

- Club Meetings

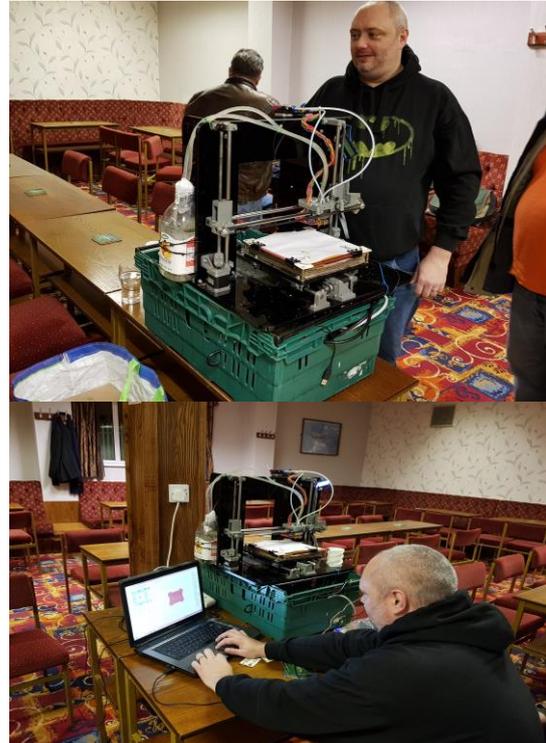


G3NMD Newsletter  
Houghton-le-Spring ARC

Welcome to the Houghton-le-Spring ARC newsletter for March 2018,

## Club Meetings

**6/2/18** We're still keeping the momentum going with activity at the club night, Ron brought in his BBC Microbit, I have heard about these but never seen one in the flesh, Ron showed us how easy it was to program and done some simple experiments, very impressive and a great way to get into programming, that was the idea behind them to get kids into programming, when I grew up in the 80's we used to be able to program on the old BBC micros and Commodores etc., but nowadays it isn't as popular, the Micobits were handed out to every year 7 school child in the UK, there is so much info available on-line for these its well worth looking into if you're new to programming. Before long Gregg will have his own page in this newsletter Hi Hi, this week he brought in his 3D Printer to show us, he built it from scratch using some off the shelf parts, some parts made on another 3D printer and controlled by an Arduino , he had various filaments to show us including some wood, glow in the dark, water soluble for use as supports within hollow parts to strengthen them during manufacturing, there was very strong carbon fibre ones, the list was endless, he had a few examples of things he has made in the past, It was brilliant to see one as I have only ever seen them for sale online,



Im sure I heard Ron saying on the Friday night net that he has ordered one, so we look forward to see what interesting things he makes with it.



The first Tuesday of the month sees the UKAC contest on 2m which runs from 20:00 to 22:00 so we setup the Kenwood TS2000 as it has multimode on VHF, we listened around the SSB section of the 2m band to see who we could hear, most people on SSB will use Horizontal polarization and we just

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have vertical at the club but still worth a try, we picked up maybe 5 local stations, we have a couple of brief QSOs with Steve G4EKM in Sunderland and Lee 2E0DZC in South Shields, it made a nice change using 2M SSB and created a bit of interest in the club, the HF bands were quite flat tonight so no contacts there. Phil and Tom were trying out DMR again with the RF Shark.



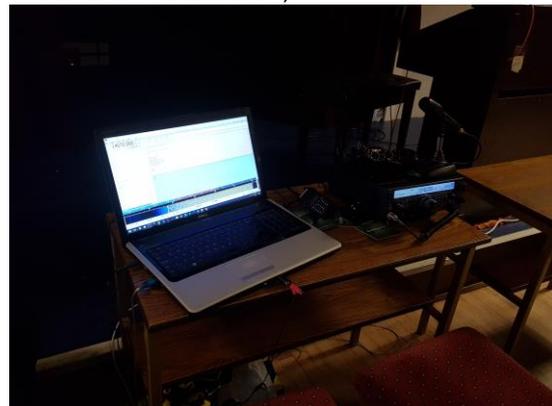
Dave had been getting some LED display badges which he brought along to the club previously, a few members ordered some and he brought them along, they can scroll text which most people add their call sign and name, all except Ian MORZE who wrote an essay on his hi hi, it was quite good as it shows how much info you can actually program into them. As you can see quite a lot going on around the club, its always great to see peoples projects so if you have a project on the go bring it along so show everyone.

**13/2/18**



A very busy night tonight at the club, we had

Robert, Dave, Darren, Lee and Graeme from the S.T.A.R.S visiting, Greg has been doing more work on his radio interface, this time its on his laptop and the display shows all information from his radio and a whole lot more including things like the length of aerial you would need for the frequency you're on, what part of the band you are using, like CW, Phone, or Digi modes, he has even elaborated on the Digi modes specifying exactly which mode is used on the specific frequency, as always I'm sure Greg would be happy to explain in more depth as I've just touched the surface here,



Ray and Ian started a Morse class tonight, it was quite busy with George G4RNI who knows morse code as he pointed out he is a G4, Robert, Amanda, Greg and Ron, it was good fun and they were picking it up well. Salva started his Foundation training course with Tom.



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There was a few stations to be heard around the HF bands tonight and various members were trying to get some contacts in, I don't know how successful they were as I was doing some Morse with the new class.



Tom was having fun experimenting with his new LED badge, he had all sorts of fancy messages going on, the software looks very easy to use and quite a lot can be done with them. So another great night with plenty going on and a good time had by all.

**20/2/18** Tonight saw the 2018 AGM for the club and it was a really good turnout from the members.

Not a lot of other things going on tonight as the meeting took up a lot of the time. Scott M0MCN done some more morse training with Ron M6WHE, Andy 2E0UKA, Amanda M6LXK and Greg M6LWY they had a good training session and had fun along the way, and in the other corner were Ray M6RNQ and Phil G1GTX were doing a bit faster morse, Phil done very well tonight managing to get 100% Well done Phil, Tom M0HYE done a little demonstration on the DMR network this was a very brief demonstration, but from the interest on this subject in the AGM other members would also like to know more so a bigger and more in-depth demonstration maybe worth organising, Scott, Ian and Greg were talking about making some antennas for VHF/UHF, there are a few simple designs to start with so if anyone would like to join them or have any ideas or projects on their own bring them in, John 2E0GBQ has offered his

services again to show people radio etiquette on the HF bands, for anyone who is maybe new to radio or anyone who doesn't have much experience on the HF bands

## **27/2/18**

Snow Meeting tonight hi hi



The weather beat us tonight, I was just about at the club when I received a message from Ian saying it had been called off, the roads were pretty bad so no point risking it, so the lads resorted to a net on GB3TS

And Finally, Thanks for reading the newsletter for March 2018 from Houghton-le-Spring ARC, and if there is any radio related content from the club email details to Scott using email [M0MCN@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:M0MCN@yahoo.co.uk)