

Thames Amateur Radio Group

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Welcome to the May newsletter. Remember we have a regularly updated website, see above.

April's RadioActive night drew half the membership - not bad considering it was Good Friday! There was a chance to compare HF phone AM, SSB & FM modes with a rig downstairs in the hall on a dummy load communicating with an HF rig upstairs operating QRP on the club's long wire antenna. Gary G5YRG ran a session on Linux the operating system built in to Pi-Star hotspots showing its versatility and hidden features. There was a demonstration of a kit-built microcontroller SWR and PWR meter. Useful information about Contesting was presented to allow those interested to get started in this aspect of the hobby. There was a demonstration of soldering on the continued build of the Z match AMU demonstrated at the March Radioactive night. It looked like fiddly work, but John M0LFX assured us it wasn't!

14 gathered for May's Club Night on the 6th, with a HF rig upstairs at Jubilee Hall and in the main hall VHF operation via a 2M / 70 cm ladder line antenna on a light weight 10 metre fibre glass mast on the outside of the building. We welcomed a new potential member who got their hands

dirty in first time soldering practice, having been encouraged to meet us by M0IEO Mark. We gave a warm welcome and hope to see him, and anybody else interested in the hobby, to come along and meet us.

TARG summer camp: Battlesbridge's Muggeridge Farm, June 2nd to 5th. M0IEO Mark has arranged a NoV and special event call sign, GB2PJE (Platinum Jubilee Elizabeth) for that celebratory weekend. He has negotiated welcoming Day Visitors, as long as they bring modest antennae given we will not have sole use of the site. More details are on the website. The Antiques Centre has lots of food and drink outlets and shops too.

John M0LFX is involved in the **Vulcan Restoration Trust looking after XL426** at Southend Airport. On June 19th (Father's Day) the plane is "open." Vulcan Veterans and VRT enthusiasts will be on hand. TARG will TX from a military vehicle nearby.



On Armed forces Day, Saturday June 25th, TARG will be unique in the country (we believe!) in having what we hope will be an all-female crew of operators sending and receiving from a base inside a restored military tank. We are calling this **TOTA (Tanks On The Air)** and will send and receive, dressed in military fatigues or uniforms - a group of women operators in what is, in the UK at least, the largely men's world of amateur radio.



RadioActive nights are popular. There won't be a June one given how many other things are planned that month. Look for details and information on the website for July's, and more besides.

REMINDER: EMF regulation change for 10MHz upwards come into force Wednesday the 18th of May. There are useful details on the website, via RSGB and Ofcom.