



At the January club night (15th) we were pleased to welcome **Gwyn G4FKH** who created the website that gives HF predictions: www.predtest.uk. He is also the author of the monthly predictions published in RadCom (photo). This was quite a treat for the club to meet someone who is an acknowledged specialist on their subject and his easy going style made it easy to ask questions. Check out the website as it doesn't require any manual inputting of technical information; but it does give easy to follow graphs and maps predicting HF propagation.

Club Chair, **Paul G4MFM**, will be standing down at the AGM in March. However, he will remain an active member with the role of Health and Safety Officer. "*The club has a busy agenda for 2019 and we have a duty to keep our members and the public safe*", said Paul. There will be a revision of the Risk Assessments that will apply to all our meetings whether they are inside or outside. The arrangements for every event will need to be run past Paul to make sure we comply with our legal requirements and insurance.



Join the Net. Most members are within range of our regular 2m Net. This is a shop window for our club so the more members that join in, and the more interesting and relevant the topics, the better it will be. Did you know we have four nets! One of them, Monday at 19:30hrs on 144.180 is for CW. Don't know Morse Code? Not a problem. We are lucky to have RSGB assessor **Andy GOIBN** run classes every Thursday as part of EssexCW down the road in Danbury; and **Stella GOEKP** (who operates CW on behalf of the Imperial War Museum at HMS Belfast) has offered to do 1-2-1 slow Morse Code (QRS) over the air for Acorns' club members.

The second half of the January meeting concentrated on the plans for 2019. There's a lot going on. In addition to the traditional Essex Wildlife Event being arranged by **Peter M6RFW** there are a host of other events being lined up, including more Field Days, Construction and a Fox Hunt (Radio Direction Finding). The Committee will review opportunities presented by, for example, Horndon on the Hill, to make these public events more outward looking with fun engagement activities for visitors to draw them into amateur radio. For the radio buffs there will be the familiar 2m Activity Days using the club call sign. For dates of these events and a load of more club information visit the website: www.taarc.co.uk



Next Meeting: February 19th.

RSGB Official, and regular friend to Acorns, **Vic G6BHE**, has a presentation with the intriguing title: "*Not So Great Canal Journeys*".

Also, we hope to welcome **David M0MBD** the new Region 12 representative who is now our RSGB liaison.

Finally, **Dave M5ABP**, our club Secretary (and, incidentally also a regular on the club CW net) has the role "*Meeter and Greeter*". The club was pleased to welcome a potential new club member who came to check us out; so they picked a good meeting in view of the speaker and review of all our plans for the next 12 months. It would be really helpful and give the club a sense of identity if members could wear their Acorns Tops - especially for the visit of the RSGB reps next meeting.

