



**SPECIAL EDITION
RAGCHEW
In Memory
Of
Alan Lodge G4MGW**

Special "Ragchew" in memory of Alan Lodge G4MGW

By Brian G4CIB

It was with great sadness and shock that in early February we learnt of the death of long-standing club member **Alan Lodge G4MGW**. An email from Alan's great friend **John Gulley GW4TQD** informed me of the news of Alan's death only a few days after the funeral of his loving wife Mary. I felt that the club should mark his passing with a special edition of "Ragchew" and I am grateful to the members who have so willingly submitted their memories of Alan.

After Dave G4BCA's talk on "Auroras" in January I sat with Alan chatting about the QSOs we had in the AM days on 2 metres. I had taken along some of my old log books as they contained the details of a few auroral QSOs which Dave was interested to hear about. Alan and I started to go back through my log books to see when we had first contacted each other. Alan, still very upset over the loss of his wife Mary, struggled (as I did) to remember his old Class B call, but flicking through the pages, it soon came back to us, G8UXP. Soon after being licenced, Alan purchased a Trio TR2300, a little 1 watt synthesised 2m portable rig along with a Microwave Modules amplifier and had numerous QSOs operating /M. Our first QSO appears in my log book on 8th February 1980 when Alan was operating mobile in Gloucester. His call-sign then appears frequently along with a work colleague of Alan's, **Mark Marks G8SBX (SK)**. A few entries appear as G8UXP/A at Brockworth, which was Alan's works QTH, ICI Fibres. In the early 1980's Alan acquired the call-sign G4MGW and my log book records mainly 2m QSOs with Alan as a mobile station and 160m (Top band) QSOs from his home in Longlevens.

It was on Wednesday 30th July 1980 when a short item appeared in the "Gloucestershire Echo" (left) naming Alan as a hero when he spotted a house fire in Elmstone Hardwicke and using his 2m transceiver was able to alert the emergency services.

As I sat talking with Alan it was obvious that the loss of Mary had hit him hard, but we talked optimistically about sorting out his HF antenna in the spring and being active again on Top Band (160m), one of his favourite bands. It was therefore a tremendous shock and of disbelief to receive the email from his long-standing friend **John GW4TQD** telling me that Alan had died. I hope this issue of "Ragchew" will be a fitting tribute to Alan and his long involvement with the club which he joined in 1980.

Radio ham hero of Glos. blaze

A RADIO amateur came to the rescue when he saw a bungalow in Elmstone Hardwicke on fire after it had been struck by lightning yesterday afternoon.

Alan Lodge, of Cheltenham-road, Gloucester, a mobile radio operator, stopped his car when he saw the roof of the bungalow, "Paul-Karn," in flames.

Telephones were out of order, so he sent out an emergency message on his car transmitter.

His signals were picked up and the fire brigade were alerted. They were quickly on the scene.

Mr. Lodge, in the meantime, broke down a door of the bungalow to rescue a dog he had heard barking inside.

His leg was badly gashed in the process and he was taken to Cheltenham General Hospital, where his condition was said to be fairly comfortable.



Minsterworth Church Choir mid-1950s - Alan (back left)

(Photo supplied by Jennifer Price)

“A genuine and gentle man and a friend” was expressed by **Mike G6OTP**.

From **Les G0ULH and Rita M6RYL** “The first time I met Alan was in the autumn of 1984 when I first attended Gloucester Amateur Radio Society at their meeting venue, St John’s Ambulance headquarters in Heathville Road. Alan was one of the first members to approach me and make me feel very welcome. Our friendship continued to the extent that on conclusion of meetings we regularly adjourned to the England’s Glory pub across the road. After a year or so I was on the committee and arranged for a talk and slide show by Liz McDonald on her involvement in the round the world yacht race. Alan was very impressed with the contents of Liz’s marine washing line!

After the club had moved to Churchdown School, myself, Alan and a few more members were erecting an antenna support mast on the roof of the one-storey building. Alan had bought his electric drill and steps to aid the fixing. Unfortunately despite pleas to reposition the steps Alan proceeded with the drilling sadly resulting in Alan falling and breaking his wrist. Alan’s wife, Mary, banned him from attending club meetings for over a year as punishment.

Alan did have a problem with a nearby neighbour who sabotaged his mast and a group of us went to Alan’s QTH to re-erect it. Unfortunately as we were trying to haul it into a vertical position, it leant over almost horizontally into his next-door neighbour’s garden and managed to pick up some washing consisting mainly of underwear off their line!

We will miss Alan very much.”

From **Graeme G0EEA and Carolina Reffell** “We knew Alan and his wife Mary were very close. Seeing Alan by chance in Asda and in the Co-op nearby, we would hear him say, "I can't stop long, Mary's on her own". In retrospect, we can understand to some extent, how it was that Alan missed Mary and passed away on the day following her funeral, but it is still very sad and hard to come to terms with. We offer our heartfelt condolences to their family and friends.

Regarding Gloucester Amateur Radio and Electronics Society, he was very active in our club and I recall that Alan was on the committee most of the time. As you may know, Alan was a vegetarian and a dog owner. It was in response to a discussion with Alan that I offered to collect used postage stamps for Canine Partners, and, happily, I still do this.

For many years Alan was looking after the club's gazebo, storing it in his garage and bringing it to the club events such as the 2013 and 2014 Special Event Station GB4GC, Churches and Chapels On the Air (ChOTA). The photo can be viewed on the club website at

<http://www.g4aym.org.uk/photos/2013/cathedral.htm>

<http://www.g4aym.org.uk/photos/2014/cathedral.htm>

He brought the gazebo in his VW Camper van, which also served as a mobile workshop for the SES on-site repairs and adjustments. Indeed, the first time I saw the gazebo was on Alan's lawn, where a party of the willing gathered to erect it for the first time. This was not the only SES organised with a lot of commitment by Alan, GB4ART (19 July 2013) on his boat in Tewkesbury Marina <http://www.g4aym.org.uk/photos/2013/canals.htm> , and GB4GFM in the Westgate Folk Museum also come to mind.”



Club visit to BBC Droitwich Transmitting Station - 3rd May 1983

(Photo by Leta G4RHK)

From **Vernon G0HTO** "I doubt that I can add much to what you already know about Alan but I thought I'd mention how he retained his interest in doing a bit of construction, completing his WSPR transmitter before we left Churchdown school and he was already showing interest in a further project (the bat detector) just as the pandemic hit.

I'm aware that Alan loved the outdoors and frequently went for walks with his dog around the 'Over' area, combining that with a bit of 2m operating is possible.

Also, you'll be aware of his Triumph Stag which I think was a bit of a prized possession."

From **Anne 2E1GKY** "When I first jointed our Gloucester Radio Club in 1997 I always remember just how welcoming he was with a warm smile and good banter. He certainly enjoyed all our Crickley meetings and other programmes whether indoors or out.

When we were meeting at Churchdown School he would be first to say "Lets get cracking on the mug washing as time is marching on to close down" and during this time we would chat about all things with a wide range of subjects.

It always surprised me Alan always wore short sleeves even when in the coldest of weather.

He will be very sadly missed by us all and many more friends in particular in Wales."

From **Mike G4IZZ / M4N** "When I joined GARES after my return to amateur radio in 2015, Alan was the first person I met. His friendly warm welcome had an instant effect, and he was very engaging whilst introducing me to other members. He never changed, always friendly. Such a sad loss."



GARES members at the entrance of Gloucester Cathedral - GB4GC - June 2013

GB4ART



Avon River Tewkesbury



Confirming QSO With	Date (Z)	UTC	Frequency / Mode	Power Output	RST

73 de

Pse QSL TNX