

All of the regular Acorns monthly activities will continue as normal see Website for dates and times:

- Weekly Friday Net on 2m FM
- Monthly Net on 2m SSB
- Twice weekly CW practice via Zoom
- Monthly SSTV net
- Monthly meeting via Zoom, often with guest speaker.

The Plan for 2022

There was a special club meeting on Thursday 27th January to make plans for 2022. There was a lot of enthusiasm for a variety of events. Listed below are some specific events that were discussed. These are mostly at a **provisional stage** as it all depends on confirming arrangements. For those who are new to Acorns, we went into some detail of what the event entails to encourage you to attend.

Social Meet at Lakeside

If you are on the Acorns Mailing List (which you must be to receive this newsletter) then you will have received an invite (17:30 on 29/01) to an informal social gathering. This is to make up for the lack of physical meetings due to COVID. We discussed various options, and came up with a "coffee and chat" at Lakeside Food Court on a Tue 15th Feb as being the best bet. Please reply to Nick by 1st Feb to confirm interest.

19th March: 2m Activity Afternoon

Use it or lose it. A recent edition of RADCOM reminded us of that the 2m Amateur band came under threat recently. On 19th March, Acorns are leading the way with an Activity Afternoon to encourage everyone to get on the air to test their rigs, their antennas, try out different modes (FM, SSB and CW) and get comfortable with transmitting. Ideal for everyone, especially M6's and M7's as there is a guarantee of someone to answer.

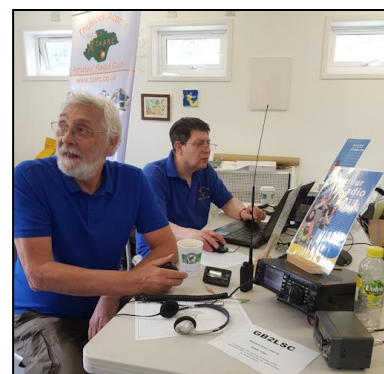


16th April: All Bands

This is the World Amateur Radio Day, so there will be lots of people on air, and Acorns is looking at setting up a station at the Essex Wildlife Trust in Mucking (Stanford-le-Hope SS17 0RN). In the past, we have operated both HF and VHF with an information stall inside the main building to explain to visitors what Amateur Radio is all about. Ideal location, next to the Thames, with easy parking and a cafe.

2nd-5th June: Jubilee Activity

The Queen's Jubilee will be an extended four-day weekend. Many activities are planned around the country and Amateur Radio buffs will be seeking a special event call sign. We are not sure yet whether the COVID dispensation to operation a Special Event Call Sign from home will still apply (normally they must be where the public have access) – but either way Acorns will set up somewhere over the holiday so that our members can be on air. One option under consideration is to revisit the family-friendly Lighthouse Cafe at Grays Beach.



25th June. Horndon on the Hill Feast and Fayre

In previous years we have set up in the churchyard but it's a little out the way and so the thought is to re-locate with a stand in main thoroughfare. The emphasis will shift from solo operating to public-relations. So, if you want to encourage new members into the hobby then this event will be for exactly that purpose. We will use mostly FM so that visitors can have-a-go (to call a club member hidden a short distance away), a Morse Oscillator with certificate and Oscar 2E1HWE has kindly said we can use MB7ISX for international contacts.