

COULSDON AMATEUR TRANSMITTING SOCIETY
G4FUR  **M1FUR**
CATS WHISPERS



October 2015



Affiliated to the RSGB

CATS Committee

Chairman: Stuart Barber, G6CJR
Secretary: Mike Buckley, M1CCF
Treasurer: Steve Conway, G7SYO
Members: Steve Beal, G3WZK
Andy Briers G0KZT
Dennis Noe, M0NDJ
Vacancy

CATS Whispers Editor: Steve Beal, G3WZK
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 from 20:15 to 22:15

Society Nets

1st Saturday of month - 17:15 - Crescenta Valley / CATS Net on Echolink/ GB3NS
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 October 12 Talk on dead bug construction by Bob G30OU
Monday November 9 Constructional Evening
Monday December 14 AGM



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

CATS September Meeting

On 14th September, Denis G0OLX - well known to many as the keeper of repeaters such as GB3NS and GB7NS - visited CATS to give a talk about DMR (Digital Mobile Radio).



Denis G0OLX begins his talk

Denis began by giving a brief summary of his life in amateur radio and the repeaters he has been involved with. He then explained how DMR had developed from PMR (personal mobile radio), with Motorola having been first to manufacture DMR equipment. Denis was asked by Motorola to undertake some early tests and was allowed to keep the equipment afterwards which he pressed into service to build the first incarnation of GB7NS, the 70cm DMR digital voice repeater sited in Caterham.



DMR equipment that Denis G0OLX brought to the meeting. On the left side is a PA (power amplifier) unit. On the right (with the blue LEDs) is a 4G router used to provide internet access. Both items are sitting on the DMR repeater (with the green LEDs.)

Denis brought with him the latest slimline repeater from Motorola (see photo above.)

There are now some 30 DMR repeaters in the UK, 20 of which are in the London/South East general area. The national total is likely to rise to 50 in the not-too-distant future. In the UK there is also a facility to link 2 DMR repeaters.

Using websites such as “DMR Live Monitor” it is possible to get a feel for real time and recent UK DMR repeater usage. Click on the link below so see for yourself:

<http://www.cc-3.net/monitor.php?filter=uk>

One of the big benefits of DMR is that you don't have to QSY (change frequency) when driving around and travelling through the catchment areas of different repeaters.



Map showing DMR repeaters in SE England

By logging in on line it is easy to see what your signal strength is into the repeater – measured as RSSI which ranges from 0 to -120 dB. The nearer to 0, the better.

Central to the concept of DMR, is that capacity on a given radio channel is divided into two timeslots, each timeslot being subdivided into a number of talk groups. In addition there is a setting called “colour” which is assigned geographically in much the same way as CTCSS is used on analogue repeaters. The purpose of all this apparent complexity is that it enables the RF spectrum to be used very efficiently by different groups over a given geographical area.

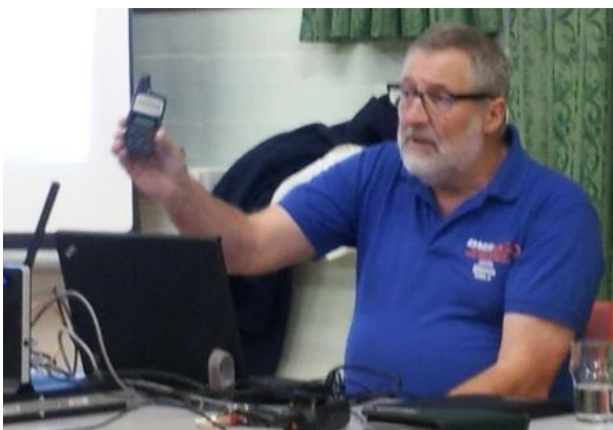
Denis explained how each radio is programmed with both a callsign and an ID. ID's have to be applied for by visiting the following website:

<http://dmr-marc.net/index.html>

In summary, Denis explained that DMR is now overtaking D-STAR in popularity, no doubt

helped by the somewhat lower prices of DMR radios.

A selection of photos follows:



Denis G00LX demonstrates a handie costing only £138



A selection of handies that Denis G00LX brought to the meeting

Although Denis' talk only lasted for an hour, it covered a lot of ground and was very interesting. Thank you Denis!

CATS October Meeting

This will be a talk on Dead Bug Construction by Bob G300U, followed by a chance to build a simple project using the dead bug technique. PCB (printed circuit board) and all components will be supplied (including solder). Some tools will be available but members are encouraged to bring their own if they wish.

Please note that there will be something for everyone this evening - no prior constructional experience is required.

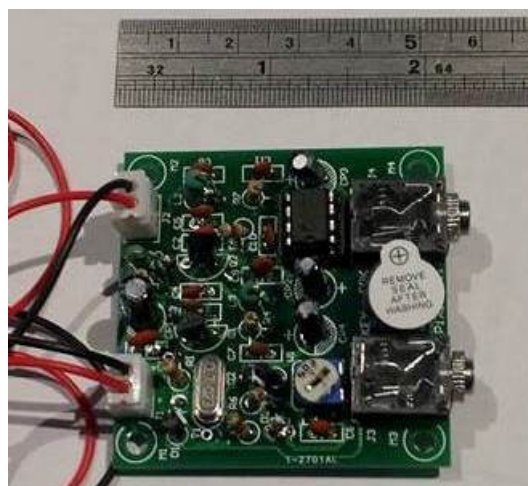


An example of dead bug construction. The earth pin of the 100mA minus 12V regulator IC is soldered direct to the copper groundplane, the input (middle) pin to the top of a 2200uF electrolytic capacitor in parallel with a 100nF disc ceramic capacitor grounded at the other end. The black wire is connected to the output of the IC and also to a 100uF electrolytic capacitor in parallel with a 100nF disc ceramic capacitor grounded at the other end.

The date for your diaries is October 12th 2015.

CATS November Meeting

The theme of the October meeting will be continued into the November meeting, which will be a constructional evening the aim of which is to build a QRP CW transceiver for 7 MHz. We are planning to provide a number of kits so that members can build a simple rig in an evening. The kit uses no SMD-type devices and the Editor has built one in forty minutes that worked first time, so this should be a manageable project for virtually everyone. However, help will be on hand for anyone that needs it. It is hoped that by the end of the evening there will have been several CW QSOs completed within the hall, but this is not compulsory!



A working 7 MHz Pixie, as constructed by G3WZK

Although a number of these kits have already been ordered, we intend to email all members to get some idea of the total numbers involved.

The date for your diaries is November 9th 2015.

CATS December Meeting **Advance Notice Of AGM**

Annual General Meeting Of The Society

In accordance with the rules of the Society, notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Coulsdon Amateur Transmitting Society will be held on Monday 14th December 2015 at St. Swithun's Church Hall, Grovelands Road, Purley, Surrey CR8 4LA, commencing at 20:15 hours.

Now is a good time for all members to consider any issues they may wish to raise at the meeting and whether they might wish to nominate someone new, or perhaps stand themselves, for election to the CATS Committee.

Steve G3WZK has announced that he will be standing down as Committee Member and Newsletter Editor, so if you think you may be interested in taking on that or one of the other roles, please be sure to give it some serious thought before the AGM which this year will be on Monday December 14th.

Serving as a committee member is not as onerous as you might think, because many committee meetings are now run using Skype so you can take part from the comfort of your own home. Please give it a thought. CATS needs YOU ...

CATS January 2016 Meeting

This meeting will be the customary New Year dinner. On this occasion, the Committee have booked a room at the Chateau Napoleon Restaurant which is in Coombe Lane, South Croydon, CR0 5RE. There will be a fixed charge of £19.95 for this meal and, as usual, partners are warmly welcomed.

The Secretary recently emailed members with full details.

The date for your diaries is January 11th 2016.

Membership Matters

Paul Piqué **G8KDQ** **(1923 – 2015)**

It is with regret that *CATS Whispers* announces the death of CATS member Paul Piqué G8KDQ on Tuesday September 22nd 2015 at a nursing home in Kenley. He leaves his wife Pat and daughters, Alison, Jacky and Debi.

The funeral at Croydon Crematorium on October 6th 2015 was attended by CATS members Prue G4RWW, Stuart G6CJR and Steve G3WZK. Other radio amateurs present included Stan G4XXI, John G8MNY and Mike G3TWJ.

Editor's Note: Paul was a member of CATS from the very beginning of the Society and was on the Committee in the late 1970s. He passed the RAE in 1946 but, having never mastered CW, didn't obtain his transmitting licence until 1975. His main interest in the hobby was in home construction and he built many interesting items of equipment including, in his eighties, circuits using SMDs (Surface Mount Devices). At age 91, he constructed the Maplin Robotic Arm kit. My last QSO with him was on two metres in October 2014 as I walked home from his flat, both of us using Wouxun handhelds.

He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather, and he and XYL Pat celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary (sixty years) in April 2015 – see below.



L-R: Paul G8KDQ (SK) and XYL Pat on their diamond wedding anniversary in April 2015.



Paul G8KDQ (SK) in his shack, with the Maplin robotic arm that he built early in 2015

CATS Chairman Stuart G6CJR writes:

"It's sad to hear the news about Paul, but I thought a few words from me might be in order. 92 is a grand age.

"I used to go to primary school in Coulsdon with Paul's daughters. So the Piques, go back a long time for me. I remember Alison and Jacqueline, but there might have been another. Belinda? (*Editor's note: It was Debi.*) It's a very long time ago (1960's) and the memory isn't too good sometimes.

"I remember most vividly, when I was a young apprentice at the London Gunmakers Boss, travelling to work every day on the train to London Bridge from Woodmansterne, with Paul and several others. We somehow seemed to form a group as you do, me as an apprentice, Paul worked for the Post Office Railway at Mount Pleasant, Joe worked as a lift operator in London (he only had one arm), Mike Cullen was in the TA and worked for BT, Geoff who was the brother-in-law of a school friend and Geoff worked for Northern Telegraph (Creeds) repairing teleprinters and there was another chap whose name I can't remember at the moment who lived in Rickman Hill and he was a plumber at one of the London Universities,

"Paul and Pat lived in the same road as me and as well as remembering Paul from CATS in the early 80's, I remember Paul helping with JOTA at the 4th Purley Scouts and Pat, his wife was as I remember a keen potter and she had a kiln in her garage. I remember, they moved to Saffron Walden, but they returned to Coulsdon a short time after.

Laurence KL7L G4DMA writes from Alaska:

"Sad - Paul was always a gentleman."

Prue G4RWW writes:

"I am so sorry we have lost Paul. He was such a nice gentleman. Thank you for letting me know."

Chris Cox N0UK writes from Minnesota:

"Sad news. Back when I was a young teenager, Paul would drive Adam, G1TWB and me home to Thornton Heath after the club meetings in Chipstead.

"Very nice bloke. God Bless. Chris."

New Member

We are pleased to announce that Mike G7LSL has recently joined CATS. Mike lives in Croydon. His main Amateur Radio interest is 70cm and digital. Mike's other interest is playing the piano accordion. Welcome to CATS, Mike!

Helpers needed for Kempton Park rally and CATS bazaar

It's now only a month or so until these two regulars in the CATS' calendar and more helpers are needed for both events. If you would like to help on either or both of these occasions, even if you only have a couple of hours to spare, please contact Graham 2E0XDZ (who will be in charge of the Bring & Buy stand at Kempton Park) or any committee member. The dates for your diary are:

Kempton Park - November 8th - Help needed on B&B stand.

CATS Bazaar - November 15th – This year the Bazaar is being held at a new location – the Coulsdon Community Centre which is located in the Chipstead Valley Road in Coulsdon. The postcode is CR5 3BE. There is no access to set up tables on the day before event, which means that table set-up will begin at 08:00 am on the Sunday morning. Help is therefore needed on 15th November (Sunday) to set up and run the event, including the B&B stand.

The event will open to the public at 10:00 am. More information is given on page 7 of this issue of CATS Whispers and on the CATS Website where there is an interactive map.

Changes to the management of UK Amateur Radio Examinations

CATS Secretary Mike M1CCF writes to draw members' attention to the following:

"The current responsibilities for the management of the UK Amateur Radio Examinations are defined in two Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) dated 2007: one between Ofcom and the Radio Communications Foundation (RCF); and the other between the RCF and the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) which gave specific roles to the RCF and the RSGB. Ofcom, the RCF and the RSGB have now agreed to change the responsibility for overall management of the examinations by transferring roles previously performed by the RCF to the RSGB. This will allow the RCF Trustees to focus on their charitable work, and will further streamline the administration of the examinations, building on the foundation established over the last eight years. To give effect to these changes, on 1 October 2015 the RSGB will set up a new Examinations Standards Committee with the same composition as the RCF Standards Committee, to take on the work of that committee. The Examinations Standards Committee will be separate from the RSGB Training and Education Committee and will have direct accountability to the RSGB Board for the probity of the examinations and the examination administration. In future, Ofcom and the RSGB Board will jointly commission independent audits of the examination system to ensure that it remains fit for purpose.

"These new arrangements will allow the management of the examination system in the UK to reflect the arrangements in many other countries, whilst at the same time maintaining the existing high standards of governance. Examinations will continue to be available to all, regardless of RSGB membership, and these changes will have minimal impact on the conduct of the examinations at local level."

For further information:
Heather Parsons, RSGB Communications Manager:
heather.parsons@rsgb.org.uk
+44 (0) 7710 395012

RSGB Survey

Mike M1CCF also wishes to draw the following to members' attention:

"With the object of reviewing its strategic goals, The RSGB is holding an online survey open to all UK radio amateurs plus overseas amateurs who are also RSGB members. The analysis of the data from this survey will start after it closes on 31st December 2015. It is anticipated that the main findings of the work will be published during the first quarter of 2016."

Visit the following site if you wish to take part in the survey:

<http://rsgb.org/main/rsgb-consultations/active-consultations/amateur-radio-survey-2015-2/>

For Sale

SAVE £500+. Kenwood TS2000X, 160/6m,+ 2m at 100W, 70cm at 50W, and 23cm at 10W, multimode, with auto caller module fitted (£110),and just had full overhaul,with all ceramic filters changed, and full recalibrate. Comes with new DC Lead, new fist mike, all language manuals, and both transit boxes. New = £1900 + £110 for auto caller, £1500 cash, and inspect and collect from Banstead. Still have 4000+ Xtals, many old type valves.

Contact Frank G3ZMF, by text only on 07935 334 369, 10am to 10pm, any day.

Items For Disposal

CATS member Dave G8VXB has a number of items that he wishes to dispose of. He may be contacted by phone at on 07598180364 or by email at youngdw930@gmail.com An equipment list is given below:

Equipment List	
Qty	Description
1	Dymar Meter with 711 millivoltmeter plug in + probe
1	Dymar Meter with 761 noise factor plug in
1	Dymar 785 mod meter plug in plus handbook
1	Rohde & Schwarz Wavemeter WAL BN4321/2
1	Some parts for 400W 2M linear (valves, bases, PSU) incl constructional details
10	Anti static boxes for I.C.'s
1	Marconi TF791D Deviation Meter
1	Kenwood TS700 + Service Manual
1	ICOM IC245E + Service Manual

Contests Coming Soon

<u>Tuesday Activity Activity</u> <u>Contests 2015 – all begin at</u> <u>8pm local time</u>	
Oct 6	2 metres
Oct 13	70 cm
Oct 20	23 cm
Oct 27	6 metres
Nov 3	2 metres
Nov 10	70 cm
Nov 17	23 cm
Nov 24	6 metres
Dec 1	2 metres
Dec 8	70 cm
Dec 15	23 cm

Other Contests - 2015

Nov 7/8: 144MHz CW Marconi
Nov 14: Club Calls (1.8MHz AFS)
Nov 21/22: 2nd 1.8MHz Contest
Dec 6: 144MHz AFS
Dec 26/29: 50/70/144/432MHz Christmas
Cumulatives Contest

Local Rallies & Events

9-11 October

RSGB 2015 Convention

Kents Hill Conference Centre in Milton Keynes
Five lecture streams. Topics include: K1N Nevassa Island
Dxpediton of the Year; Is 3dB worth a Divorce ; Club
Log, the latest developments; Ionosondes; Understanding
HF Propagation; Antenna Modelling on your PC;
Datamodes made easy; The Raspberry Pi in your shack;
Clean up your shack; Phase noise, intermodulation &
dynamic range in receivers; From Hartley to Hardwin;
YOTA Wales & Italy; Digital & analogue scopes; Digital &
analogue scopes Workshop; Kit Building Techniques For
Success; High Performance VHF/UHF Contest Stations;
Introduction to HPSDR; Reduced bandwidth digital TV;
Getting the best from your masthead;

<http://rsgb.org/main/about-us/rsqb-convention/>

8 November 2015

West London Radio & Electronics Show

Kempton Park Racecourse.

Open 10:00. Parking, trade stands, catering, disabled
facilities. Contact info@radiofairs.co.uk

*NOTE: CATS involvement in this event. The CATS bring
and buy sale is a permanent feature of this rally.*

www.radiofairs.co.uk

15 November 2015

CATS 38th Annual Radio and Electronics Bazaar

NOTE NEW VENUE: Coulsdon Community Centre,
Chipstead Valley Road in Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 3BE.

Open 10:00 to 13:00

Parking, trade stands, bring and buy, refreshments

Contact: enquiries@catsradio.org or

www.catsradio.org

7 February 2016

30th Canvey Radio & Electronics Rally

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

Open 10:30

Parking, Catering, Disabled Facilities, Trade Stands
Major Amateur Radio and Electronic component
exhibitors Selling New and S/Hand equipment .

Contact: Vic Rogers G6BHE Tel 01702 308562

NVR@blueyonder.co.uk

www.southessex-ars.co.uk/canveyrally.html

28 February 2016

Rainham Radio Rally

Rainham School For Girls, Derwent Way, Gillingham,
Kent, ME8 0BX. Opens 10:00,

Talk in on 2metres using G0BRC.

RSGB RAIBC RSARS RNARS Peter Weatherall / QRP
club, Clifton ARS contest Group

Contact Trevor, G6LYW, 07717 678795 or

trev@wig1.co.uk

www.brats-gth.org

13 March 2016

Dover Radio Rally

Location: Whitfield Village Hall, Sandwich Road
Whitfield, Dover. CT16 3LY

Doors open at 10.00am.

Auction starts at 12.30pm.

Rally ends at 1pm.

Entrance £2.00.

www.darc.org.uk/

17 April 2016

West London Radio & Electronics Show

Kempton Park Racecourse.

Open 10:00. Parking, trade stands, catering, disabled
facilities. Contact info@radiofairs.co.uk

*NOTE: CATS involvement in this event. The CATS bring
and buy sale is a permanent feature of this rally.*

www.radiofairs.co.uk

4-5 Jun 2016

SERF, Sussex Electronics and Radio Fair Eastbourne Sports Park, off Cross Levels Way, Eastbourne BN21 2UF

Open from 10am to 4pm.

Manufacturers, Distributors, Dealers, Clubs, Groups,
Societies, Educational and private stands, tables and
stalls, flea market, complete with a bring and buy area.

talk-in will be operating, together with indoor and outdoor
events, refreshments

<http://serf.org.uk/>

admin@serf.org.uk

19 June 2016

27th Newbury Radio Rally & Boot Sale

Newbury Showground, M4 J13.

Nearest Post Code: RG18 9BB

Open 09:00. Free parking, trade stands, catering,
disabled facilities.

Royal Air Force Amateur Radio Society, (RAFARS)

Royal Naval Amateur Radio Society

Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society

Radio Officers Association (ROARS)

British Amateur Television Club (BATC)

Chiltern DX Club

Contact rally@nadars.org.uk

www.nadars.org.uk/

Other Club News & Contact Information

BROMLEY & DISTRICT ARS

Website: www.bdars.org.uk/

Email: info@bdars.co.uk

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

20 Oct – Example Rigs and stations

17 Nov – Short Talks

15 Dec – Quiz and Mince Pies (TBC)

19 Jan – TBD

CPREC (CRYSTAL PALACE)

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

2 Oct – Computation Techniques and Modelling – Dr Brown

6 Nov - Electronic Components - 2

4 Dec - "Equipment on the Air and Trifle" 2016

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.

21 Oct – The miniVNA by Mike G3LHZ

CRAY VALLEY RS

Website: www.cvr.org

Contact: Richard Cains G7GLW rcains@btinternet.com

Club Nets: Wednesdays 21:00 on 145.500/QSY and 22:00 on 3.720 ± QRM, and Sundays 11:00 on 3.720 ± QRM

Meetings: 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 1st Royal Eltham Scouts HQ, Rear of 61 - 71 Southend Crescent, Eltham, London, SE9 2SD.

1 Oct - St Kilda DXpedition – Dave G4BUO and Giles M0TGV

5 Nov - Annual Surplus Sale

19 Nov – Meet The Members

11 Dec - Christmas Social 2015

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.

27 Oct – The specification and choice of passive components = Bob G3OOU

24 Nov – AGM and Antenna modelling using 4NEC2

4 Dec - Christmas Dinner

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

1 Oct - Junk Sale

5 Nov - HARC-CARC Challenge (interclub quiz night)

3 Dec - AGM

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

18 Sep - Radio Night and Table Top Sale

2 Oct - Radio Night

16 Oct – Radio Night & Table Top Sale

23 Oct - AGM

REIGATE ATS

Website: www.qsl.net/rats

Email: rats@qsl.net

Club Nets: Thursdays 20:00 on 145.500 MHz and Sundays 20:00 on 3.740 – 3.760 MHz

Meetings: 3rd Thursday at RNIB, Redhill College, Philanthropic Road, Redhill for 19:30

SRCC

Website: www.g3src.org.uk

Contact: John Kennedy G3MCX, 020 8688 3322

Club Nets: Sunday 09:30 on 1905 kHz
Daily natter channel – 144.215 MHz at 19.30.

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

5 Oct - Autumn Surplus Equipment Sale

2 Nov - Short Talks Evening

7 Dec – Construction Contest

SUTTON & CHEAM RS

Website: www.scrs.org.uk

Contact: John Puttock G0 BWV 020 8644 9945

Club Nets: Saturday 10.00 - 7.120 MHz ± QRM
Saturday 11.00 - 145.500 MHz (S20) Then QSY

Meetings: 3rd Thursday at Sutton United Football Club, The Borough Sports Ground, Gander Green Lane, Sutton. 19:30 for 20:00

15 Oct - Road trip to Friedrichshafen by Martin Butler, M1MRB and Chris Howard, M0TCH

19 Nov - Digital Amateur TV, the Primer – by Andy Mace – 2E0IBF

10 Dec – Surplus Equipment Sale 2016

21 Jan - Visit by RSGB President, Dr John Gould – G3WKL Please note: this meeting will start slightly earlier at 7:30pm

WIMBLEDON & DISTRICT ARS

Contact: Andrew Maish G4ADM

020 8335 3434

andrew.maish@ATntlworld.com

Club Net: Mondays 20:45 on 145.500 MHz

Meetings: 2nd & last Friday of each month at

Martin Way Methodist Church, Buckleigh Avenue, Merton

30 Oct – AGM

27 Nov – Surplus Equipment Sale

11 Dec – Christmas Social

CATS Whispers is published monthly by
S J Beal G3WZK on behalf of the
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