

HORSHAM AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

HARCNEWS

Coming Shortly

Dec 2nd Club Evening AGM

Dec 5th DF Hunt

Dec 11th Club Event Xmas Dinner

Dec 16th Social Evening White Horse Maplehurst

December 2004

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HARC Chairman's Report 2004

Well what a year 2004 has been for HARC, it never ceases to amaze me how varied one year can be from another. The meetings that we have had this year have ranged from four excellent talks by external speakers, to our usual home grown lectures, and of course our now infamous Junk Sales.

This year we were fortunate to have two visits from John Narborough (from the Amberley Chalk Pits Museum). The first was a totally absorbing talk about '100 years of 'plugs, sockets and switches in the home'.

The talk certainly brought back many memories for all of how it used to be in the home, lethal! The second was yet another fascinating talk about mains electricity distribution from the power station to the home. Hard to believe that

the power distribution system used today has not changed very much over the last sixty years or so and that in parts of Sussex today, cables that were installed 100 years ago are still in use. The talk was accompanied by some excellent photo's especially the wooden 11Kv line pole that was on fire!

In June Claire Greer gave us a talk about codes and ciphers and also demonstrated a German WWII Enigma machine. Jason G6KNE, a one time HARC member gave us a talk about Surrey Police Communications (of much interest to one of our members who has a keen dislike of our friends with blue lights!). This also included demonstrations of equipment used by the 'Rozzers' from the past to the present day.

As for our home grown club

nights, Bring Show and Tell proved to be a success, with various club members showing their efforts and rewards for their other interests apart from amateur radio.

Items displayed ranged from intricate cross stitch pictures from Anne M1AIM, some really exquisite water colour paintings from David G4FQR. Photography from Brian G3GDU, 'real' engineering from Tony G3NPF, radio control aircraft from Robin G3OGP, and a hitherto new meaning of the words 'Spud Gun' from Gerald M3GCR.

Last but not least, the Junk Sales which continue to provide income for Club Funds, that with out the help of Tony G3NPF as auctioneer, Marilyn G7EYL for the raffle and last but not least Jackie M0CUR, Jan for much need refreshments during the evenings proceedings, many grateful thanks.

Other events this year have included our usual crop of well hidden foxes, which

after hunting down should have been shot! Contests that included Club Calls, both 80m AFS sections, the 80m Club Championship and finally SSB Field Day (restricted section) operated by the HARC juniors and new licensees.

All enthusiastically co-ordinated this year by Helen M0DEY. It was requested that this years SSB Field Day was run for the benefit of our newer and younger members to help them get the feel of a real contest. Let's not forget that it is these new and younger amateurs who will hopefully carry HARC forward in years to come. Next year we shall return to the QRO section.

Also this year, HARC reorganised some of its assets. The old tower was sold. The tower had given us many years of service, but had deteriorated over the last 25 years or so to the extent that it need some costly repairs, that would have used up considerable amount of club funds. Also added to the fact

that no one in the club has a suitable vehicle to tow the tower. An alternative method of supporting the beam etc. has been proven to work well by Pete G4LKW and will be used in the future.

Also this year our old generator was sold and replaced with a shiny new 5.6 kVA generator (see photo). The new generator has a long range fuel tank so no more filling it up in the small hours in pitch black with a jerry can in one hand, funnel in the other, and a torch clenched between your teeth!

So there you have it, 2004. I think you will agree it has been a memorable year. Lets hope 2005 will be of equal if not better vintage... Before the usual season's greetings, remember, it is YOUR club, if you want change, come along, get involved, and stand for election as an officer or committee member.

All that remains for me to do is to thank all of those that have helped to make HARC what it is over the past year, and to say "Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year".

73's de G4LRP

