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Issue 129

# NKRS Newsletter

Our next meeting **7th November 2017** will be at the usual location. The Pop In Parlour (Rendezvous), Graham Road, Bexleyheath. (Opposite Asda). Doors open at 20.00.

Date	Event	Notes
07/11/17	Natter Night	Station on the air
21/11/17	Peter Martin	Talk on using valves.
05/12/17	Natter Night	
12/12/17 ++	Curry Night	Probably the usual venue
19/12/17	Christmas EGM	Mince Pies

++ denotes that this will not be held on a normal club night

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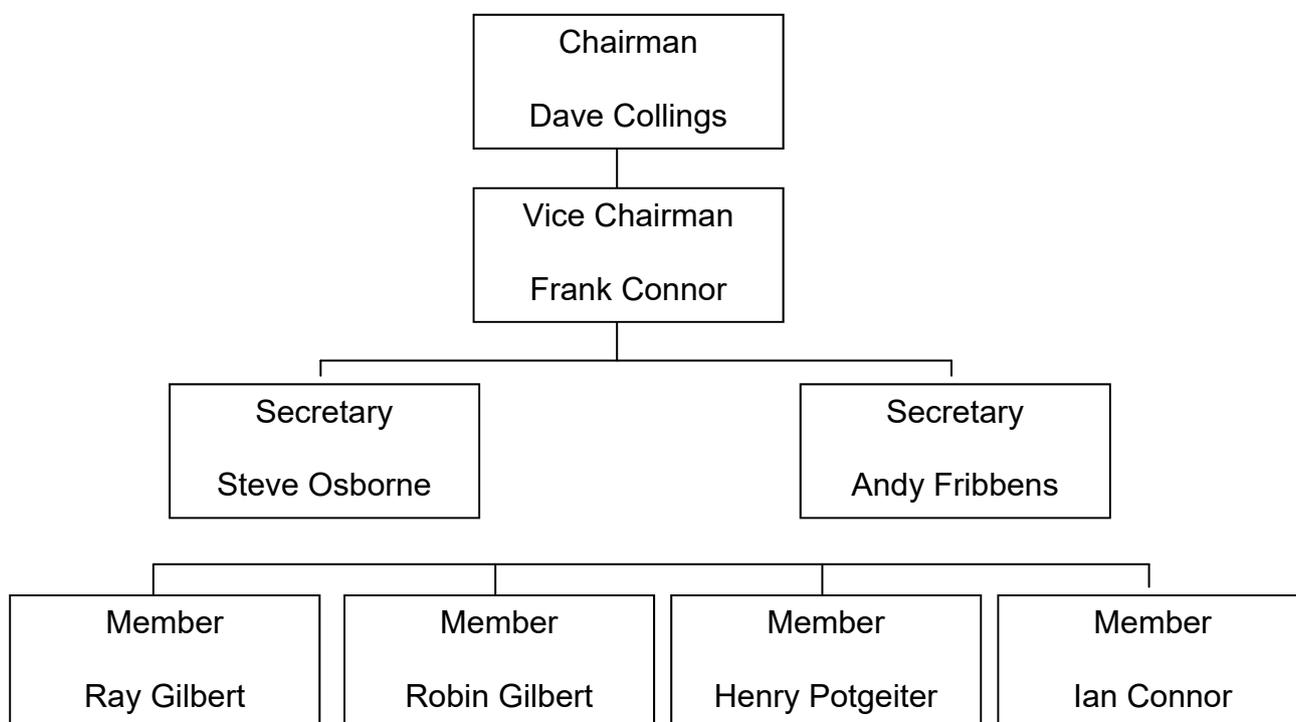
## AGM 2017

Autumn turns to winter, the leaves fall from the trees and the clocks change all these things are inevitable and at the same time of the year along comes the North Kent Radio Society AGM.

Expertly chaired by our Secretary Stephen Osborn the business of the evening was conducted in a quick efficient way.

Many of the original committee members remained with the changes being myself rejoining the committee and Ray Gilbert joining. Welcome to the committee Ray. The post of Vice Chairman was reinstated.

The committee is now formed as follows,



### **Donation from the family of G0JBT**

As you will know from the lists we have sent out Chris Whitmarsh, Don Mclauchlan, Peter Manzi (nothing to do with the club but many of you have met him) and myself have put a lot of effort into the disposal of the radio related assets of the late Dave Roberts.

As a result of this his brother and sister made a donation of £500 to our club funds which I paid into our account days before the AGM and announced at that meeting.

Our thanks go to Pam Bradley and Jim Roberts, Dave's brother and sister. Our secretary has written a letter of thanks to them.

## Jamboree On The Air 2017, Saturday 21st October 2017 by Kevin Packard

For the second year running, North Kent Radio Society members took part in the 1st Foots Cray Scout group's Jamboree On The Air event at their HQ next to Foots Cray Meadows operating the special event callsign GB2FCS.

With the early gusts of "Storm Brian" approaching, Stephen G8JZT, Robin M0RJT, Peter M0PBR, Tony G4WIF, Frank G3WMR and Kevin G0MLO assembled at 9am and immediately got on with raising the 20/40m dipole on the incredibly easy-to-assemble mast

supplied, as usual, by G3WMR. This year the shack was in a small room at one end of the main hall and whilst obviously much quieter from which to operate, there were no windows for the coax to enter nor room for the 2m station. The HF coax luckily could run under the outside door but the 2m station was instead set up in Frank's camper van outside the building. We were also joined later by Dave G4YIB, making a passing visit.



Peter M0PBR leading the morse practice sessions

There was a good attendance of probably around 100 Beavers, Cubs and Scouts throughout the day and they were treated to several forms of radio activity and experience which enabled them to earn their Communicator badge. First task for the students on entering was to fill in a sheet with their

names using the phonetic alphabet and to give some thought to a question which they could ask over the air. There was a morse class led by Peter and Tony in which students could try both to decode and send some morse code to each other - it's amazing how young minds can quickly take to something that many of us old people find quite challenging! Next was some "walkie-talkie" operating practice where messages and instructions were tested across the width of the HQ field, often resulting in some energetic chasing and humorous activity between the participating parties. Stephen and Robin bravely manned a very busy and warm



Tony G4WIF supervising the "walkie-talkie" experience



Stephen G8JZT and Robin M0RJT organising the HF participants

HF station with a constant queue of cubs and scouts all too willing to send greeting messages across the airwaves. Frank's aerial set-up continue to work well as the wind strength increased and many contacts were made across the UK & Europe with many JOTA stations. The wet weather, muddy grass and the fact that the 2m station was outside meant that we didn't actually use it for the cubs & scouts but Frank made several contacts including an interesting cross-band one on 18MHz/mobile phone with Andy G8MLQ who was operating the local club station out in Malta (with us not having the aerial transmit capability on 18MHz).



Robin M0RJT assisting with the QSO

The other communications activity, and an amazingly absorbing one, was the use of Facebook and Skype apps on a laptop (with internet connection via a mobile phone as a Wi-Fi hotspot) to talk live with other scout groups around the world. With the laptop screen projected onto the wall, we could sit/stand around, converse with and see, other scout groups in India, Australia, Malaysia to name but a few. Incredible stuff.

Our thanks go to the Akela at Foots Cray plus all her colleagues and those of the nearby scout groups for inviting NKRS along to what was a very rewarding day. The enthusiasm of the cubs and scouts was very refreshing and who knows, one or two of them may be part of the next generation of amateur radio.

Kevin G0MLO

Addendum by Steve Osborne

Jamboree on the air, a big thankyou from me to Robin, Tony, Frank, Peter and Kevin for their help on Saturday 21st in making the JOTA event for the 1st Footscray Scout Group a big success. I'm not exactly sure how many Beavers and Cubs had a go on the air but it was pretty busy once everything got started and they all looked as though they enjoyed the experience, indeed there was one lad who did not seem to want to let the mic. go. I'm sure there will be some pictures added to the News Letter but also please see the club web site where Tony has added Kevin's report.

Many thanks again and looking forward to doing it again next year.

73s Stephen



The antenna set up

Continued on Page 5



Frank at the 2m station (with an obviously inappropriate wall canvas for scouting). Note - the station was not used by the scouts!



Working an Indian JOTA station by Skype over internet



Stephen and Robin supervising JOTA in action

All photographs in this article by Kevin Packard and thanks very much to him for writing it.

## Christmas Curry

It is planned to have our annual club Christmas curry at the usual location on  
**December 12th 2017.**

To help get an idea of numbers please let Stephen know at the next meeting or email him at **secretary@nkrs.info**.

You will still be able to decide to come at a later date as the seating at the establishment is very flexible. (And the curry is good.)



Some spy sets from Richard White's collection



## Abeele Aerodrome Cemetery

I am sure you are aware from previous newsletters, that a friend and I make regular visits to Europe and visit war graves (as well as other sites), and as Armistice day approaches it seemed appropriate to include one in this newsletter.

Often we seek out some of the smaller graveyards as they can be quite interesting and are often accessed by dirt roads in rather obscure places. We visited this one earlier in the year.

Airfield Abeele was a British airfield near Ypres and Poperinge in West-Flanders (Dutch: West-Vlaanderen) in Belgium.

During World War I the airfield was home to 4, 5, 6, 8, 29, 32 and 41Sqn RAF. Many famous pilots flew from Abeele.

The airfield consisted of a converted farm complex with hangars and living quarters on the north side. Some of the officers had their quarters at the farm. The southernmost barn and yard was used for maintenance, testing engines, vehicle parking, etc. The road that bisected the airfield was used for the parking of vehicles along the full length.

In the early days of the war, both sides on the southern half of the airfield were used for take off and landing. However, from March 1916, only the western half was used as a runway.

The cemetery took its name from this airfield which was opposite the site. It was originally started by French troops in April 1918 and extended by Commonwealth forces in the following July and August. After the Armistice, the French graves were removed and the space was re-used to accommodate 25 Commonwealth burials. Also, 84 American burials made between July and September 1918, were removed.

There are now 104 Commonwealth graves from the First World War in this cemetery.



Photograph by A.P Rolton



Photograph by A.P Rolton

## Membership Fees are Now Due

After the AGM the fees for next years membership are due and a sheet advising you how to pay and the rates form the last page of this newsletter. The subscriptions remain unchanged from last year. Single membership £30 family membership £42 additional donations would be appreciated

To save administrative work by Andy the best way to pay is by bank transfer and all the details necessary for this are included on the last page of this newsletter.

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Again with Armistice day approaching I thought this picture above which is the Cross of Sacrifice at Polygon Wood military cemetery is rather relevant.

That's all for this issue, see you in December.

Dave

# *North Kent Radio Society*

*Amateur Radio Club callsigns G4CW & G8TNK*

Affiliated to the Radio Society Of Great Britain.

## Membership application form

### Subscriptions for 2015/2016

**Full Member £30.00**

**Family Membership £45.00**

(please delete as appropriate).

<b>Name</b>	<b>Call Sign / BRS</b>
<b>Address</b>	
<b>Post code</b>	<b>Telephone</b>
<b>e-mail address</b>	
<b>Member of the RSGB (Yes / No)</b>	

Please make cheques payable to "North Kent Radio Society"

**BACS PAYMENT: SORT CODE 09:01:53 ACCOUNT 56884007 REF YOUR NAME**

Please forward subscription to:

Honorary Treasurer Andy Fribbens G8MLQ

12 Appleshaw Close, Gravesend, Kent. DA11 7PB

Telephone 01474 365694

**Please include an SAE if you require a receipt.**

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Official use only

Received from .....

The sum of £ .....

Date.....

Signed ..... **Honorary Treasurer**

Thank you for your continued support of the

***The North Kent Radio Society***