

# WINTER NEWSLETTER 2025



Communications By  
**RAYNET-UK**  
Essex RAYNET



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## ENGINEERING



- It has been a busy period for members of the Engineering Team, who have been finalising a few projects linked our long term resilience and RF Network
- Revised MB9AEB, MB9AEC and MB9AED Repeater programming, as part of a v4 Update for our UHF Icom Digital Radio Fleet
- New MB9AEB Dual Mode deployable Repeater
- Upgraded MB9AEC Dual Mode deployable Repeater Housing + APRS Digipeater MB9DAC
- Crossband Repeater at our Chelmsford site, MB9HAT, was replaced with a Kenwood TM-V71E, whilst awaiting Antenna replacement
- Installation of 5x New Antennas at our Maldon Site
- Installation of Crossband Repeater, MB9HAS at our Maldon Site
- Installation of 12v Batteries + Victron Energy chargers at the MB9HAS site, for site resilience
- Engineering Discussions held with representatives from Harlow + Epping Forest, regarding the possibility of re-activating old sites for use
- New Carry Bags for Fleet Radios
- **MEMBERS - Please update your Handhelds/Mobiles to new v7 Frequency Table + Icom v4 UHF Codeplug ASAP!**

**73 M9XTA - County Controller**

## CASCADE NET



- We hold 1 monthly net which will be on the 1st Wednesday of the month at 8pm via FM + LTE
- **Wed 7<sup>th</sup> Jan - Cascade Network via RF + Icom LTE Crosslink @ 8PM with G0IJN John or MONAS Neil or as your Net Controllers**
- Reminders will be sent via WhatsApp/SMS in advance of the Net
- If you would like details on how to join in, please contact your Area Controllers

## 2026 EVENTS DIARY



- Chelmsford Garden Fun Run - Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January
- Colchester Half Marathon - Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March
- Winter Training Day - **Mar/April (TBC)**
- CTIM - Good Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April
- Walk for Life - Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May
- Pier to Pier - Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May
- Brightlingsea Carnival - Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June
- Multi-Group Demo Day - **June/July (TBC)**
- Dengie 999 Weekend - Sat/Sun **1st-2<sup>nd</sup> August (TBC)**
- Clacton Carnival - Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> August
- Clacton Airshow - Thursday/Friday 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> Aug
- Cycle for Life - **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> Sept 2026 (TBC)**
- St Helena Midnight Walk - Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> Sept
- Harwich Half Marathon - Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October
- Chelmsford Marathon - Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October
- Santa Fun Run - Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December

## RAYNET AGM & CUP

- We are delighted to share the news, that at the recent RAYNET-UK AGM, which took place in Hybrid format via Zoom & in person during October, M9XTA Jason Moore was awarded the RAYNET Cup, in recognition for his efforts driving the Engineering Team forward with projects including, the continued development of the Cascade Repeater Network within Essex, APRS Digipeater deployment and the building of new relationships with the User Services / Voluntary Networks within Essex.
- As always, it is I feel a team effort and not possible without the support of you, the Membership
- MONAS Neil was also awarded his 25 Year Long Service Certificate - well done Neil!

## 2E0/2E1 CALLSIGNS

- Ofcom recently entered Phase 2 of the planned Amateur License changes, which permitted the holders of Intermediate license holders to change their callsign to the new M8/M9 prefix
- Member reported changes so far -- 2E0XTA now M9XTA, 2E0PSN now M9PSN, 2E0KFG now M9KFG, 2E0NNZ now M9NNZ, 2E0MYZ now M9JRH and 2E0XLS now M9PMR
- If you are a 2E0/2E1 license holder and you change your prefix, please notify RAYNET-UK via the Member Dashboard and M9KFG Chris.

## CENTRAL AREA UPDATE

- We are sad to announce the recent resignation of M9JRH (formerly 2E0MYZ) Jonathan, as Deputy Area Controller for the Central Area.
- We would like to thank M9JRH for time on the Committee and would welcome his assistance in the future.
- In the interim period, M9PSN Gareth has stepped up into the Role as Deputy Area Controller, until such time of the Area Elections during Spring 2026.

## CLOTHING ORDERS

- We will temporarily be pausing the sale/supply of Yellow High Visibility Clothing for the foreseeable future, this is due to changes which will be phased in during 2026-2027, in relation to JESIP Guidance
- Clothing Orders for items such as Hats, Shirts, Polo Shirts etc will be processed as normal
- Update to follow in January 2026 via County Reflector

## EASYFUNDRAISING



- 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 and no junk mail!
- So far during 2025, your use of Easy Fundraising, has generated donations of £218, which is fantastic!
- Refer a friend and we'll receive a £5 bonus donation!

## CHELMSFORD FUN RUN



- We will be supporting Chelmsford Garden Community Council, by providing Safety Radio Communications, to the First Aid & Event Teams, for the 3.1km Fun Run Event on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January.
- If you would like to volunteer your support, contact M9XTA Jason



## 2025 STATS

- 2025 was a busy year for Essex RAYNET, all of it made possible by the time generously donated by our Membership of 40 - this year we welcomed G8JRI Peter, M3JDS Julia and RAY02419 Eliz to the group
- We provided resilient radio communications services to support charities, user services and voluntary sector partners, at 13 Events and assisted neighbouring RAYNET Groups at four events
- Just in Events alone, over 1900+ hours has been volunteered + another 480 hours assisting other groups
- Not surprisingly, our busiest month was August with the Clacton Airshow & Clacton Carnival, closely followed by September, with the Midnight Walk - Harwich Half Marathon & Cycle for Life event
- As always, our team of Duty Officers are available 24/7/365, ready to respond to a request for assistance from a User Service (Police, Fire, Ambulance, Local Authority) or a Voluntary Sector Partner (4x4 Response, British Red Cross etc)
- Thank you to all our members, management team and neighbouring groups for your assistance - we couldn't do it without your support!

## NORTH AREA SOCIAL

- Members of the North Area were recently invited to attend a casual social event, held at the Rovers Tye in Colchester, during the last week of November.
- It was a great opportunity to reflect back on a busy year for Essex RAYNET and the North Area, plus a chance for feedback to be passed directly to the Management Team
- We may have been there until closing time (oops) but it was a very productive evening!
- MOWRB Richard will be hosting another of these Social Events in Feb-March, in-line with the Area Meetings which typically take place around this time of year, ready for the AGM in April-May
- We would love to see more social meetings taking place, not just in the North Area but across Essex - if you'd like to see one in your Area, please reach out to your Controller or contact myself direct

## CHELMSFORD MARATHON 2025

- We supported Nice Works on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October, by providing resilient Safety Radio Communications, using Amateur Radio, to keep the Runners, Marshalls and First Aid Team safe, on the Full & Half routes on the Chelmsford Marathon Event
- A team of 19 Operators, including assistance from Mid-Herts (2E0CIQ + M0RVI), Kent RAYNET (M1EGP), SW Herts (M0OSK) who in total volunteered over 171 Hours - thank you so much, it wouldn't be possible without your support!
- We deployed a Dual Mode Inband Repeater + 2x Crossband Repeaters (MB9HAT + M0WRB) and Automated Packet Reporting System (APRS) to enable us to track the location of Operators and Sweeps as they navigated the two routes
- This network design allowed operators to use a mix of Digital Voice and FM, depending on their location
- Over 510+ Runners took part in the full Marathon and 1360+ took part in the half Marathon - which is some impressive numbers for this event!
- We can report that over £53,000 was raised by the participants of the event - great work!



## SANTA FUN RUN 2025

- We supported Farleigh Hospice on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December in the city of Chelmsford, providing resilient Safety Radio Communications, using Amateur Radio, to keep the Walkers, Marshalls and First Aid Team safe, as they navigated the 5km route
- The event saw some 500+ participants dressed up as Santa, all helping to commemorate and raise funds for this fantastic hospice - donations are still being counted but it is expected to be a bumper year!
- We deployed FM + Automated Packet Reporting System (APRS) to track the Sweep Operators and check Operator position on the route
- We also took the opportunity to enjoy a tasty hot beverage, kindly discounted by the Drinks Van to Essex RAYNET - thank you!
- Thank you to everyone who volunteered at this event - it is a nice end to the events season, which has been very busy during 2025!
- We have already been pencilled in for the next Santa Fun Run in 2026.

