

# T News Letter

# TDARS

G3ZME  
G6ZME

TELFORD AND DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

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

FOUNDED 1969

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

Issue 259

Sept/Oct 2013

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

## Programme

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

- September 18 Forgotten TDARS equipment and its uses/applications.
- September 25 G100RSGB centenary station: preparation and manning. (16 Oct and 26/27 Oct)
- October 2 GX3ZME on VHF/HF. Committee Meeting 8pm. New HF Antenna operational !
- October 9 Ten Minute Topics. Members' participation invited
- October 16 G100RSGB Operations. All bands, All modes (well, several). Club HQ area
- October 19-20 JOTA (Jamboree on the Air) weekend. Wellington Scout HQ. TF1 3HA—by Church.
- October 23 Winter Construction Projects & G100RSGB review and preparations for w/e
- October 26-27 G100RSGB operations. All bands, many Modes. Avoiding CQWW SSB contest ops !  
(weekend)
- October 30 Hallowe'en Social
- November 6 Committee Meeting and GX3ZME OTA
- November 13 Table Top Sale
- November 20 PSK et al using the Raspberry Pi, with Eric M0KZB
- November 27 View HamFest (Rob Mannion G3XFD) Video recording
- December 4 Committee Meeting and GX3ZME OTA
- December 11 Annual Christmas Dinner. The Duck@ Allscott. Booking Form Nov. Newsletter.
- December 18 Mince Pies & Mulled Wine Social. Club HQ

**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 Simon 2E0CHV or Don 2E0DSN**  
**Radio Amateur Exams- Latest: [www.tdars.org.uk/html/training.html](http://www.tdars.org.uk/html/training.html)**



# Qtc: News & Information



**TDARS 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  
Please return borrowed equipment promptly**

The TDARS **G100RSGB activity** is approaching fast (Oct 16, 26-27), and all TDARS club members are invited to operate the special callsign stations at some time or other. It is likely that we shall operate mainly from the corner of the Little Wenlock Village Hall car park, but the nearby Village Field may also be used. The weekend period (Oct 26/27) unfortunately clashes with one of the biggest world-wide SSB contests of the year (CQWW DX SSB contest), with which we don't want to get tangled—so most activity will be on the 10, 18 and 24 MHz 'WARC' bands that weekend, although 3.5 and 7MHz may be OK at times during daylight hours. The 50, 70, 144 and 432 MHz bands are not affected. Many people, both in the UK and worldwide, are chasing G100RSGB on as many bands as possible, to qualify for a 'standard' or 'golden' RSGB Centenary award, so we need to be flexible and respond to band change requests quite often. Above all, we need to achieve a high level of activity for as long as possible, bearing in mind local residents expectations of quietness during night-time operation. Banging car doors at 2 or 3am will not be appreciated! The TDARS planning meeting arranged for September 25th (8pm) will be crucial.

As reported elsewhere, the **2013 Telford HamFest** was successful far beyond all expectations, as table bookings seemed so elusive until the last minute. More and more traders seem to only make their minds up in the very last week or two, which is quite scary! The good weather helped greatly, and as our HamFest website says, everyone seemed to enjoy themselves on the day. Next year's event is on **Sunday 31st August**, since the Enginuity venue has already been booked on Sept.7th for a wedding, and is therefore not available to us.



Further to the '**Home Brew Plastic Parts**' talk by G6UDX (July 24), Brian sent a note: "Those that followed my recent talk may be interested to know I intend carrying out 'microwave' tests on some samples of G26 resin. Readers may recall this was the two-part material from which I produced an "egg" insulator. Before carrying out the microwave test I need to ensure the XYL is out of the house and I will have time to ventilate the kitchen adequately if things go badly wrong." (hope she doesn't see this, Brian—Ed)



TDARS has opened a **Twitter account** as a bit of an experiment. Although it was set up to highlight our HamFest, it may take some time to 'bed in' and be more useful. The G100RSGB may further its development as those savvy users share our activities at every opportunity. Dave G0CER has provided a few guidelines for those, like your Editor, for whom it remains a rather dark, mysterious mode of communication. See next page.

The June 2013 **50 MHz Trophy results** have been published on the RSGB Contest ('Sport Radio') website. TDARS (**G3Z**) came 5th, with 2 529 429 points total. Operating from our Long Mynd site, the ops were Simon G0UFE, Speedy 2E0KLS, Don 2E0DSN, Simon 2E0CHV and John M0JZH. Using the club's IC756 (100 W) and 5 ele MET antenna, they had 182 QSOs, with their best DX as WP3UX at 6623 Km distance, the second furthest DX achieved by any UK entrant. Congratulations to all involved. Simon 'UFE hopes to UP the power next year (400W) and UP the antenna (7 ele ?) as well, with a target of winning the 50 MHz Trophy one time - the Trophy donated many years ago to the RSGB by our Society.



# Some explanation and guidance to using Twitter—by Dave GOCER

## **To explain a little about 'Twitter', why I've suggested using it, the pitfalls and what it can do.**

I work at Telford College, we use social networking services to promote the College courses. We use Twitter in a very business-like manner to all ages of people and companies who might want to use our services (we don't just do 16-18 courses now - government changes mean that we have to get the majority of our income from providing apprenticeship training and courses for industry).

## **Q&A...**



### **Is it just messaging?**

- It can be, but organisations don't tend to use it like this much.
- You can also post images - say an event or even a meeting photos
- People might ask questions - like "when are you starting exam courses again next?" - we might answer publicly ones like that.

### **What kind of thing would be announced on Twitter by an organisation like TDARS?**

- Club announcements like 'Next Wednesday 7th GX3ZME on air 1930 onwards'
- back stories 'we're all off now to set up the tables for the Hamfest tomorrow' (makes people feel like they know what's going on)

They are well thought-out announcements (by trustworthy users) to give information and insight to the organisation. We're TDARS but we're human too..!

### **What about trouble going on about Twitter - could it happen to TDARS?**

Its easy to edit something in anger or sarcasm and hit send - organisations are more reserved - trouble can occur when the ability to post is given out to many people and control is lost - this can happen in any section of society - I'd recommend 2 or at most 3 people have access to post.

### **How do we know it's working well for TDARS?**

Anyone can go to the 'homepage' of a twitter account and see how many people are 'followers' - Followers are people who automatically ask to get anything you post to be shown on their page for them to read. If you look at my workplace account you will see we have 1,787 followers and the kind of things posts we do and also the photos we have posted. <https://twitter.com/telfordcollege>

### **What about 140 letters limit?**

- To be honest - it makes you think what you are writing, makes you write clearly and efficiently and gets the message over without unnecessary stuff.
- Anyway, you can do a 2nd or 3rd or more tweet after to carry on your message if you can't fit it all in.

### **Who might following us?**

Other amateurs (globally) and traders and radio organisations.

### **Can it be closed down?**

- It can be de-activated - you can request an archive of everything you said..
- Tweets already made are now in the public domain, sat on others computers - you can't delete them.

### **What real use is it?**

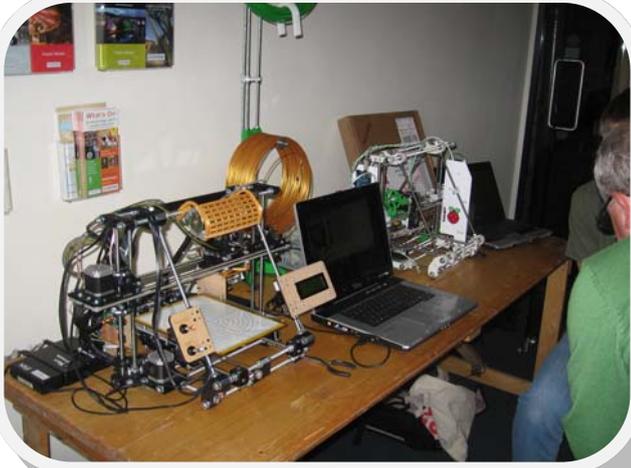
For something like the Hamfest it's a means of letting people know that the Hamfest is happening and drip-feeding information to keep interest.







**TELFORD HAMFEST—ENGINUITY CENTRE - SUNDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER 2013**



Not one, but TWO 3D Printers (S.L.U.G. stand)



RSGB 1913 to 2013: Dave Wilson sets up display:



LAMCO came to our rescue—this is Dave + customers



Relaxing in the cafeteria area



The RSGB Bookstall—Thanks to Dave & Kath Wilson



The sun shines on the righteous ? (Jim Pooley)



Foot soldier with all his kit intact (well, almost all ..)



The perfect radio rally scene