



Writtle Celebrates Marconi in 2022

In 1922 the U.K. Government issued the first licence to a British broadcast station. The new station's callsign was "2MT", transmitting from a WW1 Army hut in Writtle. The first broadcast was made on 14th February 1922 by a team of Marconi engineers led by Captain Peter Eckersley. The broadcasts from Writtle were a great success and paved the way for the formation of the B.B.C later that same year.

Planned Events

(Please note, the programme could be subject-to-change due to COVID and/or weather-conditions.)

February

Children from the Junior and Infant schools have been working hard during the Autumn term with Village History Walks, visits to Chelmsford Museum as well as sessions on microbit coding and art and craft sessions to create 'Radios of the Future'. Early in 2022 they will be having singing sessions and technical art building to prepare for the Parade in February. These have all been made possible through the 'Heritage Lottery Fund'.

Friday Feb 11th The final event organised by Adrian Deakes, Outreach Project Co-ordinator Ideas Hub when Writtle Junior and Infants School Parade will centre on the Green from 16.00. This will be followed by a community event with Jazz Band and refreshments. It's all to celebrate the anniversary of the '2MT' broadcasts from the village and made possible by generous funding and support from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and Writtle Parish Council. There is a 1920s theme on the day, so dress up for the occasion.

Monday Feb 14th Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society (CARS) will be setting up a Special Events Station in the Village Hall from 12.00-21.00, which is close to the Lawford Lane site of the original broadcast with the call sign 2MT, to make and receive calls from all over the world.

May

Tuesday May 17th The **Heritage Writtle Lecture** postponed from 15th February will take place at the **Northumberland Theatre of Writtle University College at 7.30 pm**. Tim Wander will give the lecture which is entitled '*The Centenary of British Broadcasting*'. Tickets are only available from Eventbrite.co.uk from ? For more details contact Gordon Ingram gorho@supernet.com Tel 01245 422986

Saturday 21st May Dave Monk from BBC Essex will open the weekend celebrations at 10.30am in the **Christian Centre**. The Centre will house an exhibition depicting Marconi's achievements and the role of the radio broadcasts from 'The Marconi Hut' in Lawford Lane under its call sign of 2MT. In the **Small Hall** there will be power point presentations and sound recordings. During the day there will also be 'pop up' talks and hands on radio equipment demonstrations given by members of the Chelmsford Science and Engineering Society and others.

In the **Village Hall** there will be a display of paintings related to the 1920's by the Writtle Art Group, plus work from the Junior school's earlier projects. The Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society (CARS) hope to set up again the Special Event Station that was run in February There will also be refreshments available kindly provided by the Women's Institute.

On **Writtle Green** the Institute of Digital Archaeology from Oxford University will be bringing their **Marconi Van exhibition** - a unique multimedia, interactive exhibition, housed inside a 1968 Morris Minor Traveller. There will be other scientific activities to keep the children amused with the help of the Scouts and Guides, plus an ice cream van and burger van. It is also planned to have some Vintage 1920's cars on show.

The Writtle Wireless Walk will take about 90 minutes starting at The Rose and Crown during the afternoon. It will be a circular guided tour of the village highlighting its many connections to those early days of wireless broadcasting and the Marconi Company. It will feature the stories behind both the buildings and people that were involved in making 2MT Writtle the first radio entertainment station to regularly broadcast 100 years ago. An event that would change our world and the way that we communicate forever.

Booking is essential as numbers will be limited. The price is £5 per person (Children under 12 half price) and includes a donation to a local charity.

Bookings can be made by calling Alan on 07779 931401

Email cityhistorywalks@gmail.com or visit [www.http://www.chelmsfordhistorywalks.uk](http://www.chelmsfordhistorywalks.uk)

In **All Saints Church** the Marconi / Platt window can be seen throughout the weekend with photos of its dedication in 1992.

Sunday May 22nd A Service of Celebration conducted by the Bishop of Bradwell will take place at **All Saints Church** at **10.00am** in the presence of other civic dignitaries. All are welcome.

Christian Centre Activities on Sunday will be concentrated on the exhibition starting at 12.00. In the small hall there will be power point presentations and sound recordings, and a further **Writtle Wireless Walk** starting from the Rose and Crown in the afternoon.

All Saints Church and the **Christian Centre** will remain open until 16.30 and refreshments will be available in the Church.

Souvenirs

Over the weekend a special limited edition **2MT Centenary book** signed and numbered by historian and lecturer Tim Wander will be available, containing 208 pages in full colour at a cost of £10. Copies can be ordered in advance for collection on the day or posted via website writtle2mt100.co.uk which will "go live" soon.

Also on sale will be a special edition of **Wilkins Marmalade**, and a **special 2MT beer** from the **Chelmsford Star Brewery**. **D S Eagle**, family butchers, 9 Wellfields, will also be selling their **jams and chutney** with a **special 2MT label**.

An **exhibition programme** will be available for purchase on the day.

Writtle Green will be restricted to traffic but additional car parking will be available at **Brewhouse Hoppit** (adjacent to the Co-op in Bridge Street) or on the **Eastern Campus of Writtle College University** of Lordship Road.

These are our plans for the coming months which may have to be changed, but we are hopeful that we can all enjoy our village celebrations without restrictions.

John Aldridge, Wendy Hibbitt

January 2022