

An Interesting Piece of RADARC History on eBay

A few weeks ago I was browsing eBay, as one does!!! For some reason I searched under the name of Sonning. Up came lots of items relating to this village including a QSL card from G8KJ, shown below, ex Club member from before 1939, who died only recently.



The following is the exchange of emails I initiated with the seller which tells the story.

Hi. My Name is Vin Robinson, G4JTR. I am Chairman of the Reading Amateur Radio Club. When Bill Wright G8KJ, died, in December 2004, I helped his Daughter dispose of his equipment and other items which included all his QSL cards back to 1937. These include the card from G8PX, F A Jeffries, dated 16-4-38, i.e. the exchange card for the very same contact as your e-bay card. The Reading Amateur Club retained these cards as G8KJ was a Club member in 1938 (and remained so to 2004) I am the holder of these cards on behalf of the Club and if you send me your e-mail address I will send you as scan of your Father in Law's card, G8PX for the above contact. I met G8PX at a Radio convention at Milton Common many years ago.

Vin Robinson

Hello Vin, Thanks for letting me know about the card. It's amazing that both cards from one radio contact 70 years ago are still around! My father also passed away in 2004, and the Oxford Amateur Radio Club helped me sort out Dad's equipment. I kept a couple of boxes of the QSL cards, and a couple of Morse Keys. I've only recently started sorting through the cards and putting some on eBay. A lot of them seem to have gone back to the places they came from, or even to the same street. I'm sure my Dad would have been pleased to see his cards redistributed in this way. I'd be interested in seeing the scan of the other card. Thanks for getting in touch, Helen Moran (nee Jefferies)

Hallo Helen

Thanks for you reply. The attached is a scan of the exchange card from your Father. Bill Wright G6JK lived in Sonning all his life and was born and died in the same cottage. He was a member of RADARC from about 1937. The Club started in 1934. As with your Father, he was well known on the air.

I send also the e-mail address of a collector of QSL cards in Leeds who we have sent very large numbers of cards to in order to save time. He was happy to make a donation to the a club or charity etc.

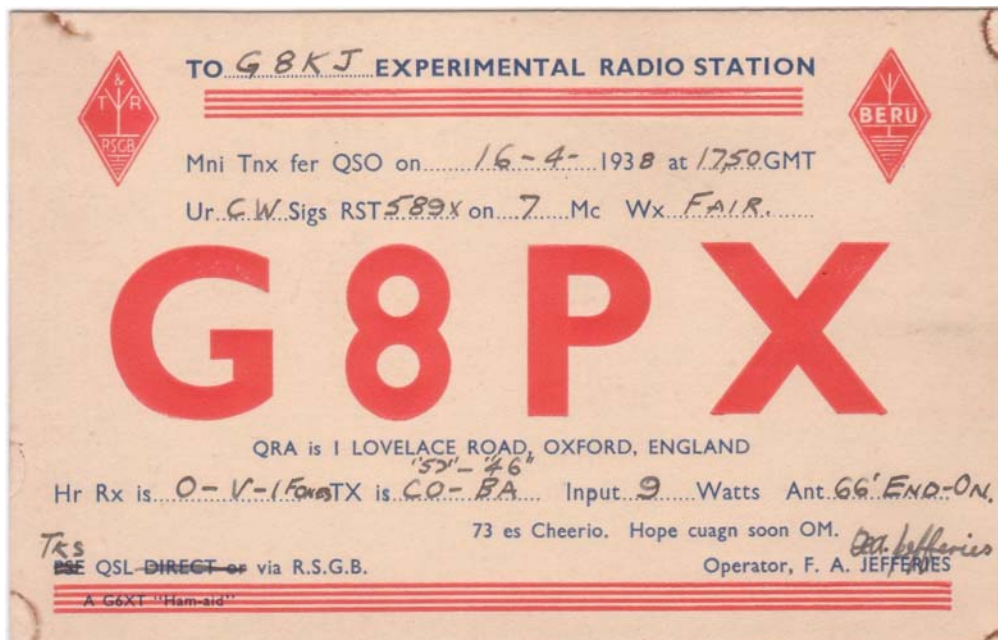
Tony Quest <AQuest1263@btinternet.com>

I'm sure the morse keys will sell, maybe one was used for the contact referred to above! I will keep a look out for more cards etc from you and I may bid for the current one.

One last point. would you object if I informed the RSGB of this eBay coincidence and sent copies of both cards to them in a short piece which they may be interested in publishing in RADCOM, the monthly magazine. I could use the eBay pic, with your permission which would then ensure copy right was not infringed. You may prefer to send me the original scan. I will of course, let you see any text for approval before I send it to the RSGB.

Regards

Vin Robinson, G4JTR, Chairman RADARC.



Hello Vin,

Thanks for the scan of my Father's card, it was really interesting to see it. I have no objection to you using the scan of my card off eBay. Sounds like a good subject for an article.

My Father was born in Farringdon in 1917, the family moved to the High Street in Oxford, then to 1 Lovelace Road in 1936 (where he lived until he passed away in 2004). He was a past President of The Oxford & District Amateur Radio Society, and originally had the call sign 2AKB. The call sign G8PX/P is now used by the club on

field days. I've sent a photo of my Father in his radio room in 1938 which I thought you would like to see. Please let me know if it doesn't come out as I've not quite got the hang of adding attachments!

Best wishes, Helen



Post Script.

Helen put many other pre-war QSL cards of 2 letter calls on eBay, all of which I saved and re-sized to make reasonable copies. Many were from local stations, no doubt all part of RADARC's early history.

We are planning a 75th Anniversary meeting for October 22nd 2009 so watch this space

Vin G4JTR, Chairman.