

GB6MW: 2012 postscript.

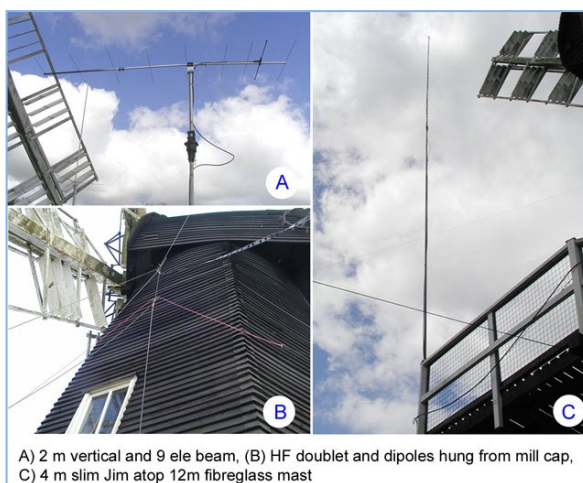
By Kevin MOKSJ with photos by Chris G0FDZ

The organizers of National Mills Weekend must have friends in high places...monsoon conditions leading up to the weekend, then a break with some sunshine over the weekend and as I write this immediately post event we are back to more rain.

Those of you who dropped by the mill or worked us will know that we had great fun operating GB6MW. On Saturday we were handed the keys to the mill and let loose to set up and play radio – the HF station (IC-756 Pro III with KW1000 linear) was installed on the upper level as in previous years, but a change was made to the VHF station (FT857 for 2 and AnyTone 5189 for 4m) which was moved down to the ground floor to make it easier for operating rather than have the two side by side.

On the antenna front, the “keep it simple” principle was used...a doublet for the lower HF bands hung from the mill cap and assorted dipoles for the higher bands. VHF was catered for using a vertical 2m collinear, a 9 element 2m Tonna and a 4 m home brew slim Jim – all mounted on poles strapped to the mill upper level walkway.

Another change this year, resulting from the loss of the mill tea room, was the recruitment of G0UKN-G3SPJ catering associates with Guy manning a back of the car all day breakfast facility and Colin supporting with the portable tea refreshments from inside the mill – plenty of happy contented customers on that front!



On Sunday the bunting went up around the site along with signs and posters about the event – to make more room in the mill we moved the VHF station outside to the tent housing the Club’s amateur radio/CVRS exhibition display.

It was good to see a steady stream of members visit the mill and take turns operating the stations including newly married Karen G8JNZ. It was also encouraging see many of our new M6 licenced Club members with friends and family, plus some visitors from the North Kent and Maidstone Clubs.



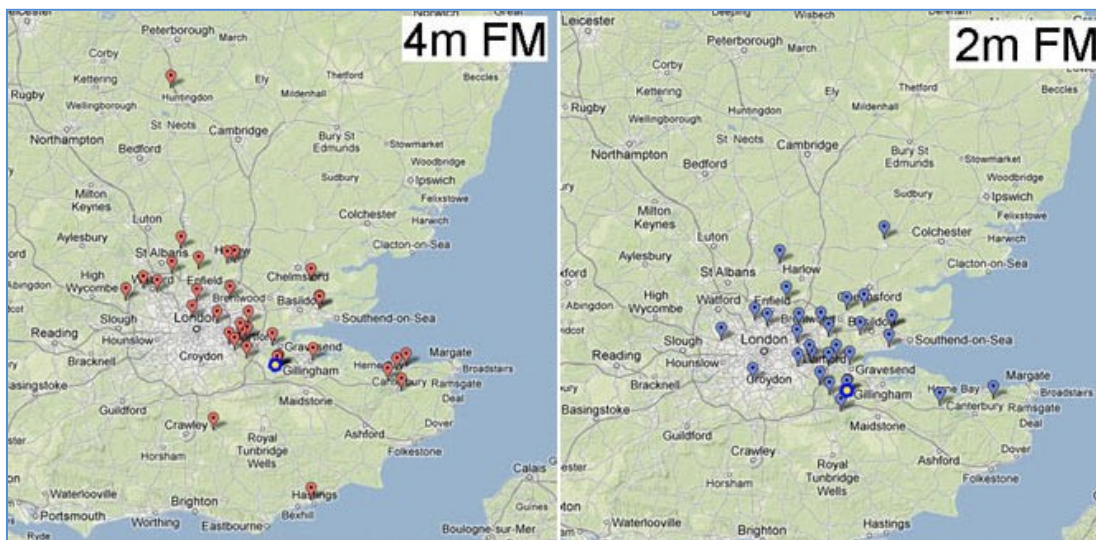
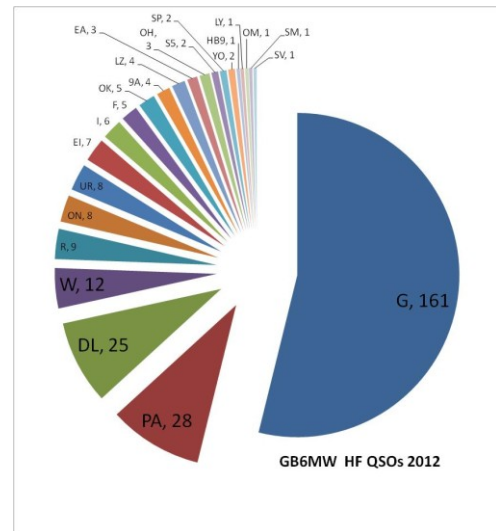
Faces of GB6MW 2012

On HF GB6MW was in high demand with many complementary comments about the good loud signal amongst the many mills taking part (over 75 at the last count of which 17 G and 8 PA were worked).

It was also great to work Mike, WM5DX in Mississippi, one of our DX members and in total 300 contacts were made with just over 50% in G land.

On 2m, SSB activity seemed poor with only a couple of stations worked – with the farthest in Cardiff.

Local 2m FM was more active and certainly good for a bit of local flag waving for the mill and the Club, but with a number of local mills in Essex all calling CQ I think we soon exhausted all the 2m operators in the area. To help avoid this overkill we also used 4m FM to alternate bands – this certainly seemed to work and in the end we worked more stations on 4 than 2 including two other special event stations – GB0HM, House mill in the East End and GB2DHH, the [de Havilland Aircraft Heritage museum](#) out near St. Albans (see QSOs mapped for 2 and 4m contacts showing close in correlation to the visibility/line of sight plot for the mill).



Next year National Mills weekend will take place on 11/12th May 2013 ...hope to see you all again next year.

Mapping Links:

<http://batchgeo.com/> for mapping locations

<http://www.heywhatsthat.com/main-0904.html> for visibility/line of sight plots