

Exhibition to mark radio society's 75th anniversary

AMATEUR radio buffs will be in for a treat next Saturday in Thornbury at an exhibition to mark the 75th anniversary of The Radio Society of Great Britain.

Organised by Thornbury and District Amateur Radio Club, the exhibition at the United Reform Church hall in Rock Street, celebrates the world of amateur radio.

The purpose is to present an overall view of the fascinating hobby and distinguish it from CB Radio.

Exhibits will highlight various hi-tech achievements of the hobby like microwave links, packet radio, slow scan television and amateur (fast scan) television.

The club is also keen to encourage participation by local schools in order to develop an interest in radio communication by young people.

Club chairman Alan Jones said: 'Many people's idea of the hobby is coloured by Tony Hancock's image of the radio ham but there is far more depth and opportunities of interest available.'

'Throughout our exhibition we will try to show some of the more exciting aspects like amateur television, satellites and data communication'.

Affiliated to the RSGB, the Thornbury club was formed in 1979 by members of an adult evening class held at the Castle School.

Membership has now grown from six to 24 and includes those with many years experience as well as newcomers to the hobby.

Each year the club sponsors an evening class to enable people to prepare themselves for the Radio Amateurs Examination — a pre-requisite for the granting of a licence.

The club meets on the second and fourth Tuesday in the month at the United Reform Church hall.

'People from all walks of life and backgrounds can be found experimenting with amateur radio today, from school-boys to royalty, and it is probably the most international of all hobbies — camaraderie extending over national frontiers both east and west', said Mr Jones.

Winterbourne

Study Day — A study day on new religious movements — led by the staff of the Centre for New Religious Movements at Selly Oak College in Birmingham — will be held at Winterbourne rectory on Thursday, May 19 (10am to 4pm).