

Request for help

Introduction

Hi, my name is Andy Summers and I live at Broxwood, quite close to your house. I'm the weird bloke with the big antennas ☺. In fact, I'm a radio amateur hobbyist, otherwise colloquially known as a radio ham. I talk to people all over the world using short-wave radio. Whilst it's a hobby, radio hams have also helped out in disaster relief operations where normal modes of communication have been lost; for example, during Hurricane Katrina in the US. Closer to home, radio hams were the first to raise the alarm when the Falkland Islands were invaded. It's also a great hobby for encouraging youngsters into science and engineering. For my part, it's responsible for my career designing Bluetooth and Wi-Fi wireless silicon chips. For more information about amateur radio, visit <https://rsgb.org/>



My problem

Sometime in January 2021, a local interference source appeared which has significantly impaired my ability to hear weak stations on many of the short-wave bands. Given the situation with COVID, I have thus far been reluctant to engage with neighbours to find the source, but I think now might be a better time. It's possible the interference is coming from your house, but I can't be certain. It seems to appear around 6am and turn-off around 11pm, but I don't think it's on a timer because it isn't exactly the same time each day. It could be as simple as a faulty laptop charger.

My request

I now have a portable short-wave radio to help me find the source (which is how I determined your house as a possible candidate as the source). With your cooperation, I'd like to see if I can find the source on your property, or to rule it out as the location. One sure-fire way of determining if it's coming from your house would be to turn-off the main supply at the consumer unit and see if the interference disappears. The location could then be narrowed down by turning on/off the individual switches. I realise this is somewhat disruptive, so I could try to find it with my portable radio first.

If I can find the interference source, I'd be happy to replace it *at my expense*. It's that important to me.

What next?

I'd like to follow-up this introduction by visiting you to discuss the next steps. If you would like to suggest a good time to speak, please contact me via any of the following:

email: andy.gordon.summers@gmail.com

Mobile: 07795 122760 (voice/text/WhatsApp; often on silent, if so please leave a voicemail)