



G3NMD Newsletter
Houghton-le-Spring ARC

- Club Meetings

Welcome to the Houghton-le-Spring ARC newsletter for February 2018, Just a short newsletter this month as I have been away and busy with one thing and another,

Club Meetings

2/01/18 After all the festivities its finally time to get back into the old routine, we didn't meet on the last Tuesday of 2017 as it was Boxing day, with this meeting being so close to beginning of the year we thought it would be a quiet, but we couldn't have been more wrong, a fantastic turnout with lots going on, Ron M6WHE brought in his Arduino projects, and he also helped Phil G1GTX with a couple of projects

Ian MORZE brought in a few of his latest projects, He has an old Android Phone and a Tablet which he has loaded on software to decode SSTV, it was working quite well, Ian and I tried it earlier in the day on 2M and for the first time trying it, it went quiet well, also on the Android phone there was a Morse code decoder, again this worked well even with the background noise in the club,



Tom M0HYE brought in his portable DMR hotspot, it has a modem which uses a mobile phone network, which is connected to his Shark RF Hotspot which enables him to use his DMR handheld to talk to the world whilst mobile or portable, a very neat little setup,

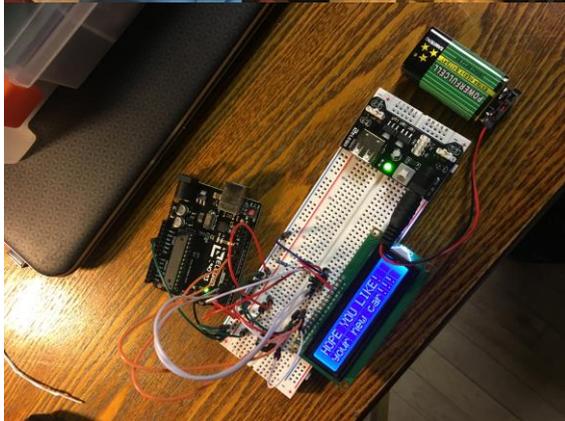


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09/01/18 So much going on tonight it was hard to keep up, Ian brought in his Arduino project kit which he received for Christmas, Ron, Scott, Greg and Ian got stuck in making up a little project using the LCD display to show Ian how to go on with them and what could be done, we all shared our knowledge and experience with the Arduino, I know I learnt a lot, but good fun was had by all



Ian had been working on a Bluetooth receiver and amplifier project over Christmas, he had bought the Bluetooth receiver and amplifier project off Ebay, he mounted it in a box with a speaker, the speaker wasn't up to the job (what did he expect from the pound shop hi hi) but it was also able to connect to external

speakers, he brought in a pair of HiFi Speakers and the sound was quite amazing from such a small and inexpensive amp, the Bluetooth receiver worked fast and reliable and also has a USB socket to use MP3s from a memory stick and an FM radio and all controlled via an infrared remote control, a brilliant project and all finished off very well



Tom and Phil were setting up Phils new RFSHark so he can get into the DMR mode and talk to the world



So lots going on and a brilliant atmosphere as usual at the Houghton club.



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16/1/18 A Great turnout once again, even a surprise appearance from Bruce who doesn't get to the club very often and also some members of the S.T.A.R.S there was Dave G7PHG, Rob M0LGV and Lee 2E0DZC they received a warm welcome and it as a great night all round, plenty going on tonight, so much so that I only got 1 photo, Ron and Greg experimenting with Arduino projects, they had LED Matrix and TFT display projects on the go, it was good to be involved with this and get some great info and tips from Greg, that's the beauty of the club where everyone shares their experience and knowledge, Ian brought in some gifts for us all, some great little clocks in a fancy chrome effect case and some more tie wraps, thanks Ian!, I also brought in a hard drive from a laptop that recently died, luckily he was able to retrieve a lot of data from it which is always a relief, Tom had his RFshark DMR setup on the go demonstrating it, Dave and Amanda were there with a few bits from their stall in case anyone needed anything, Dave also had a nice LED display badge, I have seen these at the rallies but never really thought about them, quite impressive for the price, I will definitely get myself one of those to experiment with,

Ian, Ray, Scott and Phil were doing some morse practice, its been a few weeks since there was any practice going on at the club and even longer for Phill who hasn't done any for the past 20 year, Ray started off at a reasonable pace of about 12WPM and it they were picking it up well, they also done words and numbers in their

heads and letters and numbers combined, like everything else practice is the key (no pun intended hi hi)

23/1/18 it was just a usual club night tonight, plenty of members out including Mick 2E0SNE it must have been a year since we've seen him at the club, it was good to see him and have a catch up, it was like he hadn't been away with his joking around and hiding Georges money as he used to,



Ian was on the radio with Salva doing a bit of training for when he goes for his M6,

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Greg, Ron and Scott were programming Arduinos, Greg is whizz with stuff like that so Scott and Ron were learning lots of good information, Ron got his little TFT display working



Tom was on radio programming duty again, Scott and Ray won the meat pack raffle, it was just a generally good night as usual, I don't have much to write this week

30/1/18 The last meeting of January and another good meeting, we have kept up the momentum of activities on the club nights with Ron and Greg programming Arduinos and making various projects, Ian, Ray, Phil and Scott keeping up with morse practice every week, members bringing in

on going projects and radios to setup and program,

This week we seen Gregs latest project, it's a Raspberry Pi that can control his radio remotely, Greg has obviously spent a lot of time writing the program for this, as it gives you all the information on the LCD display, it even shows when your within the band or out of band and lets you know if your in an area for beacons only, it can change the radio to certain frequencies and he was talking of adding GPS which will be able to find the nearest repeater and switch to the frequency, he made this for mobile use so he can have the Raspberry Pi on mounted on the dash and the radio in the back out of the way and with all the info on the screen available at a glance it will make using it much easier, I've just skimmed the surface here if you would like to know any more give Greg a shout I'm sure he will explain in more detail



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Ray, Ian, Phil and Scott had a good bit of morse practice tonight all good fun as it should be, Ron took an interest after he had finished writing an RFID code with Greg for the Arduino, he is interested starting to learn morse so were going to try and get a new class together, so if you would like to learn morse code from scratch let us know, in a group is a great way to learn, we all have to start somewhere, and as Ian always says "The hardest thing about Morse Code is deciding you want to learn it"

Phil 2EODLA bought one of the new Baofeng hand held radios, and we didn't have a programming cable at the club so Scott set it up for him on GB3TS and 2m, so he can just switch it on and listen, and maybe even give a shout in on the Friday night net on GB3TS. After we had tidied the radios away we had a general putting the world to rights chat before we all made our way home.

And Finally, Thanks for reading the newsletter for February 2018 from Houghton-le-Spring ARC, and if there is any radio related content from the club email details to Scott using email

MOMCN@yahoo.co.uk
