

Bulletin 2 - April 2019

# BYLARA

British Young Ladies Amateur Radio Association

1979-2019

Cover Photo © British Tourist Authority 2016

## INSIDE

**GB40BYL Launches @ Blackpool's  
Norbreck Rally**

**YL's in History - Barbara G6YL**

**What's on in April 2019 -  
Encouraging YL's to get involved  
on the air**

**RALLY LAUNCH**  
**Launching GB40BYL**  
**For BYLARA's 40th**  
**Ruby Anniversary**

Produced by: Krystyna 2E0KSH

<http://www.bylara.org.uk>  <http://www.facebook.com/bylara>

# YL's in History

## Barbara Dunn

Barbara often said it was "YLish curiosity" that prompted her to learn the meaning of certain scratchy signals which interfered with broadcast reception at her old home in Essex. It was during 1923 that she discovered these were spark signals from ships and coastal stations. She set about her Amateur Radio interest by learning Morse code on a crystal receiver on 600 metres and 2,600 metres (FL time signals). After five months of self-tuition, she was able to copy the code at 20 WPM.

During Christmas 1925, a short-wave receiver opened up fresh fields. Many amateurs received useful reception reports, signed "B. Dunn". In 1927, with encouragement from a friend, Gerry Marcuse G2NM, she was persuaded to seek admission to the amateur fraternity. Her appearance at the county head post office, where she walked through the Morse test with a solid copy at well over 20 WPM, must have caused quite a stir!

Acton House, Felton, Northumberland, England.



To Radio G6Y  
Ur Sig <sup>had</sup> worked at 1715 G.M.T.  
Date 9/10/22 O.S.A. 5  
O.R.K. 20  
Note T Band 2500

### G6YL

Transmitters—*Split-Hortley,  
T.P.T.G.*  
Receiver—*Loose Coupled Circuit, O.V.  
Aerial—Horn.* Please O.S.L.

BARBARA DUNN—YL.  
OWNER-OPERATOR—G6YL.  
R.S.G.B. A.R.R.L. I.S.A. B.A.R. R.S.P.  
(I.A.R.I.) W.B.E.

Her original transmitter employed an L.S.5 in a Hartley circuit, with about 350 volts derived from a Mortley rotary converter running off a 6-volt car accumulator, feeding a half-wave VF Hertz. Some idea of the enthusiasm of those days may be gained when it is realized that the accumulator supplied current for the gennie, L.S.5, and the two bright emitters in the receiver, had to be taken six miles to be charged. However, with the aid of a spare battery, this outfit did very good work on 45 metres with an input of 6 - 10 watts on CW only. She used a Vibroplex Bug which she slowed down considerably due to her low power and what she referred to as her "rotten lil" antenna.

Her first 2 way QSO was on November 21, 1927 with G6YW. All Europe and much DX was worked. Her collection of QSL's and

photographs from ship stations was unique totalling forty QSL's from ships of a dozen different nationalities. Skeds were kept with great regularity with ships sailing out to Australia via the Cape, across the Western Ocean and to the Far East.

In the 1930's, ladies rarely attended Provincial District Meetings which were localized meetings of "The Society", later to become The R5GB. There were 2 important exceptions. Barbara Dunn, G6YL, was the 1st exception. Being of a quiet and retiring nature, few of the hundreds who contacted her efficient and intensely active low power station at Stock in Essex, knew the operator was a lady.

Gerry Marcuse, G2NM, president of The Society 1929-1930, did know, however, and it was he who was probably responsible in persuading Miss Dunn to come to the 1930 convention. A few weeks earlier, G6YL had been awarded the newly donated 1930 Committee Cup for outstanding work in the first series of 1.7 Mc/s tests. Her presence at the Convention Dinner caused quite a stir as did the fact that when G2NM made the presentation she became the first lady to become the holder of a Society trophy. Barbara Dunn, who was licensed in 1927, remained Britain's only YL transmitting amateur until 1932 when Nell Corry (the second exception) of Tadworth, Surrey, doubled the number by becoming G2YL.



In July 1939, Barbara used a long-lines transmitter (a self-oscillator with long lines at five meters). It was while listening on her 56 MHz receiver that she became the first to hear the 'hissing' sound from a solar burst on this band.

Some of her other accomplishments were WAC, WBE, HBE, WAS, DXCC, DXYL (1st G-YL), WPX (1st G-YL). She was a member of RSGB, and ARRL. She was an honorary member of SSA, REF, EAF, BERTA. Barbara joined OOTC December 30, 1967.

The Old Old Timers Club (OOTC) was founded in 1947 by a group of amateurs who had played a part in laying the foundations of electronic communications. The requirement for membership was 2-way communication by wireless 40 or more years prior to 1947. At that time the members were "spark" operators in 1907 or earlier when there was no licensing authority. The requirements have continued to this day. The current requirements are two-way wireless communication by amateur, military or commercial means 40 or more years ago. Barbara was member #910.

John R. "Reg" Witty G5WQ was licenced in 1923 and was Barbara's brother. They shared the same father but different mothers. This is due to the first wife dying when Reg was very young. Their father remarried very soon after, as was the normal thing to do in those days. Reg built much of Barbaras' radio equipment. Barbara and her brother G5WQ kept in touch regularly whilst he was sailing around the world. Reg G5WQ went silent key in 1975. See info on G5WQ here!

Both G5WQ and G6YL (along with around 1500 others) helped with the war effort in 1939-45. They were "VI's", Voluntary Interceptor's in the "Radio Secret Service" listening for German transmissions. T&R bulletins for 1939 and 1940 under 'Khaki and Blue' make reference to her. There was no mention of her wartime work which was not made

public until 1979 with a BBC broadcast by Rene Cutforth, called the Secret Listeners. Barbara was not mentioned by name in the programme. The "VI's" were not paid so no record has been kept of who they all were.

Barbara Dunn, when first licensed, was living at Lilystone Hall, Stock, Essex where she operated on 45 meters & 23 meters. After the Washington Conference of 1927, amateur bands were changed to 160M, 80M, 40M, 20M etc. as per today, upon which Barbara operated.

In 1928, she moved to a place called Acton House, Felton, in Northumberland. Acton House stands on a hillside, which slopes down to the river Coquet and sea, and can be seen for many miles to the south. The first thing which strikes one's eye as one walks along the drive is the antenna suspended between a 30-foot-pole fixed up in an oak tree and a chimney, a slightly bent 60-foot AOG with an average height of about 40 feet. This gave G6YL excellent results.

Barbara lived the latter part of her life in Cardew Lodge, which was a fortified house near the Scottish border. It was the home of her mothers' family. They were a fairly well off family. She did not need to work. They made their fortune from the railways in Northern England. She lived with her housemaid and chauffeur. She did not marry.

Peter Witty (son of G5WQ), Barbara's nephew, visited Barbara when she was very old. She still had her shack all complete although not used for some time. Her house was "stuck" in the 1930's. It still had flagstone floors, big solid stone washbasins, etc. Her shack was complete with all the old equipment and much covered in cobwebs.

The transmitter, which she used for operating on 45 and 23 meters (pictured on the right in the photos) is in the museum at RSGB HQ; this is a 1 tube T.P.TG transmitter. There is a stations description in the October 1933 T&R Bulletin.

# BYLARA Awards

## BYLARA Award

### Britain and Europe

Work 15 YL members of BYLARA to include at least 10 British YL members  
(G, GM, GW, GI, GD, GJ, GU).

### DX (outside Europe)

Work 10 YL members of BYLARA to include 6 British YL members.

## Advanced BYLARA Award

### Britain and Europe

Work 30 YL members of BYLARA to include at least 20 British YL members  
(G, GM, GW, GI, GD, GJ, GU).

### DX (Outside Europe)

Work 20 YL members of BYLARA to include 12 British YL members

## Scottish BYLARA Award

### Britain and Europe

Work 6 GM YL BYLARA members.

### DX (Outside Europe)

Work 4 GM YL BYLARA members.

**YLs must be BYLARA members at the time of contact. All bands and all modes, one contact per member. Open to all YLs, OMs and SWLs. No QSLs necessary. BYLARA member-**

# Anniversary Award

Join us "On Air" as we launch GB40BYL at Blackpool's Rally on the 28th April



## GB40BYL

From April 2019, BYLARA members will be taking turns to operate as GB40BYL, giving you an opportunity to earn this award throughout the year. We'll confirm operating details each month in our Monthly Bulletin!

- Certificates are available for working GB40BYL a minimum of 40 times (one contact per day will count towards the award).
- Further certificates are available for working multiples of 40.
- Endorsements are available on request, such as making contacts using a specific band, mode, etc.

For up to date details of who is holding the GB40BYL callsign, and how to apply for an award, then please visit our website at <http://bylara.org.uk/awards-2/bylara-40th-anniversary-award/>



If you are a Fully Licenced YL and would like to operate the GB40BYL callsign, then please get in touch with [Joan.Moyle@bylara.org.uk](mailto:Joan.Moyle@bylara.org.uk)

## 40th Ruby Commemorations

The challenge for this award is to work as many YLs as possible during our 40th year of 2019/20.

The YLs do not need to be BYLARA members and can be anywhere in the world.

The aim is for Amateurs who wish to make contact with other YL's is to operate on a frequency ending in 88, for example, 7,188, 14.188 etc...

- Certificates are available for working multiples of 12 YLs.
- Each YL's callsign and BYLARA number (where appropriate) will feature on the certificate.
- Endorsements are available on request, such as 12 contacts using a specific band, mode, etc..



## news updates

Do you have a news update or article we can include in next month's brief bulletin? Then do get in touch with Krystyna 2E0KSH, BYLARA's Publicity Officer with your ideas and stories.

Mob: (eves only): 07884 065375  
Skype: krystyna.baywood