

# It's rally time again!

**Hi all, and welcome to the new look CRG Newsletter - cambridgerepeaters: update! We aim to produce this quarterly, and in future it will be available in both electronic and printed form. You'll be able to download all the issues from the CRG's websites, and it will be emailed automatically to our current membership. Those of you who would prefer still to receive a printed copy are asked to let the Newsletter Editor, Dave Burkin M0VMC, know.**

First off for this issue is a reminder of the dates for the CDARC and CRG rallies:

**CDARC Rally, Wood Green Animal Shelter: Sunday 4th March.**

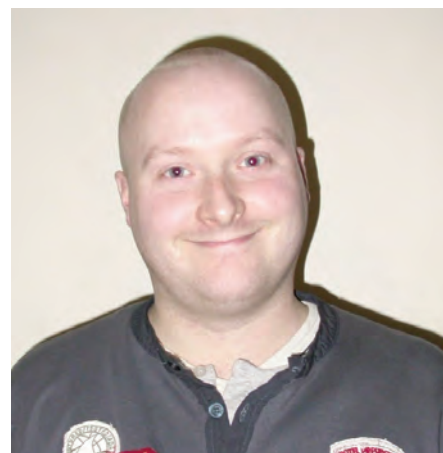
**CRG Rally, Bottisham Village College: Sunday 1st April.**

Please keep your eye on the CDARC, CRG and Camb-Hams websites for more information. Volunteers are always needed, so if you are willing and able to attend either or both of the above, please let Paul Dyke G2PA know on 01462 683574 or email paul.dyke@btinternet.com - Thanks!

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## New Technical Co-ordinator: Gavin Nesbitt, M1BXF

**Hi all, I'm Gavin (M1BXF) Nesbitt your new Technical Co-Coordinator for 2007. I've been in Cambridge for 2 years now but before I was in Czech for 2 years but I'm originally from Jockland and was licensed first as MM1BXF. I specialize in cellular and short range digital telecoms.**



The plans I have for the group this year, technically, have come from various member's comments and also by looking at what other groups are doing. So far the committee has approved:

- A 144MHz APRS node, replacing much of the defunct old Packet network.
- Voice Ident and other additions to the logic on GB3PI, and other group repeaters in due course.
- Echolink on weekday evenings for GB3PY.
- A new antenna for GB3PX our 6m Voice repeater at Barkway.
- GB3PI and GB3PY activity monitoring. Ian M1ANH and Dave M0VMC have already created software which will upload usage data using the squelch circuit of a mod'ed radio.

Ultimately I would like to get CRG back to the way it was historically - innovative!

If you wish to contact me email me at [GNesbitt@Orange.Net](mailto:GNesbitt@Orange.Net)

**Gavin**

# G7DIU retires as CRG Secretary

**This year's AGM saw David Leech, G7DIU, retire as the Secretary of the CRG after a marathon nine year stint in the post.**

The meeting proposed a vote of thanks to David, who as well as being CRG Secretary is also deeply involved in the running of the Huntingdon Club. In his final report to the Group David commented on the lack of postage stamps that are required nowadays! The group hopes that David will continue to come along to the Camb-Hams Pie & Pint nights, and of course he will continue to be active on the bands - in particular the morning nets on GB3OV.



## The new committee in full:

**Chairman: Rob Compton M0ZPU**

**Treasurer: Jane Dyke**

**Rally: Paul Dyke G2PA**

**Events: Neil Whiteside G4HUN**

**ATV Repeater: Brian Shaw G6HFS**

**Ordinary Member: Bob Warner G1SAA**

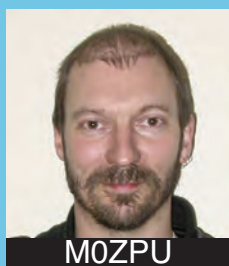
**Secretary: Phil Nice G8IER**

**Newsletter Editor: Dave Burkin M0VMC**

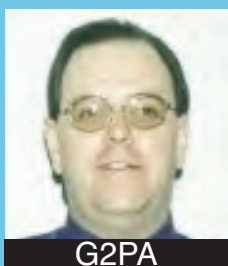
**Technical Co-ord: Gavin Nesbitt M1BXF**

**Repeater Keeper: Tony Collett G4NBS**

**Ordinary Member: Daryl Burchell G0ANV**



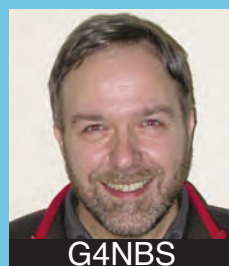
M0ZPU



G2PA



M0VMC



G4NBS



G4HUN



**Discussions over a pint at the Black Horse led to the suggestion the group might like to run a Foxhunt later in the year. Probably best left 'till the weather improves in spring time, it would take place using a 2m FM Fox. Most of us have a Handy or two kicking about and so we should stand to get a good number of willing participants.**

I'm prepared to knock up a number of simple directional antenna, either small beams or switched dipole pairs. All you'd have to provide is a means of receiving the signal but if you fancy building your own antenna there are plenty of designs on the Internet. I can also supply black and white maps of the hunt area although with the topography around Cambridge a standard road map should be sufficient.

The first one will be a beginners affair, nothing too challenging, with plenty of transmitting time and, if it helps, we can finish near a Pub! If this event is successful then maybe we can fit in another round in the summer, even use it as a way to publicise amateur radio by bringing in other participants as you don't have to hold a licence to compete.

Please let me know your views on this, [M0VMC@rafphotogs.co.uk](mailto:M0VMC@rafphotogs.co.uk), and we will tailor it to suit the participants.

**Dave (M0VMC)**

# The Camb-Hams:

an everyday story of country folk

**It all started as a throwaway line, one quiet early evening on a 70cm repeater near Cambridge.**

Martin, M1MAJ, and I had been discussing his SOTA trips and the Backpacker's contests that I'd been taking part in.

"I've never really done a field day." He said.

"Well I've got the tent, rig, aerial and mast, let's do VHF NFD!" said I, "All we need is a generator and a field on a hill."

In the true spirit of Amateur Radio, word spread. Others were showing interest. Offers of generators and fields started coming through.

## **Time for a Beer. Call in the Canadians.**

Rob, M1XZG, took the bull by the horns (As they do in his country – rodeos, that kind of thing...), and booked us in to the Black Horse at Dry Drayton. A couple of day's journey on horseback for some, but VERY conveniently located for me! About a dozen people showed up.

And that's how it started: The Camb-Hams Pie and a Pint Night. Since then it's been pretty much a monthly ritual. Usually held on a Wednesday evening, starting at around 7.30pm, those who can make it roll up for dinner, a few jars of whatever's your tipples, and some lively conversation. There's no agenda, no committee, but the boundless enthusiasm of the members has already resulted in:

A four station entry to VHF NFD 2006 using the CRG callsign G3PYE/P. (And we didn't come last.)

A Special Event Station – GB0TAB – at the opening of The Anchor at Burwell. (Worked Japan on 20m with 100w to an aerial stolen from the Navy).

Plans to attend Friedrichshafen HamFest 2007. (Only a couple of places left).

A website – with forums, galleries, email reflector and the like at [www.camb-hams.com](http://www.camb-hams.com)

We don't insist, but do like to encourage, that those who attend are members of the CRG, especially as we use G3PYE. The last meeting resulted in four new members!

If you've not yet been along, please do feel free to come and join us. We have a wide range of skills and interests, from the wise old sages to the feisty youngsters! If you have an idea for an event or a get-together – let us know, so far we have a 100% success rate! Pencilled in already are plans for a "Radio Day" at Geek House, Melbourn; VHF NFD 2007; and one of the HF SSB contests, probably Sideband Field Day.

To find out more, give us a call. You'll find most of us on GB3PY, or else email Rob at [rmckenzi@rpmddp.com](mailto:rmckenzi@rpmddp.com) and ask to be put on the email reflector.

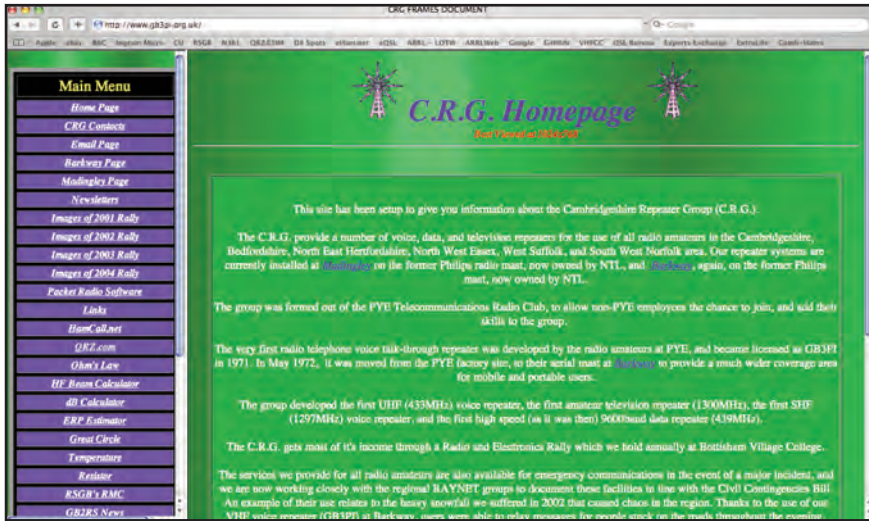
Vy 73,

**Neil (Mine's a pint of Stella) G4HUN.**



# Where to find us on the web

There is a host of information about the CRG and the Camb-Hams available on the internet. You might like to check out:

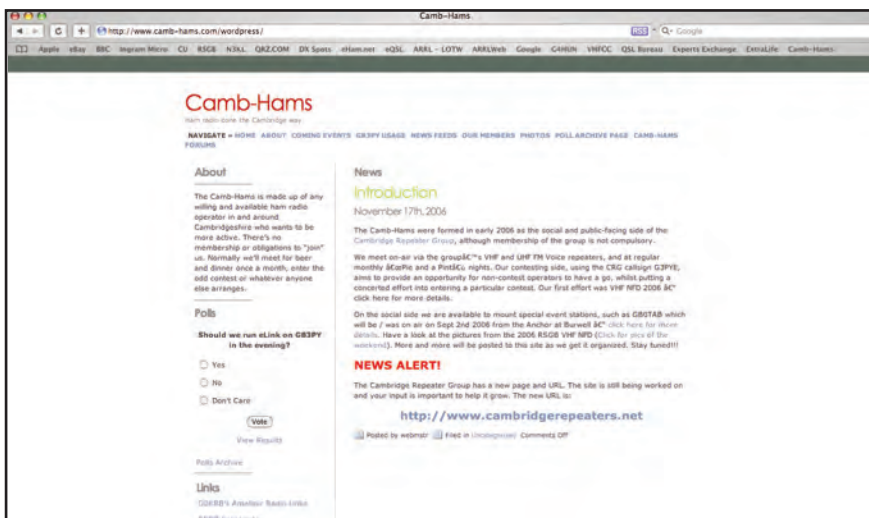


## [www.gb3pi.org.uk](http://www.gb3pi.org.uk)

The original CRG site, built and maintained by Paul Dyke G2PA. With many pages of useful information on the group's repeaters, as well as contact details, a picture archive and a library of past CRG newsletters.

## [www.cambridgerepeaters.net](http://www.cambridgerepeaters.net)

The latest site, being developed by G2PA, M1XZG and G4HUN. This site will have forums, coverage maps and much more besides!



## [www.camb-hams.com](http://www.camb-hams.com)

The social side of the CRG. Here you'll find general forums, dates for Pie & Pint nights, the trip to Friedrichshafen, and contest news, as well as online surveys.

## Closing Question:

**How would you feel if the subscription was increased to £10.00 per annum?**

**Please email any committee member or write to CRG, PO Box 761, Comberton, CB23 7WN**