

# **Bromsgrove & District Amateur Radio Club.**

**Newsletter 18.06.21**

## **How I came into Amateur Radio.**

I clearly remember the event that not only got me into amateur radio, but also provided me with employment for the rest of my working life. In the summer of 1975, after yet another few weeks in hospital, I was on a day trip to Pershore and found myself in the bookshop on the High Street. Mother was looking at art and craft books and there a book caught my eye. Mom offered to buy it for me, but I declined the offer. At the time my health was poor, and I had more important things on my mind. The story could have ended there, and I possibly would have followed my dream to be a chef specialising in dietary requirements. However, over a coffee mother asked about the book again and possibly seeing the educational value (she was a teacher) said that on the way back to the car we would pop back to the shop and buy it.

That book was a Ladybird Book "Making a Transistor Radio". The author was no other than G.C. Dobbs, well before his fame with the G-QRP Club. It proved to be 24 pence well spent! The book covers building a transistor radio in easy stages, with a working radio at the end of each stage. Stage one is a crystal set and ends up with to three -transistor radio with a loudspeaker. It used a couple of OC71 and an AF126. It used a non-soldering method of brass screws and screw cups on a wooden base.

Over the summer months I tried various local radio and TV shops to obtain the necessary components. Many were not helpful to this ten-year old but two were. One in Rubery who gave me an old non-working radio to strip down for the tuning capacitor and ferrite rod. Many years later I learnt that this person was Pete ( now G4LUX) and the other was S.M. Spain in Bromsgrove were I met John G4AAL and Roy (who later became G4IUX).

After many visits to the shop, I was persuaded to go to a radio club meeting at Avoncroft and I eventually joined the club.

I got hooked on radio and electronics and spent many an hour in between the frequent spells in hospital building various projects from magazines like Everyday Electronics and Practical Wireless. At the club one evening I was offered the job of "Saturday Lad" at Spain's and my career path was thus set.

With tutorial from the late Geoff G3RBL I passed the RAE with two distinctions at the age of thirteen. I had to wait until my 14<sup>th</sup> Birthday before I could apply for a callsign. I eventually got G8XUI and then spend that winter studying CW before taking the exam at Highbridge during the Easter Holidays. This was the deadline given by my parents as I then needed to settle down to schooling prior to my exams. Four of us went for the exam that day, three of us passed and two of us are still active.

During the run up to my school exams I was offered a full-time position at S.M Spain which I took over the offer a City & Guilds course at Worcester Tech. I studied "on the job" and later sat my C&G at Worcester as an external candidate.

So, that one simple book forged my future in a way that no one could have envisaged.

I may write a second part to this chronicling a few of the moments of my time in the radio communications and electronics trade.

Next week we will have the next instalment from John G4PKW in his life with radio.

Three members have now written about their entry into amateur radio, it would be interesting if some others could share their story with us.

### **Tonight's Zoom meeting.**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/7911047603?pwd=dlhZWkNnd0IvMU41TXF1YVV5U1hLZz09>

Meeting ID: 791 104 7603

Passcode: Jme9Qe

### **Clubs nets.**

Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings. 7.30 local time. 145.400MHz FM.

All welcome.

As always, articles for next week's newsletter to me ASAP please.

Alan G4LVK.