



On 26th February, members of Acorns visited the Amazon warehouse in Tilbury. An amazing tour! The caged area in the photo is to separate humans from the autonomous machines that roam the gigantic store distributing millions of items 24/7. Thanks to Nick G4HCK and Ian G4JMM for arranging it.

Date for your diary. This year's AGM on 19th March at 8pm will be particularly important so we need as many members to attend as possible. The format was circulated in an email on 19th February giving the required notice of official business. A look back at what we did and a look forward to what we can do.



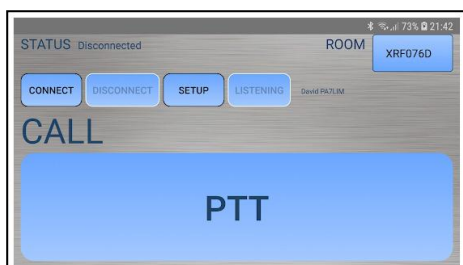
2m Activity Day is on Saturday 16th March. The date was fixed a long time ago and, as it turns out, not enough Acorns members are available to organise a group activity; but the intention is still to go ahead as individuals calling-in from home rather than at a single location. The club call sign can only be used from one location but we want as many people to participate as possible; so from 1pm to 5pm take the time to call CQ under your own call-sign but mention "Acorns" in your QSO. (Essex Ham are organising a group event - location to be confirmed - so if you attend then you could wear your Acorns Top).

Recently, while listening on 2m, Nick G4HCK, heard a voice he recognised: it was Ricky, M6DII, one of the first members to join Acorns. Ricky works in London with an early start so couldn't be a regular at our meetings. During their QSO Ricky said his passion for photography had grown and he was now fully involved with this hobby so amateur radio is put on the back burner for the moment. He had recently renewed his licence and still has a couple of 2m hand held transceivers so listen out for him.



At the club meeting on 19th February, Chair Paul G4MJM was pleased to welcome David M0MBD who has recently taken over as the RSGB representative for Acorns. David gave a brief overview of himself and his role within the RSGB. In particular he summarised the many developments taking place around the county and asked for feedback so that the views of members can be taking into account. The evening's presentation was by another RSGB representative, Vic G6BHE, who relayed his adventures of "Not So Great Canal Journeys" which made an entertaining diversion from the usual radio topics.

On 6th February club members were sent a link concerning the International Space Station and the opportunities to download SSTV. Paul G4MJM did exactly that using his collinear vertical, an old Yaesu FT290R, a homebrew interface and an old Windows 7 PC running "MMSSTV" - a free software programme. He submitted his downloads and received a Diploma as shown - cropped photo.



We know you can be connected to Echolink on your mobile; well now the same applies to Android for D-Star. The App "Peanut for Ham Amateurs" is available to download and connects to a Server which acts as a reflector giving access to DStar, Fusion and DMR. The screen shot (left) shows the simple to use interface.