

# HARCNEWS

The Journal of

Horsham Amateur Radio Club

Est. 1938



G4HRS

February 2007

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# Notes From The Editor

A warm welcome to the February edition of the Journal. I trust that your antennas have survived the heavy winds. Myself I am changing direction and having left factory work have gone for a Fastrack course in IT. This word simply means Fastrack into an IT career. However I have to commute by train and tube that is proving great fun with delays to the journey somewhere almost every day!

I would like to thank Ron G3PYC for his submission but otherwise it has been fairly quiet so please get a pen or use your keyboard skills and send in a few contributions. This month sees the start of this year's Club Championships contests and they all take place on 80m.

It should be noted that the entire contests run from 8 - 9.30pm clock time. I would like to say a farewell and thanks to Lindfield Communications who have provided the printing of this journal since I took over as newsletter editor. As from this issue I now do the printing at home since a new printer has been acquired recently. Readers will also notice that the HARC diary for 2007 is included in full colour as last year.

See you next month.

David G4JHI

Please send contributions for the March edition of HARCNEWS to the editor by 17th February. Items received after the deadline will be held over until a later edition.

All input is subject to suitability and available space.

For items sent by email please send to this address:

[harc.news@g4jhi.co.uk](mailto:harc.news@g4jhi.co.uk)

# The Calendar

by Ron Polley G3PYC

The early calendars were set by the rotation of the Sun and Moon about the Earth. The Sun appeared to rotate about the Earth once whilst the Moon rotated approximately 12 and a bit times. The Jewish calendar was generally accepted in the Near East and European areas until 46bc when Julius Caesar formulated a Roman calendar which was subsequently known as the Julian calendar.

The New Year started on the Vernal (spring) Equinox which in modern times is either March 21st or 22nd. The months September, October, November and December were months 7, 8, 9, 10, of the year. All sorts of unnamed fiddle days were introduced to try and keep the calendar in step with the solar and lunar cycles. The Roman Catholic clergy were given the job of deciding when to introduce these days and much bribery passed hands to secure particular dates.

By the 1570's the Julian calendar was so out of step that the vernal equinox was on March 11th. Pope Gregory XIII issued a papal bull in 1582 giving the details of the new Christian calendar to be used, now called the Gregorian calendar, the one that we use today. All the Roman Catholic countries accepted it straight away, but the British government did not ratify it till 1752 when September the 2nd was followed by the 14th, and the New Year started on 1st Jan.

This meant that 1751 only had 281 days and 1752 had only 354 days. Just imagine the problems with our mortgages etc if this had happened in our time. In 1908 the Imperial Russian Olympic team arrived in London 12 days late for the games.

Russia did not change her calendar till 1918 when Jan 31st was followed by Feb 14th. The last to change was Turkey in 1926. The dates of Easter Sunday are still calculated from the Golden numbers tables to be found at the back of the Prayer Book.

The basic calculation for Easter Day is the Sunday following the first full Moon AFTER the day of the Vernal Equinox, nominally March 21st. This could be March 23rd, with a full Moon on the day after. A full Moon on March 21st means that a full Lunar cycle has to pass and the latest possible date is April 25th. The tables for the Golden numbers were drawn up in 1752 and do not correspond with the actual timings of the Moon today; it is a notional Full Moon.

Edmund Halley in 1691 predicted the arrival of the comet named after him for 1757. It actually appeared in 1758, just a few months late, quote from modern text books. How many of them realized the 3 month change to the start of the New Year in 1752! The comet's arrival did help to validate Isaac Newton's theory of gravity.

## January Meeting Review: Pub Quiz Night

The January meeting that consisted of a quiz was run by our Chairman and proved very entertaining. Questions in many different categories appeared with several teams playing.

It was of course noticed that there was a round about children's TV and did you know that Camberwick Green was set in the fictitious county of Trumptonshire!

The winning team consisted of Anne M1AIM, Tony G3NPF, Paul G4TMC and Les G3VQO who were presented with some very nice beverages! Well done Adrian and we look forward to the next time!

# Radio Diary

Feb 1st, Club Night: Radio and Telecommunications by  
Dave Sumner G3PVH

Feb 5th 80m SSB Club Championship 20:00 - 21:30

Feb 8th, Committee Meeting - QTH of G7EYL

Feb 14th 80m Data Club Championship 20:00 - 21:30

Feb 17/18th World Thinking day on the Air

Feb 22nd 80m CW Club Championship 20:00 - 21:30

Feb 25th G4HRS/P Sunday morning 2m Fox Hunt - Fox  
- M0GJH (Details at Club meeting/Contact Andrew)

All above times are UTC

Committee/Club Meetings and Socials start at 8pm

## HARC Subscriptions

A reminder that subscriptions are now due. If you have not paid as yet then please forward your £15 to the Treasurer. Cheques should be made payable to H.A.R.C. If you wish to send your payment in the post the address is Paul Barnett, 8 Parsonage Road, Horsham, RH12 4AR.