



Loughton and Epping Forest Amateur Radio Society

LEFARS News Update – Spring 2023

Compiled by Merlin Fox M0MFX

Issue 1.1

Dear LEFARS member,

From LEFARS Chairman Richard Clark G4DDP

We start 2023 hopefully better than last the couple of years, we have regretfully had to increase the yearly subs by £5 to £20 for the year. The club like everything else has been hit by increased costs on everything it does, our room rent for example has virtually doubled over the past year with refreshment costs also increasing as I am sure you have seen the downsizing of many items but still keeping the same or increased costs. The committee decided that a one off increase for the year would be the better option compared with increasing the meeting charge.

We have put together a range of meeting options but are always looking for suggestions. Please, it is your club so we welcome any suggestions for events or club meeting ideas. We have also put together a number of external events for the year, again suggestions are always welcome as is participation which last year was not ideal. Events and club meeting details are on the website rolling diary and can be downloaded from <https://www.lefars.org.uk/events/>

Our first external event for 2023 will be Airfields on the Air on the 1st and 2nd of April from near Stapleford Tawney Airfield using GB2STA, full details will be sent to all nearer the time.

On the 21st of April we will be holding our AGM, details of which will be circulated to all members in early March.

From LEFARS Secretary, David Priest M0VID

Not a lot to report as winter shut down coming to an end. We have had our first event of the year, the New Year's lunch at The Bull, reasonably well attended with fourteen at the table. Only another eight events to go. All of them have been booked with the exception of the Rainbow and Dove in May and July.

A slight difference in planning this year, our events are planned around different contests which are on so there is a reason to get on the air.

Details of the events are on the website and if you feel that we may have missed anything please let me know, feedback is always welcome, especially positive feedback and new ideas.

From LEFARS Treasure/Membership Secretary John Short G1DJI

End of another year and my busiest time with not only having to send out renewal notices for 2023 but preparing the 2022 accounts for the auditor to approve.

So far 43 members have renewed, just over half last year's membership total and I will be sending out reminders to the rest shortly. I have also had 7 responses saying a wish not to renew mostly as a result of moving out of the area or a waning interest in amateur radio.

The numbers of attendees at All Saints House is slowly showing an increase although not yet back to pre-Covid levels. On the brighter side we have had a couple of new members join and I would like to formally welcome Graham Camp and John Barwell to our ranks.

Canvey Island Rally

The following LEFARians were spotted at the Rally:

Dave M0MBD RSGB STAND

Derek M0XDC

Dave M0TAZ RSGB STAND

Ron G6LTT

Ion M0JLI

Keith G1HEQ

Peter G0AIP

Selim M0XTA

Kerry M6WHT

Richard 2E0XRS

John M0JGR

+ John G0VEH

Steve G6ART

Kevin M7MJW

JAMES 2E0JBU

Hamzilla – 12th March

Dover Amateur Radio Club (DARC) has moved to a new location for [Hamzilla](https://www.hamzilla.uk/) this year. Julie Rose Stadium in Ashford. It has first class transport links 40mins from London St Pancras by train and just an hour and is close to the M2 / A20. Further information at <https://www.hamzilla.uk/> or <https://www.facebook.com/groups/www.hamzilla.uk/>

LEFARS New Year Lunch

Our annual lunch at The Bull in Theydon Bois was well-attended with 12 members and two guests enjoying the three-course lunch. This is always a landmark event, where radio plans are discussed for the coming year and a sign that spring is only round the corner!



Field Reports from 2022

John G8DZH has filed reports on our last major field events on website – do take a look at what we were up to – don't give in to FOMO – join us this year (see diary below).

GB6OLR SNB August 2022 Field Weekend

<https://www.lefars.org.uk/2023/02/field-weekend-at-the-secret-nuclear-bunker-26-28-august-2022-gb6olr/>

2nd Lambourne End Field Weekend in September.

<https://www.lefars.org.uk/2023/01/lambourne-end-field-weekend-gb6olr-16-18-september-2022/>

LEFARS Training News

While we have received enquiries from foundation licence holders looking to move up to Intermediate, we do not have the numbers needed to hold a training day at ASH. The committee are looking into alternative venues that can offer training and examination space, along with viable internet access for exams.

We have a busy calendar of field events coming this year, and they are the perfect opportunity for less experienced members to gain practical experience. Want to build a dipole, or get some HF contacts in your log book – join us on a field day, our regular members will be only too happy to help you!

Training Secretary:

David Priest M0VID

Email: <mailto:training@lefars.org.uk>

DIARY HIGHLIGHTS

February

10th February - All Saints House - **VHF night on the Air**

17th February - Club bi-weekly Zoom

24th February – All Saints House – **Reusing Vape Batteries Talk and workshop by Merlin MOMFX**

March

3rd March: Club biweekly Zoom call

10th March – **HF Night on the Air**

17th March - Club bi-weekly Zoom call

24th March – All Saints House – **Table Top Sale** (time for a “Spring Clean”?)

31st March: Club bi-weekly Zoom call

April

1st-2nd April – Abridge – **Airfields on the Air GB2STA - you are welcome to camp!**

7th April – Good Friday – **No Meeting**

21st April – All Saints House – Annual General Meeting – All Members Strongly Encouraged to Attend!

28th April: Club bi-weekly Zoom call

May

5th May - All Saints House - **HF Night on the Air**

12th - Club bi-weekly zoom call

19th May – All Saints House – **VHF Night on the Air**

26th - Club bi-weekly zoom call

Coronation Day – 6th May

We remain in negotiations for a suitable special event call sign to mark the coronation of HRH Charles III. The RSGB have yet to confirm major plans for this, so keep an eye on Radcom! *[Note from the Chairman: RSGB confirmed R prefix i.e. GR4ONP, maybe look at GB0KC or GBOREX]*

Further future events were discussed at the recent committee meeting, but please let us know your ideas!

We keep the website updated with the latest dates for external events, included cancellations. A summary and links are on the club's home page. <https://www.lefars.org.uk/>

The full diary, check also in case of any changes... www.lefars.org.uk/events

LEFARS Club Nets

A reminder that the LEFARS Club net on 2m FM is held every Thursday at 20:00 (local time) on **144.725 MHz**. Even if you don't want to participate in the net, please just check-in with your callsign...keep in touch!! The SNB websdr has proved helpful in ensuring everyone can be heard!

There is also an informal net on **144.725 MHz** after the GB2RS news on Sunday morning at 09:30 local. GB2RS news reader Dave De La Haye M0MBD takes reports first; recent weeks has seen some after-breakfast chat to discuss the news 😊

At other times **144.725 MHz** is used as a chat channel by LEFARS members.

4m Net 20:00 Every Wednesday

Selim M0XTA holds a 4m net every Wednesday at 20:00. Dial in to **70.475 MHz** and join the chat across the south east!

Weekly DMR (Brandmeister) net. Wednesday evenings 20:00 – 21:00 local. BM TG 23511 (LEFARS)

TG 23511 is used as a chat channel by LEFARS members. Call in and say hello! There's usually someone listening during the day.

A reminder that there are a lot of Brandmeister Talk Groups to explore. You can find a complete listing at https://www.pistar.uk/dmr_bm_talkgroups.php

LEFARS Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/lefars/>

Use the URL above to keep up to date with the latest news, events and announcements. COVID-19 has generated a lot of traffic and there are other interesting discussions and threads as well.

Your Committee:

Richard Clark, G4DDP
David Cutts, M0TAZ
Merlin Fox, M0MFX
David Priest, M0VID
John Short, G1DJI
George Smart, M1GEO

Chairman, QSL Manager & Club log keeper
LEFARS Web Designer (supported by George M1GEO)
Training Manager, Newsletter Editor
Secretary & Exam Secretary
Treasurer & Membership Secretary
Technical Manager

Non Committee Role

John Ray, G8DZH

Public Relations Officer, Awards Manager & Librarian

73 and Keep Safe from the entire Committee.

Merlin Fox

EDITOR

E: editor@lefars.org.uk

Look out for the Summer Issue of the LEFARS Newsletter in May!

A PDF copy of the Spring 2023 LEFARS newsletter can be downloaded from
https://www.lefars.org.uk/lefars_website/welcome/LEFARS_Newsletter_latest.pdf