



**RAG CHEW**  
GLOUCESTER AMATEUR RADIO AND ELECTRONICS SOCIETY

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Go to the GARES web site for all the latest news [www.g4aym.org.uk](http://www.g4aym.org.uk)  
This paper is formed of articles offered by you the members of the club:

**The Night Before Christmas**

**Roy G3VZR**

*Roy found this in an envelope in a collection of papers circa 1950*

'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house,  
Were empties and butts left around by some louse,  
And the quart I had hid by 'the chimney with care  
Had been swiped by some bum who'd found it down there.

My guests had been, poured long before in their beds,  
To wake in morning with God-awful heads  
My Wife too was cold with her chin in her lap,  
And me - I was dying for another nightcap.

When up from the lawn there arose such a smell  
I sprang to my feet to see what the hell  
Away to the window I tore like a flash,  
Fell over the table and chair with a crash.

The moon on the breast of the new fallen snow  
Made me think of the coal bills and all I did owe.  
When what to my wondering eyes did show up  
But eight bloated reindeer, hitched to a beer truck.

With a little old driver who looked like a hick,  
But I saw it was Santa, as tight as a tick.  
Like great Sherman tanks, those reindeer they came,  
And he hic-cupped and belched as he called them by name

"on Schenley, on Seagram's, we ain't got all night.  
You, too, Haig & Haig, ain't you Black and White.  
Scram up on the roof get the hell off this wall,  
Get going you dummies, we've got a long haul.

So up on the roof went reindeer and truck  
But a tree branch hit Santa before he-could duck.  
And then in a twinkle I heard from above  
A hell of a noise that was no cooing dove

Then I pulled in my head. and cocked a sharp ear,  
Down the chimney he came, right smack on his rear.  
He was dressed up in furs, with cuffs on his pants,  
And the way the guy squirmed, I guessed he had ants.

His droll little mouth made him look a bit wacky,  
And the beard on his chin was stained with tabaccky.  
He had pints and quarts in the sack on his back,  
And a breath that would blow a train off the track.

He was chubby and plump and he tried to stand right,  
But he didn't fool me; he was high as a kite.  
He not all ONbut went straight to his work  
And missed half the stockings, the plastered old jerk.

Then putting five fingers up to his nose,  
He gave me the bird and up the chimney he rose.  
He sprang for the truck and fell flat on his face,  
But finally managed to flop into place.

But I heard him burp back, ere he passed out of sight,  
"Merry Christmas" you Rumdum, now really get tight.

**This Takes the Biscuit**  
**Malcolm G6UGW**

In my shack I have used old biscuit tins for some of my projects - *don't say Oh crumbs!*  
The tins also can be used to make ground planes for vertical antennas.

Being of tin plate construction they are RF shielded and very economical for building projects. I have even built a power supply unit (PSU) in a small biscuit tin!  
(Many will be available in the new year - time to collect them - Ed.)

The uses and tin properties are food for thought you enjoyed the contents of the tin - now you can enjoy using the tin for your construction projects.

Whilst you think about ideas using the tins, this might be something amusing to chew over...

O.M - Did you here about the fight in the biscuit tin?

Y.L - No, why what happened?

O.M - Well, the BANDIT hit the YO-YO with a CLUB, then tied it up with a BLUE RIBBON and escaped in a TAXI. (sic).

That takes the biscuit!

OFCOM Policy Revue...

Several amateurs have been in touch with the RSGB to express concern that they will either be required to progress to become Full Licence or to surrender their Foundation or Intermediate Licence and give up the hobby. In response OFCOM have provided the following statement.

*"Our policy thinking is at an early stage and although we see the benefit in encouraging Radio Amateurs to progress, we do have to think of all the ways that the hobby meets the Amateur Radio community's needs. Whilst it is impossible to pre-empt the outcome of our policy review, we do recognize that progression may not be appropriate for everyone. What we do want to do is try to encourage progression for as many people as possible. It is not the intention of OFCOM to discourage people from the hobby but we want to set up a framework that encourages those interested in pursuing the technical hobby to stretch their knowledge and operating skill. In our analysis we will be consulting on any changes to the licensing arrangements but we will be taking into account the accessibility and diverse interests that is provided by the hobby and we won't be designing a regime that leaves or pushes people out"*

Thank you to those who have contributed to your issue  
If you have an article to share projects, old stories, jokes or cartoons, trips, non radio interests  
e-mail it to me or give it to me on paper  
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