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Issue 204

# NKRS Newsletter

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

Date	Event
2nd August 2022	Discussion on club archives
16th August 2022	QRZ, Echolink and computer aided amateur radio Andy G8MLQ
20th August 2022 **	Lighthouses and lightships on the air 2022
6th September 2022	Robin M0RJT on Flight Simulator Shoreham
20th September 2022	Natter Night
4th October 2022	Steve G8JZT WSPR
18th October 2022	Natter Night
1st November 2022	Annual General Meeting
15th November 2022	Robin M0RJT on Lancaster VIP day
6th December 2022	Natter Night
20th December 2022	Christmas EGM
** not a normal club night	

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

**NKRS**  
**75 Years**



## North Kent Radio Society's 75 Anniversary

Many of you will have received the email below but as this list goes out to many past members as well as friends and associates of the club I thought it worth repeating here.

As explained Chris G0FDZ is undertaking a major task and requires us to cooperate. So far we have had little response so please help as best as you can and see the details of our next meeting below.

*From: Stephen Osborn <stephenosborn52@gmail.com>*

*Date: Mon, 13 Jun 2022 15:40:43 +0100*

*Hi all, Chris Whitmarsh G0FDZ is assisting the NKRS in building up a digital archive of the club's past and is requesting that members rummage through their old photos and any documents relating to club activities to be put in the archives. These would include field days/Contests or perhaps members' social gatherings. Whatever you have. And if you have not already done so send a scan of your QSL card. He can take any method of media transfer that is, convenient for you and if on sticks or disc will be returned. So please email Chris directly at [chris@g0fdz.com](mailto:chris@g0fdz.com) with anything you have.*

*I should point out this is purely for the club's records and not intended to be published or made available outside the membership.*

*I am sending this to all club members so if you do not have anything then treat the email as for information only.*

*Kind regards*

*Stephen  
Club Secretary*

## Next Meeting a discussion on Club Archives

In reality it is going to be more than that.

As well as discussing what we have and how it is going to be stored Chris is going to bring along a scanner and you can bring along anything you have so we can scan it while you are there.

This is an important project for the club so please try and assist especially by attending the meeting.

NORTH KENT RADIO SOCIETY G0ENT  
(Affiliated to the Radio Society of Great Britain)  
Newsletter No. 95  
December 1965

14, Broom Mead,  
Bexleyheath,  
Kent.  
Tel. Crayford 22077.

Dear OM,

Another year is drawing to its close, and I look back on 1965 with a certain amount of trepidation as far as my own activities in Amateur Radio are concerned. I noticed that I had less QSO's in this year than at any time since I have been licenced. This has been due entirely to an acute shortage of - that most valuable of commodities - time. However, one of my New Year's Resolutions will be to see that this unhappy state of affairs is rectified.

Extract from Newsletter  
No. 95 December 1965.

Does anyone have earlier ones? It would be especially good if we could get a copy of Number 1

## The meeting of the 5th July 2022

This meeting was a talk given by me on the history of **Quartslab Marketing LTD** otherwise known as QSL LTD.

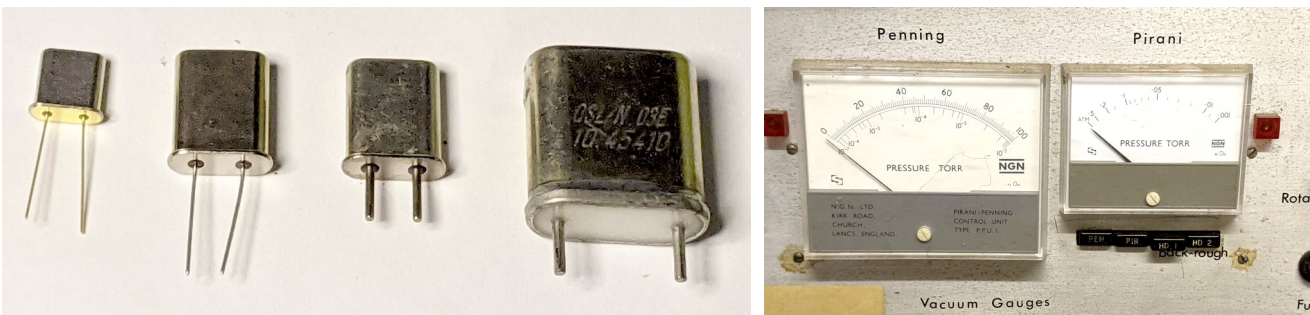
It originated in July 1974 it was registered as C&C Electronics and in May 1978 Quartslab Marketing Ltd, relocate to Ireland in 2006 returned to UK in and ceased trading in 2021. A span of 47 years, not many organisations last that long.

It's primary function was to supply Quartz Piezoelectric Crystals mainly (but not exclusively) to the communications industry.

In that time we supplied a mixture of international customers varying from the Military (the UK and USA plus some others that I won't go in to), government departments and many in the broadcast and entertainment industry.

We were major exporters to many companies round the world and saw many other companies supplying similar items cease to exist.

On the evening of giving the talk I had the benefit of having Dave Court (G3SDL, EI3IO, CT7AOU and various other call signs) with me. As Dave started the company with me and ran it when it relocated to Ireland he was able to do part of the talk.



## The last meeting

With temperatures around 40C and fires raging in Kent and Essex we did not expect many to turn up but there were 4 of us and we started sitting in a pleasant area outdoors. Just as we were having coffee it rained,

Nevertheless we had a pleasant evening discussing many things. Its what natter nights are for.



## The G4CW/P 2 metre VHF NFD station on Saturday July 2nd 2022.

From Frank G3WMMR

I set up as usual on the picnic table in Eaglesfield Park on Shooters Hill. As I was on my own, I kept things simple with 18 ft of lightweight mast supporting a cut down Tonna beam with folded dipole feed. The radio was the FT897 using its own internal battery packs which lasted well for the couple of hours I operated. Plenty of stations were worked on two metres, including continentals. I also worked some stations on six metres after fitting a dipole about 10 ft above ground.

Interestingly, a noise level on 2 metres which I thought was coming from a hilltop installation turned out to be from the sun as it moved around in line with it during the course of the afternoon. I have never previously experienced that effect. Solar activity must have been high.

Anyway, the club call sign got an airing and many familiar all signs were worked.



## Lighthouses and lightships on the air 20th August 2022

It's that time of the year approaching where the club make their presence known on the river bank at Crossness.

Put the date down in the diary as we will need help with operating, setting up and even just carrying everything down the river bank to the site.

Traditionally the weather has been good. Fingers crossed for this year.



## Droning On

**When the FCC issues a fine they really issue a serious one.**

FCC issued a \$2.8 million fine against HobbyKing for marketing non compliant transmitters used to relay video from drones to amateur drone operators that could apparently operate on unauthorized radio frequencies and power levels. The operating frequencies of these drone TV transmitters near the 1.3 GHz amateur band as well as to both the interrogation and reply frequencies used for Air Traffic Control Air Route Surveillance “transponder” radar systems.

The investigation partly originated from a 2017 ARRL complaint that HobbyKing was selling drone transmitters that operated on amateur and non-amateur frequencies, in some instances marketing them as amateur radio equipment.

HobbyKing had denied that it was marketing its drone transmitters to US customers, but , ARRL Lab Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, was able to purchase two drone transmitters from HobbyKing for testing in the ARRL Lab.

Some examples of FCC enforcement.

*\$22,000 Fine Issued by FCC to Ham Radio Operator In Compliance News July 23, 2014 The Federal Communications Commission issued a \$22,000 fine for frequency hogging*

*The Federal Communications Commission is proposing to fine an amateur radio operator \$34,000 for alleged interference with firefighting efforts in Idaho last year.*

*An amateur radio licensee from Paterson, New Jersey was penalized \$ 25,000 for allegedly continuing to operate an unlicensed FM radio station.*

**In my recent visit to Florida I had a couple of minor “drone experiences”.**

I had to have a new roof fitted on the instructions of my insurance company. (Nothing wrong with the old one just a change of regulations.) To comply with the insurance company I had to get wind mitigation certification so employed the services of a local company who came along with a ladder and a drone.

They flew the drone over the property and took a number of photographs of the roof for the certification as well as climbing around in the loft. This was all supposed to get me a discount with the insurance company but that never happened.

The other experience was when I was out walking one night. I decided to walk to a local restaurant which was about 45 minutes away. On my return trip it was dark and the first part of the journey was in a well lit main road and the last part in some dark and very quiet back roads.

Walking along the quiet road I could hear a “droning” noise and saw a red and green light in the sky above me. It followed me along until I got to my destination where I waved to it and after a couple of dips it flew away.

I hope it was not operating on any illegal frequencies.



**Finally a warning.** Nick Pope a former MoD UFO investigator has suggested that alien monitoring devices could be disguised as common animals.

He has suggested that we should be wary of seagulls who have been repurposed as secret drones, acting as alien spies and sending information about us back to their mothership.

# Capel military show 2022

Most years (Covid permitting) some friends and I go to the War and Peace show at Beltring and other places where it has been held. We planned to do the same this year but the show was cancelled.



John G8DOG (from Stourbridge) contacted me to say that there was another similar show being held in Sussex so we decided that we would go there as an alternative. None of us had ever heard of the show before but it looked worth a visit. Another friend from Morecambe joined us.

Capel is a village and civil parish in southern Surrey, England. It is equidistant between Dorking and Horsham, about 5 miles away from each. The A24 skirts around the village to the west making it easy to access from the M25. Roger G4TNT and his partner joined us from Shoreham on Sea.

Organisation was extremely good with lots of volunteers assisting visitors, lots of car parking all well planned. The catering looked good and we were pleased to see the NAAFI van there with the tin mugs of coffee and bread pudding. The show was a brilliant display of old and not-so-old military equipment.

The weather was warm and got hotter as the day progressed. A bit of rain the night before might have been an advantage as huge clouds of dust came up from the arena when tanks and armoured cars were being driven around at some speed.

We had a good day and thought we had seen it all but when we left we found another field full of military vehicles but were too worn out to go round it (poor old buggers!) but then there is next year.





The Chinook landed shortly after we arrived with much noise.

We were puzzled by the vehicle in the centre picture of the bottom row. We weren't sure if it was some sort of reproduction or something made out of some very old parts.

## Crossness Pumping Station a tribute to Victorian engineering



One of the main beams of the Crossness pumping station engines.

From Wikipedia

*The Crossness Pumping Station is a former sewage pumping station designed by the Metropolitan Board of Works's chief engineer Sir Joseph Bazalgette and architect Charles Henry Driver. It is located at Crossness Sewage Treatment Works, at the eastern end of the Southern Outfall Sewer and the Ridgeway path in the London Borough of Bexley. Constructed between 1859 and 1865 by William Webster, as part of Bazalgette's redevelopment of the London sewerage system, it features spectacular ornamental cast ironwork, that Nikolaus Pevsner described as "a masterpiece of engineering – a Victorian cathedral of ironwork".*

*It is adjacent to Erith Marshes, a grazing marsh, the northern part of which is designated as Crossness Nature Reserve. This provides a valuable habitat for creatures ranging from moths to small amphibians and water voles.*

Continued on Page 8

During a recent visit from Roger G4TNT and his partner they expressed an interest in visiting the Crossness Pumping Station which they had read an article about. It had been many years since my last visit and my wife had never been so I booked a time for us to go.

As many of you have been there at some time or another I won't write much about it but a lot has happened since my last visit. They have opened an impressive museum, allowed access to their well equipped workshops and more.

My wife who was reluctant to join us for the visit was so impressed by the volunteers she is now going to start working there as one herself. It is totally run, managed and staffed by volunteers.

As usual I include some pictures but it is hard to do justice to the magnificent engineering but as I am now a family member of the organisation running it I think I will be there a few more times with opportunities to take more photographs.



#### NEWSPAPER

Nowadays, most people in the West wipe themselves with paper, but well into the second half of the 20th century newspaper was the norm.

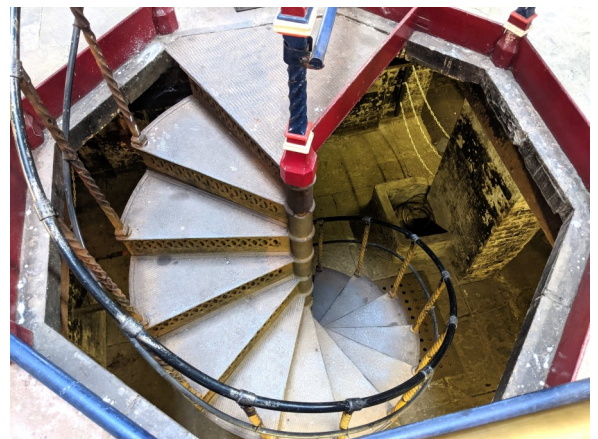
Many hours were spent by children on Sundays, tearing pages of broadsheet into sixteen pieces, making a hole in one corner with a skewer and tying a bundle on a loop of string to hang from a nail in the privy. Apparently the *Daily Telegraph* was not a favourite because the ink came off!



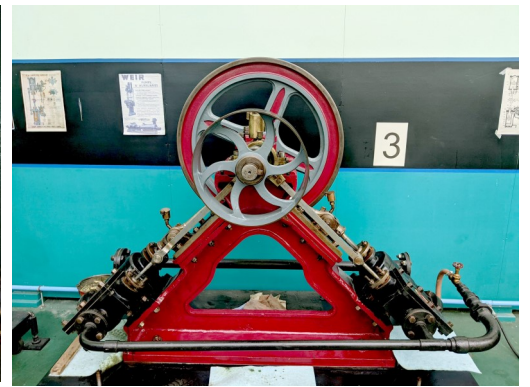
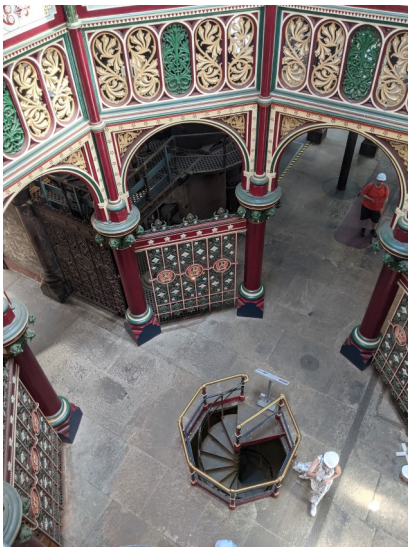
Above the centre of the engine room

Left Something many of you will remember and it was an essential feature of an outside toilet.

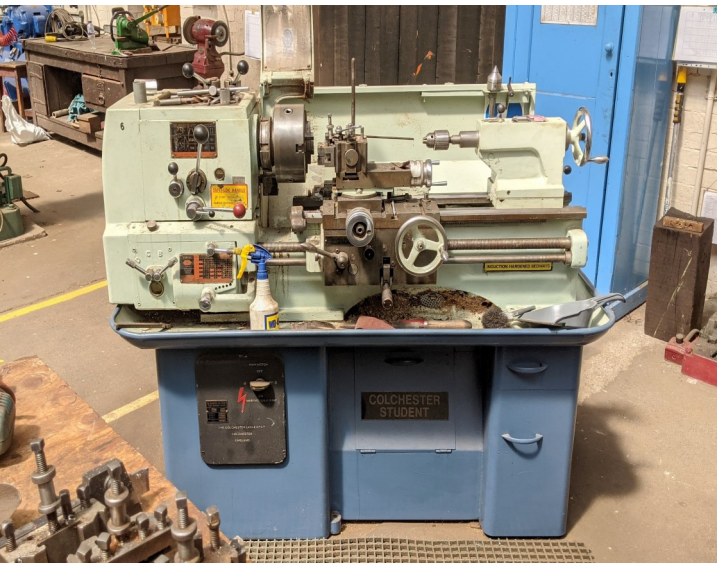
Right Staircase in the centre of the top picture







Left & Centre A masterpiece of engineering a Victorian cathedral of ironwork  
Right Model of the Stewart Engine manufactured between 1902-1911  
Below left Colchester lathe (I learnt on one of these)  
Below Right Power Plant



## Roal Arsenal Narrow Gauge Railway



This locomotive usually carries people from the entrance to Crossness Sewage Works to the historic pumping station. Unfortunately it is broken in a very expensive way.  
The original hydraulic drive motors fitted in 1986 and having clocked up 65,000 miles have failed and are beyond economic repair.  
The new replacement motors are going to cost £10,000 and they are trying to raise this through crowdfunding.

For more information or to make a donation see <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/rangrailway>



That's all for this issue please try and make it to the meeting preferably with some archive material or email copies to Chris.

Hope to see you there

Dave G4YIB