

CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2023



Communications By
RAYNET-UK
Essex RAYNET



Essex RAYNET



@ESSEXRAYNET

www.essexraynet.co.uk

MEMBERSHIP & ADMIN



- Why not use EasyFundraising while doing your Christmas Shopping? Donations help fund ongoing Equipment Costs and Training for Members. Use this link <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/essexraynet> - free to use!
- G1RBO Tony has recently transferred to Cambridgeshire RAYNET
- In need of some clothing? Email G8UDD via supplies@essexraynet.co.uk

UPCOMING EVENTS



- **Winter Training Evening - TBC Jan-Mar**
- Canvey Radio Rally - Sun 4th February
- Colchester Half Marathon - Sun 17th March
- Churches Together In Maldon - Fri 29th Mar

OPERATION SPLASH



Tendring District Council

MALDON DISTRICT COUNCIL



- Essex RAYNET was recently asked by Maldon & Tendring District Councils, to move to 'Standby' in response to Flood Warnings which had come into force for the Essex Coastline
- Operation Splash was setup and the callout process via SarSYS for Mobilisation of Members was launched.
- We were later stood down by the EPOs, following a review by the Environment Agency on the severity of the flooding
- Thanks to all who responded with offers of assistance

TRAINING

- Thank you to M0IXY & G8UDD who recently delivered some refresher Training on topics such as Go-Bags and other key subjects via MS Teams
- Going forward in 2024, a minimum Training requirement is likely to be brought in to maintain Operational Standards for Events / Deployments
- All Members will be invited to attend Training Sessions offered and where possible, we will aim to run multiple sessions to help fit around you.
- Suggestions for topics at the Winter Training Day welcomed - please email training@essexraynet.co.uk

SANTA FUN RUN 2023



- On a brisk Sunday 3rd December morning, we helped support Farleigh Hospice with their annual, Santa Fun Run, which takes place in Central Park in Chelmsford
- Over 400 Santa's walked, cycled and wheeled their way around the 5km route, supported by Essex Community First Aid and Essex RAYNET for Safety Communications
- We deployed 17 Operators and used our Chelmsford Crossband Repeater + APRS Digipeater to provide Communications
- Early indications are that the donations raised are in the order of £15,000, which is fantastic news!
- Thank you to all who assisted with this event - 2E0XTA, 2E0MYZ, 2E0NNZ, 2E0PSN, 2E0PTU, 2E0KFG, M0IXY, M7LCF, M0LZI, G8YPK, G8UDD, M7SNR, M7WZO, M0LCE, M0NAS, G3YZO, G0UIB
- I'm also delighted to inform you that Essex RAYNET has been invited to once again assist with the Farleigh Hospice, Walk for Life - which is scheduled to take place on the Sunday 12th May 2024

ESSEX RADIO HIRE

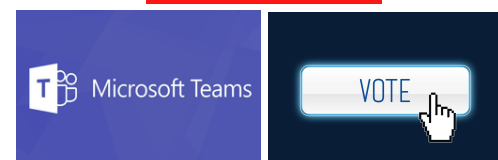
- Essex Radio Hire has supported Essex RAYNET for over 20 years now - have you considered supporting your local dealer?
- Supporting all major brands such as Icom, Yaesu, Anytone, Diamond, Retevis, Motorola and many more - all with local delivery and direct dealer support!
- Contact on 01376 538123 - 2E0XLS Owen

WEEKLY & CASCADE NETS



- **Week 1 - Cascade RF Nets @ 8PM**
- **Week 2 - DMR Net @ 8PM on Essex RAYNET Phoenix Talkgroup 23532**
- **Week 3 - D-Star Net @ 8PM on Reflector 79 Module C**
- **Week 4 - Icom LTE Net @ 8PM on Essex RAYNET Talkgroup**
- **Week 5 - DMR Net @ 8PM on Essex RAYNET Phoenix Talkgroup 23532**

EGM UPDATE



- We held our scheduled EGM on Tues 21st Nov, regarding proposals for amendment to the Constitution, relating to the Membership Fee.
- Proposal 1 was unsuccessful, however Proposal 2 was successfully voted in.
- Proposal 1 has been re-engineered following feedback received and a new EGM will be held on 21st December @ 1930 on MS Teams - Proxy Votes are not permitted!
- These changes are essential to allow Essex RAYNET to keep operating, with the pending increases due by RAYNET-UK in early 2024

ENGINEERING



- Following years of free use of a Icom SRP-X11 Crossband Repeater from Essex Radio Hire, the Committee has voted to purchase the unit to bolster our capabilities and resilience.
- Essex RAYNET now has its own Talkgroup on Phoenix/DV Scotland - as such nets will move from TG 23531 to TG 23532, effective December 2023.
- We are also in the process of setting up a Icom LTE to RF Crosslink, which will allow our Cascade Network to rebroadcast over Icom LTE - which will be useful during Callouts.
- For Icom LTE enquires, contact Owen 2E0XLS via WhatsApp.

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Merry Christmas

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- Once again, Christmas is fast approaching and the cold weather is returning – a time to keep our Batteries charged, Go-Bags ready and Emergency Mince Pies stocked!
- I'd like to thank every Member for your contributions and time this year, without which we simply could not operate.
- 2024 is set to be a very busy year for the organisation and that is without any unscheduled callouts!
- Every member will need to renew in Spring 2024, more info to follow
- Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



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G8PYD GRAHAM



- Essex RAYNET is sad to report of the loss of one of our longest serving and founding Members of RAYNET in Essex, G8PYD Graham Farrel of Maldon, on Remembrance Sunday at 11am – he passed away at home, peacefully.
- G8PYD joined RAEN (Radio Amateurs Emergency Network), which would later be known as RAYNET, in 1978 where he became the Group Controller of the North West Kent Group.
- Moving to Essex in 1983, he joined what was Essex Main RAYNET, becoming the District Controller for Maldon. G8PYD later became Group Controller when G4JUW moved out of County.
- In 1993, RAEN took over operations from the RSGB, at a meeting in April that year, the majority of those present, voted to form Essex RAYNET, which would be affiliated to the RSGB only and independent from RAEN. Essex RAYNET would later become reaffiliated with RAEN/RAYNET in 2017 following unified agreement between the RSGB and RAEN/RAYNET.
- Bringing with him, the experience he had in Telecommunications from his time with the GPO, Graham went on to work for Essex Fire and Rescue Service as a Radio Communications Engineer for a career spanning 23 years, retiring in 2011.
- Graham was able to use his transferable skills from ECFRS, with one of his many hobbies, which included Amateur Radio, RAYNET, Steam Locomotives and Electronics.
- Graham spent many happy hours volunteering his time for the East Anglian Railway Museum at Wakes Colne, when he wasn't busy working, supporting Essex RAYNET or spending time with his family.
- Graham was Treasurer & Secretary for Essex RAYNET between 1993 & 2006, then served an additional 16 years as Treasurer only.
- The constitution & Manual, to which Essex RAYNET uses today, was written by G8PYD and was used as a 'template' for other groups to base theirs upon, including our overseeing organisation – RAYNET-UK, quite the legacy!
- Graham kept himself very busy during his 45 year tenure with the organisation, building Repeater Enclosures for our Burnham, Southend and Chelmsford Crossband Repeater Sites, which are still in use today.
- Grahams expertise with Electronics and Radio Networks, was a fantastic asset for Essex RAYNET as a Resilient Communications Organisation, which was always at the forefront of every Installation performed by G8PYD.
- Graham took part in regular testing of our Radio Sites across Essex, including Fire HQ at Kelvedon Park, Chelmsford, East Hall Farm, Maldon, Burnham Clock Tower and Southend On Sea.
- Graham also helped Essex RAYNET secure the use of meeting facilities on a regular basis, for Management Meetings, at Maldon Fire Station for a number of years, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Graham unfortunately suffered a severe stroke during the early part of 2022, shortly after Storm Eunice which was his last deployment. However, he maintained a keen interest in group activities during his recovery, joining our Monthly Cascade Nets via our Maldon Repeater and attending our AGM with his wife Sue, in April 2023 at Danbury Hall.
- Graham was recently awarded his 45 Year Long Service Award by RAYNET-UK and was awarded one of our Honorary Memberships.
- Essex RAYNET will be commemorating the memory of G8PYD Graham in the following ways, a Memorial Page on our Website, Memorial Plaque on the Trailer Mast and a joint shield which is Engraved Yearly, to Members who have shown outstanding effort and commitment to the organisation.
- We will also be making a donation to the Charities of choice by G8PYD Graham, Farleigh Hospice and the East Anglian Railway Museum – which will consist of donations from Members and the organisation – amount will be confirmed in the January Newsletter.
- We would like to thank the family of G8PYD Graham Farrel, for their kind invitation to his funeral and wake, which was attended by 2E0XLS, 2E0KFG, 2E0PSN, 2E0XTA, G8YPK, G8UDD, MONAS, M0IXY, M7LCF and Ex-Members G0DEC & G7KSQ.
- On behalf of everybody in Essex RAYNET, past and present Members, we would like to pass on our condolences to the Farrel Family and Friends.

73 2E0XTA – County Controller