



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

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 so far

3rd August 2021 Jitsi Meeting
17th August 2021 Jitsi Meeting
21st August 2021 **International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend See Page 3**
31st August 2021 5th Tuesday
7th September 2021 Return to meetings at the Hurst Community Centre (**subject to confirmation**)
21st September 2021 Return to meetings at the Hurst Community Centre (**subject to confirmation**)

As you can see from the above we hope to return to meetings at the Community Centre from the 7th September

Please note that this is **subject to confirmation by the centre** and also dependent on there being no changes in government policy regarding gatherings.

We have drawn up a Covid protocol for meetings which you will find on Page 2 **it is important that you read this before you attend**. Many people act as if the threat from the virus is over but it is evident that it still presents a clear and present danger.

Initially the meetings will also be relayed on Jitsi to enable those unable or unwilling to attend to take part. The link used will be our normal Jitsi link.

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

As the dangers of the current situation have not passed we have established a protocol for club meetings which is as follows. Please read before attending a meeting.

Covid Protocol for NKRS meetings

Protocol for meetings at Bexley Community Centre, Hurst Road until further notice. This is an advisory notice only, not mandatory or attached to the clubs rules. This is about protecting yourself and your fellow club members and guests for the greater good.

A. Members and guests/visitors are encouraged to have had both Covid-19 vaccine injections before attending club meetings due to the ongoing risk to all including those who have had both vaccines. Members who have not had a vaccine course should consider joining our meetings on-line instead. When booster vaccinations are available members are encouraged to have these too.

B. When visiting the venue please follow all instructions indicated by the Community Centre which may be posted outside and inside the venue.

C. Where possible please avoid touching surfaces including door handles and bannisters. It is recognised that this may be difficult given the nature of the stairs.

D. Before entering the club room please wash your hands in the toilets or use a hand sanitising gel which will be provided on a table at the entrance to the room.

E. Please observe social distancing measures if possible. This means two metres from other members until further notice..

F. Please wear a mask unless medically advised in both the communal areas and in the club room until further notice.

G. Chairs and tables will be distanced to enable and encourage social distancing. Please don't move chairs or tables if possible.

H. Windows will be left open to allow virus droplets to leave and fresh air to enter. Two windows will ideally be open to allow a current flow.

I. Should the lights need to be turned off/on to use the room for presentations with a projector etc. please leave it to the designated person.

J. Should hot drinks be provided at the club this will be handled by Mike Overton or another designated member. Please leave empty cups where they are asked to be left and don't pick up other peoples cups.

K. Should biscuits be available individual "pocket packs" will be provided to avoid contamination. (NB: Ian is happy to provide these)

L. Furniture - tables, chairs etc. will be moved and sanitised by club members as agreed.

M. New advice will be provided as and when the Government, Community Centre management and the Club Committee decide it can safely be implemented.

Thank you for co-operation.

Please note section M, as there may need to be changes.

International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend 2021

This event is taking place the weekend of the 21st to the 22nd August. We will operate on the 21st at our usual location, Crossness Lighthouse, on the river bank near St Andrews Close, Thamesmead. Meet on site at 11 AM.

Although we are not doing anything illegal I would, as usual, suggest meeting on the river bank by the lighthouse and not hanging around by the residential properties as we do not really want to attract too much attention to ourselves or upset any residents who normally take no notice of us whatsoever.

Breakfast

Traditionally we have had breakfast at the T-Bone Café but last year rebuilding of the establishment makes it unsuitable for our use, however it is now refurbished and reopened.

If anyone is interested in meeting for breakfast let me know and we can decide whether to use the T-Bone or somewhere else.

Transport

If you would like a lift to the site please contact me or if there are any other queries I can be contacted on 07941 796476. **Also use this number if you want to arrange a contact with us.**

All are welcome to visit the site but please note the following especially if you intend to be there for some time.

If everyone can bring a flask of hot water this will hopefully get us through the day in terms of tea and coffee (I will bring the tea and coffee but if you have specialist requirements bring whatever along). Also please bring a cup **that can easily be identified as yours**. I would suggest some drinking water - there are no supplies of anything drinkable on site. In case the weather is really hot a good supply of drinking water would be advisable. Also food, as there is no availability of either food or water anywhere near the site. **Please bring hand sanitiser**, face masks optional as we should be able to distance safely.

It would be advisable to bring a chair with you and I suggest also a hat as we don't know what the weather is doing. Whilst traditionally the weather has been warm (and sometimes extremely hot) we are on an exposed river bank so a jacket left in your vehicle may be a good idea.

As we do not know what the weather is going to be like, be prepared for all possibilities. The site is very exposed so if it is hot and sunny you will get a lot of sun (wishful thinking with the current weather.) If it is cold and windy ... well you can guess so be prepared.

If you only think you might need something, leave it in the car to avoid any surplus equipment being on site and then if you do find you need it you can collect it. Everything has to be carried down to the river bank and back again.

If you intend to operate and prefer to use headphones bring them with you but the site is very quiet with only very little background noise.

Unless you are unloading heavy equipment please park a little way away from the site as we don't want to cause any problems that may upset the residents. There have never been any problems with them but we would wish to avoid any happening.

I think most of you know where the site is but I can send a map if required.

I make the location of the lighthouse to be TQ478815 and our locator JO01BM perhaps someone could check this. GPS co-ordinates 51.5130778, 0.1291194



BE COVID AWARE

Cuba jamming Amateur Radio



On July 11th anti-government protests spilled onto the streets in Cuba and Amateur radio operators in the United States found that parts of the 40-meter band were being swamped with grating signals.

The signals were heard by operators in South America, Africa, and Europe but were so strong in Florida (only a few miles from Cuba) that communications with that country were impossible.

Amateurs using triangulation software placed the source of the signals as emanating from Cuba.

It has also been said that VHF 2-meter band repeaters have been shut down in Cuba, It is easy to work to the mainland on this frequency.

My attention was drawn to this by the site below

<https://spectrum.ieee.org/tech-talk/telecom/wireless/cuba-jamming-ham-radio-listen-for-yourself>

The site has many other interesting articles but I think the SDR network referred to in this article (KiWi SDR) may have closed down.

A link to an interesting YouTube video was sent to me by Nicholas from Thurrock Acorns.

<https://youtu.be/dtICIDDvnPw>

U3A



I mentioned the U3A in a recent newsletter and received an email about the organisation from Tony Fishpool G4WIF

He said he and his wife joined it a a couple of years ago and thoroughly recommends it. There are branches just about everywhere and the monthly speakers that they provide are well worth the price alone (and in normal times, attendance at his branch is over a hundred members).

With Covid of course meeting have become zoom events. Then there are the groups within each branch and usually trips out are happening all through the month. His country walking groups have resumed and soon their horticultural groups will be able to visit gardens again.

All these groups are very welcoming of both couples or single people.

He encourages NKRS folk to look up their local branch and see what they are offering. Chess clubs, Bridge lessons, languages, , theatre groups (in some branches even canoeing!) are offered and the costs of membership are really very reasonable.



The Bexley group hope to start their Thursday meetings again in August and their web site below is worth visiting.

<https://www.bexleyu3a.org.uk/index.htm>

If you wish to contact them use the contact link on the website.

Thanks to Tony G4WIF for the information supplied

QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo

**QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo
Coming Soon
August 14th and 15th, 2021**



From the organisers

Our third and next QSO Today Expo is already well into the planning process and we promise an amazing, flawless event. We're committed to providing a great learning experience for amateur radio operators that want to improve their knowledge and get exposure to new ideas, equipment, and practical techniques – all done in a highly engaging format on the vFairs platform that we used in August 2020.

For more information <https://www.qsotodayhamexpo.com/>

QSO Today



QSO Today is a site by Eric Guth 4Z1UG / WA6IGR for podcasts about the hobby of amateur radio

Every week, Eric interviews "hams" to hear their ham radio story and what they are doing now.

For the uninitiated he explains that many of the technologies that we enjoy today including television and radio, cell phones, computers, and the Internet were born out of amateur radio hobbyists experimenting with electronics and radio in their basements and garages. Amateur radio was and still is the frontier where hams conduct electronic experiments in order to make that wireless contact around the World.

He was raised in Southern California during the 60s, amateur radio was his ticket to electronics, science, and technology. Amateurs were his mentors. His interviews allow him to share the ham radio stories to inspire others to join the hobby, or if you are already here, to grow and learn more from these stories.

It is also possible to get transcripts of the stories.

His amateur radio story is Episode 200

One to get you started would be Tom Perera, W1TP, who has a collection of over 3000 Morse code keys and bugs going back to pre-American Civil War, perhaps the largest collection in the World. He displays these keys in his virtual, on-line museum. W1TP will share with you the history of his collection, some interesting stories, and his newest interest and collection of military cipher machines, including the WW2 German Enigma.

Just use this link

<https://www.qsotoday.com/podcasts/W1TP>

Out and about in London

As usual I have been poking around in some of the dark corners of London and some sunny ones as well.

Here are a few things you may have seen or missed.



Staple Inn is a part-Tudor building on the south side of High Holborn street opposite the end of Grays Inn road in the City of London, London. It is used as the London venue for meetings of the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries.

What is unusual is that this photograph was taken on a weekday around mid day and the street is near deserted.



Above Another city street deserted mid week mid day. This time in Farringdon near to the deserted Smithfield Market.



Above Right A small portion of the Lambeth, National COVID Memorial Wall

Some 150,000 hand-painted (by volunteers) red and pink hearts line a wall beside the River Thames in London, opposite the Houses of Parliament. Each heart represents a person lost to COVID-19 in the UK.



Right 67 024 DB Cargo Class 67 at Victoria specially painted for hauling a Pullman Train



An exhibition by Gods Own junkyard (Walthamstow) in Leadenhall Market <http://godsownjunkyard.co.uk/>



Above Elephants in Green Park Below Left Elephants in St. James park Below Right Elephants in Berkley Square



Page 7 of 9 These elephants are made of bamboo and they were part of an exhibition held in 3 separate London parks that finished on the 31/07/21



Above A railway crossing in East London (opinions please)
Below Me in a desolate place on a sunny day (that's rare)





Channel 4 Building Horseferry Road

124 Horseferry Road is the headquarters for the British television broadcaster, Channel 4. It is located in the City of Westminster, London and includes 100 residential apartments. The building was opened on 6 July 1994 and was designed by the Richard Rogers and Partners.

Right

One of the 150,000 hearts from the Lambeth Covid wall.

See page 6



That's all for this issue. Below is a friend relaxing over a coffee at Spitalfields City Farm, if you are in the area give them a visit. They have some nice furry and feathered things.

Hope to see you on the Jitsi meeting or on the river bank on the 21st August.

Regards and Keep Safe

Dave

