



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

Issue 195

NKRS Newsletter



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Our next meeting will be at :
The Hurst Community Centre, Room 15, Hurst Place, Bexley, Kent, DA5 3LH

2021/22 Events so far

Date	Event
2nd November 2021	Bring a Thing night for more details see page 3
16th November 2021	AGM very important see page 2
7th December 2021	Natter Night
14th December 2021**	Club's Christmas curry night see page 3(not a club night)
21st December 2021	Christmas EGM (mostly a social holiday celebration)
4th January 2022	Natter Night
18th January 2022	Talk by Robin M0RJT subject TBA

We have returned to meetings at the Community Centre

Protocol for Meeting

We have drawn up a Covid protocol for meetings which you will find on Page 2 of newsletter 192. We would request that you read this prior to attending meetings. If you do not have a copy available email me at the NKRS address above.

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 even if certain organisations and individuals do not wish to recognise this.

If you have tested positive for Covid or show symptoms **DO NOT ATTEND**
We recommend testing on a regular basis especially as test kits are (as I am sure you are all aware) available free of charge from pharmacies and other places.

If you have any queries regarding the protocol please contact myself or any other committee member for clarification.

Initially the meetings **except natter nights** 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.

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

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



North Kent Radio Society

AGM

Tuesday 16th November 2021
The Hurst Community Centre,
Room 15, Hurst Place,
Bexley,
Kent,
DA5 3LH

All members of the NKRS are encouraged to attend but visitors are also welcome. Please note that in order to vote you must be a paid up member.

The AGM includes the voting in of the members of the committee for 2021-2022 and the following positions

Treasurer Secretary Chairman

If you are unable to attend and wish to nominate anyone for a place either as an officer or member of the committee please email our secretary 5 days prior to the meeting with Nomination as the subject of the email.

Also if you are unable to attend and wish to raise any matters for discussion at the AGM please email the secretary with AGM in the subject.

The secretary's email address is below

secretary@nkrs.org.uk

This is an important event and we urge all members and interested parties to try to attend. Because of Covid we were unable to hold it last year so it makes this year's meeting more important.

If you have any queries please contact the secretary or any committee member.

The next meeting

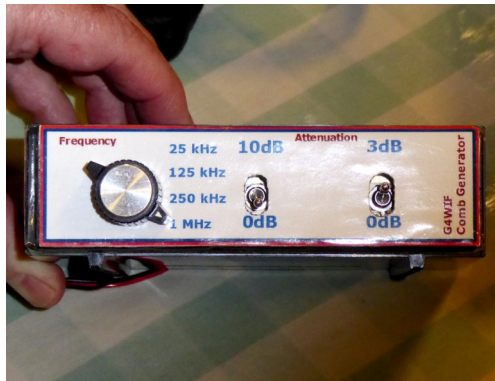
Is a bring a thing night

We have had a number of these in the past and they have been very successful.

The idea is to bring along a “thing” and if possible be prepared to give a (short) talk about it.

The “thing” can be anything but I think perhaps it would be best to exclude live animals otherwise I would bring my cat.

Below are some photographs of things brought to previous meetings.



NKRS Membership Fees and 2021 Christmas Curry

An offer you can't refuse (we hope).

The committee have decided to retain the £5.00 membership fee for another year

But

The news gets even better

The NKRS Christmas Curry will take place in Dartford on December 14th 2021

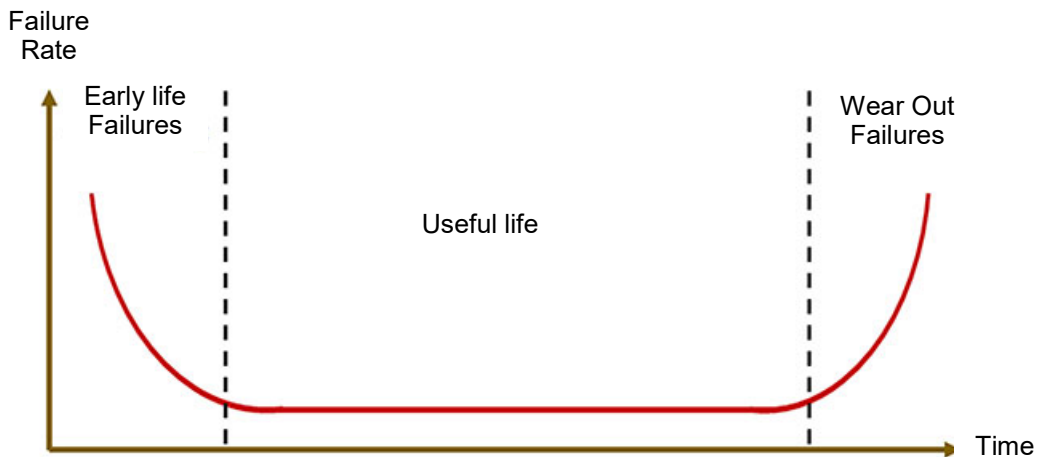
Here is the good bit.

All those who are paid up members of the North Kent Radio Society on that date will receive a £10.00 donation towards their curry.

Usually if it sounds too good to be true it isn't , but in this case it is.

Fees are due for payment after the AGM

The Bathtub Curve of Reliability



The other day I was laying in the bath thinking about “the bathtub curve of reliability” which I am sure many of you are aware of.

For those not familiar with this I will give further explanation. Bear in mind that this curve works for almost everything, human life, cars, buildings but I am viewing it from an electronics point of view

Early Life Failures

Caused by Foreign objects/debris inside, Loose connections (e.g. bent pins), Cracked PCBs, Shipping damage Bad solder joints, Contaminants in the packaging , faulty components.

Useful life

Not easy to determine but after Early Life Failures equipment etc. becomes reliable.

Wear Out Failures

After a period of use components or physical parts fail from age and wear.

Looking further into this I found a survey based on the life of household goods which I found interesting.

Shower - eight years six months

Oven - eight years three months

Fridge freezer - seven years eleven months

TV - six years ten months or perhaps 15,460 hours

Washing machine - seven years two months or perhaps 1417 loads

Microwave - six years nine months

Dishwasher - six years eight months

Vacuum cleaner - six years eight months or perhaps 1145 uses

Toaster - six years or perhaps 3000 slices

Laptop - five years nine months total of 8,372 hours based on 4 hours use a day

Toilet - six years six months

Kettle - 7000 boils

There are most likely a number of surveys carried out on this subject but I admit I only looked at one.

The so called ‘right to repair’ law means that appliances such as fridges, washing machines and electronics should last longer (up to 10 years) and be cheaper to run under the new rules so it will be interesting for someone in the future to do a comparison with the figure above.

Anybody know of any similar surveys carried out on Amateur Radio equipment? or have any comments on the above.

G8EOK



DAVE COLLINGS
78, ZANGWILL RD.
LONDON SE3 .

Amateur Radio Changed My Life

I was laying in the bath reading a QRZ magazine and I read some stories under the heading Ham Radio Changed My Life and it got me to thinking about my own history.

It was a chance encounter with Dave G3SDL and an arrangement to meet for a drink , I think in a pub in Farningham , but it was a long time ago ,that eventually led to significant changes in my life.

At the time I was living with my parents, leading parts of my life in a Morris Minor van and spending weekends in a house full of crazy Australians (some called it a hippy commune). Life was good but there was room for a change.

Through meeting Dave I got the opportunity to get some cheap accommodation (£9/month which was ridiculously cheap even then) in a fantastic huge Victorian house in Mottingham. It was a great place to live and also a fantastic party house.

There were 2 amateurs living there G3TMI (who later sadly lost his life in foreign parts) and G3SDL. After meeting with the tenants I was allowed to live there on the understanding that I never operated from there as they had suffered so much aggravation from neighbours knocking on the doors because of G3SDL causing interference.

Time moved on. It was a great place to live alongside some really nice people and it came to pass that Dave through one of his contacts acquired a quantity of VHF mobiles but because of various circumstances it was impossible to get crystals for them but we found a way. This led to us buying what was supposed to be a one off shipment for people we knew but it didn't end there.

The business grew to a level we never expected and eventually Dave and I moved from the party house to our own houses (we were both married by then) and Dave had to leave the business because of a conflict of interests and then moved to Denmark for a number of years. I continued on my own (well assisted by some very good people who I had working for me over the years including another amateur G6RMA) eventually giving up some other employment and working on it full time.

I carried on with the business until my retirement and Dave G3SDL took the business back again and relocated it to Ireland.

The business still survives after running for 40+ years but with another Dave G4AKY.

So that is a synopsis of how Amateur Radio changed my life has anyone any stories about how it change theirs.

Reflections on Northern Ireland

I recently visited Northern Ireland for the first time. Over the years I have travelled round the South, both as a hitchhiker and more recently to visit my ex business partner G3SDL who is now E1EIO. When the opportunity to visit the North came about I jumped at the chance.

The flight from City Airport was easy and we flew into Belfast City airport rather than the International airport which is more chaotic. Quick collection of a hire car and we were on our way.

We were staying at an Air B&B organised by my daughter M3YIB which was excellent but a little remote and we spent the next few days exploring the "Emerald Isle" apart from a day of babysitting.

I may write more about this trip in a future newsletter but I have included some photographs of places I considered interesting. I would like to thank Ian G7PHD for recommending a visit to a café on Hen Island, Strangford Lough.

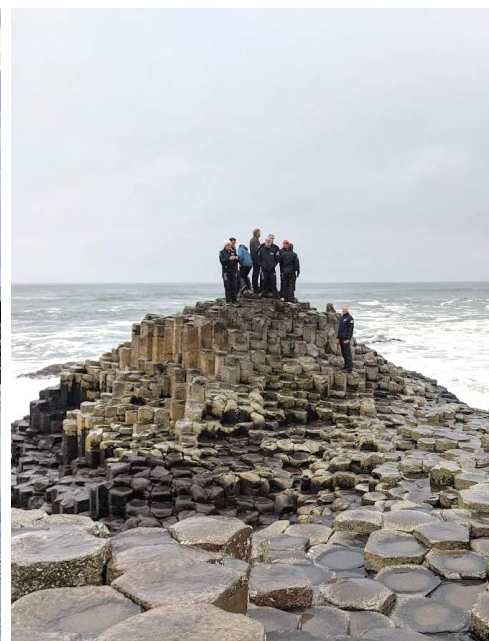
We did visit Belfast including walking down the Falls Road and the Shankill Road districts but I will cover that in another newsletter.



Sketrick Castle
Strangford Lough



Light Ship Petrel
Strangford Lough



A group of Dutch golfers on the
giants causeway. More about



Strangford Lough



Kates Cottage, Monteith, Ban-
bridge Our place of residence



Sunrise from Kates Cottage



The Giants Causeway.

Worth a visit if you are in the area but bear in mind that parking at the visitors centre is £17.50 per person but just up the road you can park for £5.00 per car for the day.



The path to the Giants Causeway



Giants Causeway rock formation



9/11 memorial in Belfast



HALLOWEEN

At the bottom of Page 7 is a truly horrible picture of a maniac with a pumpkin that you can use to scare your wives or children.

As this issue is being published on Halloween I thought it fitting to include a few Halloweenie pictures. Mostly these were taken from the Eastern Curve Garden at Dalston Junction just a stones throw away from Ridley Road which you may have heard of from a recent TV program.



That's all for this issue hope o see you at the meeting.
Stay Safe from Ghoulies and Ghosties and other nasties lurking around these days.