



<http://www.nkrs.org.uk/>

Issue 175

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# NKRS Newsletter

Our next meeting 17th March 2020 will be at .  
**The Hurst Community Centre, Room 15, Hurst Place, Bexley, Kent, DA5 3LH**  
Doors open at 8PM

Date	Event
17 March 2020	Icom R8600 by Robin M0RJT
7 April 2020	Natter Night
21 April 2020	Andy from SDRPLAY more information to follow
5 May 2020	Natter Night
19 May 2020	John Knight, Flying
2 June 2020	Natter Night
16 June 2020	East Anglia military airfields by Ian G7PHD
7 July 2020	Natter Night
21 July 2020	Testing Batteries by Marion Osbourne

## Please Read The Important Information on Page 2

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# Corona Virus

## An important message for all those intending to come to the NKRS meeting on Tuesday.

"We are facing an unprecedented public health threat,"

A quote from Dr Nancy Messonnier, the director for the National Centre for Immunisation and Respiratory Diseases,

In view of the current threat the committee have decided to implement the following from the next meeting.

- 1 The club will supply anti bacterial soap and paper towels and all members arriving will be required to wash their hands. (we do have facilities for this a little way away from the meeting place).
- 2 Coffee and tea will be supplied in disposable cups with disposable plastic spoons .
- 3 No biscuits will be served due to the risk of cross contamination.
- 4 If you are showing any symptoms please do not attend.

For the latest information about COVID-19, please visit [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)

Banknotes may be spreading the new coronavirus so people should try to use contactless payments instead, the World Health Organisation has said.

UN agency has warned that those handling banknotes should wash their hands after touching banknotes because infectious Covid-19 may cling to the surface for a number of days,

To prevent the spread of the disease, people should use contactless technology where possible, a spokesman added.

The Bank of England acknowledged that banknotes "can carry bacteria or viruses" and urged people to regularly wash their hands.



**The Next Meeting** is a talk by our own Robin Gilbert M0RJT on the Icom R8600.

Below are the brief specifications, the full ones being too long for this newsletter but they can be found at

<https://www.icomamerica.com/en/products/amateur/receivers/r8600/specifications.aspx>

And no doubt plenty of other places.

I am sure Robin will be telling us about the great thing about this equipment and perhaps some bad things but please try to attend to give him your support.

### General

Frequency coverage	0.010000–821.999999*, 851.000000–866.999999, 896.000000–3000.000000 MHz *Guaranteed range: 0.100000–821.999999 MHz
Frequency stability	Less than $\pm 0.5$ ppm (at 25°C after warm up)
Mode	USB, LSB, CW, FSK, AM, FM, WFM, Digital (D-STAR, P25 Phase 1, NXDN, dPMR, DCR)
Number of channels	2000 regular with 100 groups, 200 auto memory write, 100 skip and 100 scan edge channels
Scan types	Programmed, memory, selected memory, selected mode, auto memory write, priority scan and $\Delta f$ scan
Frequency resolution	1 Hz

### Receiver

Receiver system	Direct sampling
0.010–29.999 MHz	Double superheterodyne (IF: 778.7, 46.35 MHz)
30.000–499.999 MHz	Double superheterodyne (IF: 278.7, 46.35 MHz)
500.000–1099.999 MHz	Triple superheterodyne (IF: 900–500.000001, 278.7, 46.35 MHz)
1100.000–1499.999 MHz	Triple superheterodyne (IF: 1000–500, 278.7, 46.35 MHz)
1500.000–3000.000 MHz	Triple superheterodyne (IF: 1000–500, 278.7, 46.35 MHz)

Spurious and image rejection	(Analogue mode operation)
0.010–29.999 MHz	More than 70 dB
30.000–1099.999 MHz	More than 50 dB
0.010–29.999 MHz	More than 40 dB*3
30.000–1099.999 MHz	More than 40 dB*3
	*3 More than 35 dB for 1st IF through above 1100 MHz. More than 30 dB for 1st IF image above 2000 MHz.

Audio output power	More than 2.0 W (8 $\Omega$ load, 10% distortion)
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## Future Meeting

**On Tuesday 21st April** NKRS welcomes Andy Carpenter from SDRPlay who will give the club a talk on his company's range of blackbox SDR radios.

The company who designs and produces the radios in the UK currently offer three different products: the RSP1A, RSPdx and the RSPduo. Andy will tell us a bit about SDR radio in general and then about his products and give a demonstration of the radios they produce.

There will be an opportunity to buy one of the radios on the night should you wish as well as to ask him any questions you may have.

This table below gives you an idea about the capabilities of each machine. Prices range from just over £100 to just under £200.

Full details can be found at <https://www.sdrplay.com/>

**As we have a guest speaker for this meeting please put the date into your diaries and make every effort to attend so we give him a good audience for what will be an interesting presentation.**

### SDRplay RSP Comparison Chart

Key specifications and highlights	RSP1A	RSPdx	RSPduo
Continuous coverage from 1kHz to 2GHz	✓	✓	✓
Up to 10MHz visible bandwidth	✓	✓	✓
14-bit ADC silicon technology plus multiple high-performance input filters	✓	✓	✓
Software selectable AM/FM & DAB broadcast band notch filters	✓	✓	✓
4.7V Bias-T for powering external remote antenna amplifier	✓	✓	✓
Powers over the USB cable with a simple type B socket	✓	✓	✓
50Ω SMA antenna input(s) for 1kHz to 2GHz operation (software)	1	2	2
Additional software selectable Hi-Z input for up to 30MHz operation			✓
Additional software selectable 50Ω BNC input for up to 200MHz operation		✓	
Additional LF/VLF filter for below 500kHz		✓	
24MHz Reference clock input (+ output on RSPduo)		✓	✓
Dual tuners enabling reception on 2 totally independent 2MHz ranges			✓
Dual tuners enabling diversity reception using SDRuno			✓
Robust and strong plastic case (with internal RF shielding layer)	✓		
Rugged black painted steel case		✓	✓
Overall performance below 2MHz for MW and LF	Good	Best	Good
Multiple simultaneous applications	Good	Good	Best
Performance in challenging fading conditions (*using diversity tuning )	Good	Good	Best*

Jan 2020

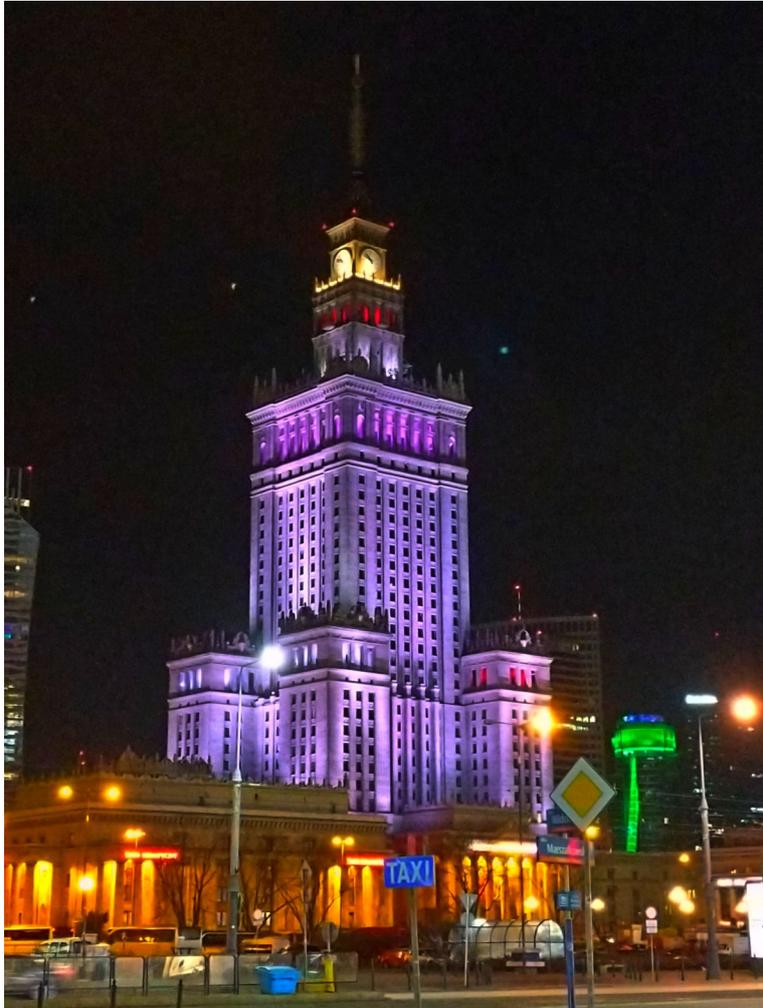
## Poland (well Warsaw)

When my daughter suggested going to Poland for my birthday I thought it was a great idea.

My only previous visit to the country had been a short visit on the Baltic Coast region by the border with Germany after I had visited Peenemuende.

After a not too long flight we arrived to find the weather better than expected as sleet and rain had been predicted.

We were very pleased to find that the town of Warsaw is very well served with excellent and cheap restaurants so we started the visit with an excellent meal and spent the next couple of days exploring the city. In future newsletters I may write more about parts of the city but time and other matters does not permit me to do so here,



### Palace of Culture and Science Building

Is that ugly building still there? a friend asked when I told him of my visit to Warsaw. My reply was "I guess you mean the Palace of Culture and Science which I think is very attractive". You can make your own decisions on that from the photographs above.

Warsaw's Palace of Culture and Science is still rather unpopular among Poles. It was a gift from the Russian people in the 50's and for many people it remains a symbol of almost 45 years of Russian suppression after World War II.

Hopefully plans to tear down the building will not materialise although this is discussed from time to time.

The building is rather impressive with its height of 237 metres it is the tallest building in Poland, the 5th-tallest building in the European Union and one of the tallest on the European continent. Constructed in 1955, it houses various public and cultural institutions such as cinemas, theatres, libraries, sports clubs, university faculties and authorities of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

Since 2007 it has been listed in the Registry of Objects of Cultural heritage.

It is interesting to note that it only took 3 years from April 1952 until 1955 to build these 3288 rooms.

## The Ice Bar

When my wife and I were offered the opportunity to visit the Ice bar we thought it was an excellent idea and booked a slot.

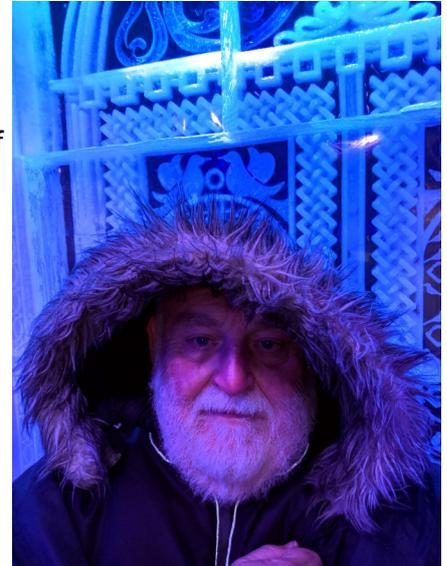
The bar is located just off of Regent Street where you enter into what I would consider to be a fairly normal cocktail lounge where you consume some cocktails (no surprise there).

After a while you go to a specified place where you are issued with some warm clothing complete with gloves, you enter into the ice bar (temperature around  $-5^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) and consume more cocktails' but this time in glasses made of ice.

The bar area is well decorated with some ice sculptures and loud (but not unpleasant) music and they do not encourage you to be there for more than 30 minutes. The don't want customers with frostbite and bits falling off.

On leaving the bar we were escorted down into the basement restaurant area where we were fed an excellent meal described as Japanese Asian fusion. It was comprised of 10 dishes (luckily not too large) of delicacies such as crispy pigs ears (really nice) and other things and of course more cocktails.

A grand evening to be recommended if you want to do something different.



## The river Crane and the Shot Tower.

The River Crane, is a tributary of the River Thames running through west London, The Crane flows through three London boroughs: Hillingdon, Hounslow and Richmond upon Thames.

We walked the Crane River walk which roughly extends from Twickenham to Feltham but we missed bits either end.

The walk is rich in wildlife (although we did not see too much,) has varied landscapes of meadow, heathland, woodland , scrub and **MUD**.

One of the interesting things we found was the Shot Tower.

This was part of Hounslow Gunpowder works and was one of the significant industries that used to be along the river. The powder mill in what is now Crane Park, was established between 1766 and 1768. This first mill started life as a corn mill and was converted to the manufacture of gunpowder.

The only significant remaining part of the works is the Shot Tower built in 1823. When we arrived the door was open so being curious we went inside for a look. The custodian informed us that it was not open but after chatting with us and finding that we were not locals likely to pass that way again she allowed us to climb to the top which nearly killed us but luckily there were some seats there that gave us a place to recover.

If you are in the area, which is not too far from the Winning Post of VHF Convention fame (if you go back as far as I do) then it is worth a visit but check opening times.

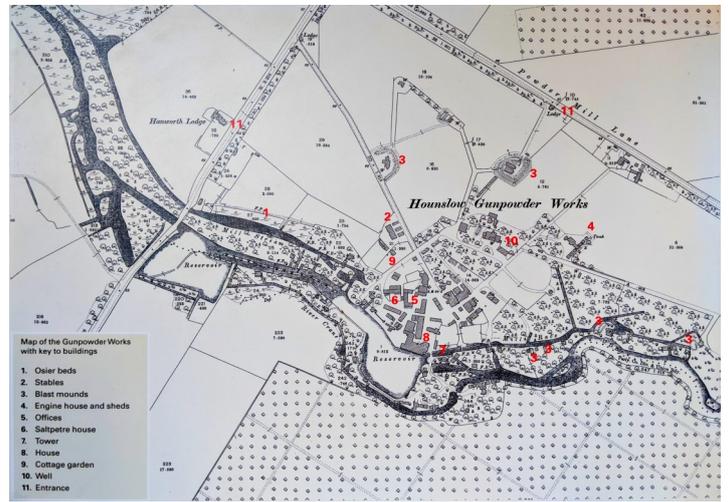


Above  
Inside the top of the tower

Below  
One of the decorative carved wood seats to be found along the Crane Walk



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The tower and the surrounding area are administered by the London Wildlife Trust.

<https://www.wildlondon.org.uk/nature-reserves/crane-park-island>



## Beware Of Scams

Cybercriminals are hard at work exploiting our natural anxiety about the evolving coronavirus situation. Look out for suspicious email and text messages that may impersonate a company, charity, or government agency. The intent is to convince you to share sensitive information. Remember, Banks and HMRC ( amongst other reputable associations )will never reach out to you, via phone or email, and ask for confidential information such as your name, password, personal identification number (PIN) or other account information.

For the latest information about COVID-19, please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/> or your local health department website.

## Silent Keys

Received from Robin M0EJT

I have just receive a text from Lesley Kemp, Colin Kemp's wife. Colin died on 1st Feb 2020 I already new he was terminally ill, I realise he was not a member but he did call in on many occasions to our Net and visit the club on a couple of meetings, Could we make an announcement in next news letter just informing members of his sad death. I have promised Lesley that I would inform fellow hams, as I new Colin quite well he and Lesley visited us at home on a Sunday about 6weeks before he died. I am going to contact RSGB even though he was not a member to see if they will record it in Rad Com.

I Have just texted Lesley to see if any one has informed Ofcom with reference to his license.

73s

Robin M0RJT

And from Chris Whitmarsh G0FDZ sent on 8th March :

Dear Members

It is my sad duty to report that Cliff G4HSU passed away at Queen Elizabeth Hospital Woolwich earlier this evening. Colin G3SPJ

## Friday 27th March 2020 is Wear A Hat Day 2020

Wear A Hat Day is the UK's biggest brain tumour research fundraising event. Every year, thousands of people across the UK don their favourite headgear and take part in hat-themed events in their local communities.

<https://www.braintumourresearch.org/fundraise/wear-a-hat-day/at-home>



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**In the last newsletter I** included this poster seen in the East End and did not know what it was about.

I have received information that it is part of a campaign against female genital mutilation.

Persistence and Resistance of Harmful Traditional Practices (HTPs) Perpetuated against Girls in Africa and Asia.

More information can be found at

<https://pureportal.coventry.ac.uk/en/publications/persistence-and-resistance-of-harmful-traditional-practices-https->

Thanks to John Moor G8DOG for informing me of this



That's all for this issue which was due to have been the last for a while as I was going to Australia for a month.

This now seems very unlikely to happen.

**We are living in difficult times so stay safe.**

Dave Collings  
Chairman  
North Kent Radio Society