



RAG CHEW

GLOUCESTER AMATEUR RADIO AND ELECTRONICS SOCIETY



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GB4GC



Fiddler on the roof or Alan G4MGW



Lowering the coax down from the roof



Happy campers



Working GB4GC

Churches and Chapels on the Air GB4GC

From Gloucester Cathedral taking part in Churches and Chapels on the Air 13 September 2014 - GB4GC was active, between 10am and 4pm.

Hard work and good preparation for this event by Alan G4MGW (keeper of special station gazebo and portable tables), meant that a good number of GARES members turned up at the cathedral to assist him in the set up and operating the station.

With so many club members available we were split into two teams, with one team setting up the antenna and electrical supply on the roof area and a team putting up the gazebo and setting out the radio equipment and signs.

Special station GB4GC worked 106 Stations that day, the first contact being made at 10:12 BST and on through what turned out to be a successful and interesting day.

The station was closed down at 1600 BST, the closing time is controlled by the cathedral gift shop closing time at 17:00, this is because the access steps up to the roof above the south aisle where the antenna was located are inside the gift shop.

The cathedral members of staff were all very helpful and assisted in their usual polite and cheerful way. Alan is grateful to all those who made this day a success and reports that he is looking forward to next year's GB4GC station.

Congratulations and a pat on the back to all those who took part in its successful operation and promoting our club GARES to the public. [sic]

The Year We Had a Lot of Fun – 1973 (Part 1) Brian G4CIB

We pick up the story with a chance conversation with an uncle of mine who is heavily involved in the Cheltenham Branch of the Royal Observer Corps. He was always interested in what I was up to with my Amateur Radio and I had particularly impressed him with a "handheld" 2 metre transceiver I had built. This consisted of a metal case housing 8 1.5 volt D cells (taking up about half the volume), a little transmitter board, a 2 metre converter and a little tunable IF covering 4-6 Mhz (yes - we were slowly coming round to it) utilising Mullard modules which were available on the surplus market. The recent moon landings had created a lot of interest in the general public particularly with regard to VHF communication and my uncle was fascinated with this little rig I had built. He then told me that the Royal Observer Corps had an underground bunker at Brockhampton in the Cotswolds and they had wondered how good radio communication would be from the site. I believe these sites were to do with the Civil Defence operations in case of a Nuclear War. I told him that we were looking out for a site preferably on the Cotswolds near to Cheltenham where we would want to operate on a 24 hour 2 metre contest in May, and within a few days he had cleared it with his Commanding Officer that we could use the underground bunker! Arthur, G8BRN, Dave, G8DHA and myself did a "reccy" and couldn't believe our luck - a fully equipped underground room with cooking facilities, bunk beds and an operating table! We decided there and then to take up the offer. Arthur G8BRN decided that the time for footling about with small receivers was past and we would use his RA17 with the Nuvistor converter. What a caper it was lowering it down the vertical shaft to the bunker! We also now had the luxury of a generator from you-know-where (all legitimate as the ROC had made contact with GCHQ) which was obviously outdoors at the top of the shaft. The only down side was the constant up and down the ladder to shift the beam antenna - but we were young and fit in those days! Well, with the equipment all safely lowered into the bunker, we set the station up.

We must have had a bit of a glitch because my log book tells me that on Saturday 5th May 1971, our first QSO was logged at 1628 (the contest was from 1600 - 1600 on the Sunday) and was with G8GJI in Stratford-Upon-Avon. My log book also records that we worked steadily through the night, although after midnight it became difficult to find stations we hadn't worked before. Conditions were noted on the RSGB entry paperwork as poor, with weather more akin to March than May so we were glad of our underground shack. We were even paid a visit by the local bobby who had been alerted by the ROC that we would be in the bunker and he joined us in an early morning cup of tea. Only one continental station was worked, F1KCG at a distance of 275 km. The transmitter was a QQV03-20 in the final running 20 watts, the antenna was an 8 over 8 slot fed yagi. I even have a copy of the typed up log (yes - done on an old portable typewriter) I submitted to the RSGB and have noted that we came 16th. Now the strange thing is the log stops abruptly at 12.10. I haven't made a note of why we stopped and I honestly can't remember whether it was a technical problem or whether we realised we had a lot of work to do to remove the equipment from the bunker. Anyway, looking back, it was an enjoyable

contest for Arthur, G8BRN, Dave, G8DHA and myself, and the ROC were appreciative of the log we presented to them showing the locations of the stations we had worked...(to be continued)

YOUR ARTICLE COULD FILL THIS PAGE AND GIVE A LOT OF READING PLEASURE TO FELLOW HAMS

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

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