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BAA Radio Astronomy Section.

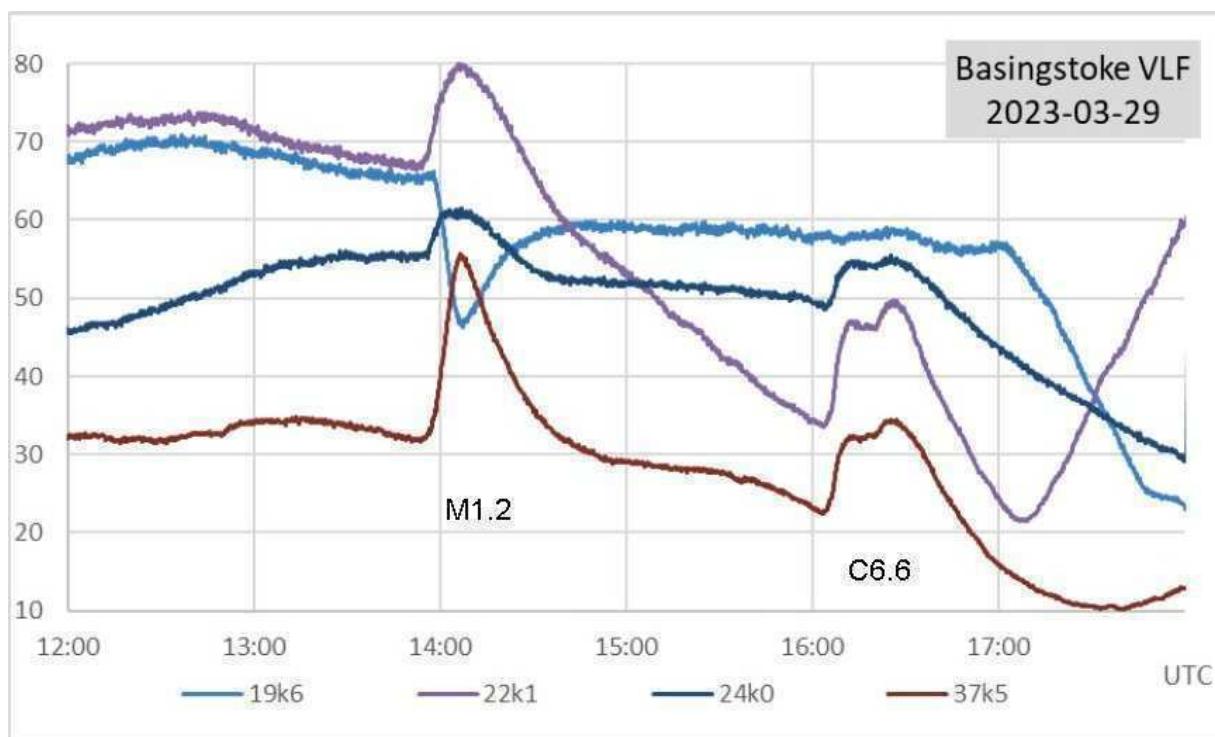
Director Paul Hearn.

RADIO SKY NEWS

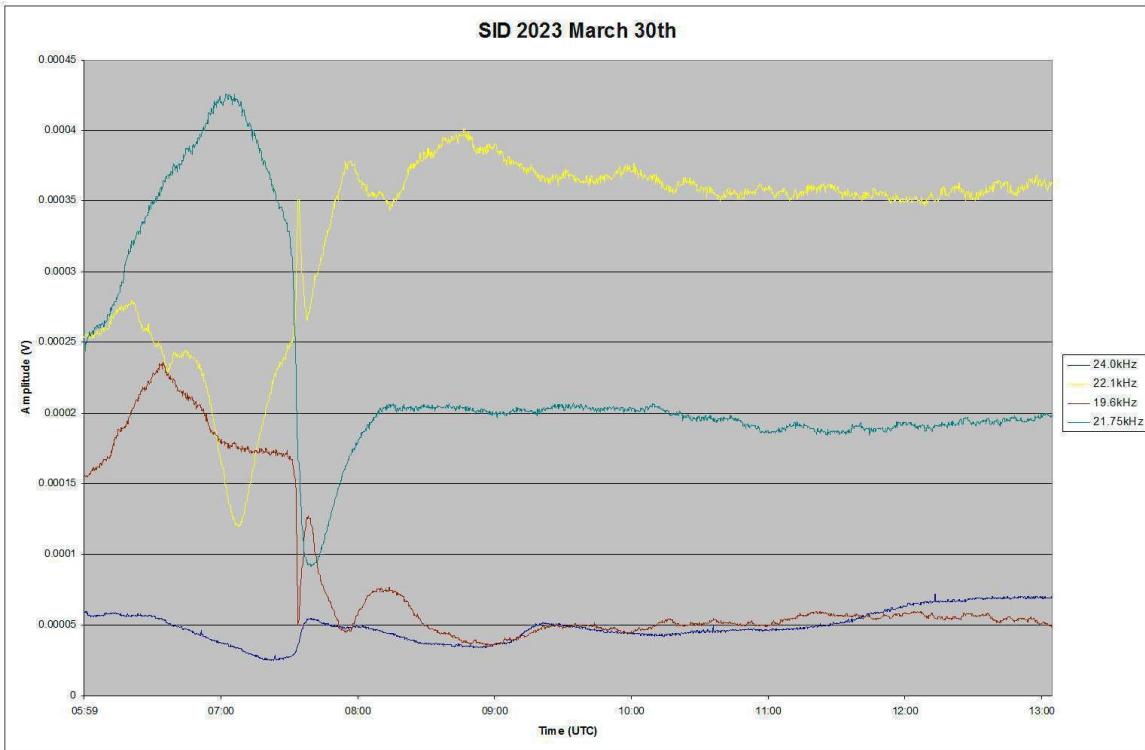
2023 MARCH.

VLF SID OBSERVATIONS.

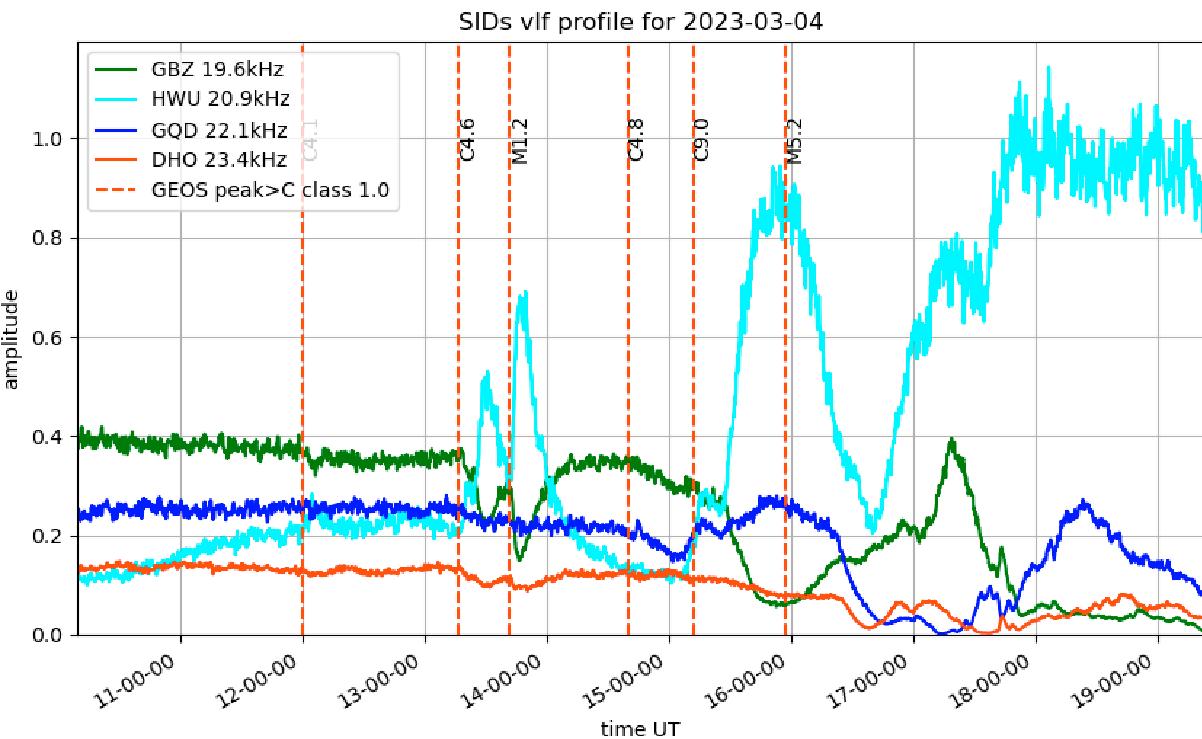
The sun has been a little less active in March, with fewer strong flares. There were 9 of M-class compared with 28 in February, and just a single X-class compared with two in February. The SIDs have however remained quite complex with multiple peaks making them tricky to analyse. The 23.4kHz has also been very unreliable, off-air from the 16th with just a short active period over night on the 29th – 30th. The X2.1 flare was rather late in the afternoon, peaking at 17:54UT, on the 3rd, and so lost in the sunset for most signals.



Paul Hyde recorded the very clean M1.2 flare on the 29th, followed by the twin-peaked C6.6 flare just before the sunset started. 19.6 kHz shows an inverted SID for the M1.2 flare compared to the other signals, but a very small response to the C6.6 flare in the same direction as the other signals. The difference in path length at 19.6 and 22.1kHz is very small, and both in the same direction, and so the difference in response is quite surprising.



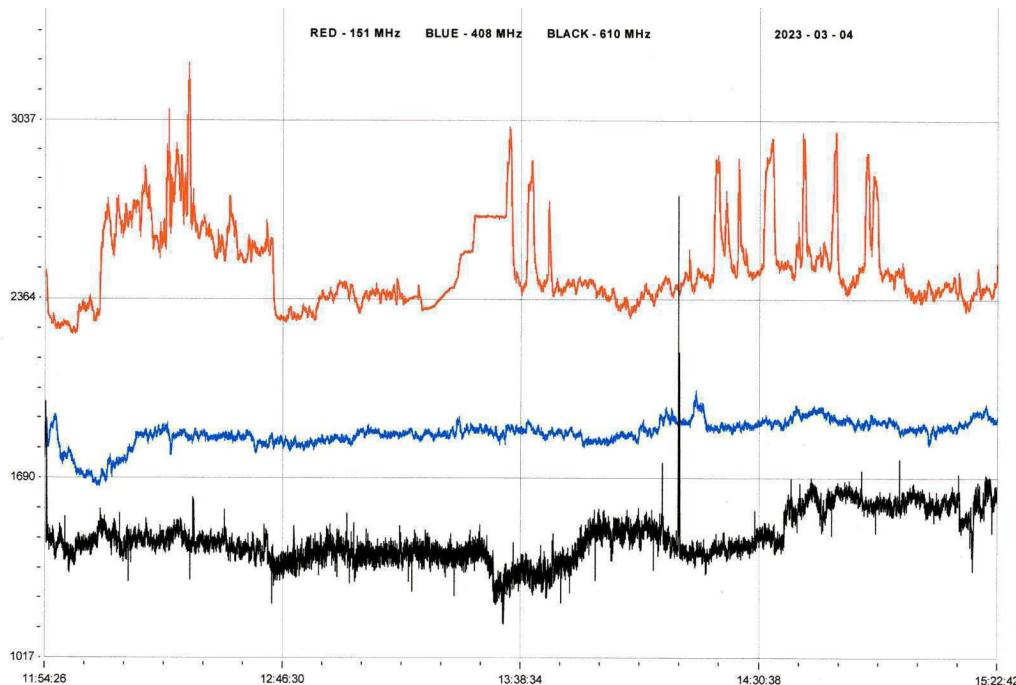
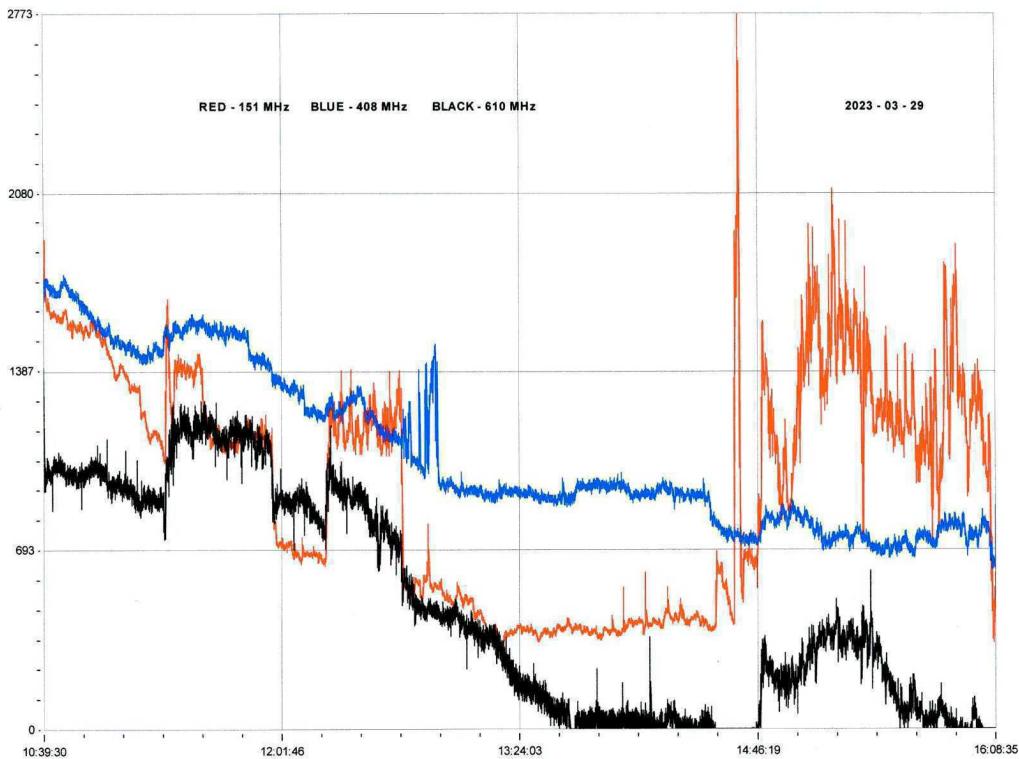
The strong M5.4 flare peaking at 07:40UT on the 30th was more widely recorded, shown here by Mark Edwards. The 22.1 and 19.6kHz signals again show SIDs in opposing directions, both spike-and-wave in this case. 24kHz also shows a small SID, despite the relatively early timing.



This recording by Mark Prescott shows activity on the 4th, showing a very complex series of SIDs. 20.1 and 19.6kHz also show opposing responses, 19.6kHz being the more responsive to the flares. The M5.2 flare was very slow, and has produced a strong SID on the southerly path at 20.9kHz shortly before the local sunset.

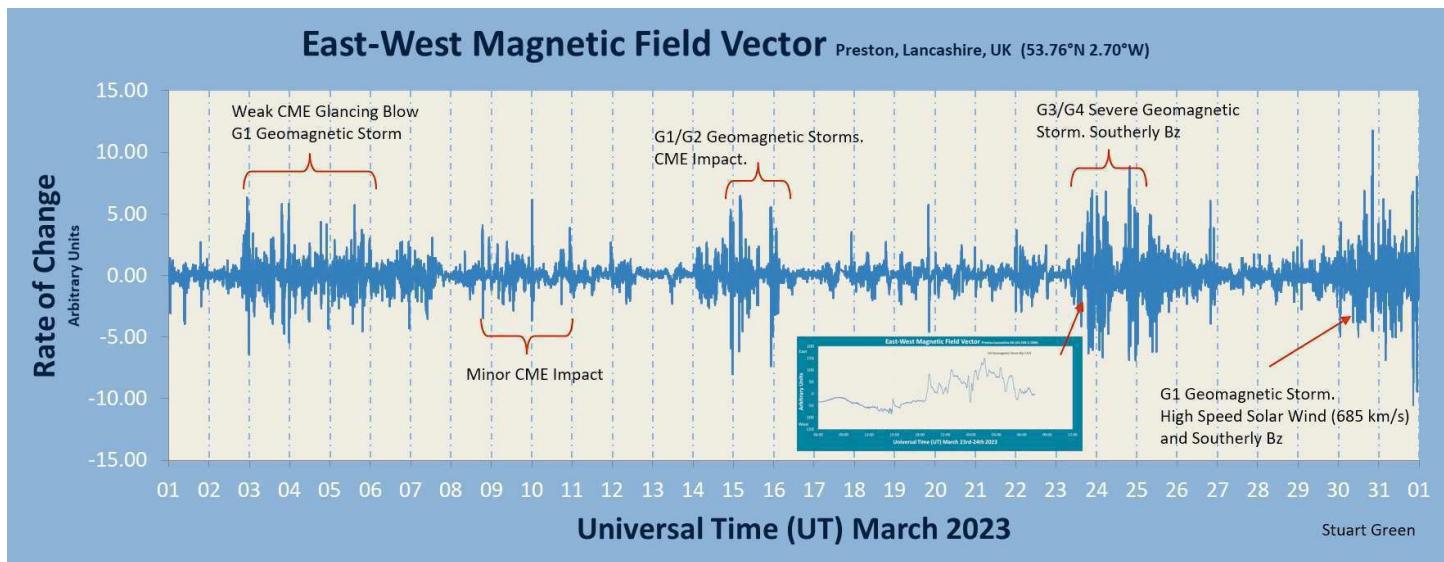
SOLAR EMISSIONS.

The sun is now within sight of Colin Clements' VHF and UHF aerials, with some strong activity recorded. The M1.2 flare on the 29th produced a strong emission at 151MHz (red), with a much smaller signal at 610MHz (black). 408MHz (blue) has not been affected:

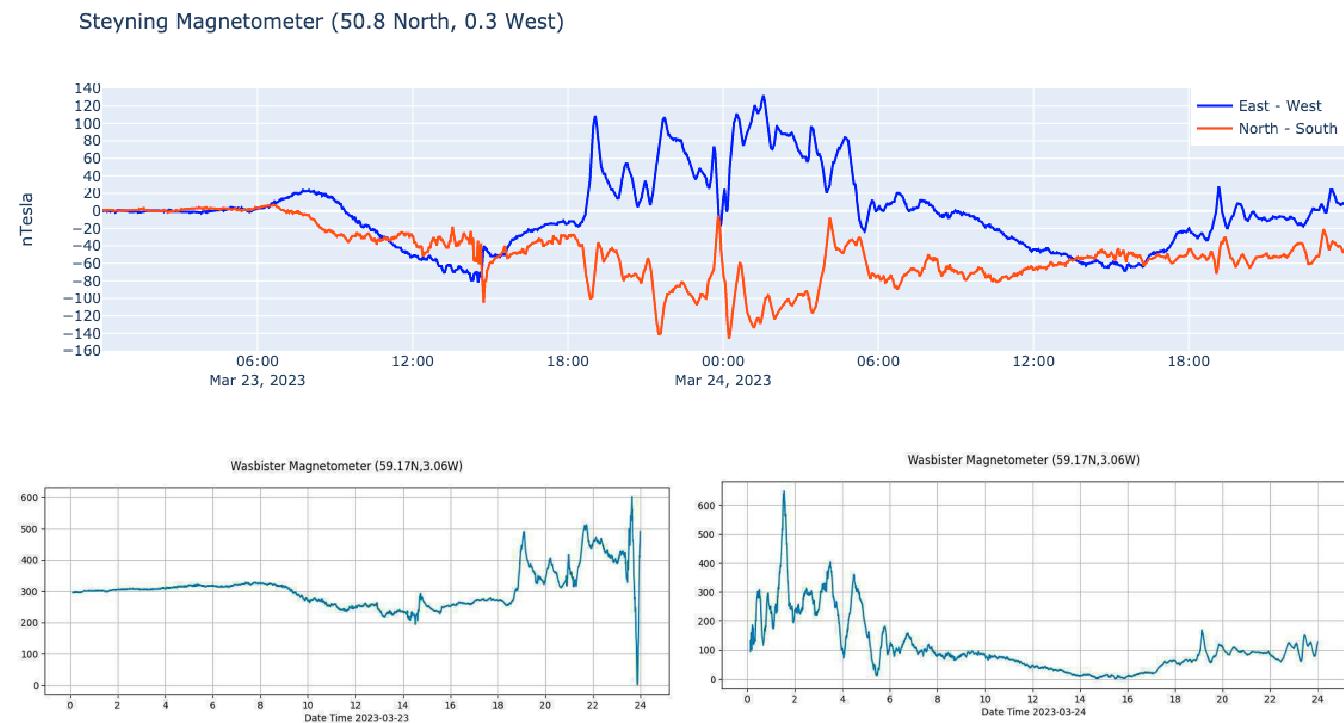


Colins's recording from the 4th again shows 408MHz and 610MHz quiet, but with strong emissions at 151MHz matching the C4.1, M1.2 and C4.8 flares. A strong 151MHz emission was also recorded all day on the 22nd. The SWPC bulletin lists only minor C-flares on the 22nd, none recorded as SIDs.

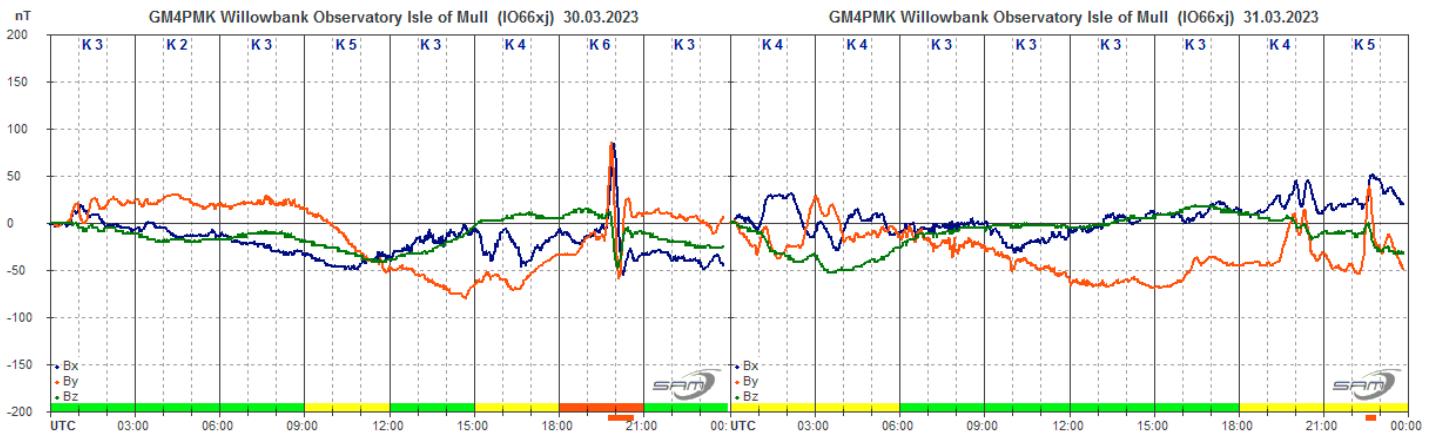
MAGNETIC OBSERVATIONS.



Stuart Green's summary of magnetic activity in March shows a few minor CME impacts. Most of the stronger flares were produced near the Sun's limb, and so produced only glancing blows. The most active period was overnight on the 23rd/24th, shown here by Nick Quinn and Callum Potter:

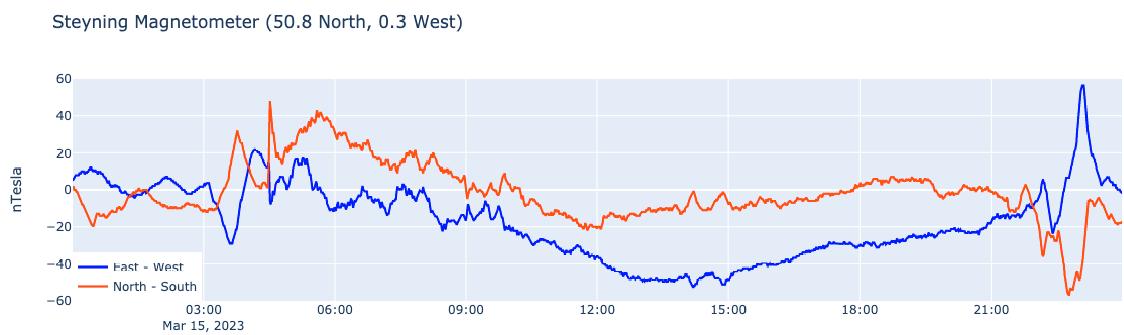
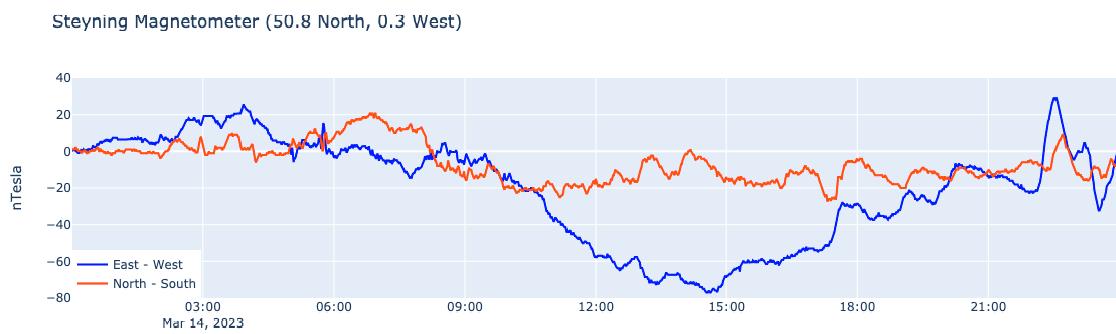


Nick Quinn (top panel) is near the south coast of England, location shown on the chart. Callum Potter is now our most northerly magnetic observer, having moved to the Orkney island of Rousay, location again shown on the chart (lower panel). The STCE bulletin lists solar flares on the 20th as the source of the disturbance, combining to produce a magnetic storm. Both recordings show an initial pulse at 14:30UT, which may be from the initial impact. Roger Blackwell's Mull magnetometer shows this pulse to be about 100nT, with +/-250nT recorded overnight. For those lucky enough to have clear skies, there was a widespread Aurora seen overnight. Mark Edwards also recorded effects at 37.5kHz related to this storm.



There was also a fairly strong disturbance on the evening of the 30th, shown in Roger Blackwell's recording. This is listed as due to the high speed wind from an equatorial coronal hole. The strong pulse at 20:00UT looks like a sudden impulse, and also shows in the recordings from Nick and Callum.

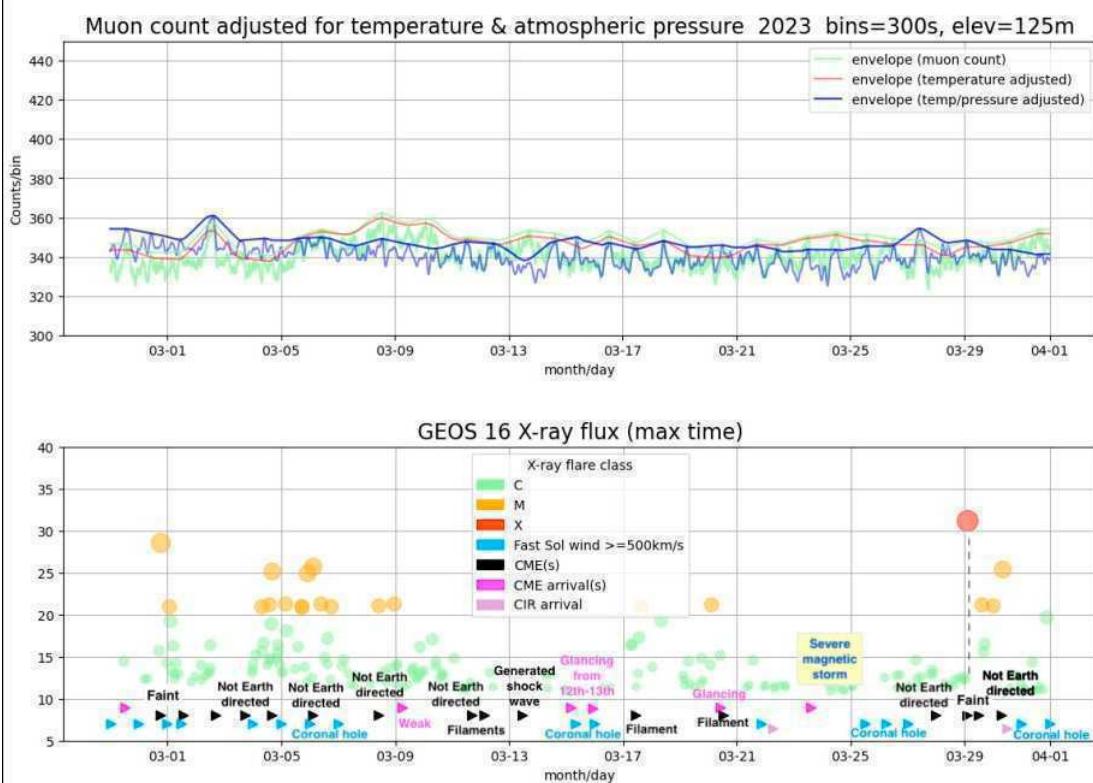
The 14th and 15th were also fairly active with disturbance from a filament eruption on the 12th. Nick Quinn's recordings show the activity:



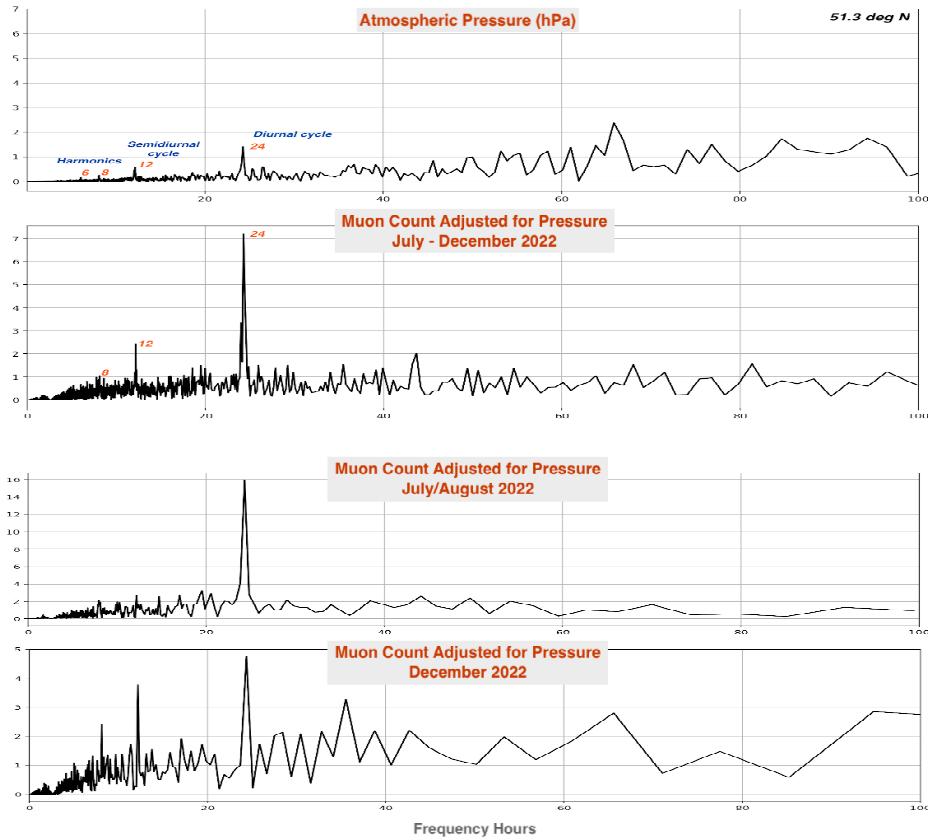
This activity faded out in the morning of the 16th, followed by very quiet conditions. There were periods of mild activity from the 2nd to 12th, mainly from coronal hole winds, with minor CME effects on the 9th. The coronal hole is the same one that produced the stronger disturbance on the 30th and 31st on its next appearance.

Magnetic observations received from Roger Blackwell, Colin Clements, Stuart Green, Callum Potter, Nick Quinn and John Cook.

MUONS.



FFT - Diurnal and Semi-Diurnal Cycles - Atmospheric Pressure versus Muon Count



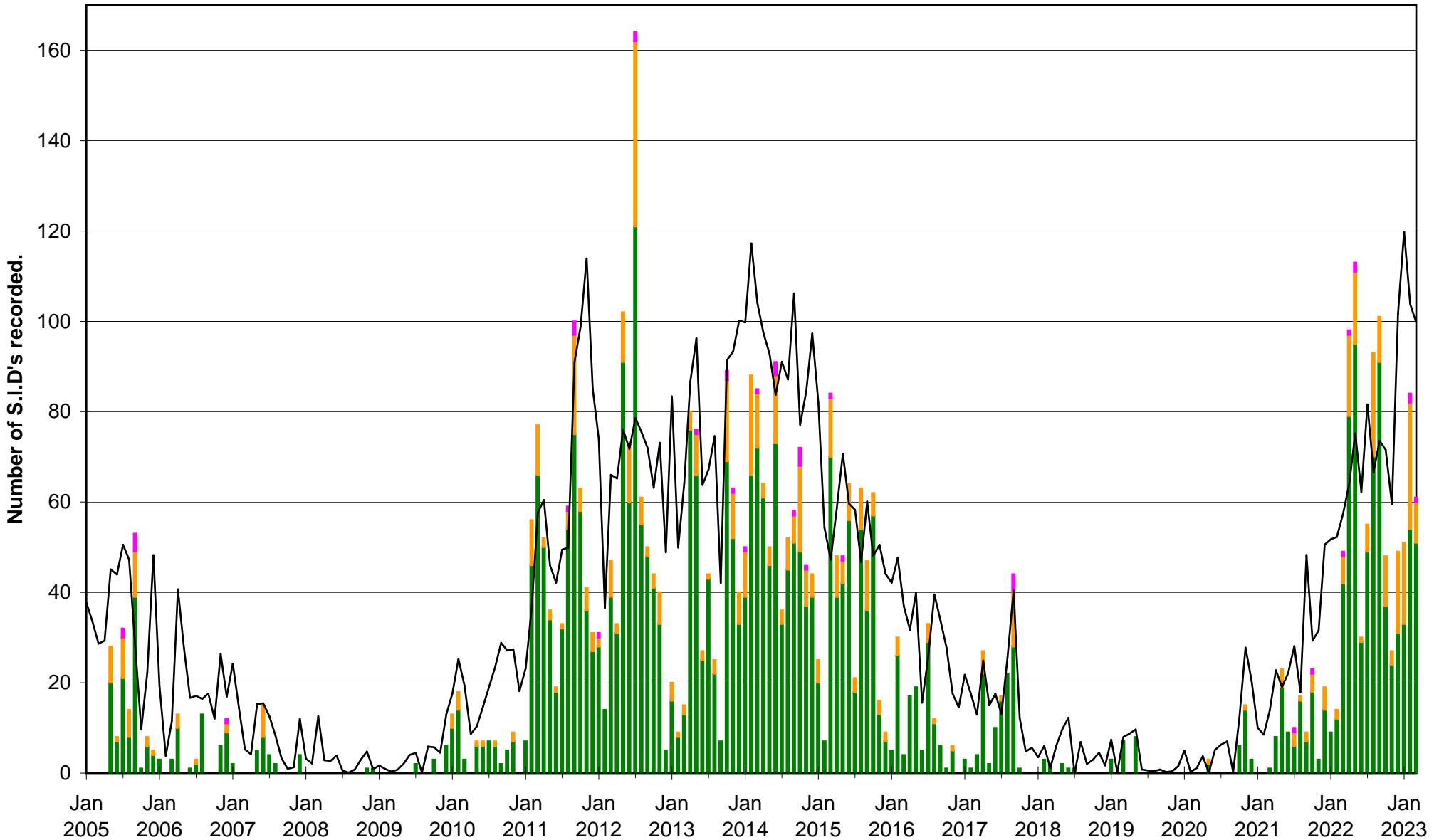
The upper panel shows the muon counts for March, recorded by Mark Prescott, corrected for temperature and pressure as in previous reports. No notable events were recorded, and the counts are generally slightly lower than those recorded in February.

The lower panel shows a series of Fast Fourier Transforms (FFT) of the data. First is the atmospheric pressure recorded in 2022 July to December. The 24 hour diurnal cycle shows up, along with 12, 8 and 6 hour periods. Next is the adjusted muon counts over the same period. The diurnal period again shows up strongly, with weak harmonics. The same analysis but just for the summer months of July and August eliminates the harmonics. Repeating with December's data amplifies the harmonics relative to the 24 hour diurnal period. Tides are produced in the atmosphere as the sun warms it up and moves through the sky. This effect will be much stronger during the local summer months with the sun higher in the sky, compared with the winter. Mark's analysis of the data matches this effect very well, showing how the expanded, warmer, atmosphere generates more muons from the incoming cosmic radiation. A very interesting analysis.

I was very lucky to get a last minute place at the BAA Winchester weekend meeting over 14th–16th April. Our section director Paul Hearn gave a very good introductory talk on "An intergalactic hop through the electromagnetic spectrum" on Saturday morning. He also had a display table with Andrew Thomas showing some of the UKRAA equipment available for amateur radio astronomy. The display was very busy through the coffee break periods, with great interest being shown in the muon detection equipment. I hope to be able to include a display of our activities and observations again next year, as I have done at previous meetings. Winchester is always well attended, and a good opportunity to meet up with other members.

VLF flare activity 2005/23

C M X — Relative sunspot number



BARTELS DIAGRAM

ROTATION	KEY:	DISTURBED.	ACTIVE	SFE	B, C, M, X = FLARE MAGNITUDE.	Synodic rotation start (carrington's.)
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