

# Q5

## North Bristol Amateur Radio Club

### The Proactive Radio Club

Page Community Association

Page Road, Staple Hill

Bristol BS16 4NE

August 2024



*I do miss the old place, Mat. Water over the Electrics, wiping the mould off our kit. It was quire challenging*

It is a year ago we announced the last meeting at our old dilapidated meeting hall, She7, Filton. The last meeting ever was 4<sup>th</sup> August. She7 was the QTH for the club for over 40years. Although in years gone by it was just the ticket for us, the old place didn't move with the times. The roof leaked, walls were damp and the storage area flooded. Our equipment, even in summer was covered in mould. Other than that, there was nothing wrong with it. (Sounds like a Monty Python Sketch)

We are now settled in our new venue with a shack and antennas now fitted. Improvements are still to be made but, with the HF off centre fed dipole one of our members, Dongchi, M0ABO (BI3BO) contacted his home country being China. Not Bad Eh?

Now for the UHF / VHF antennas. On the next page you have a taste of what is happening on the far side of the club's QTH.

Mounted on a separate pole is a very special antenna, this is for the club's repeater, GB3AC. Many of you will have seen the repeater that was totally rebuilt by Tony, G8CJZ. Tony brought "The Box" up to the club a few meetings ago. (Sorry folks, I forgot to take any photographs). Tony now has the NOV from Ofcom, so by the time you read this plans will be under way for it's location, connection, then the on site testing.

On page 3 you will see the estimated coverage area. There will be more information in the next Q5

**A special event** is in the planning. This is to commemorate the loss of a Bristol Britannia, G-ANCA. The "whispering giant" as it became known, crashed in Downed just off Overndale Road. On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November 1957. The area now named Britannia wood was the site of utter devastation. All 15 on board lost their lives and it is only fitting that they are remembered. More of this is on page 3.

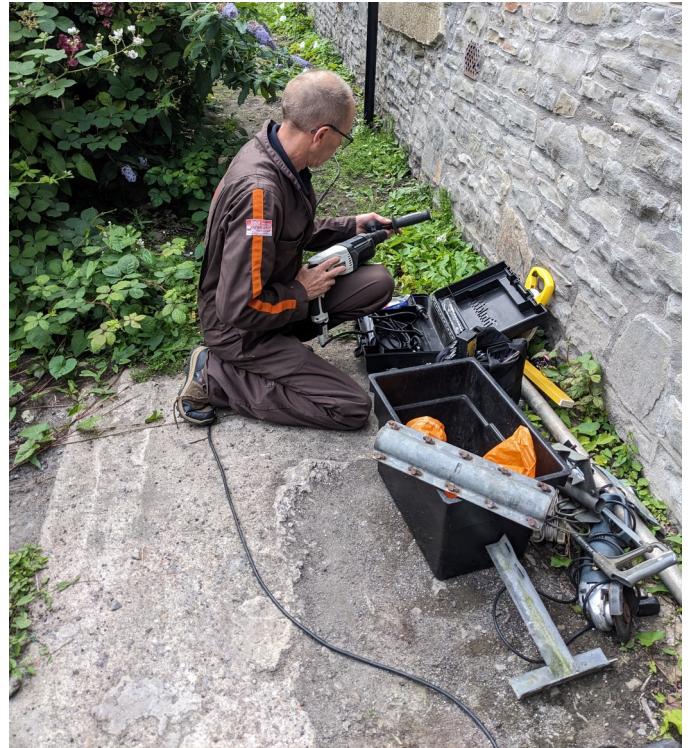
# Antennas Are Being Installed

Behind the scenes at Page, Paul, G8YMM, your Chairman. Preparing the brackets prior to attaching to the wall.

The following pictures were taken by Namal, M7MNL. Namal assisted Paul assemble the antennas and the antenna feeds.

All of this was taking place while we were enjoying a meeting inside. Luckily the weather for once, was fine and a clear evening.

It is to be noted that the evenings are drawing in very fast now and each week that goes by, we loose another 15 minutes of light in the evening. Unless this is completed soon, it would end up being a weekend project.



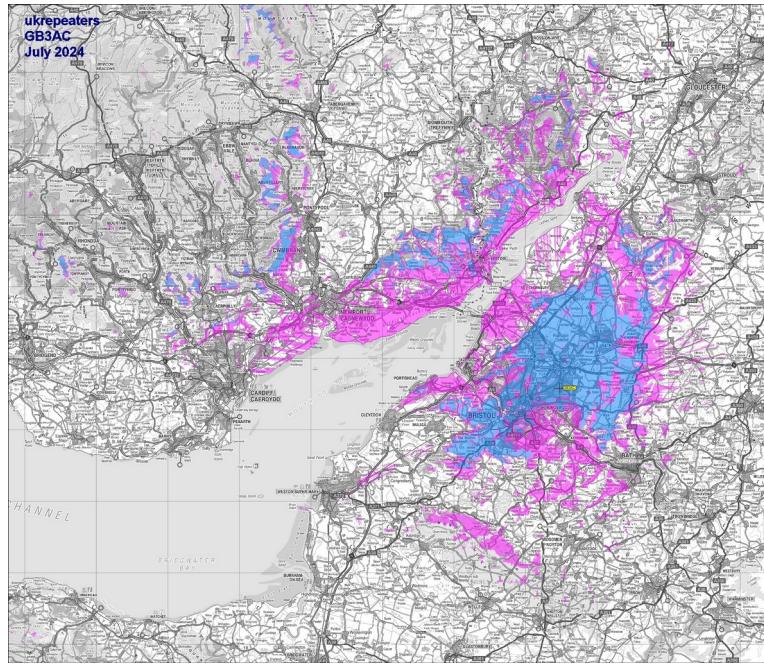
Paul, at the top of the ladder, drilling for the top bracket.

To keep the natives friendly, Paul asked the Snooker Players if it would be OK for drilling to take place, as we didn't want to effect their games. They understood, so Paul went ahead, marking and drilling. You see, It is always best to ask first.

A route into the void above the shack has been found and possibly by the time this Q5 is published, may be complete.

This is an exciting time for the club now that the shack is coming together. We thank Namal and Paul for their hard work, from shack painting to antenna erecting. It is not an easy task and as Paul said, "it has to be done."

# GB3AC Coverage



Tony sent me this map of the proposed coverage area. As you can see it is giving an extremely good coverage to most of our members. If you would like to enlarge the map, right click on the map then save it on your computer. Depending on your browser and software zoom in to find your QTH.

Tony stated in his introduction a few weeks ago, that this repeater is not a replacement for BS, it is just another repeater in our radio amateur arsenal.

Thank you Tony, you have done a grand job.

## Britannia Special Event

The Lincombe Barn opposite the site of the crash was to be the site of our event. Initial Discussions were favourable. However, another meeting called by the manager with Mat and myself, we soon realised that they didn't really want us there, not even on the lawn.

As we want this as an indoor event, November can be very cold, wet or both, a thought came to Mat. This was to hold it at the clubs QTH. The fated airliner did almost fly over our club en-route to the crash site. Mat and myself are working hard to make an event of it but, this is being a bit of a damp squib at the moment.

We will know more nearer the time, and any information will appear in the next Q5. That will be the November 1<sup>st</sup> so we have a bit of time to recover this project.

If members have any ideas of what we can do or, any special events for the future please contact Me or Mat on a club night.

# Mills On The Air 2024

The blasted sun. Not only does it give us life on our planet, it also destroys the HF bands from time to time. We are currently in cycle 25. That is the sun generates sun spots about every 11 years. Normally this is good for us, it nicely recharges the ionosphere so that we can reflect signals around the globe. However, on this occasion it coincided with a giant "Corona Mass Ejection" (Flair) that headed straight for earth.



This Flair knocked out the Ionosphere so the HF bands just didn't work. However, VHF and UHF was virtually unaffected. We should have used these bands but alas, the Icom 7300 radio we used was only HF.

In the morning, Mat was flying around the mill with his quad copter (Drone) filming the roof for the custodians as they had reported that the roof had a problem. He also filmed us assembling the gazebo and antennas. Luckily he missed the part where I went base over apex in to a rabbit hole, face planting myself into the freshly mown grass, narrowly missing breaking a bone or two. I got up, dusted myself off and pretended nothing had happened.

There are some good air to ground shots of me and Dave, MORKE setting up the antenna, then joined by Mike M1ARI rigging the gazebo. We hope to see this a future film night.

Mike recorded an announcement on the radio to call out "CQ CQ CQ This Is GB0ASH" this was to save our voices. This was running for over half an hour with no response. I did however, tried to cheat by ringing Andy, G7KNA from the South Bristol Club to make a contact. They were running my old NOV, GB0SBM (Saltford Brass Mill) No contact was made even on the ground wave. They were having the same luck as us with zero contacts.

The sun also caused another problem for poor Mat. The lad himself suffered with the heat, his MS took hold and he became unwell. It was decided that with the heat and the bands playing up, the Sunday event would be cancelled. We do apologise but, we felt that was the best thing to do under the circumstances.

We were not the only mill to cancel the Sunday, the South Bristol club also cancelled. Their call sign, GB0SBM Saltford Brass Mill.

After the heat of this event we suffered the cold and wet of Meals On The Hill. A play on words, it was really Burgers on the hill. See the following report on our newest event.

# Meals On The Air (A play on words)

Although the weather this summer has been atrocious, we have tried our best to enjoy ourselves, sometimes in the cold and rain. Meals on the air at Tog Hill was no exception.

The gazebo was assembled with four members holding down the frame against the wind. Bodger and Mike tying one of the rear legs to a bollard and anchoring the other with a large tent peg. The front was rather easier, it was tied to Bodgers Land Rover. (Now that was not going to move). It was decided that owing to the wind, the curtains would not be fitted.



The radio was the Club's IC 7300 powered by G7BYN's new Lipo battery mounted in the place of the deep cycle wet cell that has been successfully for many years. The reason for the change? The new battery has greater power and half the weight.

The antenna, is a commercial dipole of unknown origin. This was bought from the Longleat Rally over 30 years ago. Bodger, bodged this to his pump up mast at the front of his Land Rover. (So that is where he got his name). All was set, Mat started to play radio. After about half an hour of no response we put the kettle on.

Food followed, cooked by Bodger M6TNH, Ian, G4TAH and Dave, G4FJH. (Jamie Oliver, eat your heart out). The gourmet food went down a treat with groups of friendly chatting. A special thank you goes out to our cooks especially Bodger without him and his mobile kitchen, this event would not have taken place. Thank You!!



Mat finally made a few contacts before the contest started, and Dave, our SWL made his first contacts under the instruction of Mat during the contest section of the log.

To the left here is Richard. M6TNH better known as Bodger. This is a man that you ask if ever you have a broken this or a bent that. Bodger will tell you how to fix it as he is a lover of all things mechanical as well as radio. By the way, Bodger is also a very active member of RAYNET.

RAYNET Is the Radio Amateur Emergency Network and was set up to assist our emergency services, supplying communications where their systems fail to work. If you are interested in joining RAYNET, contact Ian or Bodger.

All good things had to come to an end as high, cold winds started to come in from the West bringing in the rain. A rush at the end got everything packed away just in time. Will we do it again? I think so.

# Our QRP Workshop

If You missed this workshop, you missed a good event. John, G4WOD brought along his kit, showing what can be done and what he has done to fulfil his part of the hobby.

John uses an Icom Ic705 with home made wire antennas. These Antennas are all resonant so this eliminates the need for a tuner of any type.

If you remember, a complaint about the ic705 "it had no built in tuner" well, you don't really need one, do you?



John, G4WOD with his simple QRP kit

If you remember my talks on antennas, when I was learning my craft, the old guys always said that I required a tuner sat on the top of the transceiver. What a waste of money and power especially at QRP levels. Antennas should resonate. Why tune the **cable and antenna** with a tuner. **It is the antenna that has to be tuned Not The Cable.** The common mode currents in the coax is just wasted energy. (Dave, Get off your soapbox).

I also displayed my bits and pieces that I am gathering together for my latest QRP venture. When I was working, I used to stop during my lunch break and play radio. For this I used a vertical antenna made from a fishing pole with an auto tuner at the base. This way I was tuning the antenna and NOT the coax feeder. I had at one time used the antennas fitted to the rear of my FT817. This setup was reasonable at receiving but, as useful as a chocolate teapot on transmit. So this was very quickly scrapped. Not literally, as if you ask my wife, I never throw anything away.

With John's bit of wire formed as a dipole on the 20m band, here is a list of his contacts on FT8.

I1RJP	Italy
EA8ACW	Spain
9A1CCB	Croatia
EA5IXH	Spain
S52R	Slovenia
IU5HIV	Italy
PA3FPQ	Netherlands
PA3COA	Netherlands
PE0TS	Netherlands

As you can see, just a bit of wire running at 10w Can get you across Europe, at least 750 miles.

I am aware that it was digital, but equally it could have been worked using voice on SSB.

Another mode that we have not thought of here at the club, is SSTV television pictures, well they are similar to postcards. These are rather interesting to receive by the non licenced SWL Amongst us.

Dave G7BYN

# POTA - Parks On The Air, and all things Page Park



Mat and Gary working POTA from Page Park

Good News, Page Park is now registered for Parks On The Air, and it's number is **GB-0715**. It has so far been activated by Mat and his friend, Gary, G1GRY. We would love to have Gary in our club, but alas he lives the other side of the country.

For POTA, you just can't use any park. It has to be registered with the organisation in their register. The register is there so that logs can be ratified just as if it were a contest. A park can only be registered if it is of special historical or scientific interest. Page Park falls into this category as it is alleged to be historical.

POTA can be worked from here any time you wish. POTA is not a club event and therefore you must arrange your own insurance and satisfy yourself of all risk assessments.

Take a look at another POTA activation with Mat and myself in the next page.

## QRP in the park

For years at, or near mid summers day, we would meet at the Sea walls, Durdham Downs. Alas, we are a fair way away from there now so it was said by many, "why not meet in Page Park."

So here we are, add a bit of low power radio working, and we end up with QRP in the park. It was said that, what we were lacking was tables to operate from. The park is equipped with picnic tables but, they are wide spread, splitting the club into small groups. I have found the answer. If you are going to operate, bring a small camping table and chair. I will bring mine next time.

We may use the park for other events in the future. If you can think of an excuse to play in the park, give your secretary a call. Remember though, we can't run an event other than a gathering in the park, as the meanies at South Gloucester council want to charge us £165.90p. So, No Gazebo for this one, I'm afraid. There is a Coffee shop on site, they will allow us to use their tables, however, we would need to support them buying a coffee or two. They do by the way close at 4:30pm and their area locked up. Ah well, two steps forward, one back.

As I see it, the best meeting would be QRP so, have a think, and get back to me with your ideas.

# POTA With Mat & Dave

Do you remember when Mat, G7FBD took me kicking and screaming to a 6m contest? Well, he has done it again. This time to a Parks On The Air event. I wasn't exactly kicking and screaming, as I wanted to give it a go. It is not a contest but, has various awards.

There are a few rules that has to be applied. You have to operate from inside the park not adjacent to. The park has to be registered, you can't just go along to the local park and call CQ POTA .

There are activators, that was us, and there are Hunters, these are stations searching for parks. Points are awarded accordingly.

Activators, as I said have to be inside the park and to activate the park, you have to work 10 stations. (That is for each activation).



*Mat, on the mic working an EA (Spain)*

Mat and I worked dual operator, that would give the hunter more points and it enabled me to complete my activation of 10 stations. You can see that all of these rules have been well thought out.



*Mat's IC7300 running at 50w through a 20m whip on a mag mount stuck to his roof*

I have to learn all of these rules as to quote a Scottish station I worked. "I am a virgin POTA operator" "I am a Virgin as well" I replied.

We worked our 10 stations on each of the parks we visited. These included as you would expect Italians, running their special type of QRP, that is 1Kw. (Joke) Spanish stations were plentiful and so were Germans, especially east Germany.

What was the highlight? I hear you ask. Mat called in a "VE" "Canada" I shouted in a loud voice. All that from a small whip.

By the way, the whips Mat uses are Resonant. That makes all the difference I don't think it would work so well if the antennas were random, tuned with a set top tuner. This was a Personal event, could this be of interest to the club for a club event. I look forwards to answers and comments from the membership.

# For Sale

In This quarter, we have a few things for sale. Mat is selling some 2TB SATA Hard Drives Ideal for upgrading your PC or used for storage. They were used in Mat's own storage system, but are now redundant as he now uses the cloud as a data store. Give mat a call with regard to price



Above is a selection of Rock Busting Guy Pegs. Mat is also selling these. So there we have it, these items for sale by mat, give him an email on [g7fdb@gb3bs.com](mailto:g7fdb@gb3bs.com) for prices.

## Fun Page



Remember back in the really old days when we used to have electric vehicles and recycle the bottles....



# Fun Page

Only physics students will understand...



The Item on the left was sent in by Mat. There is a prize for a member who can explain this cartoon. Note that Mat is not allowed to enter as he knows the answer. A clue, Physics students will understand it. When it was sent to me, I worked it out within about 2 minutes.

Give it a go, email your answer to me on  
[g7byn@outlook.com](mailto:g7byn@outlook.com)

Closing date for this FREE competition 30<sup>th</sup> August The winning name will be drawn from a hat at the club meeting.

This one was sent to me by Dave, our SWL (Currently studying for his Licence).

I may be thick, I looked at this, then looked again. I thought what the hell has Dave sent me. After a couple of hours or so, It clicked.

I would suggest that you don't put this into practice.

Mmm, Now, I wonder if RF earth would work. I suspect you may have to keep the earth damp for it to work.

This would have made a good April Fool article but alas Q5 no longer is published on April 1<sup>st</sup>.



This joke was sent into the Q5 editor's desk by Paul, M6KQZ. Many of you may know him, he was a member back when we were in SHE7, Filton. He appears in some old movies of club events, always getting stuck into what event he happen to be at.

Paul's other hobbies other than amateur radio is 3d printing, Jokes and what ever makes him happy.

If you have anything you would like to be inserted in to Q5, give me an email, [g7byn@aol.com](mailto:g7byn@aol.com). Please note I keep this as an inbox, (it is easy to remember) a reply may come from a different email address.

# HOW TO USE YOUR LOCAL REPEATER By Mat, G7FBD

Like all UK repeaters, information on frequency, Tones and Colour codes can be found at [www.ukrepeater.net](https://ukrepeater.net). GB3BS complies with Ofcom regulations with beacons every 15 minutes. These beacons will transmit regardless if there is a QSO or not. If there is a QSO, the Deviation is reduced so it doesn't interfere with your contact (It plays quietly in the background). If a station Hands Back the QSO and the Beacon starts before the pips, please wait for completion, then the pips will be sent, otherwise there is a risk of timing out.

Talking of Timeout - GB3BS and in fact GB7BS both have a 4 minute time out. So if you "Waffle" for over 4 minutes in a single over, you will find after 4 minutes the receiving station will be listening to Dead Air as the repeater will have gone off air! Blue Peter Badges are awarded for Staying with the Timeout. (Editors Note. So far, Dick, G0XAY Dave, M0RKE and Mat, G7FBD have been awarded one)



This Award Is 3D printed by Dave, G7BYN in 2 parts and takes him about 3 hours to set up, assemble and paint each one. The award is therefore only awarded for catastrophic time outs.

The "Blue Peter" badge idea came about many years ago. If you timed out it was said that you won a "Blue Peter Badge."

Following a few simple rules will save the shame of a timeout. The repeater generates 2 pips. These PIPS actually mean something. I wonder how many of you knew that. If you are a member of the Bristol 70cms Repeater Group and receive our newsletters, you already knew. The first PIP is a courtesy PIP. It occurs 1 second after you stop transmitting. It is a marker to let stations wanting to Join the QSO to announce themselves with JUST their call sign given. After the FIRST PIP their is a 2 second pause (The courtesy period) then a SECOND PIP. This has two purposes. The first is to indicate the end of the courtesy period. The second and MOST important purpose is to indicate the 4 minute timeout timer has now been reset to Zero. The QSO can now continue.

The repeater does make other sounds, and the pips can change to a lower tone if the repeater is running on the standby generator. You can however still continue enjoy the repeater.

One final thing of importance with GB3BS is that thanks to repeater abuse that affects all repeaters world wide, we operate a thing called a Kerchunk timer (No, we did not call it that I promise).

This timer occurs (currently) when the repeater is off air and in standby. When it senses a station wanting to use the repeater, there is a timer that starts the Kerchunk timer that almost says."Go on, prove you are a not messing around and just "Blipping Me". A few seconds of continuous signal the repeater will fully wake up and start relaying your audio so others can hear you. To get around the Kerchunk timer is easy -

## HOW TO USE YOUR LOCAL REPEATER continued

Key your transmitter and then take a Deep breath, give your Call sign at least twice and your on air! IF you just key up and start giving your call sign - As the Kerchunk timer is stopping the repeater coming on air instantly – the first part of your call sign will not be heard. for example “BD” Even Though I said "G7FBD". Hopefully the above will help you get on to and use GB3BS and indeed other repeaters too.

My last comment for all out there, we have a good 70cms Repeater Network around Bristol - GB3ZB on the Dundry Hill's and GB3BS on top of the Lansdown Hill's.

GB3ZB has the Bristol area parts of S. Wales and Gloucestershire as well as toward Jn16 Swindon and offers internet linking. GB3BS has a coverage area of around 60 miles circumference of Lansdown. giving good range into Gloucester, Swindon and Reading, then south towards Yeovil and west into Cardiff and Junction 32 so there is something for everyone on UHF for some, trust me, your nose will NOT bleed coming this far up the spectrum! Full coverage maps can be found on the [www.ukrepeater.net](http://www.ukrepeater.net) website - and for GB3BS, on our website- [www.gb3bs.com](http://www.gb3bs.com)

73

Mat G7FBD

## Repeater News

BOTH GB3WR AND GB7PM HAVE BEEN SHUT DOWN DUE TO AN ONGOING DISPUTE WITH THE SITE OWNER AS OF 29/06/24

We are doing everything possible to make sure that this isn't the end of WR. More information will be provided as and when we have further news. We would like to thank you for your support and kind donations.

This unfortunate news was taken direct from their own web site.

By the way, Dave, G4FJH runs a 6m net every Thursday evening at 20:05 on the GB3ZY repeater. More information can be found on the web site:-

<https://www.radiosol.com/bristol-repeater-net-GB3ZY/>

## Support Your Local Repeater

OK, I am a bit biased here. I would like every one to support GB3BS, but it is OK if you support another local repeater.

I know times are hard, and years ago when I was bringing up my kids I didn't have the money to go splashing out on repeater subs. However as soon as I could, I did. (If that makes any sense) Anyway, I am now pleading for anyone who uses GB3BS regularly, to support the cause. There is maintenance and electricity to pay for of course so I am asking on their behalf, just donate £10 for the year. If you can't no one will stop you using the box. However it would be nice if you could.

# Information, Bits and Pieces

## Guest Speaker

August 16<sup>th</sup> we have Invited a guest speaker, April, M7APR to talk about operating a POTA station and hopefully answer all your questions. April is the UK's contact for Parks On The Air this side of the pond. I hope you all will enter this date in your diary and more to the point, support her talk.

## Number Station Details

After my talk on Number Stations, a few of you have been searching for them on on line SDR receivers. The ones I use are listed here. There are more with limited access, that is only 4 or 5 logging in at once.

University of Twenty, in the Netherlands. <http://websdr.ewi.utwente.nl:8901/>

Hack Green, In the Secret Nuclear Bunker <http://hackgreensdr.org:8901/>

The site with all the Number Station details <https://priyom.org/number-stations/english>

## New Members

Welcome New Members Paul, and his son, Ethan. Both are what we call Short Wave Listeners (SWLs) at the moment. Please welcome them into the hobby and help them with any questions they may have into obtaining their licence.

## Error in Last Q5

Apologies to Dave, G4FNH and others on the 6m net. I had wrongly named the wrong repeater for the 6m net. Things should be correct in this Q5 the correct repeater is GB3ZY.

## Repeater Abuse

It is happening again folks. If you hear any calling or blipping, please ignore it. During our net it was said by a station, "There is someone calling us" the answer here was, it was just a pirate with no call sign. In cases like this on our nets, I as net controller will not respond unless a valid call sign is given. Stations wishing to join have to call after the first pip. (See How to use your local Repeater)

## New Licence With Terms & Conditions

Remember, You must renew your licence every 5 years. By now you should have received your new licence with the new terms and conditions as an attachment on an email from Ofcom. If you haven't, then contact Ofcom, because you may have been removed from the register. Remember it is your responsibility to make sure that you are licenced.

## Calendar of events

Aug 2 <sup>nd</sup>	General Meeting
Aug 9 <sup>th</sup>	General Meeting
Aug 16 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Guest Speaker April, M7APR all things Parks on the Air</b>
Aug 23 <sup>rd</sup>	General Meeting
Aug 30 <sup>th</sup>	Closing date for Q5 competition (Prize awarded)
Sept 6 <sup>th</sup>	Film Night :- What is Sporadic "E"
Sept 13 <sup>th</sup>	Antenna Workshop
Sept 20 <sup>th</sup>	Antenna workshop
Sept 27 <sup>th</sup>	Prep for ROTA
Sept 28 <sup>th</sup> & 29 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Railways on the air at Bitton Railway</b>
Oct 4 <sup>th</sup>	On the Air Night & return of ROTA Kit
Oct 11 <sup>th</sup>	Open Forum. It's your club Tell the committee what you want
Oct 18 <sup>th</sup>	Quiz Night With Prizes (Free Entry for a bit of fun)
Oct 25 <sup>th</sup>	Antenna Workshop
Nov 1 <sup>st</sup>	Q5 published and Friday at the club

**Events in Red are events held outside of the normal Friday Meeting.** If the event is important to you and are not at the previous Club Meeting to hear Announcements, Please make contact to check if the event is continuing or any changes to the details.

There are other Special events that the club will be involved with. See Mat, G7FBD for more information.

We do our very best to put on the events listed but, due to unforeseen circumstances, things can change. If the event is important to you, you can always phone the secretary just to check if it is still on or not.

Secretary's Phone Number 07533933831

# **Club Nets & Contact Details**

Please remember, we are trying to keep the Wednesday net a Technical net (If we can). Members may have a problem, or just want to know how something works, ask your question here.

This decision came about because some participants of our nets didn't want to spend the night talking about the weather and general chit chat. They said it was boring, so wouldn't come on any net. The Chit Chat evenings will be the Sunday net. We hope this will cater for all.

Participants of nets can always change the conversation of a net. Therefore, if the conversation said to be boring, you only have yourself to blame.

**Wednesday net (This is the regular Net)** GB3BS 20:00 to 21:00

**Sunday Evening Net** This is on GB3BS 20:00 to 21:00

## **Additional nets By Dave G4FJH**

**Mondays** 2m ssb (144.340Mhz) Vertically polarised @ 20:00

**Thursdays** 6m via the GB3ZY repeater @ 20:05

## **Club Contacts**

### **Secretary and Q5 Editor**

Dave G7BYN

Phone 07533933831

Email [g7byn@outlook.com](mailto:g7byn@outlook.com)

*Please Note a reply may be from another email address.*

### **Chairman**

Paul Stevenson G8YMM

Phone 07921942922

Email [g8ymm@nbarc.co.uk](mailto:g8ymm@nbarc.co.uk)

**Next Q5 November 1st**

## **Q5 Publication**

Last date for articles October 24th

Publication Date 1<sup>st</sup> November

I hope that I will get articles sent to me from time to time. I thank all of you that have submitted items over the past couple of years. All back issues are available on the club's new web site.

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