

Making Place

Newsletter Number 1



This newsletter is to let you know about Making Place, a new facility we are setting up here at the ATC – an inspiring place for people to come and learn, share and collaborate on all things to do with making.

It is a place where people can meet and work on their projects, share tools, techniques, knowledge and time, pool resources and collaborate on bigger projects.

A place for engineers, amateur scientists, geeks, artists, tinkerers, innovators and idle dreamers; of arduinos, raspberry Pis, electronics, textiles, robotics, DIY, open source soft and hardware, computing, prototyping, film making, animation and other creative challenges and projects.

We have started with a cafe with open Internet access, energy efficient computers running open source software, and kits for basic electronics experimentation.

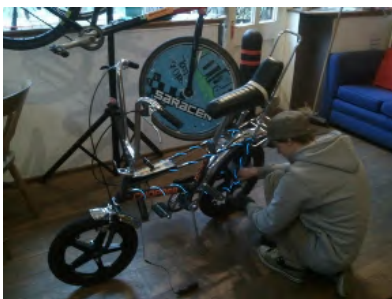
Because this is based at the ATC, the aim is to keep this as a low impact project, with low energy usage, recycling / repurposing and local suppliers where possible.

Recent workshops

Halloween workshop

Kids and grown ups alike had great fun at our Halloween workshop in October, learning how to light up masks with LEDs making soft circuits. Everyone made their own unique creations and the day was a great success.

Sparkle Your Bike workshop



In conjunction with the Valley of the Lights event recently, we held a very popular workshop for people to come and customize their bikes or outfits using LEDs or ELWire, which we now stock in the shop. It was great to help people bring their ideas to life, have a play with the EL wire and explore its possibilities.

Workshops coming up

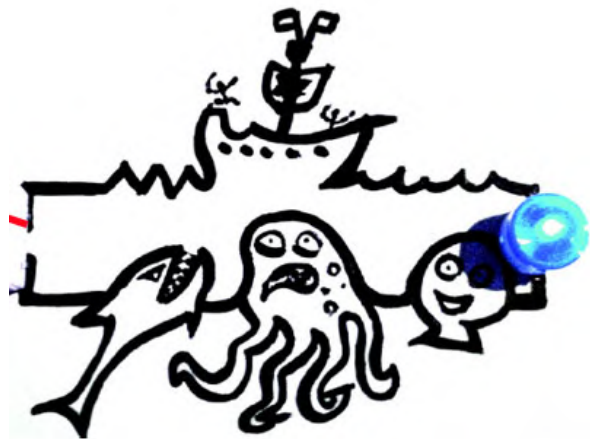
We will shortly be announcing the dates of the first workshops –

Making simple robots
Raspberry Pi club
How to sew a soft circuit
Starting from scratch with arduinos
Basic electronics
DIY renewable technology
Create you own simple automata

It would be great to know what you think and find out which workshops you might be interested in...perhaps there's a new skill you would really like to learn or share with other people....?

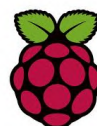
New products

This week in the ATC shop we began stocking conductive pens. These pens can be used to draw circuits on paper and card as well as for cold soldering of circuits.



We are also stocking electronic components, books on all aspects of Making, etextile sewing kits and conductive thread, Makey Makeys and much more.

We will have **Raspberry Pis** available in the shop from next week



Automata !

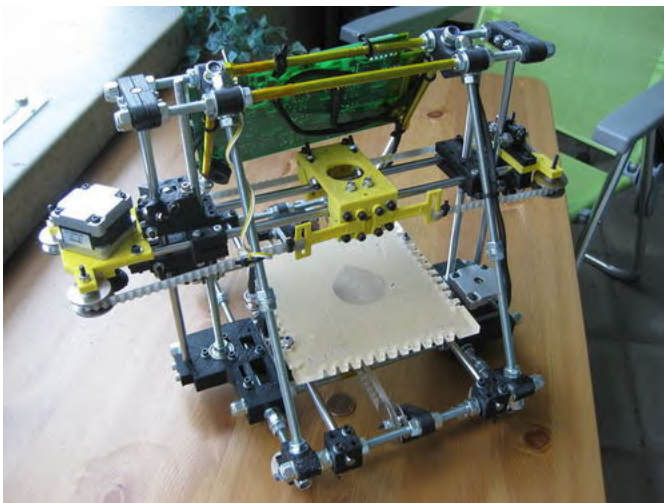
Last week, Sarah Alexander from Cabaret Mechanical Theatre visited show us some of their fantastic automata which we hope to have on show at our planned Making Place event in a few months. Check out their website and view their current exhibitions... www.cabaret.co.uk or their sister organisation Fire the Inventor, for which my favourite person [Tim Hunkin](http://www.firetheinventor.co.uk) is patron www.firetheinventor.co.uk



Stop press

We have been lucky enough to attract a small grant from Yorkshire Venture Philanthropy Fund – this will buy a 3D printer We are looking at the Reprap – the printer that can print itself!

We will have this on display at the centre and it



will be available for use.

You can see information on it at www.reprap.org

Touchscreen Gloves

Normal winter wear gloves leave you unable to use your touchscreen devices without having to go through the hassle of removing them and getting

Our conductive thread allows your gloves to work just like your fingers on the screens meaning no more freezing hands and clumsy texts.

This can be done for just £2.50 a finger or £10 a hand!



Minecraft



The other thing we have been working on is setting up a **Minecraft** server – based on the landscape here in the upper valley. It will enable us to create a virtual sustainable valley and will use real time data (e.g. for carbon emissions).

Minecraft is proving to be an excellent tool for enabling communities, especially young people, to feed into their neighbourhood plans: it has recently been picked up by the United Nations who are using it with 300 communities around the world in their [Block by Block](http://www.blockbyblock.org) project. If you would like to get involved in some way – get in touch with us.

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