 metres), an HF yagi with 40m dipole above, and wire antennas for 40m and 80m. Just so it would be legitimate I am also applying for permission to put up a VHF collinear. The appli-

cation included a section on "Legacy", highlighting that compared with the majority of other planning applications which are for new or extended buildings, which could be expected to essentially exist forever (considering future rebuilds), the tower and antennas would have a very short life in comparison. Another section on "Community" was added to remind the readers of the benefits of amateur radio, including support at local events like the carnival, fun-run and fireworks.

The RSGB Planning Advice booklet recommended not bringing up the issue of TVI "unless you knew it would be raised against you." I'd not seen an application yet where it hadn't been brought up, so I

included sections on RFI, and about the visual impact to the neighbourhood. Effectively I researched the common causes for complaint from planning committees and neighbours and did my best to answer them up front. Speaking of neighbours, I have spoken to neighbours who live next door or own the land next door to mine, and they so far have said they are not concerned about the proposal.

The only disappointment has been finding

23 metres

20 metres

House

out that Bromsgrove Council are reorganising their Planning Department, and a backlog in processing planning applications has built up. Over a month's delay is to be expected. This doesn't really bother me as if I am successful I'd only start station building in the spring and summertime, but it does now mean that any site inspection will be occurring when there are very few leaves left on the trees.

Aside from the planning application, there's been very little work done trying to put the inside station together. Preparing cables isn't the best job to do in 20 minute chunks of free time, working against the clock. All being well I'll find a day or

two of "me time" so I can catch up. I had expected to have had wire antennas up for the winter contest season. But even putting something up temporarily will take quite a bit of time and effort, and I wouldn't have the time to take part seriously. Next year, hopefully...

I'm monitoring the night-time temperature of the new shack as we move into autumn. I've just put up a new curtain rail and curtain, and am fitting some extra draught excluders in an attempt to keep a

> few extra tenths of a degree inside. If the temperature drops too low, I do have a heater in 'frost guard' mode I can also put on a timer to keep tabs on how often it operates. A friend tried to keep a conservatory at a usable temperate one winter, and was rewarded with a large electricity bill for his efforts, so I'll be careful with this. All of the electronic equipment itself should be happy enough with a temperature that would be uncomfortable enough for humans. I think the bigger concern is dampness and moisture which we should be able to avoid.

Outbuilding Outside, the family of rabbits that had taken over the garden during the summer appear to have moved on (or been eaten!), but I'm still on the lookout for squirrels. After hearing that a squirrel had eaten through some of the coax cable for the doublet antenna at the club, I'm now considering how I can protect a future coax run from animals as well as the elements. Digging a trench would

be one solution and going underground, but this also brings its own problems. A spooky coincidence is that my boss from work James ended up reading the last newsletter by accident after Googling for something and finding a link to the online version. He's licensed as a 2E station but with work and family doesn't have a lot of time for the hobby at the moment. So "hello James" if you end up reading this again. I'll leave asking for a pay-rise so I can build more antennas until the next edition.

Lee G0MTN

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### CQWW 1,000 weekend QSOs on a simple vertical.

CQ World-Wide is possibly the biggest contest of the year and having just erected a 5/8th CB antenna (IMAX 2000) recently, I thought I'd try it out for the weekend.

Writing a report for oneself is a bit selfcongratulatory and probably pretty boring for most so let me give you the inspiration to try something new yourself.

We've all heard that 10m can be a real eye -opener and if there is one weekend a year that it come can alive, it's this one. It certainly showed me how fun it can be.

The good news is that for the non-hardened contester, the rules show that a single operator can enter the "Classic" section which means you can only work for a maximum of 24 hours over the two-day period. Ideal for regular guys like us - and particularly suited to the day-time 10m band.

Even with a modest station, 1,000 QSOs are possible in one weekend. N1MM tells me that I operated on 18 hours over the 48 so it's quite do-able. I spent half the time hunting stations down (S&P) and the other half was CQing (Running).

As you would expect, some lovely contacts were made. The scoring is based on the number of QSOs you made multiplied by the number of country multipliers and again, multiplied by something called Zones (a man-made bordered map of the world split into 40 sectors). You can see the map here: http://www.cqww.com/resources.htm.

This means that if you made 20 contact with 5 countries and 3 zones, your score would be 20 x 5 x 3 = 300.

N1MM logger knows already who you have worked so it's great fun as you start typing someone's call into the logging window: The text turns either BLUE (just another QSO, no mult), RED for either a new county or new zone and GREEN if the country AND the zone are new. Greens are great. These are called "Double Mults" and I was pleased to have Iceland, Alaska and India call me for Doubles late in the contest. These really rocket your score up.

I made some recordings for you and have placed them on my website here:

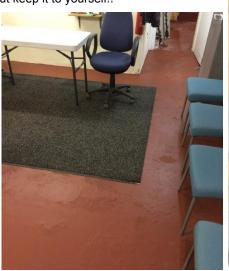
http://www.m0mcx.co.uk/cqww-ssb-2014-example-qso-recordings/

**Callum M0MCX** 

# Club shack and stairs get refurbished

A team of volunteers led by Kev 2E0NCO have spent many hours in the past week or so, redecorating the top of cellar stairs, the stairs and passage-way and the classroom. As you can see they have done a fantastic job. Even the floor got repaired with levelling compound and got re-painted. Kev was supported by Phil 2E0WTH, Mike G4VPD, and Ian M0IDR (forgive me if I have excluded anyone) and we thank them very much for their efforts.

As I know no-one reads these newsletter, I can let you into a little secret. The team tell me they are available for any decorating jobs you need done about the house—but keep it to yourself!!











### 1901 - Our Albert's Invention

### A little ode to our hobby courtesy of Joe G3LLV

Jeremy Boothroyd, a pleasant young lad, Was struck by a story he heard from his dad. It seems that their Albert, of inventive demean, Had come up back then with his latest machine.

It wasn't much to look at, of that I am sure, But promised communications for the rich and the poor. The operator sat in a chair by this wonder And spoke to another one just like it out yonder.

The workings were known to a few of his friends And involved a large generator wired into the mains. One pulled a red lever to make the thing go And spoke down a bugle but with diction quite low.

Now a chap in the States had a code that was slow Meaning messages could go with a suck or a blow. So signaling was changed to his short and a long And comments and greetings went just like a song.

Then it seems that one day there was some kind of arc Which leapt from the circuits with a flash and a spark And fried the poor creature just right where he sat So that all that was left were his boots and a hat.

It doesn't seem right and it doesn't seem proper Though Albert called out loud (but not for a copper). Since he had no insurance - the man was a miser, He hushed it all up so that no one was the wiser.

Well, it happened one day a well-heeled Canadian Was passing the shed where our Arthur was dallying. He spied the invention, including the lad's ash, And offered to buy most of it there and for cash.

What the man wasn't told was the very last input, That went down the bugle before things went kaput, Was an order for breakfast, "Six sausages, Sue", And that one of these S's had stuck in the flue.

This gentleman thought with his luck on the rise
He would transmit some code to the far, other side.
The Atlantic, that is, and it's a very long way
Which would increase his fortune that very same day.

So off to the far corners of the Kingdom he went And erected a pole and then the gear in a tent. Where Albert's device was most firmly erected And fired-up just right in the way he'd expected.

Now he wasn't to know that someone else was out trying To reach the far side where a receiver was laying. So on switch-on the last of the S's went forth On a wavelength much shorter than the other one thought.

While the result to this day is still open to question; And their difference in technique have been one suggestion. Was it Guglielmo's or Albert's the far-side detected? But who cares now? That path is much more than expected.

Joe G3LLV - 2014

# **Training News**

The advanced course is now half way through with the exam planned for Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December. We have ten people sitting the exam; the class of 9 plus Terry 2E0XTV. For that reason we will be using the Britannia Room that evening, which will give us plenty of room for candidates to spread themselves out.

The club will be holding a Foundation Course in the club-room on Monday evenings from 8pm onwards commencing on 26<sup>th</sup> January for 6 weeks with the practical assessments being carried out on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February. The exam

would be on Monday 2nd March. If you think you would be interested in this course then please register your interest with Chris G0EYO on

g0eyo@blueyonder.co.uk.

Simultaneously, for those locally or even further afield and who cannot make to a classroom course and are looking for home study, we will be running an online Foundation course via Edmodo commencing around same time. Obviously, those participating in the on-line Foundation course will have to find a club local to them who can provide practical assessment and exam facilities,

although we will be providing these at Wythall if required. If you are interested in the online Foundation course again register your interest with Chris G0EYO on g0eyo@blueyonder.co.uk

We now have a check list for exam invigilators and exam secretaries to make sure we are administering exams correctly. The RSGB are also going to run a new Train the Trainers session in Tamworth on Sat 31st January and at least a couple of us are planning to go. If you are interested contact Chris G0EYO.

**Chris G0EYO** 

The next issue of the Wythall Radio Club Newsletter will be published at the beginning of Jan 2015

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