



SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

SEPTEMBER 2006 — No: 768

CLUB NET 1.905 MHz Sunday 9:30am
CLUB Natter Channel: 144.215 MHz Daily 8:30pm

CLUB Internet WEB Site:
<http://www.g3src.org.uk>

Hon. Sec. Ray Howells G4FFY
9 Aultone Way
SUTTON
Surrey SM1 3LD
(020) 8644 7589
E-Mail: secretary@g3src.org.uk

MONTHLY MEETINGS 1ST AND 3RD MONDAYS 7.45 FOR 8pm

Normally AT THE T.S. TERRA NOVA, 34 THE WALDRONS, SOUTH CROYDON, CR0 4AZ

"A" MEETING 4th Sep 2006 Surrey Raynet with Brian G3OYU and Nigel G1XBV

"B" MEETING 18th Sep 2006 FIX-IT, ADVICE, CHIN-WAG, CLUB STATION + "MOVE-IT-ON"

Chairman & Club Meetings	G4FDN Pat McGuinness	020-8643 0491
Vice-Chairman	G4WAY Roger Holyoake	020-8689 7089
Treasurer, Liaison & Equipment	G4DDY Maurice Fagg	020-8669 1480
Secretary, Membership & Communications	G4FFY Ray Howells	020-8644 7589
VHF Co-ordinator (Co-Opted)	G8IYS John Simkins	020-8657 0454
Publicity & HF Co-ordinator	M1MRS Robert Shepperley	020-8687 0811
Technical Topics	G4XAT Gareth Evans	020-8462 2837
Members	G3RJW Graham Marshall 2EQUYP Peter Sutton	020-8647 1186 07974 296045

Dear Members & Friends

Hello and welcome to the September 2006 newsletter which I started on Thursday night i.e. very late!! Next Monday 4th September we welcome Brian G3OYU and Nigel G1XBV for a talk about Surrey Raynet, with the "B" meeting on Monday 18th September. More details on these are given below:

My lateness with this Newsletter is that in my further adventures with Linux I managed to upset by Boot Hard Drive Partitions when creating additional partitions for the Linux system. I have a system which triples boots with partitions for Windows98, Windows2000Pro and Windows XP-Pro. I was trying to add partitions for Ubuntu Linux but got it wrong!! I thought no problem; I'll repartition the drive and restore my Windows Partitions from my Ghost images. But that plan failed when I discovered my Ghost images were corrupt – have now found an Image check facility in Ghost2003 – too late to save me this time!! The outcome is a total PC rebuild – and it's amazing how long that takes!! Fortunately my data and configuration info is on two other hard drives so nothing lost there . . .

Anyway let's get on with the Newsletter and see how far I get before pulling the plug in order to publish . . .

NEXT "A" MEETING: Monday 4th Sep 2006 Surrey Raynet

On Monday evening, 4th September, we are pleased to welcome Brian G3OYU and Nigel G1XBV to give us a talk and insight into the role of Surrey Raynet.

From their website - <http://www.surreyraynet.net/> - I note that as part of the voluntary nation-wide Raynet

organization, Surrey Raynet exists to provide supplementary radio communications in Emergency situations that may occur in the county of Surrey. Raynet can only provide supplementary communications, their insurance does not permit involvement in other activities, such as marshalling – traffic control etc.

The website also explains that Raynet is the generic name for the formal abbreviation of RAEN – Radio Amateurs Emergency Network – which is a registered charity. Nigel G1XBV is the County Controller who chairs the County Committee which runs Surrey Raynet. Membership is open to both Amateurs and Non-Amateurs and Surrey Raynet is funded by subscriptions and donations ensuring its financial independence.

Monday night will be an interesting presentation and I hope that many members will turn out to support the efforts of Brian and Nigel who have kindly taken time out to come to us and talk about Surrey Raynet.

NEXT "B" MEETING: Monday 18th Sep 2006 FIX-IT, Advice, Chin-Wag & "MOVE-IT-ON"

The "B" meeting on Monday 18th September is the regular "Fix-It" and advice evening with the extra twist. If you have a radio item or anything else that you just wish to clear out then bring it along - you never know it may be just what another member is looking for!

The Fix-It section has proved very interesting and successful so please bring along that item that has been giving you grief - rigs, PCs, whatever! The collective heads at the meeting usually come up with something.

LAST "A" MEETING: Monday 3rd July 2006 GB3OK

On Monday evening, 7th August, we were pleased to welcome Tony G1HIG and Gary 2E0ULA to give us a talk on the Orpington 2m Echolink Repeater GB3OK



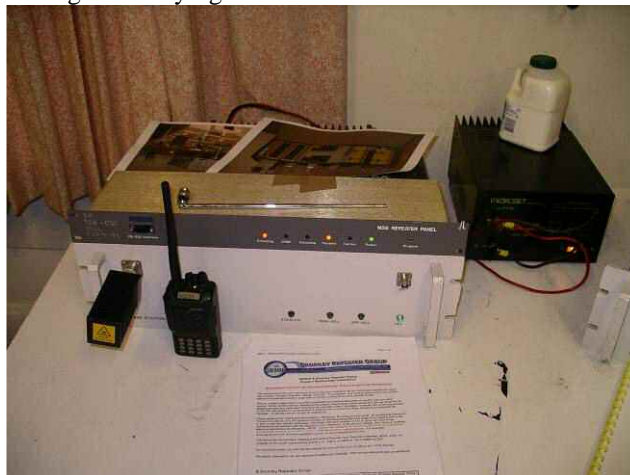
Tony G1HIG and Gary 2E0ULA

It was Gary 2E0ULA who gave us the PowerPoint presentation on behalf of the Bromley Repeater Group and I believe we were the first for this talk.

Gary, in his excellent informative and friendly style, told us about what is a Repeater, how they are made up, and then described the technical details relevant to GB3OK. Following the sad loss of GB3SL this left a hole in the 2m Repeater coverage in Kent and the South East which got Tony thinking. It was in September 2003 when he was in Hastings that a nucleus of an idea formed whilst talking through GB3ES. Tony set about a feasibility study, which led to a few months of intense research. This in turn led to where we are now. The first step was to find the equipment. Tony was fortunate enough to locate and purchase two Philips FX-5000 base station repeaters, four cavity filters, two battery backup supplies and the power supply unit. The two FX-5000 repeaters are 24 volt, 19 inch rack mounted units, with 100% duty cycle and were originally configured to operate around 148MHz. All of this equipment was of the highest commercial quality and in mint condition.

However, as this equipment became another piece of furniture in Tony's hallway, he decided that this was too much of a project for one man on his own and set about the quest for assistance. The first person he contacted was Alan, G6XFI. Because of his extensive knowledge of both business and amateur radio, plus his reputation for the

selfless assistance he has given to amateur radio in the past, he was Tony's obvious first choice. Alan grasped the offer with enthusiasm and soon became the Assistant Manager and my right hand man.



Sample GB3OK Equipment (not sure why the milk is being kept warmed!!)

Tony had already tested the water at a number of locations in his search for a site, including his own home, but Alan solved the problem in one move. He managed to secure us the site we have now, which is itself steeped in amateur radio history. Located at Well Hill, Chelsfield in Kent, it's the site that once hosted GB3NK on 433.100MHz until it's re-location to Wrotham in 1976 and more recently, GB3NWK which operated two microwave beacons on 1296.81MHz and 2320.85MHz. At 600 feet ASL this has to be considered a prime site.

With Alan now firmly on-board, the Bromley Repeater Group (BRG) was formed on the 31st December 2003 and the search for new recruits to the group was in progress. Other early arrivals were Dave Dawson, G7UZN, Mark Hayman, G8RDE, Jenette G1UPT, who has undertaken the task of Group Secretary.

However, before any of this had even taken place the search for a callsign had been underway so that the application for a licence could get started. GB3OK, standing for Orpington, Kent, was the brainchild of Jeanette, G1UPT, Tony's wife. It's turned out to be a fortunate suggestion and one that has already attracted a catchphrase since Arthur, G0MLV and others were heard to say "is everything GB-OK" over the radio. Since then it's caught on and I've had a few people ask me if everything is "GB-OK" with the new repeater. The rest is history as they say.

Unfortunately Arthur G0MLV of Greenwich passed away on Thursday 18th August 2005. His humour and wit will be missed by all.

GB3OK operates on output channel 145.7125MHz (Input of 145.1125MHz and CTCSS of 103.5Hz). Its QRA is JO01BI near Orpington by Jcn4 of the M25. It uses a Collinear on a 9m mast, Rx is Double Conversion Superhet, Transmitter of 10W ERP, Nokia equipment, a Wacom Duplexer and Zetron Model 38A Controller. Their website www.gb3ok.com contains a wealth of information, including a link to a coverage map.

We thank Tony and Gary for coming to SRCC and giving us an excellent presentation. To help the BRG funds we passed Charlie's cap around and we raised the princely sum of £97 thanks to all in attendance.

The CHAIRMAN's BLOG - Sep 2006



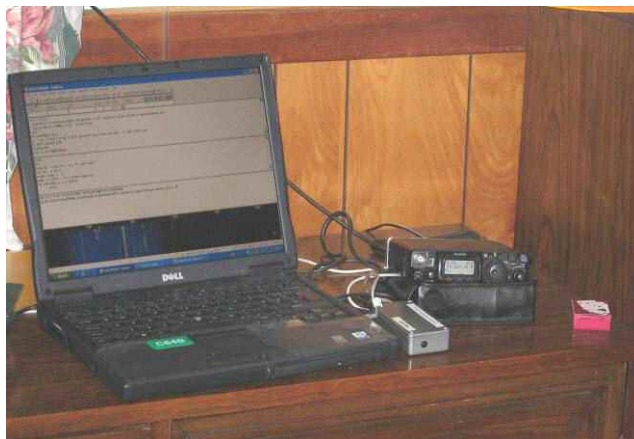
"I missed all club activities this month including the committee meeting, due to the family summer holiday in the USA. We spent most of the time at Sebago Lake in southern Maine, but also visited Boston and New York. My wife Cece is from Maine so there was quite a few friends and family to see. As we started our holiday on the 3rd August we thankfully missed all the upset and delays that came a week later because of the alleged terrorist plot.

As usual I try to fit in some amateur radio while on holiday and this year was no exception. I came equipped with a Yaesu FT-817, a small 2.5A SMPSU, and a kit of portable antenna parts and cables.

The house we rented is known as a 'camp' to signify its rustic location and mainly summer use, but it had all the services one would expect in a regular home including air conditioning, washer/dryer, TV, phone, etc. As we hadn't rented at this location before I was not exactly familiar with lie of the land but on arrival it was clear I wouldn't be able to have antenna at the front of the house because of power lines. The back was problematic too because of the closeness of trees and their density. Instead of being able to use a tuned doublet, which I had planned, I settled for a vertical V loaded dipole, using as a mast a set of interlocking aluminium poles, clamped to the back deck, that I found in the house's utility shed.



The arms of the dipole were adjustable telescopic whips that each extended to just under 5 feet. The loading coils were at the centre of the 'V'. The station itself was set up on the dressing table in the bedroom of the house. Most of the operation was done on 20m PSK31 and the setup for this can be seen in the next picture.



The callsign used was W1/G4FDN/P. I had a portable GPS receiver with me that plugged into the USB port of the laptop so it was straightforward to work out the QTH locator which was FN43SU. Running PSK31, power out was limited to 2.5W PEP in order to have best linearity. Best DX worked included RD3BD in Moscow at a distance of over 7000km and I1LEP at nearly 6000km. More local DX included CO3JN and V49/AB2RF.

The location beside the lake was chosen for recreation purposes, including, swimming, snorkelling and boating. Sebago Lake has mainly a sandy bottom and has many beach areas, mostly private, and only open to owners or those like us renting from them. Below is one of the pictures I took of our beach area approaching sunset. I will probably use it for QSL'ing the contacts I made.



While driving from Boston to Maine we made a short stop over at Ham Radio Outlet in Salem, New Hampshire. New Hampshire has no sales tax and I bought an MFJ-902H portable travel ATU with integral switchable 4:1 balun for \$109 (£59.55 on my credit card). Buying one from Martin Lynch in the UK would have cost nearly double £109!

The journey back to the UK was trouble free. There was no overt armed security presence at Boston Logan Airport as there was at Heathrow with police strolling around with machine guns. The additional security checks were also done efficiently and quickly at Boston with it taking less than 10 minutes from joining the queue. A further check was done just before boarding the plane, mainly looking for liquids, but this took less than 2 minutes.

Lots of things to catch up on now I'm back home. Next on my amateur radio to do list is checking out a 2m linear for Graham, G3RJW. Hope to see you all at next Monday's talk on Raynet.

Until next time

73, Pat G4FDN 28th Aug 06"

From Our Kateleos, Kefalonia, Greece Correspondent



"Well it wasn't quite what we had in mind (10 days would have done and the kids could have behaved themselves a bit (a LOT better), but it (Kefalonia) is a truly stunning island with astounding scenery, a 5,250 ft. summit (which we visited one day in a 4x4) and hot summers (42 Centigrade on our last day!). We hired a small (air conditioned) car for 7 of our 14 days and found a different beach, feature, town or whatever every day. Joshua tried (and managed) water skiing, Reuben tried wake boarding but discovered power assisted ducking instead! We swam on the beach used in the film "Captain Corelli's Mandolin" (not that I've seen it or read the book), and snorkelled to 7 metres in crystal blue water. (I used to do sub-aqua, in pretty much a previous life, but retain the skills). We found clams, an octopus, various fish and enjoyed the local food. The accommodation was very clean and well looked after and I picked my own breakfast of fresh figs every day, but it was rather hot at night – I took to sleeping under a wet sheet (which cooled me a treat by evaporation, but needed re-wetting every two hours or so). We were also plagued by mosquito bites, some of us more than others, but a pain even so.



Picture shows the general area where we stayed, accommodation in 'studio rooms', 10mins from a nice beach and loads of restaurants, peaceful.....

The last week has been spent catching up, finishing off the fitted wardrobe I started for Joshua's room and completing the re-decoration. Very nice it looks too and I feel proud of it, but I hate decorating.....

Reuben has a new (model) aeroplane to fly, a precision aerobatic number powered by a 12 cc four-stroke engine, a really nice plane to fly. On the Saturday when you may well read this we are going to Longleat to see the UK round of the Red Bull Air Race series, where highly aerobatic and fast aeroplanes compete over a low level course and have to include various aerobatic routines. It should provide some inspiration for our own aerial exploits.

Back to work tomorrow (Thursday 31st) and then three Greenpower races to look forward to (and get organised for). That and a new set of brake pads on the back of my car, and a drive shaft gaiter that was spotted at the last MOT (rear gaiters are not an MOT fail unlike front ones it seems) should keep my hand in 'car-wise'. My LPG (gas) conversion is now busy earning its keep, delivering about 10 miles per £1 of fuel, a bit less around town. Makes you feel very smug filling up for £20 instead of £45 (in my car anyway) and you really cannot tell the difference when driving. The system I have is a hybrid, the latest 'full injection' ones are even better.

If you own your car and do a lot of miles, it is a worthwhile conversion and it exempts you from the dreaded congestion charge, not that I'd drive into London given any choice!! See you at the A meeting on Monday.

Gareth G4XAT 30th Aug 06"

THE CALENDAR SECTION

SRCC and Local Club Meeting Dates:

1 st Sep	Crystal Palace: Short Talks - Jim Alford on his experiences in Thailand; Freda Cannon on Campanology; Victor Johnston on the Mosquito aircraft @ All Saints Church Parish Rooms, Beulah Hill from 7:30pm. Bob G30OU 01737 552170 (Meet monthly on 1 st Friday) http://members.aol.com/rfcburns
4 th Sep	Surrey Raynet - Brian G3OYU and Nigel G1XBV - http://www.surreyraynet.net/
7 th Sep	Sutton & Cheam RS – 'Natter Night'. Meetings @ Vice Presidents Lounge, Sutton United Football Club, Gander Green Lane, Sutton – 7.30 for 8pm. Sec: John G0BWV 020-8644 9945 www.scrs.org.uk
8 th Sep	W&DARS – "Natter Night" @ Martin Way Methodist Church, Buckleigh Avenue, MERTON PARK SW20 9JZ – 7.30 for 8pm 2 nd & last Friday's Details: Jim M0CON on 020-8874 7456 http://www.gx3wim.org.uk/
11 th Sep	CATS: Mini Talks or Show and Tell – Meetings normally held @ St. Swithun's Church Hall, Grovelands Rd, Purley 8pm 2 nd Monday's. Contact Andy Jackson G8JAC on 020-8651 2727 g8jac@btinternet.com
13 th Sep	Crawley ARC – Introduction to HFC2006 with Dave Wilson G0OBW RSGB HFC Manager @ Hut 18, Tilgate Forest Recreational Centre, Tilgate Forest, Crawley – 7.30pm. Sec: Keith G8KZZ on 01403 257788 www.carc.org.uk
18 th Sep	Fix-It, Advice, Chin-Wag, Move-It-On
19 th Sep	Bromley & District – Digital Modes demonstration on Air. Meetings normally on 3 rd Tuesday's @ Victory Social Club, Kechill Gardens, Hayes – 7.30 for 8. Paul M3PGW bdars@greenwand.net or www.bdars.org.uk
20 th Sep	Crawley ARC – The Dayton Experience – Hamvention 2006 – slides, video and tall stories @ Hut 18, Tilgate Forest Recreational Centre, Tilgate Forest, Crawley – 7.30pm. Sec: Keith G8KZZ on 01403 257788 www.carc.org.uk
21 st Sep	Sutton & Cheam RS – 'Digital Imaging (Photoshop)' by Paul Berkeley M0CJX. Meetings @ Vice Presidents Lounge, Sutton United Football Club, Gander Green Lane, Sutton – 7.30 for 8pm. Sec: John G0BWV 020-8644 9945 www.scrs.org.uk
26 th Sep	Dorking & District Radio Society – normally meet on 4 th Tuesdays @ Friends Meeting House, Butterhill South Street, Dorking – opp. Spotted Dog. Details: Walter Blanchard, G3JKV on 01306 884359 wb@g3jvk.co.uk
27 th Sep	Mitcham & District ARS (Meetings normally last Wednesday of each month) @ ATC Headquarters, Commonside West, Mitcham. Sec: Mike Knott G0WCR 020-8764 4716
29 th Sep	W&DARS – TBA @ Martin Way Methodist Church, Buckleigh Avenue, MERTON PARK SW20 9JZ – 7.30 for 8pm 2 nd & last Friday's Details: Jim M0CON on 020-8874 7456 http://www.gx3wim.org.uk/
2 nd Oct	Autumn Surplus Equipment Sale
6 th Nov	TBA
4 th Dec	Home Brew Radio – Hans Summers G0UPL - http://www.hanssummers.com/

SRCC Meetings indicated in **BOLD** with venue of Terra Nova

Rally Calendar, etc:

8 th /9 th Sep 06	Leicester Amateur Radio Show, Donnington Park - http://www.lars.org.uk/ from 9.30
8 th /10 th Oct	RSGB HFC2006 – Gatwick Worth Hotel, Sussex. Details from 0870 9047373 or www.rsgb-hfc.org.uk
15 th Oct 06	The 2nd Rusty Radios Rally - Cottered Village Hall, Cottered, Hertfordshire, located on the A507 between Baldock and Buntingford (A1M J10 and the A10) from 10.00 http://www.rustyradios.com
12 th Nov 06	West London Radio and Electronics Autumn Show – Kempton Park www.radiofairs.co.uk – Programme including VHF Talk-In managed by Whitton, 'Byte-Size' Lectures, 'Klub Korner', Technical Clinic, and Bring & Buy Sale run by CATS. Restaurant will be back on the 2 nd Floor with those glorious views over the racecourse. SRCC will be there.
19 th Nov 06	CATS Bazaar - Scout HQ, behind the Post Office in Lion Green Road, Coulsdon, Surrey. Doors open 10am, closes at 2pm, entry remains at £1 with the customary tea/coffee voucher. New this year is a limited number of pitches on the grass area outside the hall. Details from Andy G8JAC on 020-8651 2727 or e-mail g8jac@btinternet.com SRCC will be there.

MEMBERS NEWS

John Headland - Flying Again

On a glorious August day John G3BFP dressed up like Biggles and took a flight from Redhill Aerodrome in a Tiger Moth. Enjoy these pictures of the lovely plane.



Astronomy Picture of the Day

Last month thanks to Charles M0BIN I gave you this link:
<http://antwrp.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod/astropix.html>

He has further explained:

"The link that I gave you for access to the image of the sun only works on the date that I sent it to you. To access the image after that date the link should be:

<http://antwrp.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod/ap060710.html>

If you click on the link "Discover the Cosmos" you can see any of the previous daily images. It's a very interesting site."

Web-Site of the Month

Charles M0BIN has been finding some very interesting web-sites recently so this item should become a regular feature. This month take a look at:

<http://g4oep.atspace.com/index.htm>

He has also found this 126 page document regarding Impedance Measurement – would have been an important document when learning electronics:

<http://cp.literature.agilent.com/litweb/pdf/5950-3000.pdf>

VINTAGE MILITARY RADIO and Vehicle WEEKEND

Location: Hunter's Moon, Reigate Road, Hookwood, Surrey RH6 0HU on A217 close to Gatwick Airport (Free collection offered), National Grid TQ 262438 – Signed in on the day.

Date: 16th/17th September 2006 (Feel free to arrive from Friday afternoon onwards)

This is the weekend for everybody including those who have formerly attended a Family weekend at Pippingford Park over the second weekend in September, and is now being organised independent of any Radio or Vehicle club. It is a private weekend not open to the general public; individuals are responsible for their own insurance as they see appropriate

We welcome ex-military Land-Rover people (EMLRA), Invicta Military Vehicle people (IMPS), indeed ANYBODY with an interest in linking the two hobbies of collecting Military Radio and collecting and installing former Military Radio into appropriate vehicles. Please come along with your radio, and hopefully these will also be largely in radio fitted vehicles, or at least FFR's! (Please talk first about coming with a tracked vehicle)

If you are not an Ex military radio person it would be nice to have a good coverage of Amateur and Commercial equipment from yesteryear. We would especially like to see working HF commercial and Amateur equipment; either use your own call sign (/P) or you can use the club call sign permitting some supervised operation by non-licensed visitors.

In a word, we intend to have a weekend together when we can talk about radio, test it by the kind offices of Andy Jackson and his sophisticated test facilities, try and repair it if necessary, or simply operate. The location, on the edge of rolling fields, has enormous potential for the erection of seriously large HF antenna, and has a good VHF take off without obstructions.

Children can play in safety but there are no facilities on site. Those family members who are interested can do their own thing, Brighton, Eastbourne, Worthing, Lewis are close by if shopping is seen as a good family target – there is also the Bluebell Railway, close by as well! – By kind permission of Les Thacker, we really are privileged to be allowed to have the use of the location. NOTE: There is a stable with some rather expensive horses, so NO BANGS or OTHER DISTURBANCES!

As usual we shall have a DiY BBQ on Saturday evening.

Organising such events is not just an organiser's activity, so help would be appreciated. Perhaps somebody would like to take on the proposed BBQ, or run the VHF or the HF nets. If you have a good idea for an on or off site activity then suggest it, or better still, offer to run it! There are other shows planned for the same weekend in other parts of the country and it is the Airborne reunion weekend in Arnhem, Holland, so we would like to have HF and VHF links with as many as possible

Please book in, in advance, to help with the organisation, although you can just turn up. There is no charge, bring your own BBQ food, or contribute with cash on the day,
 Mike Buckley 0208 654 2582,
 12 Ranmore Avenue, Croydon, CR0 5QA
 Michaelandsheila@tiscali.co.uk

SUSY Radio - 531kHz - Its back on air
27th Aug - 23rd Sep 2006



SUSY Radio is back for 4 weeks under a RSL licence on a frequency of 531kHz. The programme schedule can be found on their website: www.susyradio.com along with a link to "listen live" – on broadband it's of excellent quality and in stereo. Despite that the AM signal here in Sutton is S9 but plenty of QRN tonight!

John G8MNY, who is closely associated with Susy Radio, has advised that for those interested it could be possible "by appointment" to have an

engineering tour. John can be contacted on 020-8688 3089

SIGNING OFF:

I think that is it for this month - if I have missed anything I give my apologies and hopefully remember it next time.

Our main meeting on Monday 4th September is the Surrey Raynet talk so please try and make it and support our guests Brian G3OYU and Nigel G1XBV; the "B" meeting is on Monday 18th September.

73 and 88 *Ray* G4FFY Posted: 1st Sep 2006



VHF NFD 2006 Site Survey Team. Picture © G4WGE

SRCC Subscription Renewal Form September 2006

Name: Callsign/RS:
 Address:
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 E-Mail:

Member: £8.00 Family: £12.50

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 Maurice Fagg G4DDY
 113 Bute Road, WALLINGTON SM6 8AE
 Tel: 020-8669 1480

