



G3NMD Newsletter  
Houghton-le-Spring ARC

- Club Meetings
- Club History from Brian G3YKB
- Friday Night Net
- Blackpool Rally Weekend

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

### Club Meetings

**3/4/18** A Quiet night tonight on the activities front, Dave and Amanda from Canny Components had a good range of stuff from their stall out and people were buying various things for their projects etc., Ian and Scott were doing some Morse training with Greg and Ron, they are coming along very well, and Ian has set Ron some homework so that will keep him busy until next week,



And just the usual radio and talk about projects, so a quiet but great meeting.

**10/4/18** The club over the past few years has gone from strength to strength and the activities going on at the club has come on leaps and bounds, tonight was no exception, Scott and Phil were building a little variable power supply circuit, which you can put up 30v in and get anywhere up to 30V out at 1A, Ideal for powering little projects, Dave (Canny Components) had these for sale as he sells them on his stall, he had one built up to show everyone, Scott and Phil didn't add the final parts like the input and output connectors as Scott is going to mount it in a box with a volt meter,



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Ian was doing some morse training with Greg and Amanda they are coming on great,



Greg brought in some Chilli con Carne for the club and it went down a storm, here is Chappy digging in,



Ron M6YRC has still been having problems 'Motor boating' with his external mic on DMR so Scott has found a little mod which is suppose to fix it, so he will give that a go at

home and let Ron try it to see, it will be interesting to see how it turns out,



Tom and John were setting up DMR radios again and as always at the club it sparked a lot of interest amongst the members with lots of questions asked



So another great night at the club.

**17/4/18** A bit down on numbers tonight which could have been down to a football match being on, but we weren't short of activities, as usual Ian and Scott were doing some morse practice, Tom and Ian doing some foundation practical training including tuning an antenna, using the radio and morse appreciation,





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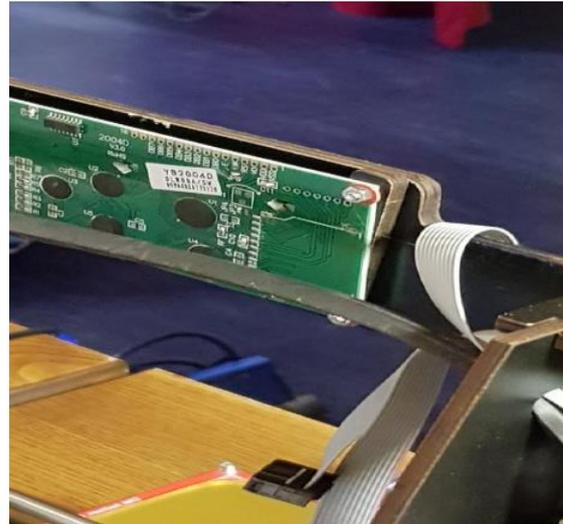
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Ron had had a few problems with his 3D printer this is something he printed on the afternoon to see if it was working,



it was found to have a loose SD card socket, so Greg soldered it back on and it was up and running again,



he needed a new bearing holder making for the printer so he printed a new one, I didn't see the result as I left early but from progress I seen it looked perfect, Scott had been helping Ron with his 'Motor boating' issue, he found a fix on the internet which involved removing a 2k2 resistor and fitting a 47pf-100pf capacitor across the microphone, this cured the motorboating effect but the audio seems to have changed, so it needs a bit more investigation, but heading in the right direction, Being involved with the activities at the club I missed what else was going on but a great night was had by all.

**24/4/18** A quite productive night tonight, we got all of the clubs equipment out and checked everything was still there and anything new to be added to the asset register, upon putting it back we reorganised it all, so things are easily accessible and less chance of any damage, G3NMD Newsletter Houghton-le-Spring ARC



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a good effort by all and a very worthwhile exercise.

Ron has been buying another 3D printer kit which requires building up, he had made a start on the frame but brought it in to show everyone and a few of us helped with the build, he made good progress tonight,



Here are Mick and Reg helping out while Ron explains about the kit



Ken had his Icom 726 setup at the club, this used to belong to Peter M6MOB and it had a few issues with some bands not working or only part of the band would work, Ken has had some work done on it and it was back up and running 100% now he is over the moon





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## Club History from Brian G3YKB

I remember a few years ago Ian MORZE had received an email from Brian G3YKB in which he wrote about his early memories of the club and even earlier, it makes a very interesting read, this is the email,

Hi Ian - Thank you for your email - I'm delighted to hear that my old club is still going strong. Yes, I was a regular member at the club from 1960 (age 13) until I went to Uni in 1965. Looking back, I can see that I was very fortunate to have a radio club within walking distance of my home - I lived in Bradley Avenue. That set me off on a life-long interest in radio and electronics which included 28 years working for ITV. Actually, there were two of us - my best mate was Peter Russell (G8FWY / MOCDC) - Peter also worked in TV broadcast. I don't know when the club first started but the RSGB Year book indicates that the callsign G3NMD was first issued between 1958 and 1960 (probably in 1959) but I guess the club may have started sometime before getting the club callsign. Other member callsigns that I recall are G3CKT Les MacAteer from Low Moorsley G3KQD Frank Pickard G3NSI Ted Ashman -worked as an engine fitter at the Philadelphia bus depot G3NSR Joe Routledge - lived in Dene Gardens, Houghton. Chairman of the club and worked as a local Weights & Measures Inspector. G3PDM Peter Martin - lived in Durham City and later went to the USA G3MOU Gavin Morrison - lived in Grindon The club secretary was Harry Ward (Shotton Colliery) who sold me my first rig - a 19 set - just two quid ! I recall that the club met at the Houghton Junior school (my old school and now the new library in Newbottle Street), then at the CIU club in Houghton Hall (known as "The Big Club") at the north end of Hall Lane and then at the newly built "Big Club" immediately next door to Houghton Hall (now new houses). The club programme included the usual mix of lectures, natter nights, on-air sessions (Tx was a Heathkit DX40) and junk sales. I remember two lectures in particular - one night Joe, G3NSR, talked about tuned circuits and on another occasion, Johnny, G3LIV, came to explain the new-fangled single sideband stuff! Joe was my

"Elmer" - his station consisted of an R107 Rx and a T1154 Tx. I also remember that, every year, the club would have a display in a large tent at the Hetton Show (actually a large field at the South East end of Easington Lane). One year I won several prizes in the raffle including a copy of the STC "Reference Data For Radio Engineers" book which I still have !! One person who may remember when the club started is Norman Ashman. He took over his father's callsign (G3NSI) Good luck with your researches - please let me know what you find 73 Brian (g3ykb)

I have Brian's email from Ian and I will forward a copy of this newsletter to him, and point him in the direction of previous newsletters so he can see how the club is doing

## Friday Night Net

Our Friday night net which is normally on the GB3TS repeater but switched to 145.475 on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> April due to the repeater being inoperative, It was a good Friday net where a group of 12 enjoyed a good chinwag. It was nice to hear a couple of new call signs join in. The group included MORZE Ian (West Rainton), G4RNI/A George at (Wheatley Hill), M6WHE Ron (Houghton), M0MCN/M Scott enjoying his tour taking advantage of his well known high spots, M6NKZ/M Tony who was also out and about with his work, M6LXJ Brian (West Rainton), M6LWY Greg (Easington Lane) who was waiting for the right time to sneak out and move his stealth antenna without being spotted M6HWN John (Peterlee) transmitting from upstairs rather than the normal downstairs it's amazing what some folk will do to get a bit extra height on FM Hi. M6TZR/A Paul at his work QTH in Peterlee who admits being a member of the Stanley Crook Cake Club but is unable to get to the cakes before George and Tom Hi. A rare DX from Sunderland and one of the M5 brigade yes George M5GHT joined in with his normal



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banter and no he not selling the weather station. MOHYE Tom (Sunderland) joined a little late due to spending some time with his brother who was up from the South for the weekend. His brother is taking his foundation on Wednesday so good luck to him we will hopefully hear him on HF soon. It was nice to hear Keith MOKLL (Killer) from Sunderland joining in with his normal sense of humor, nice to hear you Keith would be nice to see you at the club one Tuesday. Thanks to all who joined the net and we look forward to hearing more of you joining in. As we all know all the local repeaters have been turned off due to a few unlicensed (IQZero's) should these start interfering with the net or simplex frequencies the best practice I have found is to totally ignore them if possible most of us have enough power to get over them.  
de MORZE

### **Blackpool Here They Come**

The annual outing for Ian George & Ernie to Blackpool took place on the 28<sup>th</sup> April. They travel down on the Saturday morning and spend the night in Blackpool before attending the rally on the Sunday. The rally normally takes place on the same weekend as the Grand National but for some reason it was a fortnight late this year. The group have stayed at the same hotel (The Langwood) for many years and have got to know the owners very well. Srinu better known as SMILIE the owner originally from India has a great laugh with us all. He even teases George just as if he was at home Hi. This year we were teaching him some Geordie and he was asking George if he was alreet. Ian & Ernie have attended the rally since the year 1999 before they got licensed in 2000 and George joined in a few years later.

The rally was smaller this year and was held in the main hall at the Norbreck hotel whereas

previous it also filled the ballroom although it still seemed to be well attended. Ian & George commented on how quiet the city centre was in comparison with previous years. It's like most city centres where the high streets are seeing more and more empty shops. It makes you wonder if the high streets really do have any future. It's funny how things change. This year they chose a conservative club in Bisham for their usual refreshments which was far from capacity only about 30-40% of the seats were taken. Overall it was a good weekend and they are looking forward to next years. Here is a photo from the hotel this was made by folding the edge of pages of a book, it was very good and took 30 days to complete



And Finally, Thanks for reading the newsletter for May 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)