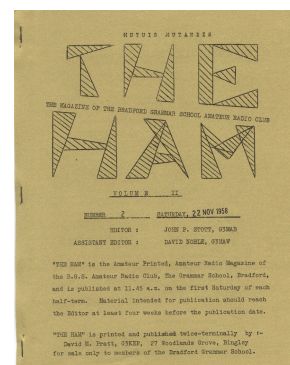


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No, this is not intended to be one of those belated Christmas circulars from those with whom we are in touch only annually; nor is it the next issue of 'The Ham', last published in November 1958 with its distinctive front cover in "BBC Television buff". This is a short note addressed to as many of the ex-G3MHB team I could trace using call books and various other databases.

Having recently come back on the air myself after a long absence of inactivity and renewing my friendship with some people I knew in years gone by, I have been prompted to try and contact as many of you as I can in the hope that many of us may meet again on the air. Most of us will be in our 50's, 60's or even 70's and some of us are now retired, so it is perhaps opportune to review our interests in amateur radio. I realise that some people will have let their licence lapse, but it is now easy to get it back simply by providing documentary proof that you have held a licence previously. It is no longer necessary to retake either of the tests.

Over the page I am including a list of as many of the people I can remember from the old G3MHB days, plus one or two others who had a close association with the school radio society. If I have missed anyone out, please let me know and I will add them to this list and try and contact them.

For my own part, some of you will remember that I left BGS to join MRG (later Baird Television). In 1966 I moved to the Engineering Industry Training Board until it was disassembled in 1991

under the Thatcher regime. Since moving from Eldwick in 1976 my amateur radio activities have been somewhat limited, other than my involvement with the RSGB and City & Guilds.

So, how about coming on the air? I am usually around on Mondays at 13:30 on about 7045 kHz ssb. If you are able to come on or listen, then please do so. In the meantime, get that G5RV antenna up in the air and your old rig fired up again. Amateur radio is still the world's finest hobby. CW is still very much alive despite what the media have to say about it. At the other end of the scale, SSTV and new data modes like PSK31, making use of the PC sound card, are quite exciting to use. Amateur radio contacts with NA1SS, RZ3DZR and DL0ISS at the international space station will soon be possible.

I very much look forward to hearing from you by one means or another. If you are currently not able to get on the air and you feel there is anything I can do to help, please let me know.

73

David M Pratt  
G4DMP (ex-G3KEP)

8<sup>th</sup> January 2001

*If this letter does not make sense to you, I have obviously made a mistake in addressing it. Please destroy it and accept my sincere apologies for bothering you.*