

SOUTH DORSET RADIO SOCIETY

Promoting and Supporting Amateur Radio since 1961

THE CATSWHISKER - JANUARY 2010

*Keeping members and
SDRS events and news*



*friends informed about
since March 1967*

***Seasons Greetings and a
Happy New Year!***

NEXT SDRS MEETING

The first meeting at our new venue!

Tuesday January the 12th

OUR NEW MEETING PLACE

Southill Youth Club
Southill Youth and Community Centre
Radipole Lane, Southill, Weymouth, Dorset DT4 9SF

[Click here for a map](#)

The new meeting venue for the South Dorset Radio Society

Starting in January, The South Dorset Radio Society has a new meeting venue. It is easy to find, being adjacent to the Emmanuel Church on Radipole Lane at the junction with Southill Garden Drive and Field Barn Drive. The link above will take you to a map. Field Barn Drive is best accessed off of the Chaffeys Roundabout on the A354 Weymouth Way. See the picture of the Youth Club Building below.

Southill Youth Club and Emmanuel Church



The Youth Club building is the one with the orange door and is accessed by footpath from either the Shopping Centre car park or Southill Garden Drive. The Emmanuel Church can be seen on the right of the picture.

The above picture was taken by Geoff, GOEVW on the 10th of December 2009 and proves beyond doubt that it really is always sunny in Weymouth!

NEWS FROM THE RSGB

Faraday Medal for G3YJO

Professor Sir Martin Sweeting OBE FRS, G3YJO has been awarded the Faraday Medal by the Institute of Engineering and Technology, IET. The medal is awarded for notable scientific or industrial achievement in engineering or for conspicuous service rendered to the advancement of science, engineering and technology. The citation said that Sweeting was awarded the Medal for “his visionary leadership, satellite expertise, ambition and drive, which among other things, brought the overheads involved in space exploration, down to earth. Sir Martin’s work includes establishing the viability of the use of small satellites for earth observation, communication and navigation purposes and his founding of a company to design and supply small satellites to organisations throughout the world”.

MORE ON MOBILE OPERATING SAFETY

The Jimmy Carr Case

It seems that the law with regard to using hand held devices whilst driving is far from clear. Following on from the report in Decembers Catswhisker about Carl, M3VWP being fined for holding a microphone: I heard the well known comedian Jimmy Carr, mention on television that he had 'got away' with using a mobile phone whilst driving.

The comedian Jimmy Carr was driving his Bentley in Harrow, London, on the morning of January the 28th this year, when he was stopped by police for talking into his iPhone and touching the screen. He was cleared of using a mobile phone whilst driving after his solicitor, Celebrity lawyer Nick Freeman, argued that Carr had used the dictation setting of his iPhone to record a joke as he drove and that using the phone for such a purpose was not illegal under current law. He argued it was permissible to use a device in dictation mode provided it did not adversely affect driving ability. He said that his client had not been using the phone to make a call, or for any other interactive purpose, and therefore didn't fall foul of the legislation.

The prosecution argued that the fact the phone was capable of making an interactive call was enough for Carr to be found guilty. But the case was dismissed after a submission by Mr Freeman of "no case to answer". Mr Freeman said: "Whenever my client thinks of a joke while driving he uses his iPhone in dictation mode. Because it was in this particular mode, and not in an interactive one and that he hadn't committed an offence contrary to the legislation"

Dubbed "Mr Loophole", owing to his talent for finding unusual technical defences, Mr Freeman has represented celebrities from footballer David Beckham to snooker player Ronnie O'Sullivan. Unfortunately he did not represent Carl!

Owing to the publication date of this months Catswhisker being brought forward the full details of Carl's prosecution was not available but hopefully this will still appear in a future edition.

THE END OF MOBILE OPERATING AS WE KNOW IT?

Recent press reports suggest that any form of mobile wireless operation that involves a two way conversation, even if a hands-free kit is used, is now considered by road safety experts to seriously affect driving safety and likely to be treated as an offence. Most public service providers like councils, housing associations and bus companies now ban the use of any form of mobile radio by their employees whilst they are driving. It remains to be seen how this will affect taxi drivers and the police themselves!

Exactly what the consequence of this will be for Amateur Radio is unclear although in theory using an Amateur two-way radio with a hands-free kit should still be lawful. However in view of what happened to Carl I am not sure I will be operating whilst driving in future!

Geoff, G0EVW

MEMORIES AND LITTLE KNOWN FACTS

PEGASUS BRIDGE Health and Safety!

The death, recently, of film star Richard Todd, brings to mind an earlier 'Catswhisker' piece. (See [GB5OD](#) for the item - Editor) Mr Todd was one of the first to land on D-Day and the objective of his party was to capture a most important bridge intact.

Do you remember Pegasus Bridge? It was the first major objective for the airborne glider forces as D-Day was starting.

A bigger, modern bridge replaced the original one; the latter was not scrapped but was put aside until recently, when it was refurbished and given a permanent home nearby as a war memento-cum-tourist attraction.

But - people are not allowed to walk on it, as it is considered too dangerous!

John, M0BQO

GLEN MILLER AND HIS ORCHESTRA Well known music but not for Christmas!



The immortal Glen Miller disappeared just before Christmas on December the 15th 1944. His music is very well known to most of us and is often played around this time of year in his memory. However it's a little known fact that he only ever recorded one Christmas song, and that was "Jingle Bells" on October the 20th 1941 - although some might think that his "Little Brown Jug" provides sufficient 'Christmas Spirit' for the occasion!

(While travelling to entertain US troops in France during WW2, Miller's plane disappeared in bad weather. His body has never been found.)

Geoff, G0EVW

DID YOU KNOW? Perhaps someone should tell our world leaders!

Technology already exists:

- 1) To provide all the energy the world needs now and for the foreseeable future without consuming any more fossil fuel.
- 2) To make electric cars capable of a top speed of 100 MPH and 200 miles of driving on a single charge.
- 3) Provide world-wide transport without taking to the air and at a higher speed.

Custos - www.thevenusproject.com

HAPPY CHRISTMAS - CIRCA 2300 BC!

In ancient Babylon, the feast of the Son of Isis (Goddess of Nature) was celebrated on December the 25th. Raucous partying, gluttonous eating and drinking and gift-giving were traditions of this feast. Does that sound familiar?



USEFUL FOOD AND DRINK FACTS

If you are worried about putting on weight over the festive season replace some of the fatty food with Celery as it takes more calories to eat a piece of celery than the celery has in it to begin with.

Your stomach has to produce a new layer of mucus every two weeks or it will digest itself.

Astronauts are not allowed to eat beans before they go into space because passing wind in a spacesuit damages the suit, and the much lower air pressure in a space capsule causes intestinal gas to expand to three times normal volume, ensuring a major local "environmental impact".

If one places a tiny amount of liquor on a scorpion, it will instantly go mad and sting itself to death.

BUT SERIOUSLY

“Christmas! The very word brings joy to our hearts. No matter how we may dread the rush, the long Christmas lists for gifts and cards to be bought and given: when Christmas Day comes there is still the same warm feeling we had as children, the same warmth that enfolds our hearts and our homes”

Joan Winmill Brown, American author and editor.

Yes, I know this is the January issue of our newsletter but the publication date is the 21st of December (which happens to be the Winter Solstice) and you should all get this edition of Catswhisker well before Christmas!

Whatever your belief - have a great time and a happy new year!

73 de Geoff, G0EVW Editor.

SOUTH DORSET RADIO SOCIETY 2009/10

G3SDS G8SDS M2Z

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SDRS Web Site: www.g3sds.org.uk Pictures here: www.sdrs.zoomshare.com

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WORDS OF WISDOM

"Remember, if Christmas isn't found in your heart, you won't find it under a tree."
Charlotte Carpenter

THE CATSWHISKER

Our Society's Newsletter has been called 'The Catswhisker' since its inception.
The word is defined thus in the Oxford Concise Dictionary.

cat's whisker n.
a fine adjustable wire in a crystal radio receiver.
the cat's whiskers (or pyjamas) slang an excellent person or thing.

NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION

Until a new editor/producer can be found, the SDRS Newsletter is being produced and edited by our President, Geoff Watts, G0EVW. Please send any material for inclusion in Catswhisker to Geoff using e-mail g0evw@g3sds.org.uk. Or by post to: 46 Links Road, Weymouth, Dorset DT4 0PE. You can also phone or send a text message to Geoff on 07502198447. Please note that news material needs to arrive *at least* 10 - 14 days before each meeting.