



www.nkrs.info

Issue 135

Prepared by
D.R.J. Collings 71 Belmont Road, ERITH, KENT, DA8 1JY, UNITED KINGDOM
Telephone (44) 07941 796476 E-mail nkrs@crystaldave.com
Secretary Stephen Osborn G8JZT (secretary@nkrs.info)

NKRS Newsletter

Our next meeting **6th March 2018** will be at the usual location. The Pop In Parlour (Rendezvous), Graham Road, Bexleyheath. (Opposite Asda). Doors open at 20.00.

Date	Event
March 6	Natter Night
March 20	Introduce the Committee and Forum
April 3	Natter Night
April 17	Talk on Florida by Dave
May 1	Natter Night and Talk on Mobile Installation
May 15	Barometers by Stephen Osborn
June 5	Natter Night
June 19	Rig Talk by Ian
June 26	Summer DF Hunt Non club night
July 3	Natter Night
July 17	TBA
August 7	Natter Night /ILLW planning
August 18	ILLW (International lighthouses and lightships weekend)
August 21	Musical Appreciation Night
September 4	Natter Night
September 18	J39 Steam Engine refurbishment Stephen Osborn

Contents

- 1 Events Calender
Index
- 2 The last meeting
The next meeting
Tubes and more
- 3 BRATS Rainham rally
- 4 BRATS Rainham rally Contd.
The code breakers of Bletchley Park
- 5 A visit to the skygarden
- 6 Tandy (Radio Shack USA)
The final

The last Meeting was show us your shack night

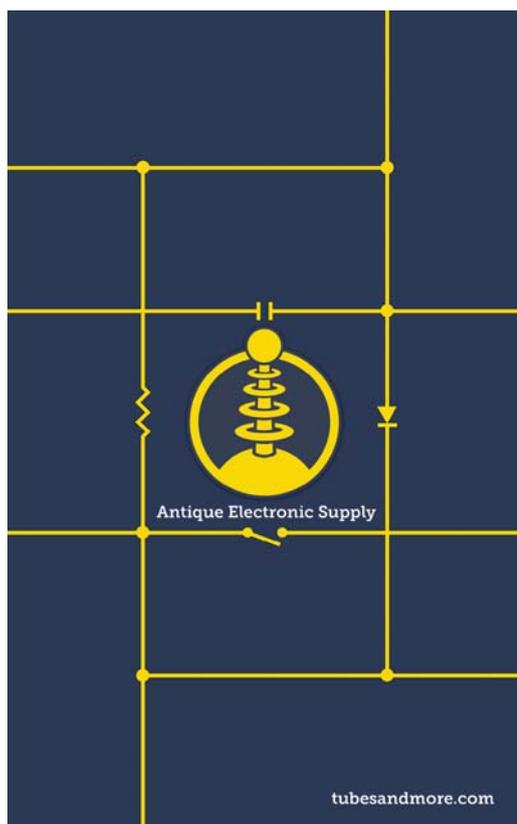
A number of members shared with us intimate details of their shack and workshops. The main surprise (to me anyway) was just how tidy many of them were.

Below is a photograph of my shack which was not one of the tidy ones.



The Next Meeting is a natter night with a possible station on the air.

Hopefully the weather will improve before then so we can have a good attendance. If it doesn't I can understand you wanting to stay at home.



Tubes and More

I know a number of you are actively engaged in the restoration of old radios and I thought I would draw your attention to a company called Antique Electronics Supply.

My attention was drawn to this organisation by my Florida friend Bryan Carling AF4K who is himself a restoration man mainly interested in "boat Anchors" with a strong interest in guitars

Antique Electronics Supply stock a large range of components, valves, valve radio coils, knobs (all sorts of shapes and colours) and much much more. They even have dial cord.

They also carry a large range of spares for guitars and amplifiers.

They may be a useful source of spares for your restoration project.

Check them out at <https://www.tubesandmore.com>

BRATS Rainham Rally 2018

The BRATS Rally took place today, Sunday the 25th of February 2018 in their new location (in Chatham) at The Victory Academy.



Reports on the new location speak of plenty of space and free parking (a bonus these days).

I initially was not going to attend then thought I might but when asked to do a removal job for one of my wife's clients that made my decision for me.

I understand the event was well attended generally and especially by NKRS members. I also see Keith Bird G4JED (our DRM) present in one of the photographs.

Many thanks to Peter Rawlinson and John Knight for the photographs.



Photograph by John Knight G8MWF



Photograph's by Peter Rawlinson M0PBR



Photograph by Peter Rawlinson M0PBR



Photograph by John Knight G8MWF



Photograph by Peter Rawlinson M0PBR

The code breakers of Bletchley Park

Michael Smith is the author of a number of histories of Bletchley Park, including "The Secrets of Station X" and he presented a talk at Bexleyheath Library outlining the important role that the code-breakers at Bletchley Park played in breaking enemy codes and ciphers during the Second World War.

Most of you know about Bletchley Park, Station X, which was the scene of one of the greatest Allied successes of WW2 and Michael's talk covered things that most of us (especially those involved in the Hall Place event) already new.

He covered the breaking of the Nazi Enigma ciphers the birth of the modern computer and names that we were familiar with like Alan Turing. What he did cover that I was not so familiar with was the origins and build up of the staff at the park.

In August 1939 around 100 people arrived at Bletchley and the staffing rapidly expanded and by the beginning of 1944 there were around 10,000 people from a wide range of backgrounds. Young women who had left school at 15 worked alongside senior academics and service officers with everyone treated as equals. The talk gave a good insight into life at at Bletchley Park.

One thing that was not mentioned was the existence of the "Y" station at Hall Place and Frank (G3WMM) spoke to him after the talk and he said he was aware of its existence. I also think that it would have been beneficial to the audience to show them a sample of enigma code.

In summary a good talk attended by a number of club members.

An example of Enigma coding

The first paragraph is in plain test and the second is encrypted using an Enigma simulatof

THE NORTH KENT RADIO SOCIETY MEET EVERY FIRST AND THIRD TUESDAY IN
BEXLEYHEATH X

OPCS ATHV SCEE ITPK ZNEI GPEK YZXG XFUJ AVWI EWHA INAA HYAV AXXX SOHO CIPQ
GQPI ZEPF

A visit to the Skygarden

I have been wanting to visit the Skygarden for some time but have been unable to get a booking. When my daughter told me that she had booked a table at the Fenchurch restaurant in the garden I was very pleased to be going at last as I had heard the views are spectacular.

The sky garden is at the top of 20 Fenchurch Street which is a commercial skyscraper in London and it has been nicknamed 'The Walkie-Talkie' because of its distinctive shape. The 34-storey building is 160 m (525 ft) tall, making it the sixth-tallest building in the City of London and the 12th tallest in London.

The Sky Garden is a unique public space that spans the top three storeys and offers 360 degree uninterrupted views across the City of London. You can wander around the landscaped gardens, observation decks and an open air terrace of what is London's highest public garden. Unfortunately the open air terrace was closed due to weather conditions.

We visited the garden in the middle of the current spell of bad weather when the trains were on what was described as a snow timetable (one up from no timetable). Walking through the city with flurries of snow blowing round our ears was an interesting experience as was the extremely cold wind tunnel effect of walking down the side of the building.

We had an excellent meal with some spectacular views and I look forward to visiting the garden again in daylight on a nice sunny day.



Above and below Left views from the garden
Above Right the "walkie Talkie" building taken from the terrace of the Tait Moderne on a cold wet grey day in pouring rain
Below Left M6YIB and boyfriend in the atrium



Radio Shack



tandy LEATHER

Tandy Corporation



You may remember that I wrote a few issues ago about the demise of the Radio Shack shops in the USA which were owned by the Tandy Corporation.

The Tandy Corporation traded in the UK as Tandy because they could not obtain the name Radio Shack and I mentioned that Tandy Leather began as a family-owned leather goods company based in Fort Worth, Texas in 1919.

Here is one of their shops in Winter Park Florida (a very pleasant suburb of Orlando) still trading in their original materials Leather and accessories.

They never really made it here and now it sadly looks like Maplin Electronics are going to go the same way.

Above is a photograph of their premises

The final

I hope that you are all surviving the adverse weather.

I have had to do more driving than I would like to have done but found the conditions better than I expected in many places.

Tomorrow (3rd March 2018) I am off to France for the weekend I just hope that the roads are ok on Saturday morning for me to get to Folkestone to catch the Eurotunnel.

Below is a photograph to remind you that warm sunny days exists and it is taken at Astor Florida on a hot afternoon



Keep warm that's all there is for this issue,

Best regards

Dave G4YIB