

TDARS

# Newsletter

Issue 234

Mar. 2009

[www.TDARS.org](http://www.TDARS.org)

## Programme

[www.telfordhamfest.co.uk](http://www.telfordhamfest.co.uk)

- March 18** 'Marconi' activity 2009 M/C Martyn G3UKV. (Note: IMD Sat. April 25)
- March 22 (Sun.)** Loft Access Improvement and wiring mods. at HQ
- March 25** Annual General Meeting (with free refreshments!). Agenda—see Pg 2
- April 1** Open House / Committee @ the Huntsman.
- April 8** 'The Journey' by Guest Speaker and Writer Ted Cowling.
- April 15** Hints & Tips—Members' suggestions on any subject (within reason!)
- April 20 (Mon.)** Little Wenlock "Parish Meeting" . TDARS Presentation & D-Star demo,. Set-up from 7pm. Event 7.30-9 pm. Also static TDARS display
- April 22** 2m DFing with Dave G4EIX explaining how and with what.
- April 25 (Sat.)** International Marconi Day. GB8MD from Tywyn, W. Wales 24hr. (Likely activity Thurs. Apr. 23 to Sun. 26th. HF bands + SOTA)
- April 29** 2 metre DFing (direction finding). ~144.6 MHz in walking distance of HQ.
- May 6** Open House / Committee / On the Air at Village Hall HQ
- May 13** Surplus sale with Jim G8UGL i/c. A lot for sale this time ....
- May 20** Amateur Television with Dave G8VZT, It's not that hard:
- May 27** TDARS /P in Little Wenlock Village Field (behind the pub). HF to uWaves
- June 3** First-in-the-Month @ the Huntsman (Committee & Open House)
- June 10** Cryptology & Enigma. Guest Speaker John G7GCK. A special night!

**For Amateur Radio Exam Training—enquiries to Mike G3JKX (01952 299677)  
For Morse Training and Morse Proficiency Tests Martyn G3UKV or Eric M0KZB.  
For Equipment Loans & Returns Kevin G8UPF or Richard G0VXG**

**G3ZME** *Telford & District Amateur Radio Society. Founded 1969* **G6ZME**  
*Village Hall, Malthouse Bank, Little Wenlock, Telford. Shropshire. TF6 5BG*



# QJC? News & Information

You will see from the page 1 programme that we have a couple of **guest speakers coming to TDARS (April 8, June 10)**. Ted Cowling is our guest in April and he is the local author of the biography entitled "The Journey", which is an account of his life, with particular reference to his wartime encounters in the RAF. He is also a fundraiser extraordinaire for the new Telford Hospice at Apley Park. Please bring along a few bob for the cause. In June, John Alexander (no relation to our member of the same name) G7GCK is coming up from the Milton Keynes area to present some of his collection of cryptology machines, including the famous German Enigma. He says he is in the process of making changes to his collection, so it should be a very entertaining evening. He mentions a raffle to offset his costs/charge (£100), so that sounds a good idea too. Let's give both speakers a very warm welcome.

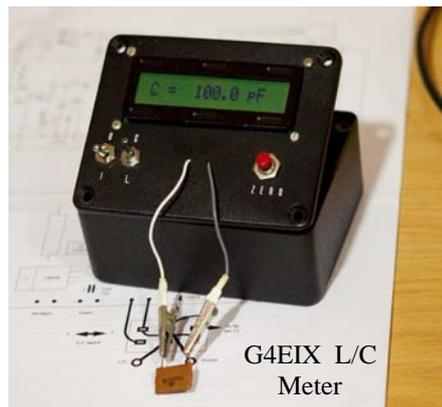
The **"Under a Fiver"** and Main Construction competitions have just taken place, with quite a few more entries than in 2008. In the U-a-Fiver event, 3rd place went to Richard G0VXG with his retro broadcast receiver 90 volt battery pack, with authentic style casing; 2nd was Norman G0ASP with a smart-sensing battery charger and 1st place honours went to Dave G4EIX with his compact PIC morse keyer project.

In the recent **Main Construction**, there were 7 entries. In 3rd place was Norman 'ASP with a smartly cased GPS receiver with various locked frequency outputs and facility to connect to an external monitor (PC) for info such as lat/longitude. 2nd place went to Richard 'VXG and his compact portable ATU/SWR/PWR meter, and the slate shield was awarded to Tony M0TAW for his 2 valve (yes—valve) VHF (30-200 MHz) receiver and PSU. Tony's care and attention to detail is quite remarkable.

Congratulations to all who brought along home constructed projects. I'm a bit perplexed by the lack of TDARS promoted Club Projects at both events. Where were the MKARS80 transceivers (10 under construction), the dozen or so Antenna Analysers, or the ten RF Monitors (sniffers)? Never mind, the amount of construction this winter by club members is probably at an all-time high—which is great!! Long may it continue.



M0TAW Receiver



G4EIX L/C Meter



G0VXG "Tuna"

The **2009 Telford HamFest preparation** has been beset with arranging a firm date. It was all set for September 13th, and then along came two buses — the Torbay and Lincoln Rallies on the same day. There are far fewer Exhibitors/Traders than ten years ago, so date clashes are a real problem. No sooner had we chosen a new date, than Leicester ARS re-scheduled the Donington Park event from late October to early September. More problems. Anyway, all things being equal, the final date chosen is now **Sunday 4th October**. This still coincides with the Hack Green ('Secret Bunker') table-top radio sale in Cheshire, but this can't be helped. Perhaps they will QSY? Fingers firmly crossed.

At the **surplus equipment sale due on May 13**, there will be a large number of items from Mike's (G4AUZ—SK)) shack which was cleared out by members on the request of Mike's family. The larger items have all now been sold, and £487 has been passed to his kin. The remaining mass of components and smaller kit (many new and unused) will be sold off on 13th May, and TDARS will benefit. If you want (need?) a clearout, this is a great opportunity to flog it—but don't expect to make a fortune! 10% of takings go to TDARS funds. You can bring stuff along any time after 7pm. Jim G8UGL is our m/c on the night.

Don's **D-Star repeater GB7SY** in Condover is now fully operational, with a link via his computer to the world-wide network of D-Star reflectors and repeaters. Unlike the Echolink we are licensed for with GB3TF, which has been very quiet, GB7SY is permitted to operate without the operator (NoV) present. This rapidly growing network is still changing on an almost daily basis, and it's well worth looking on our TDARS website ([www.tdars.org](http://www.tdars.org)) for the latest information, or even Don's dedicated D-Star website at [www.gb7sy.net](http://www.gb7sy.net). Don has worked extremely hard to get this facility up and running, overcoming the usual practical problems of interfacing and de-sensing (The TX and RX operate in duplex, so the TX tends to de-sense the RX which operates on the same band.)



The **£5,000 CVS grant for TDARS** is tremendous news. Congratulations to Tony M0TAW who has done all the hard work, preparing and following the extensive requirements for this "Grass Roots" grant award in a very short space of time. It comes from the Council for Voluntary Services (CVS) and few strings are attached. Essentially it is for training and education purposes, but should quite directly help our Society to grow and flourish in the next few years. More details elsewhere.

All is now in place for the **Marconi (IMD) expedition**, centred around Saturday 25th April. The special callsign GB8MD is confirmed, and full details about the award can be found on [http://www.gb4imd.org.uk/](http://www.gb4imd.org.uk) as well as our TDARS website. Some plan to travel to Tywyn as early as Thursday, and most will return on the Sunday (26th.). It's about 85 miles from Telford, so quite feasible to come across just for the day. Use LL36 9HN on your Sat Navs, or it's a field next to the address of "Marconi Bungalows" (that's a road name in Tywyn!). Most operating will be SSB on the HF bands, esp. 20, 40 & 80 metres, from midnight Saturday. Some SOTA and microwave operation is also planned. Everyone is VERY welcome to come along, whether for a day or a long weekend. Bring friends and family. Plenty of room for vehicles and tents on the site. A nearby B & B called "Leahurst" (tel: 01654 710572) is within walking distance of the site, and charges a modest £30 per person per night. Other local attractions include a pleasant beach, Talylyn Narrow Railway, beautiful countryside, Snowdonia National Park. We've also an eye to local pubs and eating houses. Good weather has also been pre-booked. Come and join us!



February visit: Making plans in the local railway café, by Marconi's site & beside the seaside



**TELFORD & DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY.**

**MEETINGS EVERY WEDNESDAY AT LITTLE WENLOCK VILLAGE HALL UNLESS INDICATED OTHERWISE ON THE FRONT PAGE PROGRAMME. ROOM BOOKED FROM 7PM - 10PM. MEETINGS USUALLY COMMENCE AT 8PM**







