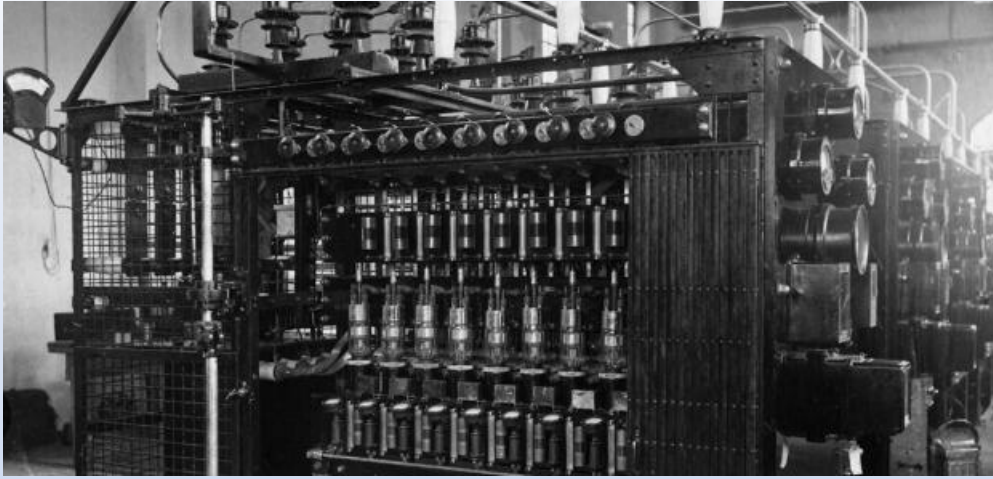


Rugby Radio Station is commemorating 100 years of communication

In 1926 Rugby radio station, located in Hillmorton, Warwickshire was opened. The station was crucial for international communication, transmitting wireless news to the Empire and ships at sea. It also played a key role in World War II, when it was used for secret messages and jamming enemy signals.



At its opening, it was the most powerful long-wave transmitting station in the world. The site featured twelve 820-foot aerial masts.



On January 1st 1926 the station sent an open air morse code broadcast world wide. It was the first official communication of its kind.



In 1927, the station made the first successful transatlantic voice transmission to a test site in Houlton, Maine, USA, which helped pave the way for future transatlantic phone services.





After closing in 2003, part of the site was converted into a school, Houlton Secondary School which is now part of a new community. The original communication centre is still situated within the school building.

On 1st January, 2026, Rugby Amateur Transmitting Society (RATS) are planning a special event at the radio station. They aim to install a remote station back into the transmission building, to generate highspeed machine morse to commemorate the events of January 1st, 1926



The plan is for GB100GBR to be operational on CW, SSB and FT8.