

## **Hastings Electronics and Radio Club**

There's been a radio club in Hastings since the 1920s and the present club was founded in 1976 to promote interest in all aspects of electronics, including amateur radio. We've over 70 members, whose interests range from VLF to 1.3GHz ATV, QRP to DX, home-build to vintage restoration, digital modes, RAYNET and Foxhunts. The Club has reference books & magazines for loan to trainees and members, and an HF station with Yaesu transceiver, linear, tower and rotator with a Cushcraft tri-band beam.

The Club generally meets on the 4th. Wednesday of each month, most being held at the Taplin Centre, named after the late John Taplin, G3HRI, a white stick member. These are an opportunity to meet like-minded people for a friendly and informal evening to chat or get advice on a radio or electronics problem, see new technology or restoration of old equipment, enjoy a lecture or a practical demonstration by either a club member or a visiting speaker on radio, electronics, computer or other technical topic. Our June meeting is a Field Day & BBQ, usually held in the Hastings Country Park at Fairlight and last year included a fabulous kite aerial demonstration by Roger, G4ROJ. Last year we also introduced an Away-day in August, going to Bletchley Park and this year we're visiting the BVWS radio & TV museum in Dulwich. On the 3rd Saturday each April & October we hold our renowned Auction of used and surplus equipment at the Holy Redeemer Church Hall. We also run an auction there in February for the Hastings Repeater Group to raise funds for GB3ES & GB3HE.

With several members who have undergone the Train-the-Trainer course, the Club can provide training for all 3 levels of amateur radio licence, almost on demand. One of our tutors, a member of the Advanced Distance Learning team that won the 2012 Kenwood Trophy, is now also running DL courses for the Intermediate Licence exam. Since the Club facilitated a week-long visit of GB4FUN to local schools, 35 people have passed the Foundation exam, 22 the Intermediate & 6 the Advanced. We've set up demonstration stations at school technology days & community fêtes, and helped local Scouts & Brownies to get their Communicator Badges. With the Centenary this year of Alan Turing, inventor of Colossus - the first programmable computer, the Club have been invited to put on a public display to illustrate the wireless intercept service & Enigma code breaking.

Full details of our programme & licence training are on our website, [www.radioclubs.net/HERC](http://www.radioclubs.net/HERC) - there really is something for everyone. If you'd like to get more from Amateur Radio, why not join our Club? Current membership is only £12 a year, with concessions for students & families and a £2 discount for receiving our monthly magazine, Vital Spark, by email as a PDF - fantastic value. Just come along to one of our meetings where you'll be made most welcome, or email us at [G6HHherc@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:G6HHherc@yahoo.co.uk).