

G3ZME G6ZME News Letter TDARS

Issue 323

Nov. 2025 to Jan. 2026

NOTE CHANGES ANNOUNCED VIA TDARS 'GROUPS.IO/WHATSAPP'

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|---------|--|
| Nov. 5 | Committee Meeting & Hamfest 7.30pm (Webex) + 2m ragchew 7:30pm |
| Nov. 12 | TDARS Meeting - Hamfest Debrief |
| Nov. 19 | Operator Participation Mark M0XIC |
| Nov. 26 | GQRP Talk by Martin Clarke M0HKG, GQRP Club secretary |
| | |
| Dec. 3 | Committee Meeting & Hamfest 7.30pm (Webex) + 2m ragchew 7:30pm |
| Dec. 10 | Winter Project ideas night |
| Dec. 17 | Mince pies and mulled wine, bring your own. |
| Dec. 24 | No meeting |
| Dec 31 | No meeting |
| | |
| Jan. 7 | Committee Meeting & Hamfest 7.30pm (Webex) + 2m ragchew 7:30pm |
| Jan. 14 | QSL cards by M0PNN |
| Jan. 21 | A talk on construction by Youtuber Nick M0NTV |
| Jan. 28 | Bowls evening |

TDARS meets at Little Wenlock Village Hall, Wednesdays 7:30pm for 8 start.
See <http://www.tdars.org.uk> or @telfordhams on Facebook
Join in the FM club net on 144.6^(+/- qrm) 8pm Sunday evenings



Telford and District Amateur Radio Society

Editorial

Telford Hamfest - a success!

It's a wrap! Once again TDAR's pulled together and made Telford Hamfest 2025 a success. For 2 years running we filled every job role with members new and old giving up their valuable time flying the flag for the club.

Despite concerns over the timing of the Newark Hamfest affecting turnout for our event, we were only slightly down on visitors.

Traders didn't disappoint and we were excited to see the return of Canny components and Lamco, not forgetting smaller traders who have returned year after year. Callum from DX Commander also returned and put up a an outside display featuring his new Venture antenna.



Hamfest is what makes TDAR's special and shows what a group of like minded Hams can achieve for the betterment of the Club. 73 Tony M0TZM vice chairman

Recent times at TDARS

Clubs go through testing times, we had an EGM and a new committee was overwhelmingly voted in. They are now responsible to take the club forward for members and plan the for future. The AGM is March 2026 and members are invited to stand to be voted upon at that evening's meeting.

TDARS Equipment loan system being developed.

Lily M1HPS is developing an online equipment booking system, it is being testing and will be available via the TDARS website. Details will be made available as soon as its complete. In the meantime contact TDARS curator Don M0TBQ for access to equipment.

Equipment sale 24th August

We had a large sale of equipment, there was so much there was little space to walk in the meeting room that evening. High value radios and all sorts of other gear we sold. The rest taken to the hamfest for sale. A very successful evening and members walked away smiling from some great bargains. It raised a large amount for the club and was efficiently accounted for by Lily shortly after the meeting ended. Also, a radio of Martyn G3UKV SK's was sold later on and to pass funds on to onto Maz, Martyn's xyl. Thanks to all involved.

How to access files for TDARS members on Groups.io

You may have signed up groups.io for TDARS and others and never realised there is a whole system and not just a 'reflector' group messages. Mick M1CKD has been creating folders for and uploading support files for contests, forums and general information.



- To access this is to go to: <https://groups.io/g/TDARS/messages>
- Log in with your groups.io ID and password and look on the left column for **Files** (click it)

October 2025 to March 2026 Committee (following Oct 29 EGM)

For committee contacts please go via secretary Graham G7LFM on secretary@tdars.org.uk

G0UFE - Simon Bird – Chairman
M0TZM - Tony Menzies – Vice Chairman
G7LMF - Graham Cowan – Secretary
M0PLA - Paul Athersmith – Treasurer
M0TBQ - Don Nicholls – Curator

M0XJA - John Alexander - Training
G0CER - Dave Harris - Newsletter, web & PR
2E0TRO - Martin Tromans – LWWH Liaison

Qtc: News & Information

Midlands Microwave Roundtable November 2025 Plus EME Day

This year the annual Midlands Microwave Roundtable will be held again at Eaton Manor, Church Stretton, Shropshire on Saturday 22nd of November. This is an annual event that brings together microwave operators from near and far and involves lectures, bring and buy stalls and just a general get together.



However, this year will be slightly different in that on Sunday the 23rd there will be a get together of

Moon bounce operators both VHF and microwaves. This meeting has come about after discussions on forums in the summer about the possibility of such an event. Due to various issues (lack of time, suitable venue etc) the organisers of the MMWT (G7ACD and G8AQA) have stepped in and made the Sunday available.

This meeting is intended to be a chance to meet up with other EME operators to discuss techniques, equipment, issues etc on an informal level. However, 2 presentations have been arranged so far the first being from the Flight Refuelling ARS on their EME microwave system. The second is from Peter G4URT which will be aimed at anyone contemplating having a go at 2m EME with an emphasis on those stations who do not have large antenna arrays.

Full details of the events including cost, venue details and programme can be found on the Eaton Manor website - <https://www.eatonmanor.co.uk/round-table-event-2025/>

TDARS Membership

A reminder that membership was due, please contact Paul M0PLA to pay and please, preference is for bank transfer - Paul will provide details Cost £30 annually (£25 non-earners)

TDARS Social media - a reminder

TDARS members can access **Whatsapp** for general chat and DX spotting. It is immediate especially when information needs to be spread quickly
[TDARS General is currently closed - will return soon]



<<<<<<< Look for **TDARS General & TDARS Spots & Alerts**
The club also uses Facebook look for **Telfordhams** >>>>>>>



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TDARS MEETINGS EVERY WEDNESDAY EVENING HELD NORMALLY AT LITTLE WENLOCK VILLAGE HALL WITH SOME ONLINE (Webex) STREAMING OF APPROPRIATE PRESENTATIONS: PLEASE CHECK FRONT PAGE LISTING FOR SPECIFIC DETAILS.

Please note: A current membership is required to borrow TDARS equipment. Please return borrowed equipment promptly

THE G3UKV UKAC AWARD In memory of Martyn Vincent G3UKV

This award is presented to the club member with the highest score in the UKAC competitions and is the combined total points achieved on the 2m & 70cm bands.

The Rules

- 1 This award is called the **G3UKV UKAC Award**
- 2 This competition runs between January and December each year.
- 3 This competition is for TDARS members only.
- 4 Only two bands can be used. 2m & 70cm.
- 5 Modes FM, SSB and CW.
- 6 Members can enter either the **OPEN, LOW POWER or RESTRICTED** power section.
See UKAC rules.
- 7 The winner will be the member with the highest number of points at the end of the year.
- 8 Members points will be taken from the results issued by the RSGB contest committee.
- 9 This award will be given to the winner at the AGM to hold for one year.



Join in with the online operating forum, Mick M1CKD

On the first Thursday evening of the month Mike M1CKD invites all club members for a discussion about operating procedures.

Each month has a theme and the discussion. While guided, follows a path of interest to those there at the time. If you have a question or a suggestion for the evening come along. Look out for information on next one from Mike.



Mike sends Webex links ready for next forum December 4th. 7:30pm for 8pm start
The question is—who is the missing one with a fishtank?

Thanks for Newsletter input this time:
Graham G7LFM, Lily M1HPS, John M0XJA, Mike M1CKD
Dave G0CER, Mark M0XIC

Deadline for next edition is 15 January 2026
Contact Dave G0CER on davekh@gmail.com to send contributions

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Members with new callsigns request

Ed. Note— I am unsure of new callsigns, apologies if I refer to the old one if you have recently changed yours, please let me know. davekh@gmail.com



Learn Tech Stuff Saturdays

Learn Tech Stuff is back in full swing, we meet up at Paul M0PLA's factory occasional Saturdays. Currently we are all building the Solder Smoke 40meter Direct Conversion Radio which is interesting because, it is modular, and uses no ICs.

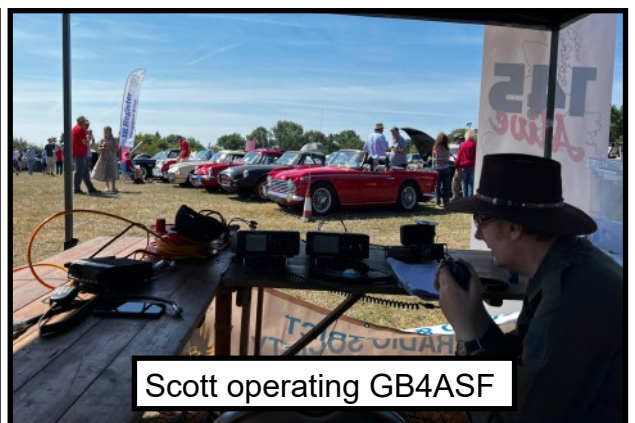
Each module Filter, Mixer, VCO and amplifier is just like you were shown in your Foundation exam etc giving the builder a real appreciation of, what otherwise, can be a rather dry subject. Join fellow members such as Denva, Andy, Dave (pictured) and others already enjoying learning and building projects. Contact John M0XJA (training manager) for information about next one.

TDARS promotional special event station GB4ASF at Acton Scott Farm

John Cariss G7ACD, John M0XJA, Neil M1GUN, Dave 2E0KGK & Scott M7WUK put on a HF/VHF station on August 17th at Acton Scott Farm.

The idea was to promote the hobby and especially TDARS. The group organised a special event call GB4ASF. (*Acton Scott Farm*). John Cariss kindly offered his 60 foot mast to help things along especially with the area being close to the Long Mynd and Wenlock Edge. The station was run as part of the Classic Vehicle Day held annually.

Apparently cranking the 60 foot tower up and down was rather 'interesting' on a boiling hot day!



Scott operating GB4ASF

145-Alive August, September and a special in October

145-Alive organised by members Mark M0XIC & John M0XJA

This has really taken off with around the country. It's run 5 times a year to get out and see who and where people can work, often high ground, home, mobile and elsewhere.

A special 145-Alive was run co-ordinated with RSGB Convention, where Mark and John were on air from CamHams van and worked 141 stations. Mark reported 719 unique calls were active then, previously 477 in September 145-Alive. Enthusiasm was very high there was even a pair who entered from an aircraft G-BPEO.

145-Alive Dates for next year

7 Feb, 18 April, 12 July, 13 September & 10 Oct. RSGB special event.



The next 145-Alive is Saturday 7th February 2026 from 12 noon to 3pm
if you wish to run a net contact Mark M0XIC or John M0XJA

Telford Hamfest 2025



Setting up the Hamfest

Members and friends of TDARS were on-site the day before setting up the tables, utilities also putting out road signs out to assist arrivals.

On the day

We were on-site 7am onwards for Traders arriving and were assisted in unloading of the vans and cars.

The club provides a free hot drink and some biscuits before the start to helpers and traders. This is always popular and a great way to start the Hamfest.

10:15 the event opened, the outdoor traders were already going and so began the day.



Hamfest during the day



Hamfest - over until next year

Telford Hamfest 2025 Great Rally, great location.

"A lovely rally and a credit to it's organisers. Lots to see and buy. There's an excellent eatery in the University Refectory with hot cooked meals, drinks or sandwiches available." (off Facebook)

@richardpowell723

A great rally. Was really nice to meet both of you. 73 Richard M0DSK (off Facebook)



We all helped traders pack away, tidied the sports hall to hand back to the University, signs were taken down and members went off to the nearby pub to celebrate another successful Hamfest. **Here's to 2026!**



Youtube videos featuring the Hamfest

G4NQX telford hamfest 2025 video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-gLFWJUYVAK>

WIFI-Sheep local channel

<https://youtu.be/S7Kx6B8Gil0?si=Ld4oWSIRPUgNmKLy>

Callum DX Commander 2025

"I survived another Hamfest"

<https://youtu.be/utcDzjADVS8?si=LotoH6H83UEmf6uh>

Older videos of Telford Hamfest

Damien 2E0EUI Hamfest 2022

<https://youtu.be/yZkHpz1Oe0o?si=Chgn5fTZi1tr3ylv>

Telford 2022 by AI 26TC101's world of radio

<https://youtu.be/gKDLzYZ9zIY?si=b1Uun0pB476u4UsJ>

Lee Marsh of Lamco commented on Lamco Whatsapp on the day.

"The rally organisers/ volunteers wheel everything in at Telford. Fifteen minutes in. We can drop the stand in half an hour and they wheel it all out and provide tea and biscuits all day." (Ed note: Not quite tea & biscuits **all day** but before opening.)

Jared HB9/M0YUK (M5JFJ) and his 3400m SOTA summiting!

The Mettelhorn, a fine summit that for me is the highest I have reached. In planning, I was torn between it and HB/VS-125 on the other side of the valley, Oberrothorn.

I decided that, after realising the lift that takes you most of the way to Oberrothorn is closed due to rockfall, I would go for a less activated summit! The weather was okay, the rain was forecast to get in at around midday and slowly increase, so I opted for an early start, getting off the Zermatt shuttle shortly after 6.

For the ascent, I opted for the more direct route of going up and around the Weisshorn, rather than going up the gorge to Trift. I think it saves about 1km. The hike up from Zermatt was hard work but I felt alright after porridge for breakfast. It was really peaceful and as I got higher up I passed the cliffs which the Schweifenen Via Ferrata goes across (I had done this the previous day, it was a lot of much fun). I was then greeted by a mostly cloud-free and a dumping of snow view of the Matterhorn.



I then carried on around the Weisshorn, I felt a bit weird on this path, it kicked off my vertigo slightly as although it wasn't very exposed, it was quite high up. This was quite short-lived as I reached a more calm climb which took me the rest of the way to the foot of the Platthorn. The glacier crossing was okay, I put on my crampons for them, and luckily after the heatwave it wasn't too difficult. From what I have read online the crevasse risk is not great, so many do not take a kit. However on reflection I would have felt a bit more at ease with an ice axe.

It was then a short, steep pull up to the summit, in which I was happy to reach, my first 3000m+ summit! I hastily set up, trying not to admire the view too much as my vertigo kicked in slightly and I felt slightly funny at altitude. The activation went great, despite the band conditions I swiftly got 10 in the log including a S2S, happy days! Not wanting to hang around, I set down, took my photos and headed back across the glacier, where I stopped for a well deserved sandwich.

Continued next page

I then decided to add in the Platthorn, not a SOTA summit but still worth going up after the effort of the climb up from Zermatt. It was a short, sharp climb which by the time I reached it I was in a cloud, and could not look at the Mettelhorn.

I then headed back down, feeling better the lower I got, opting for the longer route down via Trift and the gorge to Zermatt, where I had a celebratory coffee and dip in a stream! On the way down I saw some Valais sheep too, which was also a goal I wanted to reach on my visit! They are massive

Thanks to all those who called in, the bands were not brilliant but your efforts are thanked, it was a fantastic day out and will be one of the most memorable SOTA activations.
Cheers, Jared HB9/M0YUK [now M5JFJ]



“The Irish Affair” Thanks to Dave G8VZT (published CQ-TV 164)

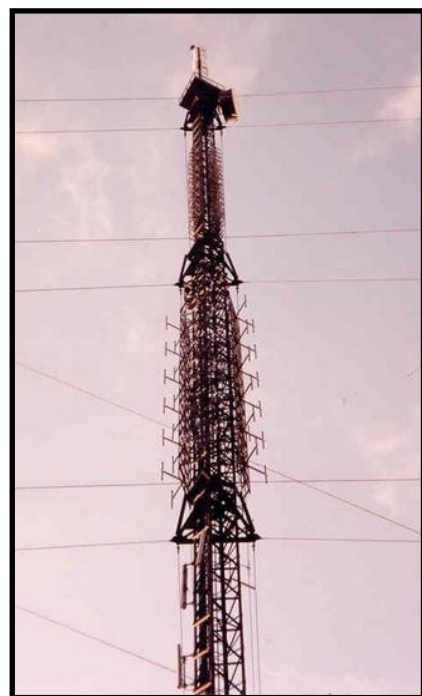
El expedition 22 to 27 July 1993 located on Hill top Kippure location IO73SG

Present where G8 VZT, G4ZJY, G3UKV, G8PAW, G7BWQ, 2E1AEC Kerry and Anita alias Fred.

The main reason for the expedition was to work the 3 cm narrow band cumulative session on 24/7/1993 and of course enjoy the local brew and surroundings.

We arrived on site (2470 foot ASL) on 22nd of July and had rain and rain and rain et cetera until we left on the morning of 27th of July. Total sunshine amount 24 to 5 hours. We operated on Saturday 24th in the low power contest on 2 m as EI/G8PAW. Sunday 25th of July was the 3cm narrowband contest some 14.5 contacts took place, the best DX being G3JVL on Hayling Island at 454 km.

“Enough of that, now down to more serious matters. Having got my 3cm ATV system finished in time for the expeditions thanks to the help and advice of Tony G4CBW. I took it with me. Having made a sked with Tony G4CBW and friend Tony GW4VEQ, they went portable to Anglesey. I transmitted first to them. Within seconds came the reply “P5, full colour”. He then proceeded to take off his dish and waggle the INB only at me, still taking a P5 picture. When Tony G4CBW transmitted to me I also went through the same procedure, with same results. The contact was GW4CBW/P to EI/G8VZT/P, with FM Television. The date was 22/7/93 and distance was 122Km. He had a 1 W transmitter and LNB receiver at each end is this the first between EI and GW?



**Well Dave, it's difficult to say technically this is not the first ATV contact between EI and GW but you may well find yourself the first person to claim the contact across the Irish sea! I shall return to this point but first let's take up your letter again.* [Ed. CQ-TV writes]*

Dave continues.

Also on 24/7/93 we made a 172 km contact between GW3FYX/P/ EI/G8VZT/P this considered DX on FMTV?

Continued next page

"The Irish Affair" Thanks to Dave G8VZT– continued

.. My thanks go to the department of transport energy and communications in Dublin for giving me permission to operate FSTV portable on 23cm and 3cm. Thanks also to EI television lads who visited us over the period and where everybody was on the cumulates evening of the 22nd? We were looking and listening but had no takers for EI/GW7ATG The only result was one contact on 3 cm.

A note by CQ-TV editor at the time.

This point which Dave makes important is because without special permission portable microwave ATV operation is illegal in the Irish republic and an illegal transmission could not be entered in the record books. That's why I say you're definitely not the 1st to span of the Irish sea, but you had a permit for that operation. You might be 1st to claim the path legitimately. I'll say no more about this except remind all operating abroad to check the license conditions enforce there.



Dave Hall G8VZT still 'fettling'

Sniffer aerial build evening

With local noise in and outside our homes being such a problem these days, for some it's killing use of HF. So it's well worth having some way to track it down and if possible, do some thing about it. Some things are beyond us. There are so many devices like cheap power supplies able to generate wide-band noise, these days, it's good to know there is advice (see links below)

Members met at the club room to build a small broken-loop antenna. It was made them out of a T piece 3 socket SO239, 2 PL259s and a length of coax cut in two. This could be mounted on the top of a short wave radio or portable rig (like an FT817/8) and detecting is done by walking around home and around outside to track down the cause. The loop is directional and peaking the noise should find the source.



Dave 2E0KGK

Importantly if you find noise and your not immediately able to fix it the items causing it (eg switch off / replace/ dump or if in a neighbours home or utility here are some links to refer to and possibly get advice and help:

RSGB sub-site 'my equipment is experiencing interference'

<https://rsgb.org/main/technical/emc/experiencing-emc-interference/>

UKQRM

<https://www.ukqrm.org.uk/your-story.php>

OFCOM

<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/make-a-complaint/complain-about-wireless-interference/interference-to-amateur-radio>

TDARS JOTA-JOTI weekend at Wellington Scouts



TDARS JOTA-JOTI weekend at Wellington Scouts

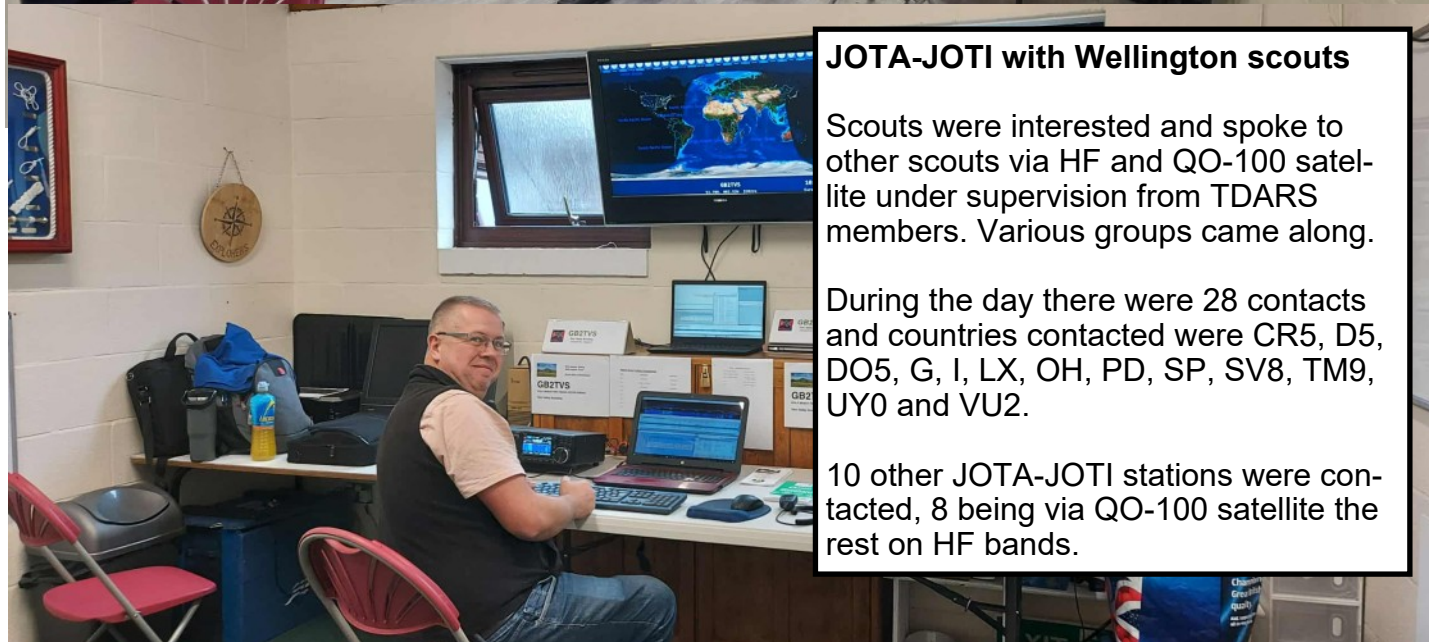


JOTA-JOTI with Wellington scouts

Scouts were interested and spoke to other scouts via HF and QO-100 satellite under supervision from TDARS members. Various groups came along.

During the day there were 28 contacts and countries contacted were CR5, D5, DO5, G, I, LX, OH, PD, SP, SV8, TM9, UY0 and VU2.

10 other JOTA-JOTI stations were contacted, 8 being via QO-100 satellite the rest on HF bands.



Q&K: Worthwhile Interruptions

Linux on your old PC? Part 1: why and what is it?

Windows 10 unsupported?

Install Linux on that spare or old pc.

Recent changes from Microsoft are making people worrying their Windows 10 PCs need replacing.

If you have replaced a pc and have a box sitting around or if your fed up of Microsoft's behaviour - Linux operating system is ready to keep you going, yes even amateur radio applications are there ready to use.

What is it?

It is an alternative to Windows & MacOS which runs your computer and has it's own applications that will keep you going—as always there maybe some applications that may not work or have an alternative. There's a way around that Linux can run software that pretends to be Windows and install your Windows application and run it.

There is a lot of radio software.

Naturally—with computers, even windows, backups must be made. Your data needs saving safely.

Where did Linux appear from?

It's not new, Finnish student Linus Torvald wrote his own operating system and called it Linux, instead of paying for an expensive Unix OS. In 1991 he offered his first version 0.1 on fledgling internet (via USENET) and invited developers all over the world to help create an operating system, they did and do, it's globally developed still.

Try before you 'buy'?

Firstly You do not 'buy' it. basically Linux is not sold—it's free, it's downloadable and instead of paying a corporation lots of money, thousands of people are globally developing varieties of Linux, creating, fixing, updating and inventing capabilities—then put it online for download.

Functionally you can download it, create a pendrive, DVD or memory card to boot your computer from and run Linux from it - you can test it to see if it works how you like, then install it. If not— take out the boot disc, reboot and your computer is back to what you had before.

Free—how!

The Linux community take pride in developing, fixing software and handing it out. It is licenced to you as 'Open Source' This means—if you change, improve or develop it or include it in your software you have to include the original open source licence and one of your own for your changes. Then make it available to improve the community.

Still, how do they make money?

Corporations, companies and individuals make a living by offering additional support and development services around - you pay them their time.

You already have linux!

GPSs, Android Phones, netbooks and many more are Linux or built on it.
Most database servers use are Linux

Interested? Next time I'll go through how you can have Linux on your Computer keep using an up to date OS for useful everyday things.

Don't forget that friendly bunch of rebels [Shropshire Linux Users Group](#) existed since the year 2000, find them on the web and amongst us!

SLUG

Shropshire Linux User Group

