

Report to Spectrum Forum October 2018

Please accept my apologies for non-attendance but it clashes with our National AGM.

RAYNET-UK encompasses all groups involved with voluntary and emergency communications in the United Kingdom. It was formed when The Radio Amateurs' Emergency Network and RSGB Raynet amalgamated and re-unification was completed in February 2018.

RAYNET comprises a national network of local groups, who liaise with emergency services, local authorities and other voluntary agencies who could be involved in the integrated management response to major civil emergencies. The groups work with the emergency services and local authority emergency planning units on both live exercises and table-top simulations. It is, of course, important to have "hands on" experience regularly and throughout the year and to carry out training to nationally agreed standards. Individual groups are supported by a County/Regional, Zonal and National structure.

Over the past 12 months, groups have been involved in over 600 events on behalf of the statutory User Services and other voluntary agencies; the level of operations remains high and some weekends during the summer are recorded as having as many as twenty different operational activities throughout the UK. We positively encourage groups to record their events by notifying them to a national diary, which is circulated weekly to all members and for controllers to co-ordinate frequencies between themselves. On the whole, this is successful, but inevitably a few clashes occur and have to be sorted "on the day". The use of CTCSS to access local talk-through units (operated under permit) is now widespread.

RAYNET groups are increasingly embracing technological advances – there are a number of MESH networks set up throughout the country to assist local authorities with their communication needs in times of emergency. DMR is also proving increasingly popular. Some groups also use other non-amateur methods in order to provide event organisers with local on-site communications – PBR is commonly used for this.

Through its External Liaison Director, RAYNET-UK continues to liaise with Cabinet Office, and User Services and other voluntary agencies at National level.

Cathy Clark
Chairman
RAYNET-UK

