



North Bristol Amateur Radio Club

S.H.E.7, Braemar Crescent, Northville, Bristol BS7 0TD
G4GCT, M0NBC, G6PNB

August 2021 Edition

North Bristol Amateur Radio Club Is Now Open

Your committee met at Filton Community on the 30th July for more discussions on the return date and conditions of our return.

The Return date will be Friday 6th August



There are however conditions associated with our return.

On entry, you must sign in or use the QR code provided.

Sanitise your hands.

A mask must be worn while moving about but can be removed while seated.

Try to keep to small groups with social distancing.

There are to be only 2 people in the kitchen at any one time.

It is advised to bring your own cup/mug if you wish to have a tea or coffee as At the moment the club is not supplying mugs.

A full list of regulations is listed near the rear of this Q5

Terms for Return Cont'd

These conditions have been placed on us by She7 and can change from week to week. Please comply as it is the the only way at the moment we can return. She7 can and will withdraw our access if it is found that we are failing to comply.

Our Third Outdoor Event

Before our return to She7 we had a few meetings. I know it was about once a fortnight but, it was a good start.

There was a couple of members requesting a meeting near to the club at She7, so we organised meeting at The Inn On The Green pub just up from the club house. We all had a great time, not quite filling the 3 tables that we had booked but about 13 of us turned up. We thank Peter 2E0PGS for booking the space for us at the pub.

Latterly we met at the Filton Field, thanks to Alan, G7DRU Ironically, the members who requested this as opposed to the Sea Walls or a pub failed to turn up. Please make sure that if you request an event or guest speaker you at least should show up, it is good manners after all.

Now that we are all meeting once again we will be organising an AGM so if you want to stand for committee please ask Paul, G8YMM for a nomination form.

This is a new start and a chance to expand and make this club something to be proud of.

Take a look at the photographs, better still come along and see for yourself.

There is only the shack to finish off, new carpet is being fitted soon and then, the rest can be fitted out just for our needs.

We hope to see you all on Friday 6th August.

She7 From The Inside

For those of you who have as yet to see the new She7 here are a few pictures of what is from the inside.



Looking from the inside towards the entrance. The Door on the left used to be our upstairs shack, now it is the disabled toilets. The upstairs shack is now opposite and is shown in the following picture.

New carpet throughout, painted, new lighting, new electrics and heating. What more could we ask for. Well, blinds on the windows? Yes, they are there as well.

Elaine, has been working very hard at getting all this organised and thanks to lock down this has given her time when the hall has been empty to get all of this completed.

Looking from the other direction you will notice that the door has been moved to form the disabled toilets. The hatch to the kitchen is still there and can just be made out at the end of the hall.

I do believe that they have nicked our projector screen but, it has been replaced with an electric one. Press the button and it lowers itself and press again and up it goes.

You may notice that there has been a reduction in tables. This is only for the separation due to the covid distancing regulations.





In this picture you can see the blinds really suit the room.

In the far end on the right is the new radio shack. The door has been made wide to enable wheelchair users to gain access, in fact all of the building has now been totally wheelchair friendly.

I hope you will agree with me that this is going to be a hall to be proud of and it will be a pleasure to invite guests and guest speakers to our club.

The Kitchen is now set up as a commercial type of kitchen not as a domestic one. After all, that is what it is. The range can now cook larger quantities of meals for the lunches that they hope to expand on.

On our return, it maybe that access to the kitchen is restricted or it maybe locked. Don't fret, this is because after use the kitchen is sanitised ready for the next day of cooking so having us use it we would have to wash all the surfaces down even if it is thought we didn't touch them. I hope you understand.

I hope you will join me in thanking Elaine and She7 for all the hard work that has gone into making the hall a place to be proud of. I for one can't wait to start our meetings once again.

Dave G7BYN



Fitting a Satellite Dish to Mat's QTH

Mark, the repeater keeper of GB3BS and I took a trip to Mat's QTH to install a satellite dish. Alas this was not for the radio ham service but, terrestrial TV. Giving Mat and his family a saving on Virgin Media fees. I will be doing the same after being left 4days with no TV, broadband or telephone. I then had trouble getting my bill reduced, should have been £8 a day. VM claimed that I had to register the loss of service on line, Mmmm with no Internet. This business seems to be run by school children. Correction, school children could do a better job.



It was a beautiful, hot and sunny day. Mark hard at work bolting on the bracket for the dish. On Mat's property we were lucky that the wall at this point is only about 8ft high. I have often heard the question "How high should the dish be" Think about it. The signal comes through 22,000miles of space, 6ft isn't going to make any difference. When the dish was mounted in position, it was tuned using a iBRAVEBOX V9. If you get one of these it can be used to receive amateur TV signals and view them on the inbuilt monitor screen. This is a good ploy to play out to the shack manager, "I need it dear, to align the satellite dish"

Mat is seen here acting as the site foreman checking that everything is going as planned. Joking aside, planning is everything. Follow the route of all cable runs and make sure things are kept neat and tidy. Mark and I went back to Mat's the following week to add trunking to the exposed cables outside. Although this was planned for at the original installation, it failed to arrive on time. All ended up a perfect installation.



Satellite Dish Install Continued

The LNB on the dish was, after connections were made was water proofed using Denzo tape. This seems to be a better alternative to self amalgamating tape.



The Denzo tape you see here covers 3 cables. Twin Co-ax as supplied with the dish and the white cable you can easily see was, I think RG6 75ohm Co-ax. The LNB chosen has 4 outputs but Mat is only using 3 of them (Hence the 3 cables) one output for each room requiring a satellite feed.

I have found Denzo tape for about £9 to £22 on Amazon depending on the width. The length of each roll is about 10m remember to use vinyl gloves when applying as it is rather messy in use but of course it's surface does dry (but not dry out).

All this was for free to air programmes on Freesat although the dish could always be moved to one of the many other satellites.

As I stated earlier, this meter was used to position the dish these are also available on Amazon and many on line sellers

Now remember what I said about Amateur use? Mat is using this to align his other dish. This time it is for our very own Geo Stationary amateur radio satellite

Mat is documenting the setting up and the making of various parts for this fascinating subject. We look forwards to this project reaching Q5.

Dave G7BYN



Giving Low Power A Go

I spent a couple of hours the other day playing with my FT817. Out in the garden with in a can of Boddington in hand, I was testing my vertical end fed half wave for 20m. CQ CQ CQ through the speaker. I went back to him. It was EA3BEM, Miguel form Barcelona. I said that I was QRP (Low Power) 5w. He gave me 4/4. I thought not bad, then I realised after the contact that as I was on internal batteries high power was in fact only 2.5w. I was over the moon as the usual set up for me is using an external 12v battery giving 5w.



Shack in a Box

I then returned indoors and collected my FT991 Shack in a box. Testing to see how long, and how well it worked on my hobby battery. I was pleased to say all was well with no bad reports at all and no one said that it sounded like a cardboard box. Now I feel that I can use it portable with no problems (I Hope)

Dave G7BYN

Offers and Free to a Good Home



Dave (M0HDJ) has various Hi Fi systems to give to a good home. Any payments you would like to give he said, donations to the club. Thanks for that Dave.

If you have anything to sale or give away, send the details into Q5. My email address is on the back page.

There are a few things on the back burner, with various kits on offer for beginners and experts alike.

Mat has been hard at work sourcing these kits and will be writing a construction and review soon. I made one and it works a treat. What is it I hear you ask. Wait for the next Q5.

News On The Updated GB3AA

Just a snippet of information to inform you that not everyone has been in deep hibernation this last year or so!

With GB3AC out of action for the duration of building refurbishment and of course covid, I have had less to do in the way of maintenance on my repeaters. I decided it would be a good time to repair / refurbish GB3AA. Well, you know how these things go. One small job leads to another and another and so on. In the end there were so many of these small and “nice to have “ jobs, that I decided to start from scratch and build a completely new repeater. Gone is the 30 year old Nokia base station and its attendant foibles. It has been replaced with a brand new Simoco TSF 2000 series repeater, very smart in more ways than one. With digital functions and signal processing all over the place, you need an “ology” just to figure out what the manual is telling you!

New repeater meant a new logic as the original was incompatible. I have tried to keep all the functions and “Blips and loops” the same as before, so users will probably not notice any difference.

Output power is up a fraction to the full 14dbW allowed under the terms of the licence. Being a new 21st century device the receiver is much more “Quiet” and sensitive than its predecessor. It’s much more efficient, electricity consumption-wise, which is important in the longer, bill paying term.

The feeder remains unchanged as it was a decent piece of LDF550. The antenna has been replaced with an X50 instead of the original X30 that was installed in 1998. It still function quite fine electrically, but was beginning to show its age, like many of us. So if members can Have a “Play” and report signal levels and locations and what power they are running, it would be appreciated in helping with an assessment of operational improvement, or otherwise. One minor point I feel obliged to mention is that GB3AA has a Signal Latch as part of the logic. To ensure talk through from cold, you MUST speak to it for at least 3 seconds before the latch is activated. This has been incorporated to discourage “Blipping” of the repeater. Annoying to those that monitor their local repeaters to hear blips all the time, but no CQ calls.

73`s
Tony, G8CJZ

NORTH BRISTOL AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

COVID-19 MEMBERSHIP RULES

- 1 Do not enter if you are ill or have symptoms of COVID-19
- 2 Do not enter if NHS Test & Trace have instructed you to self-isolate.
- 3 Sanitise your hands upon entry.
- 4 Register your name & telephone number on the form provided.
- 5 Scan the QR code if you have a smartphone.
- 6 Please wear a face covering when moving about the building.
- 7 No more than TWO people in the kitchen, radio shack & basement.
- 8 Avoid close personal contact and maintain spacing during the meeting.
- 9 Be considerate to members who are anxious about their health and returning to social mixing.
- 10 Members that fail to observe these rules will be asked to leave.

Remember it is your responsibility to look after not only your well being but the well being of your fellow club members. Have the jab if you have not done so.

Having said that , we look forwards to meeting everyone on Friday. Take care.

NBARC Nets

To spice up our nets, the Wed net will be a Technical net. If members have a problem, or just want to know how something works, ask your question here. This 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 club night being Friday and the Sunday net. We hope this will cater for all.

Monday Net 2m SSB 144.280 8 to 8:30pm then QSY to GB3AW 8:30 till a about 21:10 Controller Peter G3YFE

Tuesday Net For those of you who would like to try out DMR, there is a net every Tuesday 8pm, Controller Peter G3YFE SW cluster TS2 (950)

Wednesday Club Net GB3BS 20:00 to 21:00 Local

Friday Club Net, We are now back at the club so the Friday net is suspended

Saturday DMR Net GB7BS 19:00 to 20:00 South west cluster TS2 (950)

Sunday morning 80m Net 3.65MHz 08:00 has now been suspended.

Sunday Evening Net This was on GB3AA for a while but, the Sunday Net now reverts to GB3BS 20:00 to 21:00 clock time.

Club Contacts

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Next Q5

November (See Note opposite)

Dave G7BYN.

Q5 Publication

During the pandemic I have been publishing Q5 as near to monthly as possible. However, now we are back at the club, Q5 will revert to quarterly unless there are any changes again.

It is hoped that I will still get articles sent to me from time to time and I thank all of you that have submitted items over these difficult times.