



Issue 186

# NKRS Newsletter

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Our next meeting will be if the world is declared safe. When and if it happens it will be at

The Hurst Community Centre, Room 15, Hurst Place, Bexley, Kent, DA5 3LH

## February March 2021 Events

February 2nd	Jitsi Meeting
February 16th	Jitsi Meeting with a debate about the BBC
March 2nd	Jitsi Meeting with a talk on Fort Hackenberg by G4YIB
March 16th	Jitsi Meeting with Steve G8JZT talking about his projects
March 30th	Jitsi Meeting

The start time will be 8PM and unless otherwise advised the link will be <https://meet.jit.si/stepheng8jztnkrs>

Please note that Jitsi Meetings are open to all not just members of the NKRS

## Electric and magnetic Field Strength calculator

From Steve Osborne G8JZT

This is a link I found which may be useful for getting a feel for the forthcoming requirements in our licences.

<https://www.rfwireless-world.com/calculators/Electric-and-magnetic-Field-Strength-calculator.html>

I do believe in practice we will need to take in to consideration other factors rather than just power out and antenna gain but for now the info here will provide some initial ground work.

Power is required in dBm. i.e; 0dBm = 1mW; 30dBm = 1W

## Club Net

The club net will now be taking place every Tuesday when we are not having digital meetings.

Start 8.30pm, call on 145.5 and then we move to a convenient clear channel. Please join us.

**PLEASE NOTE UNTIL MEETINGS RESUME I WILL ONLY PRODUCE THE NEWSLETTER MONTHLY**

## ARRL on the Purpose of Amateur Radio

I was interested to recently read a document by the ARRL with the above title.

Occasionally, when people find out about my interest I have my own way of expressing what it is about. Leaving aside the official version which (from memory) is something like “self training in the art of radio communication” I guess we all have our own ways of explaining it to the uninitiated. I was therefore interested to see the ARRL version.

“For over 100 years Amateur Radio and ARRL — the National Association for Amateur Radio® — have stood for the development of the science and art of communications, public service, and the enhancement of international goodwill. Amateur Radio’s long history and service to the public has solidified the well-earned reputation that “Amateur Radio saves lives.”

In the UK we are fortunate that we do not have the disasters that the USA have in terms of hurricanes, earthquakes etc so the public service aspect is not so prominent in our Amateur Radio culture but I thought that the ARRL’s summary was interesting.

We do occasionally discuss amongst ourselves whether it should be called Amateur Radio and I have seen articles in USA magazines discussing the same but I think the ARRL are comfortable with the term.

If you are interested in reading the full text of this (short) document the link is below.

<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-on-the-purpose-of-amateur-radio>

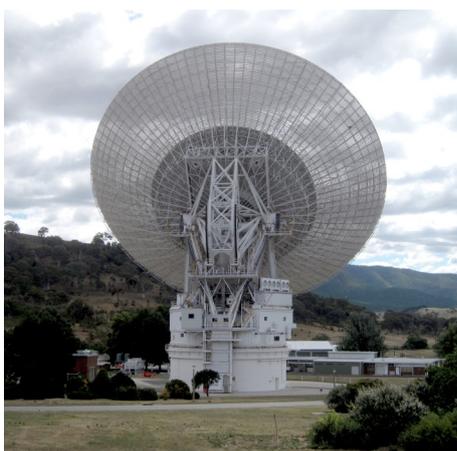
## Did Earth Receive a Radio Transmission From Proxima Centauri?

It has been written on a number of sites that a team of astronomers is working on analysing an unusual radio signal detected early in 2019 by the Parkes telescope, a 64-meter radio dish in eastern Australia. It appears that the signal has come from the direction of Proxima Centauri, the nearest star to our solar system, and its characteristics are more typical of an artificial broadcast than a natural radio source.

The Breakthrough Listen project, part of the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI), who detected this radio signal say they have yet to be able to explain what it is.

To the annoyance of many involved, news leaked while analysis is still ongoing, will most likely lead to erroneous conclusions. Those studying the data stress the chance of this being the output of an alien civilization is very low, but isn't zero.

There could be a straightforward explanation of the signal which was received on 982 MHz but maybe it is an alien organisation trying to contact us to pass on knowledge of a cure for Covid.



## QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo

I received two emails from Brad Grob regarding the QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo and below is **part** of the text from the second one.

I must start by saying I do not know Brad or have any previous knowledge of the event that he is advising me about but I have included it in the newsletter because it “appears” authentic and may be of interest to some of you.

**If you are interested email me and I will forward the two emails that I have from Brad but be aware that if paying any money be clear where that money is going.**

**I am not saying this is a scam, if I thought it was I would not publish it but equally I am not in a position to confirm its legitimacy.**

**Be Aware they are out there to get you.**



From: Brad Grob <brad@qsotodayhamexpo.com>  
Subject: QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo Brings the World of AMSAT to You

Hi DRJ,

I'm reaching out to you to provide an important update about the QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo taking place on March 13-14, 2021. Below this email is a short document that you can share with your audience at your organization. We would love to have your readers and listeners participate in our upcoming event and would very much appreciate your help in sharing this with them. If I can answer any questions or provide additional information, please reach back out.

Thank you for your help with this!  
Warm regards,  
Brad

Brad Grob  
QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo  
Tel: +1-213-577-0092

### QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo January 21, 2021 Update

The March 13-14 2021 QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo is in full planning mode with many exciting new things underway for the upcoming event. In addition to the world-class line-up of 60+ speakers and workshops (for a complete list and early bird registration go to [www.qsotodayhamexpo.com](http://www.qsotodayhamexpo.com)), the Expo team is proud to announce an entire speaker track dedicated to the amazing world of AMSAT - the worldwide group of amateur radio operators who share an active interest in building, launching and then communicating with each other through non-commercial amateur radio satellites. To date, over 70 amateur radio satellites have been launched. At the Expo, there will be 9 sessions by AMSAT experts who will discuss everything you need to know about taking advantage of this satellite network. These include:

- Introduction to Amateur Radio Satellites (Douglas Quagliana, KA2UPW)
- Getting On the Air with Satellites (Bradford Clint, K6LCS)
- How to Enjoy Amateur Radio Contacts With the International Space Station (Frank Bauer, KA3H-DO)
- Implementation of LDPC Encoder on FPGA (Anshul Makkar)
- Debris Mitigation in Earth's Orbit (Anshul Makkar)
- Digital Multiplexing Transponder from the Open Research Institute (Michelle Thompson, W5NYV)
- Solving the ITAR and EAR Problem for the Amateur Radio Satellite Service (Michelle Thompson, W5NYV)
- Remote Labs for P4XT Engineering Development (Paul Williamson, KB5MU)

## Pete Martins Petition Re: the BBC response by Robin M0RJT

You will have read (I hope) newsletters 183 and 184 where you will have seen details of a petition instigated by Pete Martin G0GIR.

Below is a response to those entries that I have received from Robin M0RJT published as received in its entirety.

Peter Martins Petition for abolition of BBC TV Licence.

In North Kent Radio Society Newsletters No 183 dated 30<sup>th</sup> October and No 184 28<sup>th</sup> November 2020 a petition proposed by Peter Martin and raised in favor of abolishing the BBC TV License.

I personally would not agree with this proposal without it, the BBC would fail, and we would lose a much trusted and Historic form of entertainment. If the license were replaced by a subscription service the competition with the many other services now available would more than likely, result in the same outcome.

However, having expressed my own personal opinion on the matter, I understand and agree that every one has a right to their own opinions, but feel that this this petition should not have been aired through the NKRS, because it could be seen to be the opinion of the club and not just of an individual member.

Another platform should have been used to set up legalize and promote this petition. There are many other Social Media sites that could have been used and that would have been more appropriate.

Thank you Dave for agreeing to publish in Newsletter, hopefully in the January 2021 issue No.186 ?

Robin J GILBERT M0RJT. (M3rbi.2e0rbi).

I Joined Cub in 1961 for 4years left and did not rejoin until I retired in 2003 and passed all three licenses.

So do have some knowledge of Club/Society.

### My Response

**Editor** : Definition from Dictionary.com

A person having managerial and sometimes policy-making responsibility related to the writing, compilation, and revision of content for a publishing firm or for a newspaper, magazine, or other publication:

Whether I agree with Pete Martins petition or not is irrelevant in context to me being editor of this newsletter.

What is important is my right as editor to publish anything submitted to me that is not illegal, racist, homophobic or illegal whether I agree with it or not. From memory I have previously published 2 petitions that I may or may not have approved of but it is good to have a response from something I have published.

I would appreciate other members comments on my role as editor. If your responses are for publication please mark them as such.

**Please note that on February 16th there will be a club Jitsi Meeting with a debate about the BBC.**

“If freedom of speech is taken away, then dumb and silent we may be led, like sheep to the slaughter.”

– George Washington

## Pie Mash And Prefabs

I am inspired to write this for a number of reasons one of which I clarify below..



This is the front garden of the Prefab where I was raised in Kidbrooke

Recently I read an excellent book with the above title written by Norman Jacobs. I found it to be really interesting as there are great parallels between the two of us.

We were born one year apart but both grew up through the 1950s & 1960s in the age of rationing, playing in bomb sites and going on to the rock and roll era and the Cuban missile crisis not forgetting the assassination of President Kennedy. The main difference being that he grew up North of the Thames in Hackney and I grew up South of the Thames in Kidbrooke. As I have a great affinity to this day for East London I found his tales of growing up there quite fascinating.

### Prefabs

Another similarity is that we were both raised in "Prefabs". For those of you too young to know, at the end of the war because of the amount of houses that had been destroyed by the bombing temporary accommodation was built in the form of prefabricated buildings known affectionately as "prefabs". Huge estates of these were built and the intention was for them to last for around 10 years but my family were in ours for nearly 20. One estate may still remain in Catford SE London, the Excalibur estate. There was a move to preserve it but it may have gone by now.



Our neighbours in Kidbrooke at the end of our alley.

They were great places to live with hot water on tap (a rarity in 1946) built in oven, fridge and many other amenities. We will forget the fact they were made of asbestos, no-one knew it was dangerous then.

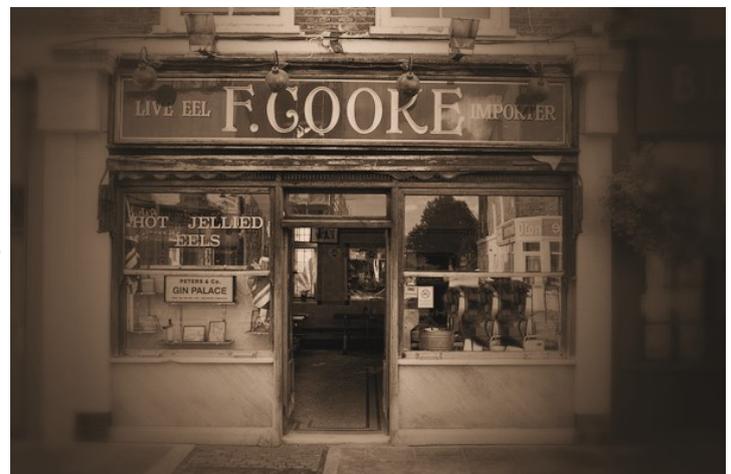
### Pie and Mash From Wikipedia

**Pie and mash** is a traditional working-class food, originating in the East End of London. Pie, mash and eel shops have been in London since the 19th century, and are still common in East and South London and in many parts of Kent and Essex.

Some say Pie and Mash is the original fast food and that may be the case, as a food it certainly predates hamburgers and (in this country) Pizzas.

An interesting subject. Some people love it some hate it. Norman Jacobs grew up with it but I was never introduced to it until my late teens when I started moving in rather different circles. To some people it is nectar and to others rubbish.

If I remember the quote in his book correctly Norman described **Pie and Mash as one of the finest meals you could wish to eat**. Another description I read is that **when served it looks like a naked turtle swimming in cold sick**.



The now closed Cooke's pie and mash shop in Broadway market Hoxton.

For a period of time prior to its closure it operated as a gin palace in the evenings.



Left My friend Peter looking happy with a smile on his face because he is full of pies  
Right A busy lunchtime in the Tower Bridge Road Manzi's

Sadly pie and mash shops are facing an uncertain future. Pre Covid they were frequently closing. A friend and I travel great distances sometimes to visit one to find it shut its doors days before we got there. The bright light on the horizon is that they are spreading out to some of the suburbs for example both Crayford and Belvedere have proper pie and mash shops.

On the right is Manzi's in Deptford High Street which is still functioning although Goddards across the road recently closed its doors for ever.

Our favourite (in case you were going to ask) is Cockneys in the Portabello Road. In spite of its name and location it is not at all touristy.

I would be interested to hear your comments on Pie and mash and any recommendations for good ones.



### Some recent meetings that I have attended

Recently myself and a few other members have attended by invitation some zoom meetings held by other clubs.

#### **Cray Valley Radio Society Thursday 21st January**

Their guest on the Zoom online meeting was Laurie Margolis, G3UML. Laurie gave a fascinating talk outlining his role in getting news of the Falklands invasion out to the world by amateur radio, his relationship with King Hussein JY1, and he gave some tips on working DX from a suburban garden.

I particularly liked his example of using chutzpah to work a North Korean station.

#### **Thurrock Acorns Saturday 23rd January**

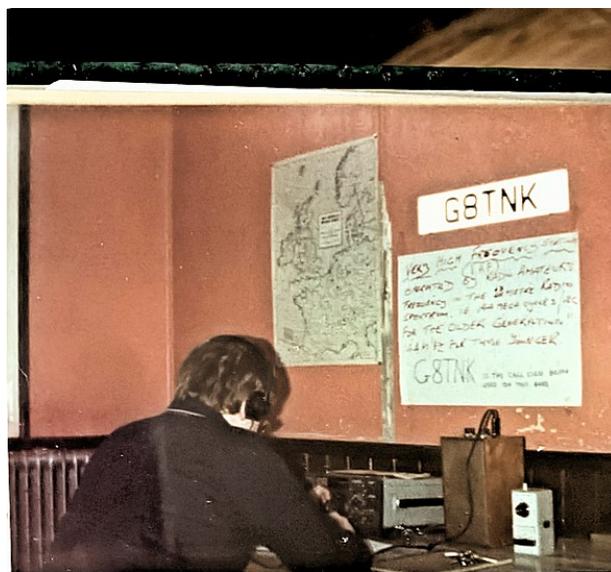
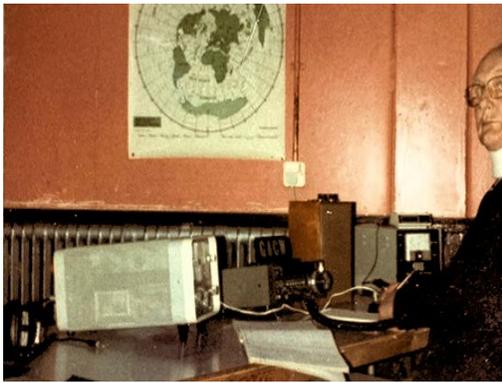
The first part was a presentation by Keith Hotchkiss - G0FEA and covered the introduction of satellites into the hobby and then focused on how you gain access.

Keith's website <https://www.yaesu.org.uk/> is very much worth a visit.

The second part was for those who wished to look further into this aspect of the hobby Eddie G0BKL gave some ideas on how to make a very simple/cost effective antenna.

**On behalf of the NKRS I would like to thank both of these clubs for inviting us to their meetings and I would recommend our members to take advantage of these invitations when they are made**

# Archive photographs from Andy G8MLQ



On this page there are displayed some historic photographs from club events supplied by Andy Fribbens G8MLQ

If you know anything about the people and events that you would like me to include in a future newsletter please let me know.

[nkrs@crystaldave.com](mailto:nkrs@crystaldave.com)

Thanks Andy for the contribution.

## The last page

Like everyone else I have not been straying very far and am longing for the days of sunshine and freedom.

Here are some recent photographs from around and about.



The deer in Greenwich Park usually stay very well hidden but on a recent visit they were feeling more sociable.



Where is **Here** ?

I know of one person who reads this who should know. Any idea's



An exceptionally clear view of the city of London taken from the top of Shooters Hill Cemetery on Christmas Day 2020

That's all for this issue

Please address any complaints, observations, comments or replies to

**[nkrs@crystaldave.com](mailto:nkrs@crystaldave.com)**

Stay safe and all the best .

Dave G4YIB