

# RIDGEWAY Repeater Group Newsletter

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## A BIT OF HISTORY By Rob G4XUT & Frances (XYL)



For many years we have visited the Dordogne area of southwest France on holiday. A lovely, mainly rural part of France, with the main economy driven by wine and tourism. Not forgetting the walnut production and the pâté de foie gras!

Over the years we have become good friends with Serge, F6CMD and his XYL Françoise who live south of Bergerac.

I first came across Serge on 2 meters when he answered my F/G4XUT /M call in Bergerac back in the 1990's and kept in contact at various times when we returned to the area. Serge is active on 80 metres on a daily French net.

He speaks English, but my French is poor, so my XYL Frances always comes to the rescue (frequently) with the translations.

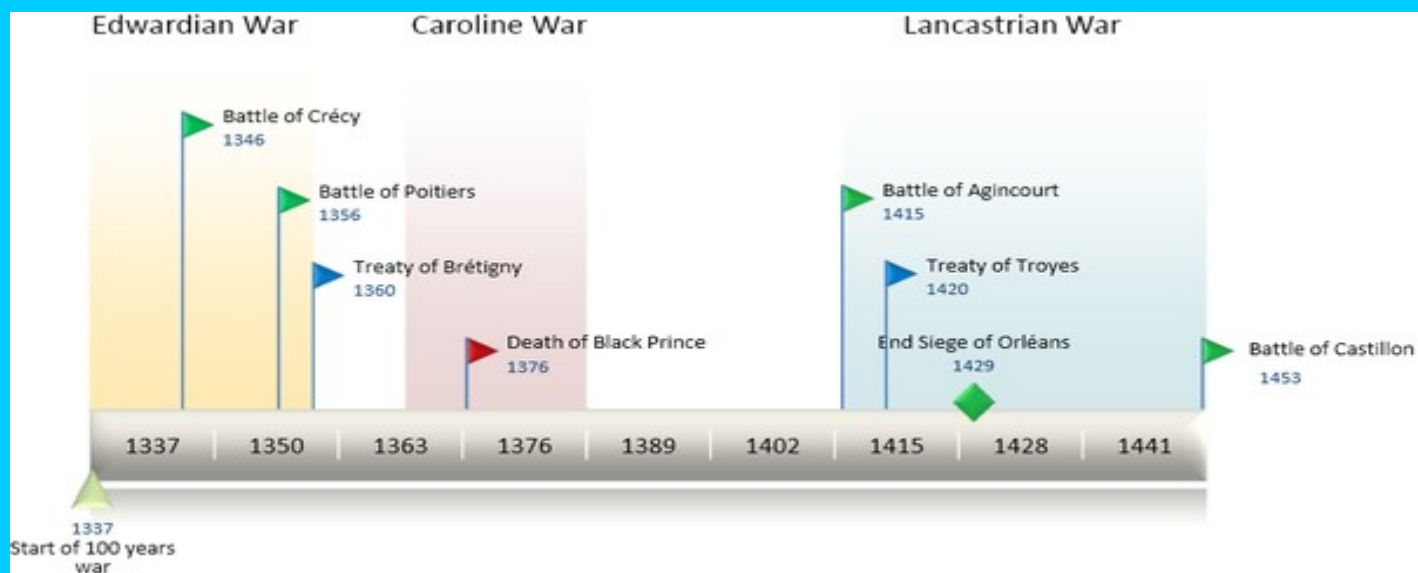
So, this year we met up at his house and caught up as usual with the past year's activities and he mentioned the English/French 100 years war – well there's a talking point!

Of course, the French won this war which was in fact ongoing for a lot that time, but not continuously!

According to a book entitled "Bergerac de la Préhistoire à nos Jours" by Jacques-Louis Lachaud, the outbreak of this war in Guyenne (now known as Aquitaine) was August 1345 at the Chateau of Montcuq (the ruins of which are in the "commune" of Pomport along with a plaque marking the event) which is very close to where Serge & Françoise live.

Henry of Lancaster, the Duke of Derby, after an audacious ride, surprised the French garrison there & actually took the château without a shot being fired as the defenders fled to Bergerac, about 6 miles away. Emboldened by this, he went on to lay siege to the town which surrendered on 24<sup>th</sup> August 1345. Whilst the battle of Crécy is so well known, some believe that if the French king had paid due heed to the fall of Bergerac, the war might have ended and Crécy may never have taken place.

The final battle was not far away, being at Castillon la Bataille in 1453, approximately a mere 44 kilometres west of Bergerac. The time line of the conflict is shown below.



However, entente cordiale still exists, as the picture below shows, the two radio amateurs at the location plaque (Serge on the left & Rob on the right).





# Portable Upgrade

## By Neil M6CUE



I have now upgraded my portable set up to include a Go Box, it hangs quite happily under my antenna tripod acting as a counter-weight & keeping everything together in a neat little package. I can now have the tripod up to it's full extent (6') + the Dipole, giving a combined height of approx 12', I carry a set of guy ropes & pins with me, but with the sharp points on the ends of the tripod legs, on soft ground it's not necessary to guy out, only in the event of windy conditions would this become a necessity. In order to keep everything compact, I mounted the radio vertically in it's bracket, this meant that the speaker was at the back, not a problem all I did to overcome that was to convert an old set of computer headphones with a boom mic attached, this was done by removing the mic cable & jack plug, then removing the boom mic, so I now have a set of phones that work well with the new Leixen. Photos below.



Top to Bottom L-R are the new Go Box, the tripod for the dipole, the dipole mounted, the top of the tripod showing how the adaptor fits & the adaptor itself (made from 1.5" dia. Waste pipe & fittings), so everything just screws & pushes together, I know it's not aesthetically pleasing, but it works, nowt wrong with a bit of Heath Robinson is there.





# One for the Steam Buffs

## By Neil M6CUE



On the 10th of September I went on a trip to the Watercress line in Hampshire, it's a renovated line between Arlesford & Alton, a very good trip of approx 8 miles with lunch on the train. On arriving at Arlesford station I had approx 60mins to wait so I took some photos which you can see below. I tried several calls into GB3SN, but to no avail, also tried 2m & 70cms simplex, again no takers, once aboard the train I tried yet again on SN, still no takers, gave up then until reaching Alton, mainly because lunch was being served. Passed through some other stations en route namely Ropley, Medsted & Four Marks, if you listen to the RSGB bulletin on a Sunday morning 09.30-10.00 you'll hear Roy G8CKN reading it from his qth in Medsted, looked out of the carriage windows but couldn't see any houses with antennas, so I presume he lives on higher ground away from the station, even tried him on simplex, again no luck, not a wasted day though, for on the way back I managed a few overs with Richard G4MUF & Ken G1NCG through TD, but sunny Hampshire was still in bed. Weather wise, it was a nice sunny day which added to the appeal of the trip & the smell of the steam brought back many memories of my childhood seeing & travelling on steam trains just before they were phased out for good on main line routes.



Top row L-R 3 views of a Ransomes Napier steam crane, some of the old hand carts used on the platform for luggage.  
2nd row L-R the loco used as a shunter to move our carriages into position on the correct track, the Victorian green post box on the platform at Arlesford station, another luggage cart, Arlesford signal box.  
3rd row L-R a lengthsman's shelter, this is our loco arriving by low loader onto transfer tracks leading to the main track, a hedgehog on the line (not in any danger, as he was on some old track to the rear of the station), an old platform light which was gas, but converted to electricity.  
Bottom row L-R a renovated sign at Arlesford station, another loco "in steam" at Arlesford, this is the Cheltenham 925, finally part of the platform at Arlesford station showing the renovated canopy, & in the background is the pedestrian bridge over the track.

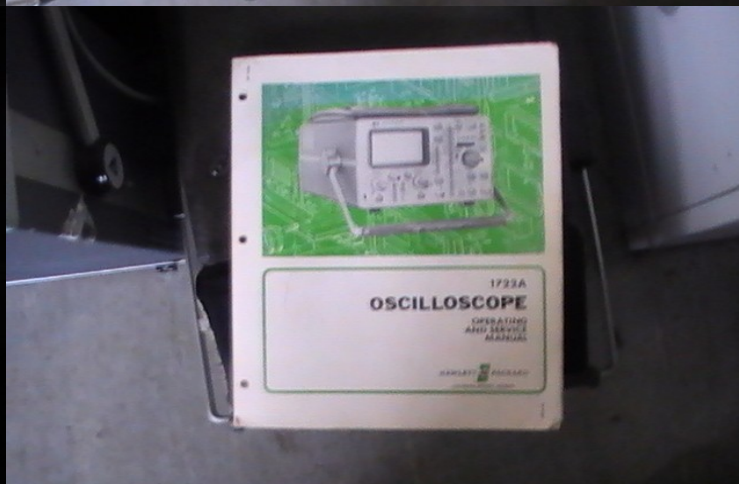


**For Sale**

# ITEMS FOR SALE

**For Sale**

I have some items which were rescued by me & are for sale, there are 3 Oscilloscopes (1 HP 1722A, 1 Malvern Instruments & 1 Advanced Instruments), a Blackstar Meteor 10 Frequency Counter, an Audio Mic which I'm sure could be converted for ham use, & various leads & probes for the Oscilloscopes. Anyone interested can email me at [m6cun@live.co.uk](mailto:m6cun@live.co.uk)  
See photos below.



1 of the Oscilloscopes is a Malvern instruments, another is by Advanced instruments, the last is by HP, model no. 1722A, & is complete with it's manual/service book in a leatherette wallet attached to the top of the Oscilloscope. The Frequency counter is by Black Star, model no. is Meteor 100. Apart from the HP scope, the others have their power leads attached, the freq. counter also has a lead, but needs a UK 13a plug fitted to it.

The Audio Mic is by Grundig, which could be converted, or, if anyone has a matching Grundig radio or tape recorder that is lacking a mic, this item could be for you. Asking prices are £300.00 for each scope, £50.00 for the Blackstar Meteor Freq Counter & £2.00 for the Grundig Audio Mic.





# A Brief view of The Tour of Britain

## By John G10QV



On Sept. 12th the Tour of Britain came through Hungerford on it's way from Bath to Hemel Hempstead, the route lead the riders through the High St. south to north, then onto the A4 where they turned east at the Bear Hotel & then off again at the Wickham turning. I took my trusty camera & monopod to the junction of our street & the High Street & snapped away, as they passed by so quickly it meant that I had to point the camera in the direction that they were coming from & keep my finger on the shutter button & hope for the best, luckily it worked & I got quite a few good shots, unfortunately my memory card ran out so I didn't quite get all the team cars as they sped through. See photos below. Route map on next page



Top row L to R. The start of the rolling road block, first riders coming into view followed by a team car, the first three riders get closer.

2nd row— The Peloton (chasing group).

3rd row — More of the Peloton, including, in the centre picture the rider closest to me is Sir Bradley Wiggins, then come the last of the riders.

4th row — The team cars coming through, at this point the memory card ran out, so didn't get all of the team cars



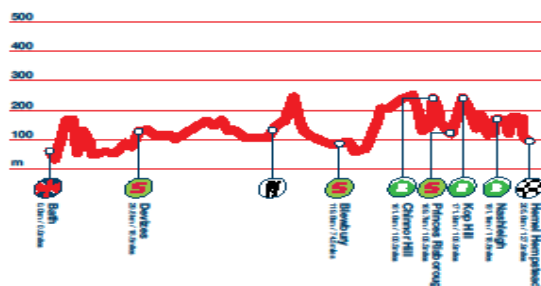
# Route Map & Profile of Stage 6 of the Tour of Britain

(courtesy of the Friends Life Tour of Britain website)



## Stage 6 Bath to Hemel Hempstead Friday 12 September

### Stage profile



f /ToBcycling  
@TourOfBritain #tob2014  
@thetourcycling



## Dates for your Diary



Sunday October 19th ----- Chippenham & DARC G3VRE 'Mini' Indoor Radio Rally, Venue Neston Village Hall, Pool Green, Neston, Corsham, Wilts SN13 9SN. Doors open 10.00am. Entry £1.50, U16s Free. Refreshments available (provided by the Neston Drama Group) For more info email [g0iue@btinternet.com](mailto:g0iue@btinternet.com) Tel No. on the day is 07584054924. Location Map can be found at <http://www.streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?X=386185&Y=168547&A=Y&Z=110>

Sunday November 9th ----- West London Radio & Electronics Show (Kempton Rally), Venue, Kempton Park Racecourse, Staines Rd. East, Sunbury on Thames, TW16 5AQ. Doors open 10.00am. For more info email [info@radiofairs.co.uk](mailto:info@radiofairs.co.uk) or from Paul (M0CJX) on 08451650351



## And Finally, a note to all 'Y' stations



According to the Daily Express newspaper, 100 years ago on October 1st 1914, a German student in London was arrested for setting up a secret listening station in Shepherd's Bush. Obviously he was some sort of spy.

Any contributions for the next newsletter will be welcome by Nov. 29th. Either radio related or not. 73s Neil M6CUE