GB3DN Donation

HARC

BRICKWORKS
Building on the Foundation
ACCREDITED CLUB

Holsworthy Amateur Radio Club



Milton Damerel Old School Room
EX22 7DJ

Talk in
Slot 2 BU FB ND
GB3DN FM

Where does the time go? One minute we are preparing for the Spring rally, the next, we are packing up at the Autumn rally. We couldn't do any of this without the support of the members. Long may it continue. It is refreshing at this time when other clubs up and down the land struggle and the country is falling to bits! Radio remains our escape.

We have the green light for the Saturday workshop trial. Hopefully, they will prove as popular as the monthly meetings.

In this issue: POTA CHOTA and rally reports. Submissions from Jason, Nigel and myself. I suspect tthis issue will be the last this year.



Editorial

I gave a presentation of the Brickworks scheme at the October meeting.

I wont hide my disappointment. The meeting was well attended but those who would benefit the most were either unable to attend or had decided it wasnt for them… :-(

I am still hopeful that at least some of you may earn certificates and get your ugly mugs in RadCom. There is a worksheet at the back of this newsletter. If you are a foundation or relatively new licence holder please consider taking part.

Club members are always eager to help but please remember, 'self training' is the cornerstone on which this hobby is built. Before reaching out for help consider:

- Have you read the manual, FAQ, Quickstart?
- Trying to solve issues yourself shows respect for members time and gives them the perfect starting point to help you succeed.
- Consider seeking success with some of the basic Brickworks tasks before undertaking advanced costly and potentially frustrating projects.

QRP

I was pleased to be recently asked about QRP (low power) operating. Wasn't it frustrating and why would anyone consider it?

A brief version of my answer went something like this. "Well, umm.. Every aspect of QRP requires a level of skill. Building a QRP radio requires a lot of skill. Learning and using CW takes time and, of course, is a skill. Operating on bands surrounded by QRO ops is a skill….

But the biggest skill of all is not caring about being heard.."

Saturday Workshops

We have had the green light from the chapel for the proposed Saturday workshop trial.

We need to think about how to make full use of these workshops. Drinking tea and scoffing dog rolls may not be enough to justify the rental.

There will be tea coffee and dog rolls with Grattons sausages. We will need to know who is coming and their catering needs because the workshops will be partially funded by the catering.

Don and Ken have kindly sponsored the first two meetings in order to get this off the ground.

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Social Media

Our club Facebook page has members from all over the world. I have no idea why. Possibly social media algorithms and bots. If you are reading this from a far off land, please get in touch.

Occasionally, a single email floods in. Almost always, critical. Thats ok, if my opinions are unpopular, I have plenty more.

One such email suggested Saturday meetings and BBQ's. It was a long email written in single sentence and I thought, give your head a wobble as if..

Yet here we are.

Meshcore

In order for Meshcore to be useful we need to develop a Mesh. It will take time and take-up, while cheap, has been slow. I think it is important that the club have a presence on Meshcore as it could be a future source of new members.

FT*

Jason's brave attempt at operating the TinyDX at CHOTA proved one thing. Effective filtering is essential. The TinyDX has only low pass filtering. Maybe there is a discussion to be had on filters?

WELCOME

Welcome new member **Mark G6BNB**

73 de Rob G3BBB



HARC Merchandise

Thank you so much for supporting the new club merchandise. It took off far better than I expected.

Why is this important?

Amateur radio club branding is a vital part of club promotion because it challenges negative perceptions of the hobby and for members, promotes a sense of belonging. It also projects an image of a welcoming, active community. Effective branding—through logo, modern merchandising, and an active social media presence, (perhaps even this newsletter)—help present amateur radio, and the Holsworthy club in particular as engaging and relevant, rather than stuffy, outdated and dull.





Option 1 **

Brass **club** badge 35mm. Single pin fixing. This photo doesn't do it justice. The HARC letters in brass with a gloss ceramic or enamelled finish.

****I have a limited number available.****

Option 2

Super quality 3.5” sew on HARC embroidered members badge.

Future orders may be slightly cheaper per item because there will be no digitising fee to pay.

However without a bulk discount (order less than 10) and with both vendors charging flat rate postage regardless of how many we order, the cost are fixed.

What this means is while it is possible to order a single item the total cost may be an issue.

If there is enough interest in ordering a second batch I am happy to revisit this again.

DX from the Naughty Boy Corner

By Jason, M7EYH - Holsworthy Amateur Radio Club



For those who believe FT8 isn't real radio, I recently took a trip to the Naughty Boy Corner to see just how far a very small station could get.

The equipment was about as simple as it gets: a TinyDX, roughly 10 metres of wire configured as a vertical EFHW on a 10 metre telescopic pole, a 49:1 transformer and a choke. The TinyDX was powered from the tablet or phone, with FT8TW doing the digital work. The essential item of portable equipment, of course, was the blue chair.

There was one frustration. Despite receiving several initial replies to calls, I didn't manage to complete a single QSO. The exchanges would start, but then stall before completion. Whether this was down to timing, the FT8TW setup, operator error or simply portable-radio gremlins remains to be discovered.

What wasn't in doubt was that the signal was getting out. PSK Reporter showed G0HRC being heard across Europe, North America and considerably further afield.

So the first outing produced no QSOs, but one hell of a reception report. Not bad for a TinyDX sitting on a blue chair with a bit of wire attached to it.

Jason





HARC DIARY 2026



Meetings

2026

~~Jan 7th **SMD presentation Chris MØKNF**~~
~~Jan 17th **POTA Cookworthy**~~

~~February 4th Meeting **Event planning 2026**~~

~~March 4th Meeting Build all band Sigma HF360~~
~~21st March POTA Venue CANX~~

~~April 1st Home-brew HF360~~
~~April 12th Spring Rally~~
~~April 18th POTA GB-056210:15 Dunsdon & Culm Grasslands~~
~~https://www.devonwildlifetrust.org/nature-reserves/dunsdon~~
~~19th Support your Local Park Venue TBN~~

~~May 6th Meeting AGM~~

~~June 3rd Meeting WWBOTA Richard~~

~~June 7th POTA-Open Farm Sunday~~

~~July 1st Meeting Aerial Build~~
~~July 18th Support your Local Park Venue TBN~~
~~July 19th Support your Local Park Venue TBN~~

~~August 5th Meeting EGM MeshCore 2E0OCD~~

~~September 2nd Meeting First Aid Jason M7EYH~~
~~September 12th CHOTA 26 @ Chapel Schoolroom~~
~~September 26th Railways on the Air~~
~~September 27th Railways on the Air~~

~~October 7th Meeting Brickworks Rob~~
~~October 17th Support your Local Park Venue TBN~~
~~October 18th Support your Local Park Venue TBN~~
~~October 25th Rally~~

November 4th Meeting
Novenber 21st Saturday Workshop 10-13:00

NEW

December 2nd Meeting
December Workshop TBN

Nets

NEW

Tarka Net
Tuesdays 10-12:00 GB3DN
Net Control G3HRC

Elevenses Net
Mon/Wed/Fri 11-12:00 GB3DN
Net Control Mike G3PGA

Analogue Net
GB3DN 11:00-12:00 Sundays
Net Control Chris GØFJY (Bideford)

Top Band Net
Sundays 09:30-10:15
1.860Mhz LSB-32W PEP max

2m SSB Net
Sundays 10:30-11:00
Wednesday 20:00-21:00 144.260Mhz
Sun: approx 10:30 (follows top band net)

RSGB News
Sundays 9am 145.525Mhz
Jon G6ASK (Tiverton)

950 DMR Net
Repeaters ND/BU/FB/XM Slot 2
Tuesdays 20:00
Net Control Graham G1ZTJ

Local repeaters

North Devon Repeater Group

GB3DN VHF FM/C4FM Stibb Cross CTCSS tone 77hz Repeater TX 145.6375 RX 145.0375. Default connection Wires-X available. Default room: none

GB3ND UHF Holsworthy Beacon DMR Repeater TX 439.7375 RX 430.7375 colour code 1 Connection **Slot 1** local RF **Slot 2** SW Cluster Keeper G1BHM

GB3NX VHF FM Allstar Holsworthy Beacon CTCSS tone 77hz TX 145.7375 RX 144.1375. Connection SW AllStar network (SWAN). Wires-X

GB3XM UHF DMR Repeater Barnstaple TX 439.665 RX 430.6625 colour code 1 (low power)

GB7FB UHF Bideford DMR Repeater TX 439.475 RX 430.4750 Colour code 5 Connection **Slot 1** local RF **Slot 2** SW Cluster Keeper Drew MØMFS

GB7BU UHF Bude DMR Repeater TX 439.6250 RX 430.6250 Connection colour code 1 Connection **Slot 1** local RF **Slot 2** SW Cluster Keeper G1BHM

GB3BU UHF Bude AllStar FM Repeater TX 430.9625 RX 438.5625 CTCSS 77hz Connection SW AllStar network (SWAN) Keeper G1BHM

GB3DN Donation

Updates omissions and additions to g3bbb@bosten.co.uk

Contacts

President
Don Roomes GØRQL

Chairman
Alastair G7HLB

Vice Chairman
Dave MØUDB

Secretary
Ken G5NOW
secretary@mØomc.co.uk
kenny@g5now.co.uk

Treasurer
Jim G4WYJ
treasurer@mØomc.co.uk

Web and Publications
Ken G5NOW

General Enquiries
mØomc@mØomc.co.uk

Committee
Jason M6KPI
Jason M7EYH
Nigel M7FPH
Patrick MØSUP

Rally Coordinator
Nigel M7FPH

HARC website
http://www.mØomc.co.uk

The Holsworthy Amateur Radio Club is the principal club for North Devon and Cornwall with members from both counties.

The club meets on the first Wednesday of each month in the rural setting of Milton Damerel Old School Room in the Methodist Chapel, Milton Damerel North Devon.

The club participates in a number of outdoor events throughout the year and is responsible for the Holsworthy Radio Rallies.

The aim of the club is to promote all aspects of Amateur Radio.

Local repeaters are either owned or run by club members as is the DXcluster GB7HTL, LoRa iGates MB7UND MB7UDN G3HRC-10

Visitors are most welcome. There is no requirement to hold a licence, an interest in radio will suffice. A map to Milton Damerel Old School Room is on the back page.

Cheap 3D printed 40m Loading coil

I didn't take any radio gear on a recent short break to Dorset. I could see from the photographs of the converted barn it was going to be unsuitable for HF operation.



While sat in what must have previously been a pig pen aptly scoffing biscuits thoughts turned to what might be possible. I like to fly under the radar and avoid public scrutiny so maybe a discrete loaded vertical for 40m?

Most projects of this sort start with, 'what do I have already?' well, I have a SOTAbeams 7m tactical mini, some wire, a 3D printer and a loading coil calculator. The calculator suggested a coil with an inductance of between 9-10uh for a





There are a number sites that host 3D printer designs. These are uploaded by fellow enthusiasts. If you can think it, someone will have already designed one. Unsurprisingly there is a massive Amateur Radio library of 3D projects on these sites. Before designing anything yourself, check the library.

I settled on a design by Adam K6ARK. Adam is a well known QRP op and YouTuber. I have printed a number of Adam's designs and they are always exceptional. Adam's coil design was intended to add 40m to the now ubiquitous 5.6m telescopic stainless whip popular for 20metre POTA. Although I hadn't planned to use the whip I stuck with the whip dimensions and measured the coil with an inductance meter to make sure it was on spec. A reducer was needed for the M10 nut in the top of the coil (intended for the whip) to attach a wire element. I have since ordered a whip (£12) as they are so cheap and can now swap between the two.

Changes: I omitted the shorting link (to short the coil for 20m use) as the heat seated banana plugs proved uncooperative. I also changed the groundplane connection to a single Powerpole.

In reality, the stainless whip is heavy and unsuitable for use in anything other than a light breeze. The tactical mini and attached wire is far more robust and, in my opinion, better suited to UK conditions.

Performance is excellent for an aerial of its size.

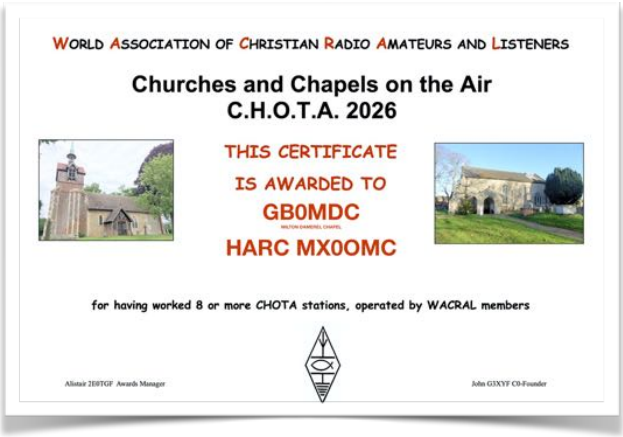
Total cost depends on the contents of your parts bin but as a guesstimate, IRO £6.00



73 de Rob G3BBB

CHOTA 26

WACRAL


WORLD ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN RADIO AMATEURS AND LISTENERS

Churches and Chapels on the Air
C.H.O.T.A. 2026

THIS CERTIFICATE
IS AWARDED TO
GB0MDC
HARC MX0OMC

for having worked 8 or more CHOTA stations, operated by WACRAL members

Alistair 2E0TGF Awards Manager — John G3XYF Co-Founder

The annual CHOTA event at the chapel on the 12th September.

The Chapel ladies provided support in the shape of bacon rolls in the morning and tea and cakes in the afternoon.
Weather was kind and the HF band conditions were reasonable

Total contacts: 47
Churches: 9

Furthest over all contact was 6161 miles





POTA ROADFORD



Jim, Richard, Alastair, Nigel and Basil activated Roadford Lakes POTA site. Band conditions were good POTA. Alastair reported the bands packed with POTA and JOTA stations.

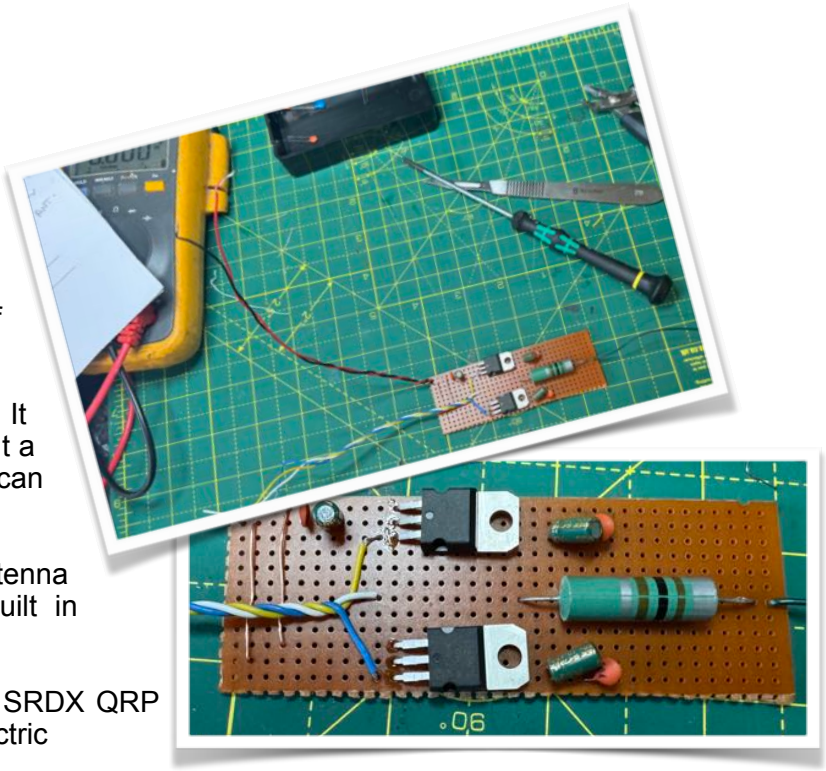




Atas 120A manual control

I blame Richard M0AOB !

He has an Yaesu ATAS 120A antenna on his car for mobile HF 80m to 70cm.



I liked the idea of a tuneable mobile HF solution so I didn't need to have a selection of Ampros for each band.

The ATAS is not cheap at £250 but I got one. It gets little used to be honest and I have even put a mount on the wifes greenhouse for it , just so I can make use of it for the 2nd HF rig.

The trouble with it is that its a Yaesu antenna controlled by “power over coax” from the built in drivers in many Yaesu rigs.

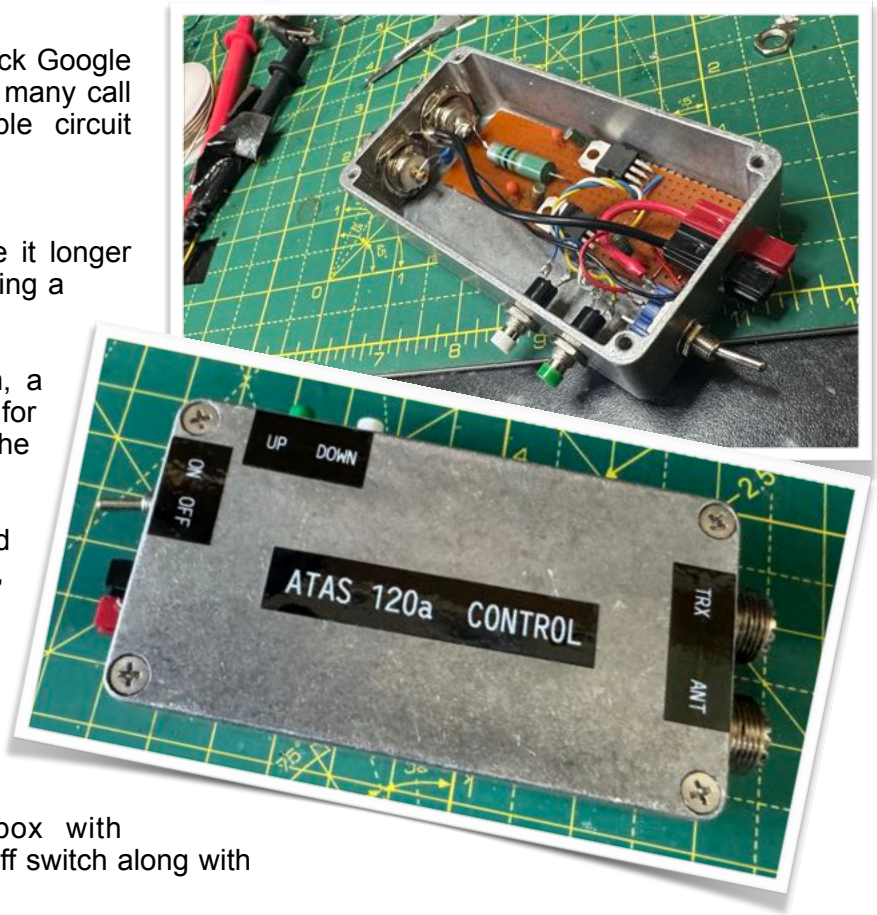
I wanted to be able to tune it for use with my SRDX QRP Rig and even (maybe) go mobile on my electric bike !!

So I need a manual tuner interface, quick Google search and of course its been done by many call signs before and a number of simple circuit diagrams are available.

I chose the one by JG1BVX.
The Atas needs about 12volts to make it longer and 8volts to make it shorter (by powering a corkscrew motor up and down a coil).

As you can see in the circuit diagram, a 7808 voltage regulator is switched in for the 8V and a 7812 is switched in for the 12V.

The selected output voltage is injected onto the feeder coax via a bias T circuit , the Choke blocks the AC (RF) from the TRX entering the regulator circuit , and a capacitor that blocks the DC that has been injected on the feed line from going back into the TRX.(only allows the DC to the Antena side.



I built the circuit into a project box with powerpoles for the 12v supply , an on off switch along with up and down buttons.

The two SO239 sockets allow for the unit to be left in circuit between the TRX and the Atas or between the analyser and the Atas when tuning between bands.

Nigel M9NGL

Holsworthy Autumn Rally

The stormy weather leading up to our autumn rally on the 25th October seemingly deterred both traders and visitors.

However, the day was a success largely due to Nigel M9NGL. Not sure if it was luck or skill but Nigel managed to play a blinder. Looking forward to the next Nigel rally.

















Every Tuesday 10am GB3DN. Net control G3HRC





First two meetings sponsored by Don GØRQL and Ken G5NOW

Still some discussion to be had. Hopefully, at the next meeting we will put together a plan for the day. For now, put it in your diary, it will be happening.

Saturday 21st November 10:00-13:00



QUICK START GUIDE TO CW POTA

one dit at a time

I thought it worth including for the CW curious. CW POTA QSO's are the most forgiving. They tend to be slower and designed for people learning on the air. If you make mistakes, who cares? If you use the memories on your radio, so what? As a hunter you just need to send the stuff highlighted in green.

The activators call and frequency will be on POTA.app but you never need to send it. If you can send and recognise your call, great! You will have to send a report (3 below) but just put it into your memory keyer. All that remains is dit dit. All done.

Remember, the activator will want you to succeed, they want the contact and will work with you.

If you want more info https://potacw.guide/



POTA CW Exchange Anatomy

Unlike formal contests, POTA has no rigid, mandated legal exchange, though a clean, predictable rhythm helps both activators and hunters move quickly.

The Activator's Call (CQ)

- `CQ CQ POTA DE G3BBB K`

"Calling anyone, this is POTA station G3BBB"

The Basic Exchange Flow

1. **Hunter sends their call:** `G0HFN`

   You respond with your call

2. **Activator replies:** `G0HFN TU ES GM / GA / GE -> UR RST 59N 599 BK`

   "G0HFN thank you and good morning you are RST 599 599 back to you"

3. **Hunter sends:** `BK RR TU ES GM / GA / GE -> UR 5NN 5NN BK`

   Break roger roger thank you and good morning you are 599 599 back to you

4. **Activator logs and wraps up:** `BK TU ES 73 DE G3BBB DIT DIT`

   Break thank you and best wishes this is G3BBB bye bye

5. **Hunter acknowledges:** `DIT DIT`

   bye bye

BRICKWORKS
Building on the Foundation

EXPERIENCE KNOWLEDGE CONFIDENCE UNDERSTANDING

Record of Achievement

Version 1.8 - released 01/10/2026

Member's name:		Callsign:		ENTER MEMBER'S NAME
		Current Award Level:	-	
Initial club:	HOLSWORTHY ARC	Date joined scheme:	03/08/2026	
Subsequent club:		Date moved:		
Subsequent club:		Date moved:		

ACTIVITIES TO BE COMPLETED (Notes in brackets)	DATE	CLUB
HAVING A GO		
HG1 Log 50 simplex phone contacts (1, 3) on the VHF/UHF bands using any mode.		
HG2 Log simplex contacts with stations in 3 of the 'home' countries (2).		
HG3 Log 50 simplex phone/CW contacts (1) on the HF bands.		
HG4 Log 50 simplex contacts (1) using digital data modes on any band.		
HG5 Log 10 simplex contacts (1) using image modes on any band.		
HG6 Log 10 contacts (1) using digital voice modes on any band.		
HG7 Log a contact through a satellite, or with the ISS.		
GETTING INVOLVED		
GI1 Activate an 'OTA' award entity.		
GI2 Log simplex contacts in 20 Worked All Britain (WAB) squares.		
GI3 Log 10 successful contacts during a contest.		
GI4 Help set-up/tear-down a special event/contest/club station.		
GI5 Operate/log 20 stations during a special event/club station.		
TAKING PART		
TP1 Attend six club meetings.		
TP2 Take part in your club's net on six separate occasions.		
TP3 Undertake a regular role within your club.		
TP4 Make a amateur radio related presentation to your club.		
TP5 Take part in a public service event.		
TP6 Help organise an activity for a club meeting.		
MAKING		
MK1 Build a physical piece of amateur-radio related equipment.		
MK2 Write an amateur radio related software app/website or run a YouTube Ch.		
PROMOTING AMATEUR RADIO		
PR1 Introduce someone to the hobby that starts a Foundation course.		
PR2 Attend a rally/exhibition to help promote your club.		
PR3 Help run an amateur radio training course.		
ACTIVITIES COMPLETED	0	

CERTIFICATES AWARDED	DATE	CLUB
Bronze (3 activities completed)		
Silver (5 activities completed)		
Gold (10 activities completed)		
Platinum (15 activities completed)		
Diamond (23 activities completed)		

NOTES

1. All contacts must be with unique stations - working the same station using different callsigns, and/or bands, and/or modes counts as one contact.
2. Home countries and allowable prefixes include England (G/M/2E/GX/MX), Scotland (GM/MM/2M/GS/MS), Wales (GW/MW/2W/GC/MC), Northern Ireland (GI/MI/2I/GN/MN), Isle of Man (GD/MD/2D), Jersey (GJ/MJ/2J/GH/MH) and Guernsey (GU/MU/2U/GP/MP). Special event callsigns (GB) do not qualify as their location cannot be easily verified.
3. Contacts can be simplex, or via a repeater, but not through a digital voice node, gateway, or repeater. These contacts are covered in activity HG6.

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I have received a small number of Amateur Radio themed hats and shirts to support the Brickworks initiative. I intend to award them with the Brickworks certificates as a small incentive.

Remember, you keep your own score.

Surely, some you have crossed that bar and are due a certificate?

Visitors Map



Meetings are held at 19:30 on the first Wednesday of each month in the Old School Room, Milton Damerel Methodist Chapel EX22 7DJ.

Simplex 145.550 - GB3DN - GB3ND DMR SWC

Location via What3words <<click copy/paste https://tinyurl.com/35k8xss7

From Bideford & Torrington – follow signs to Holsworthy on A388 to Stibb Cross, continue on A388, after the Woodford Bridge Hotel & Country Club follow A388 for about 2 miles to crossroads at Venn Green, take left turn (to Milton Damerel), follow road for about 1 mile, after sharp left-hand bend, the Methodist Church are on the right. Car park at rear.

From Holsworthy - follow signs to Bideford, for about 6 miles passing village sign 'Milton Damerel', at crossroads named Venn Green take right turn, follow road for about 1 mile, after sharp left-hand bend, the Methodist Church are on the right. Car park at rear.