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Issue 119

# NKRS Newsletter

Our next meeting **6th June 2017** will be at the usual location. The Pop In Parlour (Rendezvous), Graham Road, Bexleyheath. (Opposite Asda). Doors open at 20.00.

Date	Event	
6 June 2017	radio/Natter Night	VHF SSB Accumulative
15 June 2017 ++	Cray Valley	Annual DF Hunt
20 June 2017	Bring a Thing night	
27 June 2017 ++	DF Hunt	Annual midsummer DF hunt
1 - 2 July 2017 ++	VHF NFD	
19/20 August 2017 ++	ILLW	International Lighthouse Lightship weekend
++ Denotes that this is not a normal club night		

**Thanks to Kevin** for his talk at the last meeting perhaps now a number of members will be starting their own web sites. If you do or have already done so let me know the link so I can put it in the newsletter.

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## Funerals since the last meeting

Two funerals have taken place of people of significance to the club and amateur radio.



**Dave Roberts G0BJT** 21.11.1953—21 April 2017  
The funeral of Dave took place at Eltham Crematorium on the 16th May 2017.

It was well attended by family, local amateurs and members of the NKRS and the Cray Valley club. He was a member of both during his time as an amateur.

### **Dave Hicks G8EPR** (Scanner Dave) **curator of the Pye Museum.**



Dave who professionally was an alarm engineer, was found on the floor at work some 15 or so months ago with a severe head injury and never left hospital.

Sadly he passed away on the 30th April.

Dave's funeral took place on the 30th May. It was well attended - about 50 people were there. The service was conducted by one of Dave's next door neighbours, and was quite appropriate in it's form. The coffin disappeared with a Racal Cougar covert hand held on top. (Thanks to John Moore for the report).

## Do you drive in France ?



If you do you should be aware of some new regulations.

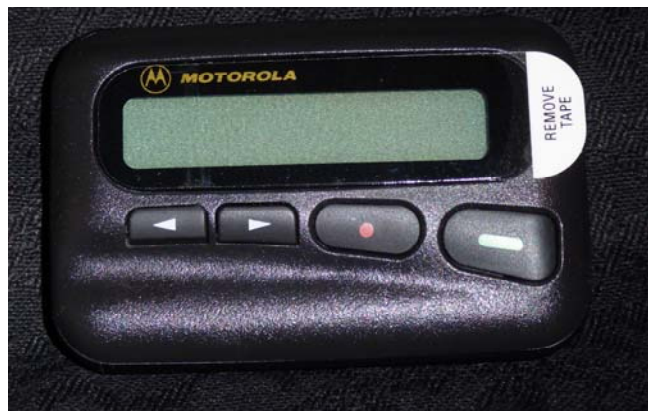
If you drive a UK registered car in or near Paris ,Grenoble or Lyon you need to apply on line for a clean air sticker, but the plan is for the other areas to be included. It is said that French police will be sympathetic to foreign tourists not displaying them but I don't want to be the one to put this to the test.

This new measure, called a Crit'Air vi-gnette, has been introduced to identify a vehicle's level of emissions and help limit air pollution.

The stickers are very easy to apply for at <https://www.certificat-air.gouv.fr/en> and cost only €4.80. You will need to scan your vehicle registration document (V5C) to email a copy with your registration. Most of the site you use is in English and my sticker came through in a few days.

## Vodafone Pagers to Go

This is news that many will be pleased to hear if they have suffered from interference from the high power pager signals transmitted from prime locations.



Pagers fell out of popularity with me many years ago when the inefficiency of my wife's one nearly cost me a divorce. However there are many people who depend on them.

Nurses, lifeboat crews and fire-fighters are amongst the prime users.

According to an article in The Times recently a nurse at Lewisham Hospital said pagers were reliable and cheap. "People don't always know where I am so they need to be able to get in contact with me," she added. The pager sends nurses a message with a number they must call. In an emergency such as a cardiac arrest

they receive a message saying "cardiac arrest followed by the floor and ward number.

It appears that Vodafone were working on a deal to sell its pager business to PageOne communications but the Competition and Markets Authority were concerned that the merger would lead to higher prices and reduced coverage. When the CMA decided to investigate the matter Vodafone decided to pull the plug and close the system down.

Since their invention in the 1960's the popularity of pagers peaked in the 80's has diminished in recent years. It is claimed there are 70,000 users half of which are inactive.

On a personal note, a large part of my business up to the time when I ceased my involvement was supplying pager crystals which were difficult to produce and nearly all to very strange specifications. The picture above is a Motorola pager and they really were the curse of my life at one time.

## Honourable Artillery Company (HAC)

I had never heard of the HAC until a chance reading of a web site (Ian Visits) which tells you free things happening in London mentioned they were having an open evening. As the weather was good my wife and I decided to attend.

Their location in the City of London in City Road was a surprise to me as I was totally unaware of the existence of any such place especially considering its size but it is shielded by office blocks on all sides.

Although new to me the HAC has origins dating back to 1087 and are considered one of the oldest military organisations in the world.



Today it is a registered charity whose purpose is to attend to the "better defence of the realm". It achieves this by the support of the HAC Regiment and a detachment of Special Constabulary to the City of London Police.

The word "artillery" in "Honourable Artillery Company" does not have the current meaning that is generally associated with it, but dates from a time when in the English language that word meant any projectile, including for example arrows shot from a bow. The equivalent form of words in modern English would be either "Honourable Infantry Company" or "Honourable Military Company."

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In the 17th century its members played a significant part in the formation of both the Royal Marines and the Grenadier Guards whilst more recently regiments, battalions and batteries of the Company fought with distinction in both World Wars and its current Regiment, which forms part of the Army Reserve, is the oldest surviving regiment in the British Army, and the second most senior in the Army Reserve.

Members of the Regiment and Specials are drawn, for the most part, from young men and women working in and around the City and Greater London. Those leaving the active units may become Veteran Members and remain within the fraternity of the Company.

The evening was planned to commence with a parachute drop but the Chinook was unable to approach because of the high density of air traffic.

There were demonstrations by the City of London dog section, the Company of Musketeers and Pikemen. Some gunfire demonstrations and modern warfare display followed by Beating Retreat at sunset with the band of the HAC while the flag was lowered.

The final was the Apache AH-64 helicopters taking off and departing.

All in all a good evening where there was even free food if you were prepared to queue for it. Some photographs follow.







A couple of shots of Eastbourne taken a few days ago on a nice sunny day



## Illuminating Thoughts

Once upon a time you just went to the shop and bought a light bulb but now things are different.

Light bulbs are not just bits of tungsten in a nitrogen atmosphere they have got more complicated and varied in design.

As people sensitive about RFI we are aware of the dangers of some versions of LED bulbs emitting 5/9 signals across the spectrum and while the advantages of that type of lighting are significant where you purchase them and which choices you make can have a significant effect on your hobby.



Andy Fribbens sent me an email recently outlining the problems with CFL light bulbs. Evidently one that was installed in someone's bathroom started emitting smoke after a few minutes use and then four inch flames emanated from the side of the ballast. Not a good situation especially if it was a light that you leave on while you are out for the evening.

There are a number of reports of this on the internet (so it must be true)!

Another aspect of lighting I was not aware of (until I was researching the above) was the sophistication of some modern lighting.

Hackers used a drone to target a set of Philips light bulbs in an office tower, infecting the bulbs with a virus that let the attackers turn the lights on and off, and flash an "SOS" message in Morse code. Evidently there is a common wireless radio protocol called ZigBee that Philips uses to make its Hue light bulbs part of an online network and this protocol contained a flaw which let the hackers in.

It is the first evidence of such an attack being carried out but a report written by authors, who work at universities in Canada and Tel Aviv, warn that hackers could use control over the

light bulbs to plunge a whole city into darkness, or use them to launch attacks on other parts of the Internet.

It appears that the "worm" can jump from bulb to bulb so plugging in an infected one can have disastrous effects.

Want to know more on this last issue go to <https://ukradioscanning.com/viewtopic.php?f=21&t=5165>

The more complicated simple things get the more problems you can get but I think listening to all that I have heard my usual philosophy of cheapest is best is not a good idea so buy wisely

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**That's all for this issue** please let me have any comments articles for submission or complaints to  
NKRS@crystaldave.com