

G4DDN

Graham Leonard



**Tributes and memories from some of Graham's
friends from the Amateur Radio community**

All at Bracknell ARC

Dear Graham G4DDN,

Although now a silent key, you will be remembered and missed by everyone at the club and your friends around the world that shared your passion and enjoyment for Amateur Radio.

A skilled operator, a knowledgeable Technician, but most of all a kind and valued friend.

73

Your friends at Bracknell ARC

Jacqui and Mike Goodey
G6XSY & G0GJV

We first met Graham in 1981 on the way back from a contest in west Wales, Penberry. Mike G4DDL, his wife Lynda 2E0FKA, Mike G0GJV and myself G6XSY dropped in on Graham & Connie in Weston-Super-Mare for Sunday afternoon cup of tea & a chat.

A particular memory was when we were on holiday together, with his wife Connie, on Minorca. The four of us had gone to the capital of the island, Mahon. Graham & Connie went off one way and we went another. We had previously arranged to make contact on the radio to meet up for lunch, so Mike put out a call for EA6/G4DDN/P from EA6/G0GJV/P (or mouthful from mouthful). And we waited, and waited..... We finally got a response.

It seems that Connie had wanted to visit the cathedral. Needless to say, we put out the call when they were in the silence of the church and it seemed like the voice of God was calling Graham asking where he was. We met up in a cafe in the central square and had a good laugh over a couple of beers.

There were several holidays in France - boating on the canal du midi with Ian G0FCT and Steve

G4AUC; living the good life in a gite in the Loire Valley - tasting the wines and the good food and during the cool of an evening, outside, talking way into the night over a bottle. We even celebrated his and Connie's 25th Wedding Anniversary in a very nice hotel on the banks of the river.

We already miss Graham very much as he was a weekly visitor on the weekend, when he regularly slept through the current broadcast of the latest re-run of a detective TV serial late on a Saturday night over a couple of beers.

Jacqui G6XSY & Mike G0GJV

Dave G3YMC

Graham was one of the original founders of our club and it was he who got me interested in BARC when I started working at Ferranti in 1971. A few years later I bought his house which has served me well all these years!

Graham will be greatly missed and I am still coming to terms with the news.

73

Dave G3YMC

Colin M0XCA

I first met Graham only a few years ago on my first visit to the Bracknell Amateur Radio Club. Graham quickly introduced himself with a warm smile and friendly voice. Throughout the last few years at meetings and our committee meetings, Graham was always a pleasure to spend time with, he always had so many stories and words of helpful and kind advice. We never did get around to setting up his new long-wire antenna though.

Rest in peace Graham,

73

Colin M0XCA

Martin 2E0XBZ

This is very sad news. Graham was on the air recently, as large as life, discussing his new HF Loop Antenna.

I had only known Graham a few years but quite a character & he will be missed

Regards

Martin & Shirley

Tony Baker G3PFM (Flight Refuelling ARS)

I have many happy memories of working with Graham and the rest of the Bracknell members who came down to Dorset for V.H.F.N.F.D. for several years.

Between us we put together a high quality contest station with Bracknell providing 50 MHz. and 432 MHz. and FRARS providing 70 MHz. and 144MHz.

As I remember the catering was very well organised!

Please pass my condolences to Graham's family.

73

Tony G3PFM

Julian G3YG

Very sad about Graham. I really enjoyed the many years we had doing NFD together.

My condolences to his family.

Julian, G3YGF

John M5AHQ (Flight Refuelling ARS)

So sad to read about the passing of Graham.

I remember vividly, we'd had a terrible VHF Field day with FRARS and BARC wiping each other out (they were on the next ridge to us), not helped by the fact that our 70 cm station had developed a fault and was spluttering all over the band.

Relations with BARC were fraught to say the least.

John API organised the meeting in Winchester to see if there was some arrangement that we could come to. I remember feeling a great sense of trepidation as we met up with Graham and the group from BARC, not at all sure of the reception that we were going to receive. Needless to say it went very well and was the start of a long, fruitful and happy co-operation with BARC and the development of ties between our 2 clubs.

RIP Graham

John M5AHQ.

John G0API (Flight Refuelling ARS)

I wish to pass my condolences to Graham's Family and friends at this sad time.

I first met Graham at a meeting we arranged at Winchester, between members of Bracknell and Flight Refuelling contest Groups, where we agreed

to join forces in order to mount an all band entry to the following year's VHF NFD .

This venture continued for several years and was enjoyed by many. Happy Days and good company.

RIP OM

73

John G0API

Steve G4ALG

Naturally, I will always remember Graham's friendly manner and jovial disposition. But, most of all, I will remember Graham for the part he played in developing my skills as a constructor of radio equipment.

For the early part of my amateur radio career, I made several radios that failed to work properly. The result was a small pile of failed projects that simply gathered dust.

It was when Graham offered me an item of test equipment called an oscilloscope that things got turned around for me. All of a sudden, my radio projects started to work! The oscilloscope, as Graham knew only too well, allows us to 'see' what is happening deep inside the radio circuitry. It slows things up for us, enabling us to investigate events that are happening a million times a second.

It shines a light into the darkness so that we can analyse, make adjustments, and be successful.

Thank you, Graham, for the part you played in my education, and for helping me to make things that work. The light is still shining.

Steve Rawlings