

TDARS Newsletter

Issue 245

www.TDARS.org.uk

Programme

Feb/Mar 2011

www.telfordhamfest.co.uk

- Feb 23** Pacific Ocean Dxpeditons. Illustrated talk by Derek Cox G3KHZ
- March 2** Committee & G3ZME HF/VHF On-the-Air. (Follows LWVH AGM at 8pm)
- March 8 (Tues)** HamFest Committee. 8pm /A (Stafford Park 12)
- March 9** Main Construction Competition. Incl a 'Beginners' Trophy Section
- March 16** Kites as Antenna Supports—talk by Roger Stafford G4ROJ
- March 23** DF Kit preparations. Bring along a potential 2m DF receiver and try it out.
- March 30** Annual General Meeting (Agenda in this Newsletter) 8 pm.
- April 2—18th.** IOTA DX-pedition to Papua New Guinea operational.
CALLSIGNS P29VCX, P29NI and P29VLR. See also Page 2
- April 6** Committee Meeting /A (Staff. Park 12). G3ZME/A net ~3657 KHz / GB3TF
- April 12 (Tues)** HamFest Committee. 8pm /A (Stafford Park 12) (T.B.C.)
- April 13** Video Evening G8VZT et al. Refreshments afterwards.
- April 20** First 2 metre DF Hunt. On foot, Little Wenlock. Start 7:30pm at Club HQ.
- April 27** History of Telegraph Keys with Roy G4WPW and Derrick M0BDD
- April 29-May 1** Marconi Expedition to Tywyn GB8MD. (IMD) : M/C Simon M3SET

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 contact Ricky M0RKY or Norman G0ASP

REMINDER: Paid up Members are welcome to borrow items of Club Equipment, so long as they're returned the following week and the usual "signing out" process is followed strictly. That's a privilege of TDARS Membership. If you can't return it on time, please find someone else who can, or don't borrow it that week! Curator: Ricky M0RKY

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

TELFORD & DISTRICT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 30th MARCH 2011

AGENDA:

- 1) Apologies
- 2) Chairman's opening remarks & report
- 3) Minutes of TDARS AGM 31 March 2010
- 4) Matters Arising
- 5) Treasurer's Report & Matters Arising
- 6) Election of 2011-12 Committee
- 7) Presentation of Trophies



Any relevant items for inclusion in the Agenda must be received by the Hon. Sec (Mike, G3JKX) at least 7 days prior to the AGM. (ie by March 23rd)

Annual Subs are due at this time—please note the **current** rates are £28, or £22 non-earners, £14 full time students. These amounts may change at the AGM.

The planned **mini Expedition to Guernsey** is now set for August 19th to 24th. A dozen or more Members have signed up to go. Some intend to stay on until Fri 26th August to make a full week's holiday of it. The site is on private land in the SW of the island (IN89QK), with a clear VHF/UHF/uWave take-off in most directions. There's plenty of room for HF antennas too. One or two TDARS tents will be taken, but some may prefer to bring their own, or use B & B premises, or even book a nearby self catering apartment or cottage. However, the landowner wishes to know how many of us there will be, as well as how many vehicles and tents will be brought onto the site. Please let me know in the next two or three weeks if possible. ('UKV). **Suggested radio :**
HF: casual or "59 and 73s" operation (eg IOTA EU-114) (Pg 24 of January RadCom - interesting report of an HF expedition last year to GU-land)

VHF/UHF: UKAC 6 metre Tuesday evg (20-22:30 hrs). Guernsey/IN89 is always sought after.

uWaves: Sunday 5.7/10/24 GHz cumulative (10-16:00 hrs), Tues.13 to 3cm activity (20-22:00 hrs)

Other activities: Superb beaches, walks and coves. Explore old German defences and local history (eg heritage sites on www.visitguernsey.com). Choice & variety for all the family !

Congratulations to Tony M0TAW for winning the **"Under a Fiver" construction** competition in February. Tony's attention to detail in making an in-line attenuator won the day. There were 10 entries, including two minimalistic 7MHz Xtal transceivers ('VZT and 'ASP), two ScopeMatch club projects ('ZSU and 'UKV), a zener tester ('VXG), mobile antennas store tube ('FHM), morse oscillators ('PNN & ZSU) and an RF variable attenuator (G0EYX). Don't forget the **Main Construction** Competition on 9th March, when 2 trophies are on offer—the outright Winner and a Beginners' entry (which means someone who has not entered the competition before and is fairly new to home construction of electronic gear). The more entries the better—as they say, it's the taking part that matters, not the winning !

Club Calls 160m Contest (November). Up on previous year. GX3ZME 18th out of 91 entries. 73 QSOs and 1239 points. The ops. were Phil G0VXJ, Dave G4EIX and Richard G0VXG. Great!

UKAC 2010 –final results. **TDARS** came 12th out of 48 clubs on 50 MHz with 8292points, 24th out of 62 on 144 MHz (8245 pts) and 23rd out of 46 clubs on 432 MHz (3549 pts.). In the overall VHF Club Championships, TDARS came 18th out of a total of 80 UK clubs. Excellent result.

Individual TDARS member entries in UKAC:-

G0CER: 6m: 47th of 214 entries, 2m:78th of 338 and 70cm 59th of 206 stations.

MOEMM: 6m: 34th of 214 entries, 2m: 125th of 338 and 70cm: 146th of 206 stations.

M0PNN: 2m: 167th of 338 entries.

Will a few more of our Members take part in these Tuesday evening events in 2011 ?



Christmas Dinner at The Duck .(photos M0RJS & M1FGN)



Magazine Cutting (sent by Peter M1FGN). Gordon King was a prolific writer in many electronic and radio magazines. He died last year. Many TDARS Members I'm sure will recognise the name. The article below is quite revealing and interesting.

Gordon John King MIET

A technical author who has inspired and taught thousands of people through his published works, by his son **Mike King MIET**

Born in Oxford in 1922, Gordon John King died peacefully at home in July 2010 following a short illness. He was a member of the IET for over 50 years, as well as an Associate Member of the Institute of Electronic and Radio Engineers, a Fellow of the Society of Electronic and Radio Technicians, and an Incorporated Engineer of the Engineering Council.

Gordon wrote in excess of 40 books including the 'Television Servicing Handbook' (Oldham's press, 1960); 'Practical Ariel Handbook' (Butterworth-Heinemann, 1970); 'Beginners Guide to Colour Television' (Newnes Technical Books, 1984). These were just a few of the many he wrote under the name Gordon J King; he also wrote under the pseudonym John Earl.

The 1970s were his hay day, reviewing hi-fi equipment writing and the many reliable articles that informed the hi-fi-buying public in terms they understood. The publications he wrote for include *Hi-fi for Pleasure*, *Hi-Fi News*, *Practical Wireless* and *Electrical and Radio Trading*. During the

course of his career, he wrote over 4,000 articles. Altogether, my father estimated that he had over 10 million words published.

Gordon was also an innovator and inventor. He set up television relay systems in Oxford and South Devon to pipe television signals to people's houses from a signal aerial, allowing people in poor reception areas to receive signals that previously they could not. It also had the potential to pipe films into their houses, with dad inventing a coin set-top box where people could pay to receive the film (sound familiar?). This was not taken up as the government of the time had a monopoly on broadcasting.

He also invented the 'King Telebooster', a device fitted between the television and the aerial which boosted the signal and got rid of the need for an external aerial, bringing clear television pictures into homes. The demand for these was so great when they were launched that it brought the small fishing village of Brixham, where he lived, to a standstill, with people queuing for miles to buy one. The *People*



newspaper ran an article stating 'Brixham man staggers TV world'.

During the Second World War, he served with the Royal Corps of Signals and, due to his technical skill, was posted to a Special Communications Unit operation in Asia. This was one of a few secretive units, which kept communications open between South-East Asia and Great Britain.

Gordon had an interesting life and valued every minute of it. He was considered the top of his field. He inspired and taught thousands through his technical works, and improved the lives of the television-watching and hi-fi-listening public. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

THANKS to Robin G1MHU, Bob M0RJS, Peter M1FGN, Mike G3JKX, Next Newsletter # 246 April/May 2011 time. Input always welcome !

Martyn G0CZD recently came down from his home in Cheshire to give an excellent talk about Radio Astronomy. It lasted nearly 2 hours and went along at about 110 mph, which is Martyn's style.

After appropriate applause, Martyn was asked by Derek (G0EYX), our Chairman, to make a Trophy presentation to Tony M0TAW, the winner of the previous week's 'Under a Fiver' competition.

The background to this goes back to about 1985, when Martyn was on TDARS Committee, and donated the shield you can see in the photograph to the Society, to encourage Members to build modest projects where the components cost no more than £5 (excluding case, PSU etc.)

Much to everyone's amusement, it was arranged that Derek refunded the £5 to Martyn (five £1 coins are glued to the trophy—just behind Tony's left sleeve in the photo). He explained that interest was included in the "refund", but due to the national financial crisis in recent years, the sum due was precisely £5 in February 2011.



Hacking Things Better with "SUGRU" by Robin G1MHU

Sugru is a moldable silicon compound that cures when exposed to air. It comes in a variety of colours, the only downside is the shelf life of 6 months.

I have just finished my first hacks using Sugru the moldable silicone stuff. Please be aware that I only used one 5g pack for all 4 hacks below. I have tested cured Sugru in my microwave oven, it did not get warm at all, so it appears to be fine at RF; could be good for sealing antenna connections, securing antenna parts etc.

My Bird Thruline was missing a foot; about £30 for a set of replacement ones from Bird USA. So Sugru to the rescue — Can you spot the odd one out ?



Next comes a MFJ 259B Antenna Analyzer. This is a battery powered instrument, the power switch is far too easy to knock and switch on by mistake, leading to flat batteries at the most annoying moments (10 AA cells, so quite expensive to fill up).



Finally the laptop foot was fixed too...



Third, my workhorse laptop, one of its feet had fallen off, and the power lead was intermittent. The power lead connector was dissected, lead trimmed and re-soldered, then the connector got the Sugru treatment.

Keep looking at our Club Web Site

www.tdars.org.uk

It is continuously changing and developing.
Sales and Wants pages
Tech Topics with lots of interesting tips and answers.
You could add your snippets.

Are you on the "Our Members" pages?
Let me add your photo and any details you wish.
don@m0fhm.net

Let me have any info or ideas for the Web Site

Don't forget www.tdars.org.uk



Gales in February brought this lot down, when a halyard snapped at QTH G3UKV. It included antennas for 2m, 70cm, 23cm, 13cm and 3cm. However, a calm day followed, and within 24 hours, all was well. The only antenna missing in the R/H photo is the 10GHz (3cm band) dish, which has since been put back on the mast. Ancient Chinese saying: "What comes down Must go up soonest.... "



And finally, here's part of the 24 GHz GB3ZME microwave beacon which has been re-furbished ready for the 2011 portable season. 10 microwave slots are visible, with 10 more on the reverse side. A further 20 slots are not visible here. The dis-colouration was due to moisture ingress.

