

COULSDON AMATEUR TRANSMITTING SOCIETY

G4FUR



M1FUR

“CATS WHISPERS”

December 2016



Affiliated to the RSGB

CATS Committee

Chairman: Stuart Barber G6CJR
Secretary: Andy Briers G0KZT
Treasurer: Steve Conway G7SYO
Members: Mike Buckley M1CCF
 : Dave Bassett M0TRQ
Vacancies: Currently remains at two

CATS Whispers Editor: Andy Briers G0KZT

email address for contributions: newsletter@catsradio.org

Regular Society Meetings: These are held on the second Monday of each month at:
St. Swithun's Church Hall, Grovelands Road, Purley, Surrey, CR8 4LA at 20:15 to 22:15

Society Nets

Sunday mornings - 11:00 - Call on 145.400 MHz ± QRM
Sunday evenings - 17:00 - Call on 3.700 MHz ± QRM
Wednesday evenings - 21:00 - Call on 70.425 MHz

CATS Website www.catsradio.org

Email enquiries@catsradio.org

Forthcoming Meetings

Monday 12th December – Annual General Meeting
Monday 9th January – Annual CATS Dinner at Le Chateau Coombe Road Croydon
Monday 13th February – The GB3XP Repeater Project by Martin Rothwell M0SGL



CATS are twinned with the Crescenta Valley Radio Club
Glendale California USA www.qsl.net/cvrc

November Meeting Debrief– The ICQ Podcast by Martin M1MRB

Martin M1MRB/W9ICQ kindly came along with two of his co-presenters Chris Howard M0TCH and Martin Rothwell M0SGL to tell us about his popular fortnightly Podcast which he started 8 years ago with his son Colin M6BOY.



First of all Martin explained what a Podcast was. He described it as a **free** to download video or audio file that can be played back through any PC / Mac, or mp3 player (such as an iPod). These files can be recorded for playback on a display or stereo system that supports mp3 file playback. Listening to the ICQPODCAST is a similar experience as listening to a talk radio / BBC Radio 4 program.

The ICQ Podcast covers Amateur Radio news, views, reviews, technical information and training. Topics covered have included 80 metre SSB Kit Building, Power Boosting, Bluetooth Headsets for Amateur Radio, D-star, Test equipment and PSK31 to name a few. Episodes include roundtable discussions reviewing the news in Amateur Radio and a feature on a Amateur Radio topic.

Each episode has a number of guest presenters and currently on the team are Leslie Butterfield G0CIB, Edmund Spicer M0MNG, Matthew Nassau M0NJX, Andy Mace M0MUX, Chris Howard M0TCH / N4CTH, Martin Rothwell M0SGL, Dan Romanchik KB6NU, and ED Durrant DD5LP

Each episode is made up of news topics and events which have just happened or about to happen. They choose items of interest from around the world and the panel discuss the news (having had a pre-recording chat to prepare the material). In addition, a specific feature is chosen to focus on. This is usually presented by Martin M1MRB but he welcomes content from either his circle of co-presenters or from anyone else who wishes to record material.

Martin then described how the Podcast is put together. Participants use SKYPE to join the round table as this is free VoIP software. Another computer running AUDACITY records the audio which is later edited. This is Freeware and is able to record live audio, convert tapes and records into digital recordings or CDs, edit Ogg Vorbis, MP3, WAV or AIFF sound files, cut, copy, splice or mix sounds together, and change the speed or pitch of a recording. The finished item is an MP3 audio file which

runs for about an hour which is then loaded to their distribution server. Information is sent to iTunes and registered users making the current episode available for download.

Martin was keen to tell us that the Podcast is free to listen to. Martin receives no sponsorship but instead welcomes listeners to donate to the running costs, either by one of payments or £1.00 per episode subscriptions.



The team (in orange) at Friedrichshafen in 2015 (L-R) DD5LP, M6BOY, M0SGL, M0TCH, M1MRB

Both Terry and I were briefly interviewed at Friedrichshafen and can be heard on one of the feature broadcasts following the show.

The Podcast can be downloaded via iTunes or via following the link from the website. It is also available via other servers who feature the Podcast but then associate with an advertiser. Martin has no control over this but instead resigns to the fact that it increases the overall number of listeners. This also makes it difficult to calculate the actual number of listeners, many of whom are in the UK, the USA and Australia.

So the next time you are at a rally or an event and you see the “Orange Army”, go and say “hello” and who knows, you may become the next feature of the Podcast!

Our thanks to Martin, Chris and Martin for coming along and telling us about the ICQ Podcast.

December Meeting – Annual General Meeting

I guess this is one of the most important meetings of the year..... Your chance to put yourself forward to help run YOUR club either as Secretary, Treasurer or Ordinary Committee member (one of whom is chosen to be Chairman), potentially vote on nominees and raise any issues you have. Nominations can be accepted up to the beginning of the meeting, so it's still not too late to put your name forward.

To help the formalities along, complimentary mince pies and wine, plus a selection of soft drinks, tea and coffee will be available. You may wish to leave your car at home!

Most importantly, CATS needs YOU ...

January Meeting – Annual CATS Dinner – Le Chateau, Croydon

Reservations have now been taken for the 2017 Annual CATS Dinner at Le Chateau, Coombe Lane Croydon. Those members and guests will be contacted shortly to confirm the menu etc. **There is a possibility however that we may not have met the minimum threshold for this venue.** The restaurant is opening solely for our dinner as it is usually closed on Mondays.

Should this change, members will be informed with further information.

February Meeting – The GB3XP Repeater Project by Martin M0SGL

Martin Rothwell M0SGL has kindly agreed to give us a talk on GB3XP, our nearest 2 Metre repeater which is housed on the roof of St Helier Hospital in Carshalton. This repeater has been developed by members of Sutton & Cheam Radio Society and has encountered a number of challenges because of its co-siting with other PMR radios. But, when Martin gives his presentation next year, there should be some exciting news regarding a digital addition.

Membership News

We have gained yet another new member for 2016 when Biton Walstra M0WAO chose to join us at the 39th CATS Bazaar. Biton lives in Redhill and lists his interests as WARC bands, chatting and outside of Amateur Radio, sailing.

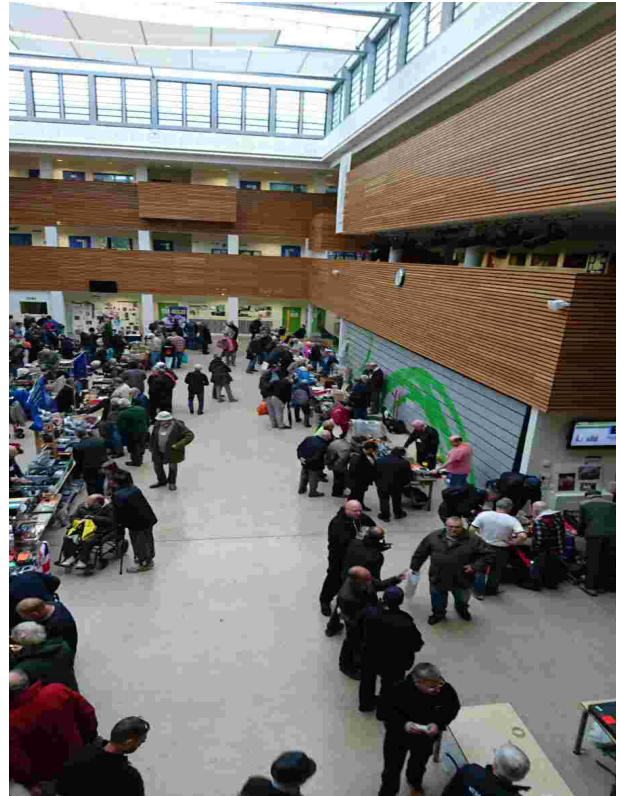
Welcome Biton to the Society.

39th CATS Bazaar – Debrief

On Sunday 20th November, on what was a cold but unexpectedly dry day, we hosted our 39th Radio and Electronics Bazaar at the Oasis Academy Coulsdon. This was a brand new venue for us which the Committee chose to move to because of the parking restrictions at last year's venue. From the closing of the 2015 Bazaar which had been organised solely by Glen G4FVL, it was decided to form a sub committee to plan the 2016 event. Following the first meeting, Stuart G6CJR and Andy G0KZT undertook to choose the venue, liaise with the school letting staff and plan the event. This involved a number of trips to the Academy to work out how to make the most of the extra space "The Agora" and the extra hire of the cafeteria would provide.

In the run up to the event, bookings were initially slow but as the date got nearer, the number of trader applications rose to the point that we had filled the space! Unlike last year when we had an opportunity to set up on the evening prior to the event, set up was only available on the Sunday morning. So, at 8.00am our team arrived and begun to unload the tables we had borrowed from the Banstead scouts care of Stuart and Denis M0NDJ. However the shortfall of tables were to be sourced from the classrooms which were soon stripped bare. While all this was going on, Dave M0TRQ and Glen G4FVL were organising the car parking as the traders began to arrive. With the additional assistance from Andy G8JAC, Graham M3UQO, Steve G3WZK, Steve G7SYO, Martin G4FKK, Adam G7CRQ, Peter M0PWW, Len G0GNQ, Paul M0JXN, John G1RUV and Peter 2E0DYV. Terry G4CDY had undertaken to run the talk-in station which was set up in one of the classrooms while Jim G4WYJ, his wife Barbara, Prue G4RWW and Stuart's wife Janice ran the cafe for us. Tom G4DFA assisted by his wife Sue (who has done a huge amount of work regarding Frank G3ZMF's affairs) undertook to run a table selling Frank's silent key stuff. Two other members had

their own tables; Alvin G6DTW and Lawrie G4FAA.



At 10.00am the doors opened and the estimated 190 visitors flooded in. We sold tables to 32 traders, clubs and interest groups. We also had the Bring & Buy which did exceptionally well, due in part to the generous donation of some quality test gear for club funds by Terry G4CDY.

The canteen did a brisk trade with a constant queue of people waiting to be served. I know that we had to send out for more supplies on several occasions because we kept selling out. The sausage rolls of course went down a treat and sold out in no time!



As usual at about 1.00pm the traders began to wind up their stalls and the clear up began. And by 2.30pm we were able to hand the hall back to the two staff members who had been present during the whole event. They were surprised by how many stalls we had and by the number of cars that

had parked outside in the sports courts and playground.

I am pleased to be able to report that although the venue was more expensive than in previous years, we collectively made a profit of around £580.00 for club funds. The new venue was well received by the traders and visiting public alike and it was great to see so many visitors chatting in the cafeteria over their teas and coffees. This is a fantastic amount which we can use to fund projects in 2017 and to also keep subscriptions low for next year.

We can now review some of the teething problems and to look forward to building on this success for our 40th Bazaar next year. Provisionally we have penciled in a date of Sunday 19th November 2017 so watch this space!

We of course must thank the traders who support us, some of them year on year. And what's more, some of them travel long distances to join us and we appreciate their commitment. But I'd like to also thank Stuart for his excellent spreadsheet planning but also to everyone who helped make the event such a great success.

Sutton & Cheam Big Quiz - 19th January 2017

We would like to support S&CRS at their Big Quiz. If you would like to be part of the CATS team, please contact G0KZT ASAP.

Future of CATS Whispers

I am looking for a willing volunteer to take on the editing and publication of our newsletter. Is this something you would like to take on???

While I have made it known that I will not be standing as either Secretary or as a committee member, I think it is only fair that I continue as a caretaker editor until a replacement can be found.

On the subject of the newsletter, it has been discussed as to how the newsletter can be better read by the membership. It has become apparent that deadlines and information contained within are being missed. Email (accept for the very few members who do not have email) is the only practical delivery method as to post copies to ALL members is prohibitive due to printing and postal costs.

The question is, are members being over-whelmed by the volume of emails or is the newsletter too large and needs to be simplified????

I suppose, from an editors point of view, the newsletter is something which members look forward to receiving and the content is something you want to read.

Any answers, suggestions or offers greatfully will be gratefully received!

Contests Corner

Here is a reminder of what contests are available in December

RSGB Contests in December		
Tuesday 13 th December	432 MHz UK Activity Contest	2000 - 2230 UTC
Tuesday 20 th December	1.3 GHz UK Activity Contest	2000 – 2230 UTC

Rallies & Events

15 January 2017 West Manchester Radio Club's Red Rose Winter Rally

Lowton Civic Centre, Hesketh Meadow Lane, Lowton, WA3 2AH.

Just off the A580 East Lancs Road.

Free Parking. Open 11:00. Trade. SIGs. B&B. RSGB books. On-site catering.

Courtesy of the West Manchester Radio Club

Details: John, 07870-161953 http://wmrc.org.uk/lowton_winter.htm

29 January 2017 Horncastle Winter Radio Rally

Horncastle Youth Centre, Willow Close, Cagthorpe, Horncastle, Lincs LN9 6DB.

Venue all on one level. Entry £2. Open 10:00. Free on-site parking.

Hot drinks and snacks available (including bacon butties). RSGB books.

Details: Tony, G3ZPU, 01507-527835.

5 February 2017 32nd Canvey Radio & Electronics Rally

The Paddocks Community Centre, Long Road, Canvey Island, SS8 0JA.

Open 10:30 (08:30-traders). Trade. SIGs. Free parking. Disabled facilities. RSGB books.

Refreshments, including Mark's famous bacon baguettes.

Details: Vic Rogers, G6BHE, 07957-461694 or Dave Speechley, G4UVJ, 01268-697978

g4uvj@btinternet.com

12 February 2017 Harwell Radio & Electronics Rally

Didcot Leisure Centre, Mereland Road. Didcot, Oxon. OX11 8AY

3 miles from A34 between Oxford and Newbury

Entry £3 (under 12s free). Talkin by GX3PIA 145.550 MHz. Easy parking.

Disabled facilities (including lift). All-day refreshments (sandwiches,

homemade cakes and hot drinks). Well signposted. RSGB. Trade

Details: Ann Stevens, ann.stevens@btinternet.com

19 February 2017 Radioactive Fair

Civic Hall, Nantwich, Cheshire, CW5 5DG.

Computers. Electronics. Amateur Radio. Catering. Free parking.

Trade enquiries via <http://www.radioactivefair.co.uk>

19 February 2017 Audiojumble

The Angel Leisure Centre, Angel Lane, Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 1SF

Secondhand and vintage hifi event. Vintage & modern hifi, valve amps,

speakers, turntables, tuners, tape-recorders, CD players, records,

components, books & vintage radios. Details:<http://www.audiojumble.co.uk>

26 February 2017 The Rainham Radio Rally

Rainham School for Girls, Derwent Way, Rainham, Kent, ME8 0BX.

Just off the A2 and M2 J4.

Open 10:00. Talkin 145.550 by GB4RRR. Light refreshments. Exhibitor and

trader places available. Details: Rally-coordinator@brats-qth.org <http://tinyurl.com/hzqn9wu>

11 March 2017 42nd Dutch National Radio Flea Market [Saturday]

Autoron, Graafsebaan 133, Rosmalen 5248, Noord Brabant, The Netherlands.

On the Autobahn A59, 's-Hertogenbosch-Nijmegen.

GPS: 51 42' 58,35" N and 5 24' 58,35" E.

Further information in English: http://radiovlooiemarkt.nl/?page_id=3523

12 March 2017 Dover Radio C

Whitfield Village Hall, Sandwich Rd, Whitfield, Dover, Kent, CT16 3LY.

Admission £2. Open 10:00-13:00. Talkin by GB3KS. Parking. Trade. B&B. Refreshments.

Auction (at 12:30).

Details: Peter, G0KOK, events@darco.org.uk Club website: <http://darco.org.uk/>

19 March 2017 Wythall Radio Club Rally

Wythall House, Wythall Park, Silver Street, Wythall, Birmingham, B47 6LZ

Two miles from M42 Junction 3

All under cover. Admission £ to be announced. Open 10:00/09:30 to 15:00. Components.

Trade. On-site and on-road parking. Well signposted. Traders please book early as

this is a popular Hamfest. Bookings now being taken.

Club website: <http://www.wythallradioclub.co.uk/hamfest>

30 April 2017 Cambridge Repeater Group Rally

Foxton Village Hall, Hardman Road, Foxton, Cambridge, CB22 6RN.

Entry £2. Open 09:30/07:30 traders. Free on-site parking. Trade. B&B.

Car boot sale. RSGB books. Catering.

Details: Lawrence, M0LCM, 07941-972724, rally2017@cambridgerepeaters.net

Web: <http://www.cambridgerepeaters.net>

6 May 2017 SERF 2017 Southern Electronics & Radio Fair - Eastbourne Rally [Saturday]

Eastbourne Sports Park, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN21 2UF.

Doors open 10:00 to 16:00. Admission £3, children under 16 Free. Inside a large hall and outside in an adjacent field. Traders. Flea market & boot fair. Free clubs/groups pitch. Easy access. Adjacent free parking. Auction. Talks. Camping/caravanning. Refreshments. RSGB books. Talkin. Event station.

Disabled facilities. Lunchtime live entertainment. Hall stand setup from Friday 17:00.

Details: Dave, G8PUO, 07807-074538, <http://www.serf.org.uk>

7 May 2017 Dambusters Hamfest

Thorpe Camp Visitor Centre, Tattershall, Thorpe, Coningsby, Lincs. LN4 4PL.

Entry £3/kids free (includes museum visit). Outside event with limited room

inside. Hot food. NAAFI. RSGB books. Venue on one level with wheelchair

access to all buildings. Contact: Tony G3ZPU, 01507-527835, tony.nightingale@yahoo.co.uk or

Ant, M0HAZ, 07956-654481

19-21 May 2017 Dayton Hamvention, USA [Friday-Sunday]

Hara Arena, North Hall, 1001 Shiloh Springs Road, Dayton, Ohio, 45414

Open 08:00. Parking. Free local transport. Trade. Flea market. SIGs. RSGB books.

Catering. Lectures. Family pastimes. US exams. Raffle. Disabled facilities.

Details: international@hamvention.org <http://www.hamvention.org>

14-16 July 2017 Hamtronic Show, Friedrichshafen, Germany [Friday-Sunday]

Messe, Friedrichshafen, 88046, Germany

Open 09:00-18:00. Admission €9.00, (other ticketing formats available).SIGs. Trade.

IARU Member Societies' stands. Lectures, some in English. Large flea market.RSGB books.

Details: <http://www.hamradio-friedrichshafen.de>

23 July 2017 Finningley ARS Rally

The Hurst Communications Centre, Belton Road, Sandtoft, Doncaster, DN8 5SX.
Open 10:30. Free parking. Massive indoor/outdoor traders area. Hot food and drinks all day. Major traders and club stalls – microwave components to QRP kits. All on one level. Admission £3

Contact: Kevin, G3AAF, 07831 614640, Kevin@avery03.fsnet.co.uk

30 July 2017 Chippenham and District Amateur Radio Club Rally

Kington Langley Village Hall, Church Road Kington Langley, SN15 5NJ.

Further detail to follow.

Club website: <http://G3VRE.org.uk>

13 August 2017 Flight Refuelling ARS Hamfest

Cobham Sports & Social Club Ground, Merley, Wimborne, Dorset

(No further details as yet)

Club website: <http://frars.org.uk>

20 August 2017 Rugby Amateur Transmitting Society Annual Radio Rally

Princethorpe College, Princethorpe, Rugby, CV23 9PY

NGR: SP395710. Lat/Long: 52.336N 01.421W

Admission £3. Open 10:00 (08:30 for sellers) to 16:00

Car boot sale. Catering.

Details: Tony, G0OLS, 23 Sycamore Drive, Lutterworth, Leics LE17 4TR.

Tel: 07759 684411

Email: rally@rugbyats.co.uk Web: <http://www.rugbyats.co.uk>

27 August 2017 Milton Keynes MKARS Rally

The Irish Centre, Manor Fields, Watling Street, Bletchley, Bucks. MK2 2HX.

(Opposite Dobbie's Garden Centre.)

Entrance fee £3.00. Free parking.

Further details: <https://www.mkars.org.uk>

29 & 30 September 2017 National Hamfest [Friday & Saturday]

Newark & Nottinghamshire Showground, Lincoln Road, Winthorpe, Newark, Notts. NG24 2NY.

Trade. B&B. Free parking. Disabled facilities. SIGs. Car boot sale. Flea market.

RSGB books. Morse tests. Catering.

Details: <http://www.nationalhamfest.org.uk>

13 to 16 October 2017 The RSGB Convention [Friday to Monday]

Kent's Hill Park Training and Conference Centre, Swallow House, Timbold Drive,

Kent's Hill Park, Milton Keynes, Bucks. MK7 6BZ.

Details: <http://www.rsgbevents.org>

5 November 2017 West London Radio & Electronics Show (Kempton Rally)

Kempton Park Racecourse, Staines Road East, Sunbury on Thames, TW16 5AQ.

Open 10:00/09:50. B&B. SIGs. Talkin. On-site parking. Lectures. Raffle. Catering.

Details: Paul, M0CJX, 0845-165-0351, info@radiofairs.co.uk

<http://www.radiofairs.co.uk>

Other Club News & Contact Information

BROMLEY & DISTRICT ARS

Website: www.bdars.org.uk/

Email: info@bdars.co.uk

Club Net: Wednesdays 9:00pm - meet on 145.500 MHz FM and QSY

Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of every month at Victory Social Club, Kechill Gardens, Hayes, Kent, 19:30 for 20:00.

CRYSTAL PALACE & DISTRICT RADIO SOCIETY

Website: www.qsl.net/g3oou/ or <http://www.g3oou.co.uk/>

Club Net: Wednesdays 20:00 on 145.525 MHz

Meetings: 1st Friday at All Saints Church Parish Rooms, Beulah Hill at 19:30

6th Jan 17 M Digital Mode Radio by Damien 2E0EUI

3rd Feb 17 M Annual General Meeting

CRAWLEY ARC

Website: www.carc.org.uk

Meetings: Every Wednesday at Hut 18, Tilgate Forest Recreational Centre, Tilgate Forest, Crawley from 19:30, and Sundays, 10:30 to 13.00.

Wednesday 25th January - AGM

CRAY VALLEY RS

Website: www.cvr.org

Contact: Richard Cains G7GLW rcains@btinternet.com

Club Net - 10m Sunday morning net @ 10:00 local: 28.570 MHz +- QRM

4m net – Fridays in weeks where there is no club meeting @ 20:30 local: 70.450MHz, then QSY to 70.425 or 70.475MHz

Meetings: 1st and 3rd Thursdays at

1st Royal Eltham Scouts HQ, Rear of 61 - 71 Southend Crescent, Eltham, London, SE9 2SD.

DORKING & DISTRICT

Website: <http://www.ddrs.org.uk>

Email: ddrs.secretary@yahoo.co.uk

Contact: George Brind, G4CMU

Club Nets: Sunday 08:15 on 3.770 MHz & Thursday 20:00 on 144.775 MHz

Meetings: Friends Meeting House, Butterhill, South Street Dorking at 19:30

HORSHAM ARC

Website: www.harc.org.uk

Club Nets: Saturdays 21:30 on 144.725MHz and Sundays 10:00 on 3.722 MHz

Meetings: 1st Thursday at The Guide Hall, Denne Road, Horsham, Sussex

MID SUSSEX ARS

Website: www.msars.org.uk

Club Nets: Sundays 08:00 on 3.740 MHz and at

11:00 on 145.350 MHz, Wednesdays 20:00 on 145.350

MHz and Daily 13:30 on 21.330 MHz

Meetings: Every Friday at Cyprus Hall, Cyprus Road, Burgess Hill, West Sussex for 19:45

SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

Website: www.g3src.org.uk

Contact: John Kennedy G3MCX, 020 8688 3322 email secretary@g3src.org

Club Net: Sunday 09:30 on 1905 kHz , 70.300 MHz Thursday 8:00 pm, 145.35 MHz +/- 25kHz

Friday 8:00 pm

Meetings: 1st & 3rd Mondays at Trinity School, Shirley Park, Croydon CR9 7AT 19:30 for 19:45.

Monday 9th January - 3D Printing by Gareth G4XAT

Monday 5 February – TBA

Monday 6th March - Surplus Equipment Sale

Sutton & Cheam Radio Society

Sutton United Football Club. The Borough Sports Ground, Gander Green Lane, Sutton, Surrey, SM1 2EY

Web site: <http://www.scrs.org.uk> General Enquiries e.mail: info@scrs.org.uk

Nets – Wednesday 20.00hrs 145.500 MHz , Saturday 10.00 7.125 MHz, Saturday 11.00 145.500 MHz

19th January - S&CRS Big Radio Quiz of the year.

16th February - 'What to look for in choosing a VHF/UHF Radio' Professor Alwyn Seeds G8DOH

16th March - To be confirmed

20th April - To be confirmed

18th May - Annual General Meeting and Constructional Contest

Submissions are most welcome from CATS members, Local clubs and societies

CATS Whispers is published monthly by Andy Briers G0KZT on behalf of the

Coulsdon Amateur Transmitting Society.

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