

2008

Bawdsey Radar Group



Aerial photograph of Bawdsey Ferry by D John Akerman

This has been a very good year for Bawdsey Radar Group. The highlight was the Open Day, on Saturday 15th September 2007, to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the establishment of RAF Bawdsey. This was run in conjunction with Bawdsey Village and with the kind permission of Mr & Mrs Niels Toettcher, owners of Bawdsey Manor. Unlike much of the year, the weather was fabulous and over 1500 visitors were able to enjoy the opportunity of visiting the Manor and the other attractions. The Royal Hospital School Band opened the occasion and the Woodbridge Air Cadets ran an excellent barbeque. The RAF was represented by the AMRAP Flight 16 Air Assault Brigade who were demonstrating modern radar.



The Band of the Royal Hospital School



AMRAP Flight 16 Air Assault Brigade

During the autumn Dr Phil Judkins, a technological historian specialising in military radar, gave three talks on 'Bawdsey - the Untold Story; Power Struggles and Personality Clashes behind Radar'.

There will be another opportunity to hear Phil speak on the personalities involved in radar on Wednesday 14th May 2008 at Ipswich Library.



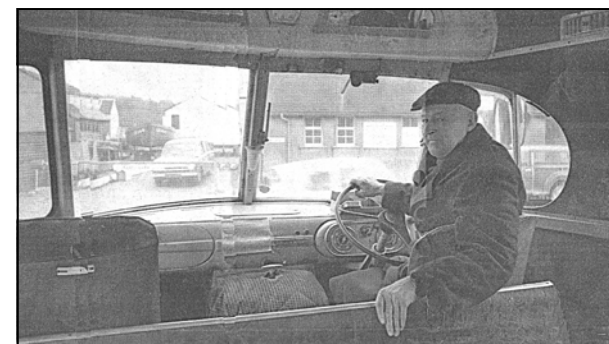
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An Options Appraisal for the Transmitter Block has been carried out by the Morton Partnership. It presents an assessment of the Transmitter Block in relation to its historic context and its importance within the wartime infrastructure. The appraisal sets out a plan for repair and future use at an estimated cost of £1,260,300 plus VAT!

The Transmitter Block will be open again on selected weekends from Easter. In addition to the 'Magic Ear' exhibition there will be new displays featuring the Oral History Project, 'Shout and Whisper', which is now featured on the Bawdsey Radar Group website. The

stories told are fascinating. Many feature Albert's Bus, fondly remembered by those serving at Bawdsey.



Albert at the wheel of his bus April 1970

An exciting and unexpected discovery close to the Transmitter Block was a colony of cave spiders. This particular type of spider is found in dark holes from Finland to Egypt but the spiders are rarely seen. Special arrangements can be made to view them at the Transmitter Block.



We continue to be encouraged by the interest shown by the general public, and the support of our members and volunteers. This newsletter gives a taste of some of the activities we have undertaken and those we have planned for the coming year. We hope it will encourage you to continue supporting us in anyway you can.



Specially commissioned Bawdsey Radar Group mugs are available for purchase from the Membership Secretary for £9.50 inc p & p.



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