



RAY~Link

Issue Twenty One
October 1995

The Regular Newsletter of The Radio Amateurs' Emergency Network

RAY~Link is published for the benefit of all members of the Network. It is posted to all controllers who are requested to assist in ensuring a wide membership circulation.

This edition of *RAY~Link* is being sent with the notice of the AGM to every member of the Network. *RAY~Link* is published six times per year, and is normally sent to controllers, who are asked to ensure as wide a circulation as possible. If you have not seen one since last year, ask questions!

If you would like to get your own copies, send a set of A5 self addressed envelopes, stamped with one second class stamp on each, to, *RAY~Link*, Hunters Moon, Newton-le-Willows, Bedale, North Yorks, DL8 1SX. Do not use 19p stamps, as they will not be sufficient if the postage rate increases while we still have a stock of your envelopes. The stamps to use are those found in stamp books. We have not used the envelopes of our usual readers this time, as all members receive this mailing!

I hope to see a large turn out of members at the AGM in Loudwater on 28th October, but if you cannot attend, please send in your proxy. The Radio Amateurs' Emergency Network is yours, please let us know what you want!

Ron Cowan, GM4SRL
Chairman

National:	24 Hour Emergency Contact Line
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Our twenty four hour emergency contact line has been operational for almost six months now. It is sponsored by BT, and allows National User Services to contact a member of the Committee of Management local contacts, which should be made up of the line number intended, to replace obviously the best means of contact, but groups are encouraged to give the number to their own contacts so that, should all group contacts fail for any reason, (radio show or field day, etc?) the User Service will get a response and action. The line may also be used by group controllers who urgently require to contact a member of the Committee of Management but who cannot get in touch with their own ZC. Although it is a Glasgow number, the call will be transferred to the duty committee member anywhere in the country.

The committee member will upon receiving a call immediately pass it on to the group concerned, or to a county controller if no group contact is available. Our new database will make this operation very easy when it comes into operation early next year, but in the meantime, groups are asked to keep Bedale informed of any changes to callout lists as they happen.

The service is not restricted to our own groups, and independent groups are encouraged to send in their details so that we can pass messages to the correct group at any time. The number of the line is (0141) 621 2121. ○

All correspondence and membership registrations should be sent to:-

"Hunter's Moon", Newton-le-Willows, BEDALE, North Yorks, DL8 1SX

Emergency 24 hour contact line:- (0141) 621 2121

CHAIRMAN:

Ron Cowan, GM4SRL
(0141) 620 1000

ZONES:

- Z1:** Frank McLoughlin, G1GAD (0191) 285 0391
- Z2:** Contact Meantime Brian Tindill, (01677) 450387
- Z3:** Dave Hocking, G4FSS (0116) 239 3803
- Z4:** Dave Seabrook, G6HPY (01638) 750571
- Z5:** David Whiteman, G1ADW (0956) 299784
- Z6:** Cathy Clark, G1GQJ (01844) 351461
- Z7:** Chris Hampson, G8RXA (01425) 672002
- Z8:** Contact meantime via ZC 10 (01244) 336639
- Z9:** Madeley Smith, G8KVU (01203) 579411
- Z10:** David Hicks, G6IFA (01244) 336639
- Z11:** Contact Meantime via ZC 12 (01290) 421298
- Z12:** Tom Stewart, GM0BKX (01290) 421298
- Z18:** Contact meantime via ZC 10 (01244) 336639
- Z22:** Iain Strachan, GM4FLP (01382) 580356

SPECIALIST TEAMS

Emergency Planning:

Dave Seabrook, G6HPY

Publicity:

David Hicks, G6IFA

Registrations:

David Whiteman, G1ADW

Sales:

Frank McLoughlin, G1GAD

Technical:

Madeley Smith, G3KVU

Training:

Cathy Clark, G1GQJ

Talk through applications:

Ian Jackson, G8RWH,
5 Vivien Ct, Chessington,
Surrey, KT9 2DE

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National:	The Charity Ian Jackson, G8RWH
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On the 4th July this year the Network became a Charity. The original idea of RAYNET registering was suggested many years ago by the then RSGB Raynet Committee as a possible way to relieve the financial pressures that the RSGB was under. When the 'Network' was formed in January 1993, Charity registration was made a priority. A very conscious decision was taken to pursue registration for the National Organisation only. Some members have asked why.

RAYNET Groups have always been financially independent of National RAYNET and the Committee of Management thought that this would be expected in the future. If Groups had been included in the Network registration, they would have been forced to provide full accounts annually, failure would risk the status of the whole Network, and this could not be allowed to happen.

Some organisations are known to support registered charities only, and approaches are beginning to be made to them, but it is still very early days! The perceived 'status' that is conveyed by a Charity does seem to be working for the Network, and accusations of being a commercial company are more easily refuted.

There are, however, restrictions. The Committee of Management are the Trustees of the charity, as well as being the Directors of the Company. They must take every care to protect the charity. One important area to be guarded against is the misuse of the Registration Number. Some Groups are including the number on their letterheads. This could easily become a problem and may even be illegal. The Registration Number must never be used where it could imply that it relates to any group other than The Radio Amateurs' Emergency Network, ie the Company. One group letterhead received recently had the number added to the header and, although there was no intention to deceive, it was misleading. The best advice to Groups is do not include the charity registration number on your letterheads!

If your Group is considering applying to become a charity, the Network may be able to advise. Write to the usual Bedale address. ○

Operating:	Telephone Calls
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Being a voluntary organisation, it is sometimes difficult for members to use the telephone at work, either for incoming or outgoing calls. Please only call a member at work if it is urgent, or pre-arranged, and always ask if it is convenient to talk. Calls to a members house can be intrusive at times, so please avoid mealtimes if possible, and use the 09:00 to 21:00 hrs suggestion, unless you know that the person you are calling is a late bedder! Keeping to these guidelines allows the telephone to be a useful tool, and not something to be cursed everytime it rings! ○

Emergency:	Ayrshire Group Rescues Family
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A rescue drama unfolded during the Ayrshire Doon Raft Race last month. A young boy climbed a giant coal bing and became stuck on the loose scree-like surface. His sister climbed to his aid, and also became stuck. His mother, fearful for her children, also climbed the bing and became stuck too.

As the concerned crowd looked on, the Ayrshire RAYNET Group, who were on duty at the raft race, were alerted, and RAYNET Zonal Co-ordinator, Tom Stewart, GM0BKX, who is in the Fire Service, organised the rescue. Together with members of St. Andrew's Ambulance, and group members Bill Hunter, GM1SXZ, and Stuart McAllister, GM7RUD, they got a rope and Tom, together with a Fire Service colleague, climbed above the three stricken climbers and lowered them to safety.

A photographer who was covering the raft race captured the rescue on film, and an article with three dramatic photographs appeared in the following week's Ayrshire Post. Well done to all concerned! ○

Event:	Teams on Platforms Watch Bikes
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The British Motorcycle Grand Prix was held at Donington Park again this year over the weekend of 23rd and 24th July. RAYNET Members took part in the Police sponsored 'Bike Watch' operation, which once again helped to dramatically reduce the amount of Bike Theft and Damage occurring in the 'bike-parks' during the weekend. The operation required teams of members being installed on scaffold observation platforms at strategic points around the parking areas throughout the day, and reporting any signs of suspicious activity. By now, team members are up to most of the tricks of the trade used by the bike takers, but there were one or two interesting variations this year. As usual, the team picked up a number of other tasks too, and this year helped an Australian couple search the whole racetrack before finding where they had left their hire car!

'Bike Watch' Control was located in a Police Caravan provided for RAYNET and parked alongside the mobile County Communications HQ, and liaison with the County Constabulary once again worked extremely efficiently.

The Police fed and watered RAYNET members from four counties during their fourteen hour duties, and both 'Gold Commander' and the Assistant Chief Constable complemented the team on their work. ○

RAY~Link YOUR Network's Newsletter
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Emergency:

**Staffordshire
Fire Emergency**

National:

**National
News**

On 31st July, RAYNET was placed on alert by CEPO/Staffordshire Fire & Rescue Service due to the serious fire situation, with calls running at over twice the normal rate. RAYNET was to send teams overnight to large fire sites in woods and heathlands, to spot recurring fires and radio to the fire crew – enabling other crews to rest or be reassigned. G3USF informed group controllers, organised nightwatch teams and notified ZC G8KVU, who briefed neighbouring controllers. Teams were dispatched on 5th August and used on 6 occasions.

Soon after, RAYNET was also asked to undertake fire monitoring and prevention on Cannock Chase, which was at serious risk even though closed to the public. Control was established at the Park Visitor Centre, happily a good site for communications, on the succeeding four weekends and RAYNET operated from afternoon until dusk from Friday to Sunday, and on the four days of the bank holiday weekend. An additional commitment followed at Highgate Common, 20 miles to the south east. Between eight and eleven teams were active each day. The chase is very much four wheel drive territory, and teams of a radio operator and driver from Rover Rescue criss-crossed the Chase spotting fires, guiding fire-fighters and rangers to firegrounds, keeping access points clear and discouraging intruders.

With Staffordshire taking the night calls, G8KVU organised afternoon/evening backup from Warwickshire, West Midlands and Hereford & Worcester; Leicestershire also helped, as did several visitors to the area. Other counties stood by but were not called. At stand-down on 4th September, the operation had involved over 60 operators for a provisional total of 1200 hours. Thanks and congratulations were received from all organisations for which RAYNET worked. RAYNET took the pressure off weary crews and, by supplementing the small Ranger Service, helped spare Cannock Chase the ravages it suffered in 1976. Staffordshire RAYNET warmly thanks everyone who turned out, was ready to do so, or simply left a clear frequency.

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Advertisement

For Sale

Pye transmitters and receivers, type 460 and 470 available free to bona fide RAYNET groups. Ideal for talk-through. For further details, call Bill, G3TZM on (01564) 774384.

Wanted

Wanted, B29 receiver (LF version of the B28/CR100) for a war museum. Preferred in working order. If donated, arrangements will be made in the display for full credit to the donor. Call Bill, G3TZM on (01564)

774384.

Ron Cowan, GM4SRL **D**uring the last few months, members of the Committee of Management have been busy talking to their equivalent numbers in the user services. New contacts have been made, and old ones strengthened. Several presentations have been given at the Emergency Planning College at Easingwold as well as at other venues throughout the country. In July, the Chairman, Ron Cowan, GM4SRL, was invited to attend a seminar on Massive Disasters which was run by the Cabinet Office. Although he should have been on holiday at the time, he accepted the invitation and delayed his departure for sunnier places! At the end of September, the Chairman addressed the WRVS Emergency Services Conference whose theme this year was to bring Emergency Services Organisers and Senior Instructors up to date with current WRVS Issues, and to raise an awareness of other areas of Emergency Planning issues and developments, and in October he has been invited to address the National Voluntary Aid Societies Emergency Committee in London.

Members of the Emergency Planning team have had several meetings, and are now working their way through a very busy schedule. Team leader, David Seabrook, the Emergency Planning Director was at Easingwold last month talking with BT engineers and emergency planners.

The Publicity Team has really got down to business, and the results are appearing throughout all sections of the amateur radio and trade press. Publicity Director, David Hicks made a presentation on our behalf to a Volunteer Seminar at the Emergency Planning College last month.

The Training Team held a second successful seminar at Easingwold in June, and, although this was the last in the present format, Training Director Cathy Clark is now looking forward to the challenge of a different emphasis on our training seminars.

The Registration Team is currently using the old software, but is looking forward to the new program which is currently on test by writer, David Whiteman, the Registrations Director. A report on this appears on page four of this issue.

RAYNET Supplies under its Director, Frank McLoughlin and new supplies officer Peter Enfield is continuing the service provided to our members by Barbara Slater and her team. New lines are being stocked in addition to the old favourites. An order form is included with this mailing.

The Technical Team is the latest specialist group to be formed, although it is still 'early days' for Director Madeley Smith and his team.

The past year has brought many advances to the Network, and we are now seeing the results of the work quietly undertaken during the last few years. Progress has, up until now, been of necessity slow while the organisation found its feet, but now the Network is becoming visibly stronger and recognised for the professional service it provides our User Services throughout the country.

Page 3

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Emergency:**North Notts
Helps Red Cross**

North Notts Group received an emergency call for communications assistance from The British Red Cross who were in attendance at a mass evacuation of the Walesby Scout Camp, which was threatened by a fire in the surrounding woods and grasslands. The request was for communications between the evacuation centre at the Dukeries Leisure Complex and the Nottingham headquarters, a distance of about thirty miles.

Within twenty minutes of the call, members of the North Notts. group were in position at the centre, while South Notts. controller was alerted and requested to provide personnel at Nottingham HQ. Communications were quickly set up using cross band talk-through units based at Mapperly, Nottingham and Mansfield. The service lasted for 24 hours and good communications were maintained throughout.

Both groups worked well together and received the thanks and praise of the emergency services. Those taking part were G0HYV, G0INA, G1GQI, G3AWI, G3XTL, G4NOR, G4RWI, G7PHL and G7TYL. ○

National:**Database
Developments****David Whiteman,**

G1ADW **B**y the time you read this, all Controllers should have received a print out of the current members of their County/Group according to the present membership database. Many will have already checked the specific points I requested and returned those pages containing corrections. I thank those controllers most sincerely. If you have not yet returned the corrections relating to your County/Group, please do so without delay. Please note that the absolute deadline is at the AGM. Any corrections received after that date will be ignored.

The new database system is scheduled to go live in the first quarter of 1996. Before implementation, all Groups will receive copies of forms designed to work with the new database. Please do not use these forms before the advised implementation date as the current database will still be in operation. The current forms will not be usable with the new database. After the implementation date, any registrations received on old documentation will be returned to the originator with samples of the new documentation.

Implementation of a new software system is never easy. Please help the Registrations Team to make the transition as smooth as possible.

I am always ready to answer any queries individuals may have about the NARMED project. I can be contacted on my mobile number (0956) 299784. Alternatively I can be contacted at my home address or by E-mail on **Page 4**
100526.137 @ compuserve.com. ○

Operating:**Tell the
World!**

This item was first printed in the March Edition of *RAY~Link*, and is re-printed for your convenience. Ever wondered the best way of letting others know about your RAYNET successes?

1. Publicity in advance

Dave Hicks, G6IFA, (01244) 336639.

2. Publicity on the day

For Press & Media, contact, in advance, Dave Hicks, G6IFA, (01244) 336639.

3. Display photographs & Slide Presentation

Contact, in advance, Tom Stewart, GM0BKX, (01290) 421298.

4. Computer Presentation

Contact in advance, Frank McLoughlin, G1GAD, (0191) 285 0391.

5. RAYNET Diary Dates

Send information to Geoff Griffiths, G3STG @ GB7NRC or by post to 11 The Grove, Asfordby, Melton Mowbray, Leics., LE14 3UF or at CompuServe 100072,2021.

6. RAY~Link

Send copy, on disk if possible, to Ron Cowan, GM4SRL, 85 Eastwoodmains Road, Clarkston, GLASGOW G76 7HG

7. 80m News

Contact Ron Cowan, GM4SRL, Tel. (0141) 620 1000 or by fax on (0141) 638 0732.

8. Publicity Handouts

Contact your Zonal Co-ordinator for a supply. We have a good supply of these and would rather that a lot of 'originals' are used rather than you make photocopies.

The Network has a 'One Door' contact point, and if you don't know exactly who or what you want, write to RAYNET at the Bedale address which is listed on the front page. Brian Tindill, G4HVA, our 'postman' will ensure that your correspondence is dealt with by the correct person.

Remember, if you have a 'real' callout, please let your Zonal Co-ordinator know as soon as possible. The ZC can then pass the information on to the Chairman and to the Publicity Director, who in turn can point media interest in the right direction. (It is likely that the media will contact them in the first instance, looking for a local contact.) This can be slightly awkward if they don't know of an incident in the first place! Remember, though, that during a major incident, all press enquiries should be dealt with through the Press Officer dealing with your User Services media relations.

Let's make sure that we grab every publicity opportunity possible! To do this at national level, requires local input. Please make sure that you don't let any chance to 'tell the world' slip you by! ○

Emergency:

**Help in
Yarmouth**

Yarmouth RAYNET Group in Norfolk were alerted by the Police at 02:00 hrs on the 13th September and assisted at a major fire in Yarmouth town centre. An evacuation centre was opened by the Police and manned by the WRVS with RAYNET providing the links to a joint operations centre at Yarmouth Police Office. Mobile phone users among the support services involved with the incident experienced some difficulty in communicating and RAYNET was able to assist.

Five RAYNET members were deployed initially by Clive, G1EBP, deputy controller of the Yarmouth group. The fire was rapidly brought under control by the fire service allowing RAYNET to be stood down at 05:45 hrs.

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Roger Paxton GOPIR

The Network has lost one of its hardest working and most popular members in North Yorkshire with the sudden death on August 5th of Roger Paxton GOPIR at the age of 49.

Roger, who was a member of the Richmond group and training co-ordinator for the four groups in North Yorkshire, suffered a brain haemorrhage and died later the same day. His death came three years after taking early retirement following 31 years service with British Telecom where he worked as a control room operator in Leeds despatching engineers to deal with faults throughout Yorkshire.

Roger, who also the remote sysop for the York Packet mailbox GB7CYM and ran the Abbey node, joined RAYNET soon after being licensed as G7HZD and rapidly became a well respected member of the Richmond group.

Previously his hobby had been navigation on night car rallies and he continued to put something back into the sport by providing safety radio cover on the RAC International Rally and other events.

Roger, whose home at 520ft above sea level was regularly used as a RAYNET relay site, was one of the North Yorkshire members who accompanied two blind walkers and the Metropolitan Police Fraud Squad team on the Coast to Coast Walk in September, 1993. Many radio amateurs were among the 150 people who attended his funeral at Rawdon crematorium in Leeds on August 14th to express their sympathy to his widow, Melody.

Demo:

**Saudi Arabian
Visitors**

Brian Dooks, GORHI

Communications equipment was demonstrated by RAYNET when two members of the Saudi Arabian emergency planning team visited North Yorkshire on August 24th. Brigadier Bin Masari' Al-Naqa and Major Abduh Al-Sahdi spent the day with North Yorkshire's Emergency Planning Officer, Duncan Harvey, and his team, who rely heavily on RAYNET for communications.

North Yorkshire County Controller, Brian Dooks GORHI; his deputy, Brian Tindill G4HVA; and Richmond group member, Mike Johnson G0GCK; staffed the emergency centre and the authority's communications trailer. They demonstrated the use of Packet, VHF and UHF voice radio and the PMR network which covers the difficult terrain in North Yorkshire – England's largest county – using hilltop repeater sites.

The Saudi Arabian visitors were told how Packet would be used by RAYNET to deliver information to a North Yorkshire Police casualty bureau in the event of a major incident occurring in the county. They also heard how RAYNET were used earlier this year to obtain situation reports when rivers rose by more than 20 feet causing severe flooding and how they provided links to a temporary mortuary and divisional police headquarters after the Knight Air commuter aircraft crashed near Harrogate killing 12 people. ○

Exercise:

**Zone 6,
Exercise**

While **F**or years, Bucks RAYNET members have said 'Forget table-tops – let's have an exercise in really bad weather whatever the elements can throw at us.' In February 1995, they got what they wanted!

Exercise Woodlouse was planned by Bucks Emergency Planning Unit, Bucks Volunteer Rescue and RAYNET. The scenario was a charity ramble that went very wrong – with some 30 walkers missing in some of the worst terrain in the Chiltern Hills – dense woodland and steep slippery slopes. The objective was for the BVR (trained in search and recovery techniques) to team up with RAYNET members providing the communications, to find the missing walkers.

As darkness fell, the search for the missing walkers and carefully hidden 'casualties' became more difficult, hampered by driving rain and strong winds. Teams quickly became disorientated, and it became apparent that some RAYNET members were not as fit as they thought they were! The whole exercise lasted six hours, with RAYNET operators being changed halfway through.

The exercise was drawn to a successful conclusion at 9pm, when all 'walkers' were accounted for, and all those involved adjourned to a local hostelry for a welcome bowl of hot soup and refreshments.

Page 5

Exercise:

Exercise Ghostex – Dorset

Dorset Fire Brigade and Dorset County Council Emergency Planning Section planned Exercise Ghostex to exercise an all agencies response to a major rail crash in Bincombe Tunnel. The response was to include Emergency Services, Local Authorities and Voluntary Agencies in the dark in western Dorset. The scenario was that a four coach train with some 140 passengers in transit between Weymouth and Dorchester struck debris just inside the southern end of Bincombe Tunnel.

The RAYNET involvement was to provide communication between the rest centre at Wey Valley School on the outskirts of Weymouth, the District Offices of Weymouth and Portland Borough Council, the County Main Emergency Centre at Dorchester and the Local Authority Liaison Officer at the incident site. These communication links were under the control of the station located in the Dorset RAYNET Forward Control Vehicle which was co-located with the other 'blue light' control vehicles. Tests were also to be carried out from within the tunnel.

The actual exercise, although delayed in starting due to

the late arrival of the last train, went according to plan. The Local Authority Liaison Officer did not require a RAYNET operator so he was re-deployed to assist the Exercise Director.

Despite the difficult terrain, RAYNET communications were excellent and three messages were even sent on behalf of BT. Two metres was used between all stations and 4 metres was tested to Dorchester from the FCV with great success. A fault in message handling revealed that there was no provision for details of location of the origination of a message. Message forms have now been revised!

The tests from within the tunnel proved very useful and it was found that by setting up a talk-through unit on the track about 100 yards outside the tunnel entrance with a WX1 at about 10 ft good communication could be achieved with all other RAYNET stations from 70cm handhelds running 100mW at the incident site in the tunnel mouth. Good signals were also received from the far end of the tunnel about 3/4 mile along the track. The use of 2 metres for this link failed even using 5 watts from the handheld and 50 watts from the talk-through station. The Fire Brigade were very interested in these tests and good liaison was also

Emergency:

Help for HM Coastguard

National:

transport Police.
**New place for info!
– The Telephone**

RAYNET was asked to assist HM Coastguard on the evening of 30th August. The call came to us via the 24 hour emergency contact number, (0141) 621 2121. A Norwegian military station reported to its command that it possibly heard a distress call on an unusual frequency. This report was passed to the Norwegian Coastguard who passed it on to their UK colleagues as the reported location was to the west of the Isle of Tiree off the West Coast of Scotland. This was in turn passed to Clyde Coastguard who enlisted the help of RAYNET in monitoring the frequency between 22:20 hrs and 23:30 hrs UTC Wednesday.

Three siren sounds were all that were heard by our monitoring stations on the given frequency, although there was some traffic slightly further up the band. As Clyde Coastguard considered that there was sufficient justification to mount a search, they scrambled the Coastguard helicopter which is based at Stornoway, Isle of Lewis.

The helicopter found a large number of fishing boats at the given position, and made contact with them on VHF. No problems were reported, and the helicopter returned to Stornoway. The callout was classed as a 'False Alarm, Good Intent', as it is thought that a language problem was responsible for the initial alert.

The stations who took part in the monitoring exercise were GM0ADF, G0BDA, GM0BKX, G0EWO, G0MRH, G3EKL, G3STG, G4FSN, G4KUJ and GM7NOA. ○

BBS G3STG

Geoff Giffiths

A Network telephone Bulletin Board Service has

been running since June, and provides a wide base of information accessible by all Network members.

There are presently more than 100 files available to all members, and they cover such subjects as News Items, reports of past Events and Duties, Technical Information, RAYNET Software, Bulletins from the USA, contact details for other Groups and reports from Civil Protection. Much of the information can't easily be provided through the packet network, and for example the BBS gives instant access to Membership Supplies product details and prices. And in addition, there is an E-Mail area too!

Extra information is available to Group, County and Regional Controllers, and the BBS provides a good place to pick up the latest announcements from the Network and its specialist teams.

If you have a modem and a phone line then why not give the BBS a try. Dial (01296) 393737 for an initial look round. If you really want to see what is on offer to members, drop a self-addressed stamped envelope to Bedale marked 'Telephone BBS'. In return you will receive an individual password, and a short guide to getting the best out of the service.