



Issue 191

# NKRS Newsletter

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Our next meeting will be when 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

## 2021 Events

July 6th Not good news we were **hoping** to return to meetings at our regular Meeting place but a (wise in my opinion) government decision has prevented that. More information will eventually follow.

July 20th July 6th will therefore be a Jitsi Meeting  
Who Knows !

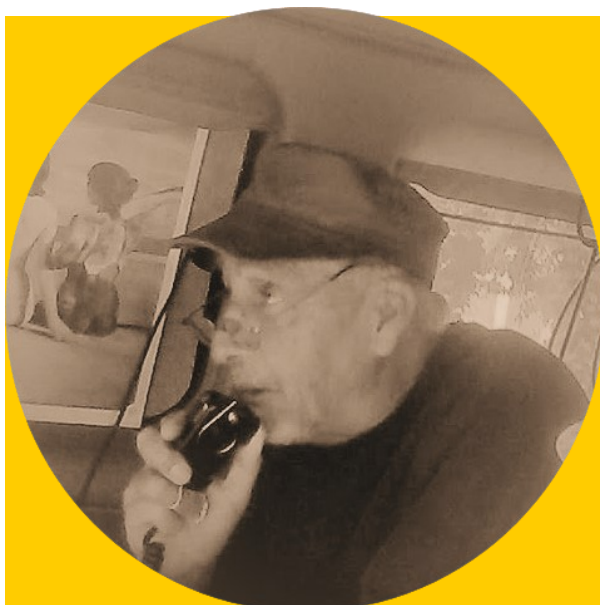
IOTA contest. 24th - 25th July 2021 1200 - 1200

International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend  
21st August to 24.00 UTC 22nd August 2021 (48 hours)

The start time for Jitsi meetings will be 8PM and unless otherwise advised we will use the link

<https://meet.jit.si/stepheng8jztnkrs>

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



## The North Kent Radio Society Club Net

Until the resumption of meetings, the club net will be taking place every Tuesday when we do not have a Jitsi Meeting.

Start at 8.30PM on 145.5 and then we move to a convenient clear channel.

Please feel free to join us.

Whether you are a member or not you will be welcome

## Comments from the Editor

If, like me, you had hoped that the arrival of a vaccine would mean that 2021 would see a return to the real world of restaurants, club meetings etc., this has not happened with relation to us being able to return to meeting at the Manor House.



The government in its wisdom has (correctly in this instance in my opinion) delayed the final opening of UK for business so it's a case of watch this space for more information as it becomes available.

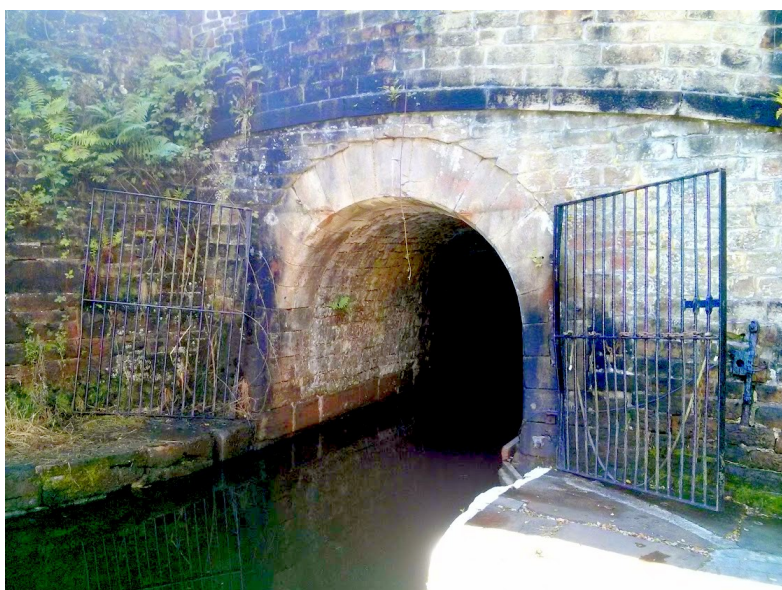
As things stand at the moment restrictions will remain in place until July 19 at the earliest because of the concern regarding the spread of Indian or delta variant. There is some talk about restrictions on face masks being lifted mid July but personally I hope they are kept in place for certain things like public transport, I would not like the system for transiting ourselves around the country to be mask free for some time.

I am not going to go on with the list of things I have missed but one thing I never thought much about is handshaking. I have never been much of a hand shaker (or so I thought) but the number of times I have had to elbow bump recently just makes me think perhaps I am more of a shaker than I thought.

I've missed hugs as well.

Don't forget that you can get free test kits from pharmacies and other places so for the safety of yourself and others it's a good idea to test yourself from time to time especially if you are going to be mixing or have been mixing with other people.

Well enough about the virus for now so watch this space for more information on what we are doing.



Is the light at the end of the tunnel burning brightly ?

Or is it turned off until further notice in the interests of the economy of because the man who swiches it off has got covid ?

## What Is Cornish Gorsedd

If you read your Radcom you will have seen that John Goody, M1IOS of St Mary's in the Isles of Scilly has been made a Bard of the Cornish Gorsedd for "his energetic promotion of the Cornish language on the Isles of Scilly".

But what is Cornish Gorsedd

A **gorsedd** is a community or meeting of modern-day bards. The word is of Welsh origin, meaning "throne". It is often spelled gorsedh in Cornwall and goursez in Brittany, reflecting the spellings in the Cornish and Breton languages, respectively.

If you just use the word Gorsedd it is usually considered to be referring to the Gorsedd Cymru, the National Gorsedd of Wales. However, other gorseddau exist, such as the Cornish Gorsedh Kernow, the Breton Goursez Vreizh and Gorsedd y Wladfa, in the Welsh Settlement in Patagonia.

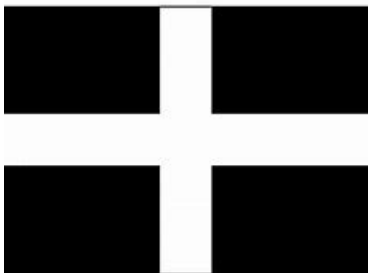
Gorsedh Kernow (Cornish Gorsedd) is a non-political Cornish organisation, based in Cornwall, which exists to maintain the "national Celtic spirit of Cornwall". The organisation has opened up to all forms of revived Cornish language, and its stated aim is "to maintain the national Celtic spirit of Cornwall". The Gorsedh also encourages the study of the arts and history, meetings have been held annually and it has become an important institution in Cornwall's cultural and civic life.

**Bardships** are awarded for many practices including studies in the Cornish language, services to Cornish music and encouraging the arts especially among children.

Initiates are given new Bardic names in Cornish, which often refer to the reason for their bardship. Other Bardic names refer to the recipient's name or describe the bards themselves.

Grand Bard of Cornwall Elizabeth Carne, known as Melennek, has announced this year's 22 new Cornish bards. She said: "This year we have new bards whose work for Kernow (Cornish for Cornwall) reflects both traditional and modern aspects of our Cornish culture, which continues in all parts of the Diaspora" (the spread of Cornish people throughout the world).

So to become a Bard of the Cornish Gorsedd is a privilege not easily obtained.

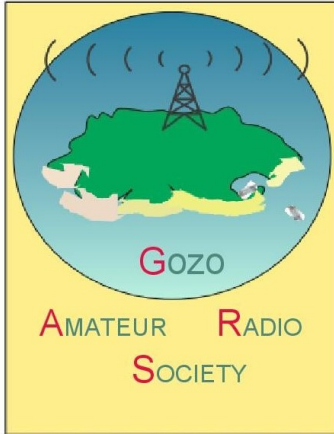


### Saint Piran's Flag

Saint Piran's Flag (Cornish: Baner Peran) is the flag of Cornwall (Kernow).

The earliest known description of the flag as the Standard of Cornwall was written in 1838. It is used by some Cornish people as a symbol of their identity.

## Gozo Amateur Radio Society



Events July to October 2021

Forwarded to me by Andy Fribbens

From: Thomas Colin

Sent: Jun 6, 2021 at 10:42 AM

To: thomascolin@onvol.net

Subject: GARS Field Activities this Summer - IMPORTANT

COVID permitting GARS is planning 4 "field day" events this summer. Here are a few details. More info will be sent out as each event approaches. But please put these in your diary and come along and join in the fun. Please note especially event number 4!!!

### Saturday 10th July

At the Ghadira Ta San Raflu ( the small lake towards the point to the West of Kercem). On air 1000 to 1500 local time. Easily accessible. Bring the family as we are planning a free barbecue. Details nearer the time.

### Lighthouse Weekend Sunday 22nd August

Just the one day but very successful last year as we try to contact similar stations around the world from a field station 100m to the North of Giordan Lighthouse

### Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) Saturday 16th October.

At Dwejra. To be arranged. We were invited by the Victoria Scout Group last year and hope they will be so kind again in 2021. Great fun and many of the Venture Scouts were able to talk with other JOTA stations.

### GARS Golden Jubilee Sat/Sun 23 and 24 October

At the Cittadella. A lot of effort is going into celebrating 50 years of GARS (first meeting was end October 1971). You will be hearing a lot more about this. We are planning a couple of "tents" just inside the gates with a couple of operating stations and exhibitions / displays of radio history, the history of Amateur Radio on Malta, and the history of GARS itself. Hoping to do wine and nibbles for members on the first afternoon at about 1600. Help will be needed to man stands and look after things generally. We are also looking for media coverage. If anyone has any wartime/pre-war equipment for display that would be most welcome.

Contact me for more details and if you want to help out.

Regards

Colin Thomas

GARS Hon Sec

## Right to Repair now enshrined in Law



Under new government legislation introduced 01/07/2021 manufacturers will now have to make spare parts available for washing machines, washer-dryers, dishwashers, refrigerators, TVs and "other electronic displays" for home use. Laptops, tablets and smartphones are interestingly excluded from this latter category.

Repairs also need to be possible using everyday tools (that bit should be interesting).

According to the UK government, this will reduce the 1.5 million tonnes of electrical waste generated each year. Spare parts will have to be available within two years of an appliance going on sale, and up until either seven or 10 years after the product has been discontinued, depending on the part. Some parts will only be available to professional repairers, while others will be available to everyone, so you can fix it yourself.

For appliances used by businesses, the rules also cover electric motors, vending machines, retail fridges and freezers, power transformers, welding equipment and light sources. The intention is for further products may be added to the requirements in the coming years.

So can grandma now fix the washing machine with grandpa's toolkit ?

## Cray Valley Club Dxpedition to the Monach Islands

### **From Wikipedia**

*The Monach Islands, also known as Heisker (Scottish Gaelic: Eilean Heisgeir / Heisgeir, pronounced [(elan) 'heʃkiəri] (About this soundlisten)), are an island group west of North Uist in the Outer Hebrides of Scotland. The islands are not to be confused with Hyskeir in the Inner Hebrides, or Haskeir which is also off North Uist and visible from the group.*

The Cray Valley team comprised of Nobby G0VJG, Chris G0FDZ, Tony G2NF, Pat EI5IX and Jamie M0SDV will set off on Tuesday 20 July for the drive overnight to Oban and to catch the ferry to Barra the next day.

The crossing to Barra takes 4½ hours and they will stay on Barra overnight. The next morning (22<sup>nd</sup> July 2021) they will be taken on the 4 hour sea crossing trip to the Monach Islands for a beach landing.

The intention is to be operational on some bands later that day as GM3RCV and on the Friday will set up the rest of the station for the 24 hour contest on the Saturday (starting at 13:00 BST (clock time) on 24 July. For the contest, the team will be using MM8C.

At the end of the contest they will revert to using GM3RCV, and there will be a 40m net for CVRS members at 13:30 BST. They will continue to use GM3RCV for 24 hour operation on all bands until Tuesday mid-morning, when they will leave the island for the trip home after overnighing at Barra again and arriving back home on Thursday 29 July.

Amateurwise the islands are rare. There have only been a few operations from there and none in recent years. They have their own island reference for IOTA -EU-111- so will be highly sought after in the upcoming IOTA contest. (24th - 25th July 2021 1200 - 1200 UTC ,3.5, 7, 14, 21 and 28 MHz CW and/or SSB ).

**From myself (and I am sure all NKRS members) we wish the team smooth crossings and successful DX.**

## Reflections on Australia

The following 3 pages are something I wrote for a different purpose but I thought I would use them in the newsletter.

I still have a 4WD van booked in Australia for a trip my friend Dr. Bryan and I want to make into a desert area but here in pages 6,7 and 8 is a write up about some days in a trip I did with my daughter M3YIB and covers a couple of the many places we encountered along the way.

The picture below shows some of the many fires we drove through during the trip. The next part of my experience in the 4WD involved crossing rivers.



## We saw Fire no Rain and Sunny Days without end

Apologies to James Taylor



In a moment of reflection I was thinking back to my last visit to Australia, especially as my 2020 visit was cancelled because of the Virus.



That visit was more like two trips really the first part starting from Darwin with my daughter Tirza M3YIB in a camper van to Alice Springs. Uluru (previously known as Ayres Rock) and back via the Kakadu National Park and Litchfield National Park amongst other place and then back to Darwin to meet my friend Dr. Bryan.

After a couple of days together Tirza flew back to the UK and Dr. Byran and myself in a 4WS van set off to explore the Gibb River road, Wolf Creek and a few other places.

At the moment though I am just going to write about a small part of the first trip and a place we visited along the way.

After hours of flying to Darwin via Singapore, Tirza and I had an excellent night out at the Darwin Sunset Market. In the morning we set off early to pick up our van and set off on our journey down the Stuart Highway to Uluru a distance of over 1200 miles. A bit of a disaster at first when we stopped at a supermarket to stock up on food and I hit a wall with the van. Luckily the wall came off worst and we were soon on our way.

On the second day of driving we stopped for a swim at the thermal springs at Matranka which was a very pleasant place for swimming in the 32C water which may have contained crocodiles but (so we were informed) not dangerous ones. Towards the evening we reached Daly Waters. Following the guidance for driving in the Northern Territories ie. **Do Not Drive At Night** we decided to spend the night there.





Daly Waters is a “town” (by Northern Territory standards perhaps) and locality in the Northern Territory of Australia located about 400 miles south of Darwin

The area's traditional owners, the Jingili people, believe the Dreaming tracks of the Emu and the Sun travelled through here on their way to the southern parts of the Northern Territory but now many of the “Grey Nomads” and others pass here on there way.

The name Daly Waters was given to a series of natural springs by John McDouall Stuart during his third attempt to cross Australia from south to north, in 1861-2. Stuart named the springs after the new Governor of South Australia, Sir Dominick Daly. But its main claim to fame the famous pub, which is decorated throughout with banknotes and other memorabilia left by visitors from every corner of the globe. The historic pub was licensed in 1938 to service passengers and crew from the nearby airfield. Now you can buy food and more importantly fuel. Another NT rule is if there is somewhere to buy fuel **Fill Up**.

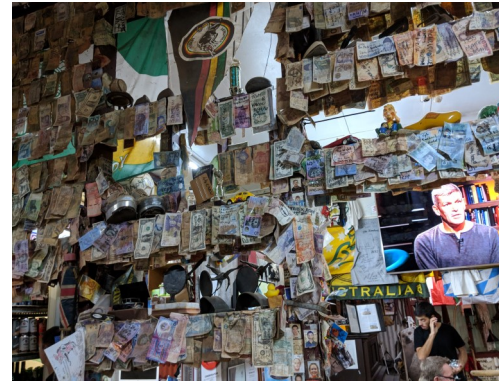


For us Daly Waters was a well organised campsite where you could get a very good beer and Barra BBQ buffet at a reasonable price. The entertainment was a “redneck” couple singing predominantly American country and western.

The next day we were back on the Stuart Highway and stayed the next night in a very strange place but perhaps more about that another time.

There follows some pictures of Daly Waters.





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That's all for this issue and I won't be on the Jitsi meeting but hopefully you can make it. Don't forget that it is open to both members and non members.

All the best and stay safe  
Dave Collings 01/07/2021