



The Highwaymen

Festival and Mail Order Specialists

BUSY TIME IN OUR NEW SHOP PREMISES

The months have flown by since the opening of our new shop in Hinckley and work has now been completed in expanding outwards to give us even more space to display loads more goodies.



FLEXIFOIL BULLET 5.5M & 7M TRACTION KITES

The Bullet now sets the standard in traction technology. A fantastic, all round ram-air kite designed especially for land traction activities. Providing amazing stability and power with reduced lift, the Bullet package is a fantastic choice for both buggying and landboarding activities. The Bullet comes ready to fly with either a bar for two line use or handles for four line use. A number of innovative features ensure that the Bullet is truly user-friendly; powerful yet easy to handle. And, new for 2004, are the 5.5m & 7.0m, two fantastic new sizes which are now in stock. We also have a huge range of control bars, harnesses, helmets, knee and elbow pads, crash shorts and kite killer safety systems in stock. Check out ranges from Flexifoil, Ozone, Quadrifoil, Peter Lynn, Pro Limit, Kheo and Armadillo.

THE FURY FULL SIZE SPORT KITE FROM CARL ROBERTSHAW

New for 2004, the Fury is a full size sport kite from designer and world champion sport kite flyer Carl Robertshaw. Ultra-stable and with no oversteer, the Fury has a big wind window and rail-straight tracking. Fully adjustable to suit every pilot's flying style with a turn rate that is gradual and predictable. Available in two models – a Chikara sail/carbon frame version priced at: **£95** including straps and lines and an Icarex/Skyspark model for **£185** (kite only).



OUR SWAG BAG SALE GOT EVEN BETTER

Our End of Season Sale has been a huge success and with even more prices slashed there are more bargains to be had: kites, lines, sunglasses, clothing and lots more. Contact us today and we can send you a copy of our Swag Bag Sale list.

FABRIC AND SUPPLIES FOR KITE MAKING AND REPAIRING

We stock a huge range of materials as used in our own workshop: a large colour range of 42g and 65g ripstop nylon is in stock at £3.80 per metre, free colour swatches are available upon request. Carbon, fibreglass, fittings, lines and tapes for all your kite making projects are available on a next day delivery service.

WHY WAIT? - MAKE USE OF OUR FAST TRACK SERVICE

If you are planning on visiting the shop and have a long list of items such as kite making materials, spars, fittings etc, we offer a Fast Track Service. Simply phone or fax your order to us and it will be ready by the time you arrive.

The Highwaymen, 2 New Buildings, Hinckley, Leicestershire LE10 1HW
www.thehighwaymen.co.uk Tel/fax: 01455 230736
Shop open six days a week: Monday - Saturday 9.30am - 5pm

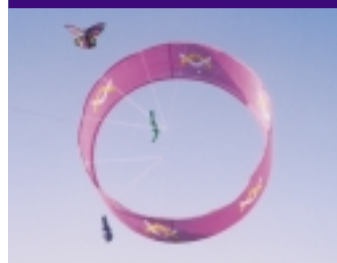
THE KITE NEWSLETTER

SPRING EDITION 2004



NORTHERN KITE GROUP

www.nkg.org.uk



SPRING EDITION CONTENTS

Surprise Surprise	1
Members Case Study - Gina Bellis	2
Welcome to all our new members	2
!!! News Flash !!!	2
Decisions of the AGM	3
The Story	4
The therapeutic effects of kite flying	5
Competition	5
Members Case Study - Jack Cunningham	6
Para Teds	6
Proposed British Kite Flyers Association	7
Kites for Sale	7
Women kite fliers/kite flying women	8
team flying with lidl's	9
Flying his kite	10
Goostroy	10
Local future events	11
Ode to the India kite flyer	12
A call to Arms	12
Kite calender May- July 2004	13



SURPRISE SURPRISE !!!

I only went out to a kite meeting, or so I thought.

This time we didn't get lost, my other half (Rodger Dawson) had at last triumphed over the journey to Newton Heath. We joined the gathering of kites in the church hall and started talking kites – as you do. We put in our choices for the best kite competition then, after buying some raffle tickets we had lunch ('Thinks' – how does this girl make her pastry?).

The raffle winners were drawn and an auction was held where I bought a couple of beautiful kites (I think I know who made them).

NOW FOR THE MAIN EVENT.

The very first AGM for the NKG. Reports were given, proposals made, seconded and voted on.

Then came the election of officers; The Treasurer - Mary Jones stood to continue in post. The Secretary - John Welborn stood to continue in post and both were voted in (So far so good, no change there then).

Neil Edwards volunteered for election as Editor and was voted in ('Thinks' – we should give him a medal).

So now we had our three musketeers, all that was missing was the chairman. Ron Ogden had asked the group at last years meeting to find his replacement, so the question was asked 'Do we have any volunteers'? – Well, we didn't. I stood up to ask what the post involved, thinking it might prompt someone to put themselves forward. The members suggested a couple of names but each said they were sorry that they would be unable to help this time. At this point I thought 'well, if Ron reckons there's nothing to it – I'll have a go'!

I was proposed, seconded and voted in unanimously, so fast that if you'd have blinked you would have missed it. So, I would like to thank you all for voting for me, I will do my utmost to help the club and our membership.

I hope to see you all hanging on to your bits of string in the near future.

And to think, I only went out to a kite club meeting.

From your new 'Rocker'...

Enid Knowles. Chairman, Tel: 01704 894166 Canal House, Briars Lane, Lathom, Ormskirk, Lancashire. L40 5TH.



JOHN WELBORN
Group Secretary



NEIL EDWARDS
Editor



MARY JONES
Treasurer



PETER BINDON
webmaster

NKG 2004

Every effort has been made to maintain accuracy within this magazine, neither the editor nor any club officers can be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained within. Opinions expressed within this edition are not necessarily the same as those of the editor, or Club Officers. No reproduction of any part of this magazine may be used without permission of the editor.



MEMBERS CASE STUDY – GINA BELLIS

Q1. What age did you first fly?

A 63 !!!

Q2. What kite was it?

A An Indian fighter kite.

Q1. How many kites do you own now?

A About 15.

Q4. What is your favourite kite?

A Still the Indian fighter.

Q5. What events or festivals do you have planned for this year?

A Beacon Country Park on the 5th and the 6th of June, Rougham festival, Coventry festival, Bristol festival, Tewksbury and Portsmouth festivals, and of course the big one for this year is Dieppe.

Q6. What is your favourite festival?

A Both Portsmouth and Tewksbury.

Q7. Where is your favourite flying site?

A I'm 'potty about Otty' – Otterspool on the banks of the River Mersey..

WELCOME TO ALL OUR NEW MEMBERS

We are now a group almost 200 strong and growing fast!

You can join us at any of the events listed within this area or come along to one of the big festivals, where as many as 50,000 gather to enjoy this relaxing hobby.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with any of your committee for further details or advice - we are a friendly bunch and are always willing to help.

Hope to see you on a flying field soon.

Easy Breezes,

Neil (Ed).

!!!!!! NEWS FLASH !!!!!

Police in Corvallis USA, report that a 43 year old man died after jumping from a fire escape on a downtown building.

Apparently, Michael Gurwell deliberately jumped from the 5th floor on saturday night while holding a neon kite with an 8ft wingspan.

The use of protective knee pads and a bicycle helmet failed to protect him from the 40ft fall, and despite being rushed to the Good Samaritan Hospital he died a short time later.

DECISIONS OF THE AGM

Decisions made at the first Annual General Meeting of the Northern Kite Group held on 15th February 2004 at The All Saints Community Hall, Newton Heath

Proposed by Neil Edwards Seconded by Darryl Smith
Individual members pay £7 per year and Joint members pay £1 per year
Passed by an overwhelming majority

The Treasurer proposed a change in the membership year
Proposed by Mary Jones Seconded by John Welborn
The membership subscription year run from 1st. March to the end of February in the following year.
Passed unanimously

Proposed by John Welborn Seconded by Ron Ogden
The accounts for 2003 be adopted
Passed unanimously

Proposed by John Welborn Seconded by Mary Jones
The amendments to the Constitution be approved en bloc (as published in the February magazine) but with the changes to dates required by the changed membership year agreed above under Treasurer's report.
Passed by an overwhelming majority

Proposed by Ron Ogden Seconded Darryl Smith
That the committee review the flying sites we use and also consider changing some dates where appropriate. The committee may wish to ask some members to help in this task, and also to consider the appointment of an events co ordinator.
Passed by an overwhelming majority

Proposed John Welborn Seconded Dave Green
That Ron Ogden continue his discussions with the Council (Oldham) to find out more information about the possible arrangements for the Festival and the conditions relating to a grant and that the committee make the final decision about the Festival and the Grant when all the facts are known.
Passed by an overwhelming majority

Election of Officers

Treasurer	Mary Jones	stood to continue in post
Secretary	John Welborn	stood to continue in post

There being no other candidates they were elected unanimously

Editor	Neil Edwards	volunteered for election
--------	--------------	--------------------------

There being no other candidate he was elected unanimously

Chairman	Enid Knowles	volunteered for election
----------	--------------	--------------------------

There being no other candidate she was elected unanimously

Auditors

Eileen Newsome	volunteered for election
Karen Smith	volunteered for election

There being no other candidates they were elected unanimously



A ROLLER

The Story

To give you some idea of my age, I remember the Queens Coronation and the Festival of Britain, which puts me in the senior age group. I had a good childhood and like most children I had most of what I wanted, however I cannot even remember having a kite (surely I cannot be the only one).

Two years ago, we (my wife Lynda and I) were passing the playing fields next to Oldham Athletic Football Club ground and saw all these kites in the air. Being a Scout Leader for more years than I care to remember, these kites aroused my curiosity (some new little sparkle for the Scouts). We parked the car and strolled onto the field only to bump into a friend and fellow Scouter. This is where the story turns into a short tribute as well.

I was somewhat mystified with all the kites, not knowing anything about them, however, my friend and his wife offered to help get me started. Sometime later I was invited round to his house to talk about kites, but instead of talking about them I was sat in front of a sewing machine (at my age) and with considerable help from my friends wife actually completed making the kite!

The day came when the kite was ready for flying. My friend took me to a local open spaced area to explain the art of and do's and don'ts of flying kites. Since that hour of training, my kite – a 'roller' has been on all our holidays in this country, Norfolk, Cornwall, days out at Lytham and Southport, in fact wherever we go away – the kite goes as well. My 'roller' may not be as fancy as or as well decorated as most but it has given me hours of joy and pleasure.

All this has come about with the help encouragement and enthusiasm of my good friends Jack and Mary Cunningham, thanks to them both.

I joined the kite club and now realise why so many people are involved in kite flying, including so many young people – it is good to see and hear young people out in the fresh air playing.

One last question, do you build a kite or do you make one? Whatever... I'm off to work on my next one!

Gareth Smith

Thanks for your letter Gareth, it seems Jack and Mary have many friends amongst the group. I too have been privileged to know this wonderful couple for a few years now, and like you, they have been there for me since I first joined the group.

Their kindness and friendship has meant a lot to many people, so I thought it would be nice to abuse my privilege as Editor to pass on a personal comment to them ... Jack and Mary, you make a difference in peoples lives, including mine. I hope to continue learning from you. Thank you to the both of you.

Neil (Editor).

The therapeutic effects of Kite Flying

The Northern Kite Group has at least two widows who have each gained some solace from kite flying following their great loss.

Neither of these ladies were kite flyers when they had the company of their late husbands but each are now established members of the group and can be seen most weekends on Otterspool promenade flying site at Liverpool.

Although Dorothy Mansley has a wonderful family of our own, she now refers to NKG members as 'part of her family'.

Dorothy (affectionately known to her fellow flyers as Dot.com) already has a good collection of kites and is constantly adding to her stock with more recent purchases. She flies some very attractive display kites including a large and colourful Delta and a three masted Galleon kite. Dot is also an accomplished flyer of two line kites and occasionally enjoys a practice session with the 'Stunt kite team' flying 'Shurricans'. She's also been spotted buggying!

Another of our lady flyers is Margaret Lever (aka Peggy). Following the loss of her beloved husband she was encouraged to come to a flying site by her neighbour Gwen Williams.

Gwen felt it might help Peggy to come to terms with her grief if she was in the company of other people, rather than staying at home by herself. Fortunately, Peggy enjoyed the kite flying; she joined the group and now has her own kites to join in the activities. Peggy always brings her pet dog 'Lady' along with her when she comes flying, a lovely terrier, and it is difficult to know who enjoys the experience most.

At the beginning of this month both Dot.com and Peggy joined over 20 of us at Beverley kite Festival, camping out under the stars for a couple of nights, enjoying the wonderful kites and company of all our friends. It is fair to say that Dot is probably well past 21 years of age, it is also fair to say that Peggy is substantially past 21 years of age, yet here they both were, part of our wonderful group, amongst friends, laughing and having fun the whole weekend through. Thank you for taking care of us.

Ladies, you are both dearly loved and admired by us all.

It is nice to see the therapeutic effects of kite flying.

C O M P E T I T I O N

For the next few magazines there will be a competition where the winner will receive a personalised 'Circoflex' made by my good self.

All you have to do to enter is send me an article for the next edition of 'Kite'.

The winners name will be drawn out of a hat at an NKG fly-in and then notified of their good fortune.

It doesn't matter how long or short the article is, but you've got to be in it to win it!

The only rules that will apply are I must receive a minimum of 15 pieces between you all, to use for the next edition and they must be available for my use by the 2nd week of July. If you send 2 articles, your name goes in the hat twice.

So, if you want your own unique kite that will stand out from the crowd – get writing!

Neil (Editor).



MEMBERS CASE STUDY – JACK CUNNINGHAM

Q1. What age did you first fly?

A 10

Q2. What kite was it?

A Brown paper bag kite.

Q1. How many kites do you own now?

A Too many!!!!

Q4. What is your favourite kite?

A The Salendine. It's named after a place that NKG used to fly!

Q5. What events or festivals do you have planned for this year?

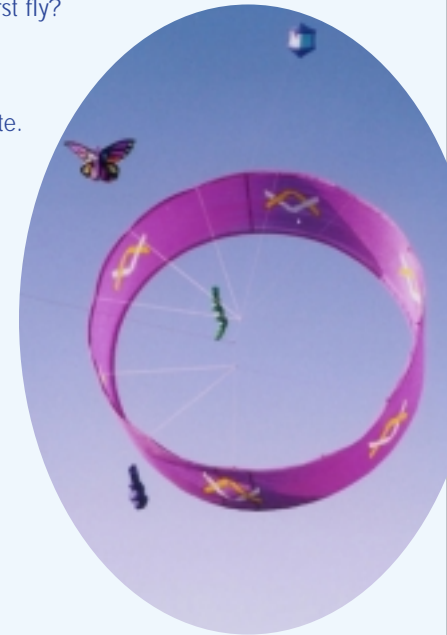
A Beacon Country Park, Shrewsbury, Barmouth and Goostrey

Q6. What is your favourite festival?

A Shrewsbury.

Q7. Where is your favourite flying site?

A Bowlee flying fields



PARA TEDS

In June 2003, assisted by Gwen, Dot, Flo, Joe, Olive and Ken, we dropped teddies from All Hallows Church, Allerton, Liverpool, in aid of church funds.

The drop was 80 ft into a very restricted zone. At the end of the day, we had dropped 70 teddies and also 150 sweet drops.

Four teddies were caught in the trees and had to be recovered by the local Fire Brigade, about 40 feet up. The method used by the fire crew was to jettison them out of the trees with their water hoses.

To see parachutes flying upwards was a rare sight. It was a grand finale to a great day.

Thanks in anticipation.

DAVE GREEN 0151 260 0976
davang@merseymail.com



Proposed British Kite Flyers Association

The current information is as follows. The NKG were asked to provide information to two steering groups who will report back shortly. The Secretary sent off the information requested. This request is the only formal contact the group has had with those working on the two steering groups.

I understand from the KSOGB magazine that a meeting is to be held in Birmingham in May to receive the reports of the steering committees and to take a vote on whether to set up the BKFA as an unincorporated association. Unfortunately there is a mistake in the dates so I do not know whether the meeting is on Saturday or Sunday.

The definition of an unincorporated association is as follows:

"An unincorporated association has two or more members bound by a common purpose. With mutual rights and duties arising from a contractual agreement between members which form the rules of the association.

The association though has no legal personality. The rights of members as between themselves are governed by the rules of association, which are contractual in nature."

Because it is unincorporated all the members have unlimited financial liability for the debts of the association.

We do not yet know whether it is expected that Clubs affiliate to the proposed BKFA or whether it is for individual members only.

I would not recommend that our club affiliate to an unincorporated association.

Further information is expected to be published on the BKFA website.

John Welborn Group Secretary

Kites for Sale

- 1 x Phantom (Tim Benson)
- 1 x Hatrick (Tim Benson)
- 1 x Revolution (no lines)
- 2 x Dark Stars (home made - very bright colours)
- 1 x 12ft Shark
- 1 x 6ft Whale
- 1 x Large Delta

£200 ono or will consider separating.

Contact Richard Henshaw

Tel: 01484 313525



Women Kite fliers/Kite flying women?

Whatever the title given to this one-time, rare breed, women kite fliers are becoming a force to be reckoned with, even the 2004 Dieppe festival has as its theme 'Woman and Kite.'

For me the growing number of women enjoying the kiting experience is encouraging, to share the thrill of the wind and the universality of kites with women from all corners of the globe, is exciting.

My journey into kiting started some six years ago. However, a feel for the true excitement of kites came many years before, during the Garden Festival in 1984. I watched a young man walk along Otterspool promenade flying a train of kites over the River Mersey.

I will always remember the kindness of the small Otterspool group, when armed with my first two liner, a Brookite diamond. Their patience was unbelievable. Thanks to them, I now enjoy sports kites, fighter kites and single liners. In those early days I was so pleased to have the company two other women on the kite field. They helped me to feel less inhibited and were very supportive. Such were the trials and tribulations of first learning to fly kites, crashing or losing them was a regular part of my Sunday afternoon. Surprisingly enough I still fly my original sports and Indian fighter, even if they do look a bit like the casualties of the Crimea; more repair tape than sail material.

Attending kite festivals has opened up yet another avenue. The exciting world of kite making! The shapes, the size and variety of kites, the tricks and the trains and of course the great and the good that both make and fly these wonderful kites. Apart from those of us who fly kites there are the kite makers and it is true to say that behind many a successful

man is a good woman with great patience and sewing machine skills!

Women should be recognised in their own right. They contribute so much to kiting and in so many ways, not just rolling up kite tails! We know that at the turn of the last century Alexander Graham Bell's wife Mabel was involved in the inventors kite experiments. More and more women are both making and flying their own kites. Names like Yvonne de Mille from New Zealand, Carole Peacock and Jill Bloom appliqué aces from the U.K, Mrs Ohashi wife of the Japanese kite maker Mr Ohashi, with her hand painted Gateshead Folly. Nearer home, Mary Cunningham, Flo Barnes and Fiona Lewis are just some of the names that come to mind. This year I hope to meet many more, both at the UK festivals and of course Dieppe.

A little more competition for women would not go amiss. In fact it would probably give momentum to the skill of flying certain types of kites. Presently, the only competition for women is the altitude sprint. Quite a number of women fly fighters, trick/sports kites as well as roks. So make life a little more interesting for us galls, festival organisers, please. Include us on your programme, and how about a prize for the best and most innovative hand made kite.

I took to kiting a little late in life; but thankfully I can still enjoy the thrills and even the spills. My mission as a kite flier is to now sell this passion to children and young women. Hopefully encouraging many, after all, its free and beautiful to watch; fun to participate in; thrilling to compete and a great way to unwind and make friends in a safe and pleasant environment.

Gwen Williams

TEAM FLYING WITH LIDL'S

During the last four months we have flown the Lidl kites 8 or 9 times, in the strong winds we have had on Sundays. The kites were on sale at £3.99 in February, so thanks to Mary and Jack C, we have purchased too many to mention. So it was decided to stack them in sets of 3, having seen Frank Wharton flying a 3 stack. The best spacing seems to be 37 inches between kites and a tubular tale helps steady them. They do tend to shake a bit so Joe Barnes increased the entire 5mm fibreglass frame to 6 mm fibreglass, which is a worthwhile improvement. I have tried a trick line to bring in the wing tips three quarters of an inch, also helps to reduce wing tip shake, and make tighter the turns. We are still working on modifications so will pass on any improvements via the website <http://www.nkg.org/>. If any member has any suggestions or advice, please get in touch via web or phone or at club fly-ins?

The Team continues to improve through winter practice sessions. We are working on timing and spacing and also need to introduce 2 or 3 new manoeuvres into the routine, some music and come up with a name.

So, for the moment it is just practice, practice, and practice for the team with no name. For a short video of the team in flight, visit moldmikes pics on club web site in the gallery. A special thanks to Mike Lewis for producing this clip. OK member's thank you for your attention and please come along and stand behind us (not too close) and watch for a while, then join in; we can train you up in no time. Generally we are a crew and whoever is on site makes up the team.

Cheers, Dave Green, Liteflite. 0151 260 0976 davang@merseymail.com



FLYING HIS KITE

Neil was happy, he was flying his kite.
Up in the air it soared.

With the wind in the sails and in wind in his hair,
he felt he really scored.

The day was warm with a lovely breeze, down
on the sands at Lytham.

He tugged on the lines and watched it climb, the
saints were certainly with him.

He'd gone alone to escape the crowds, it was
the early morning.

He hadn't a care as he breathed in the air, and
he watched the day was dawning.

He could see the sea, he could smell the brine,
his heart was free as well as his mind.

The kite was sailing way up high, it was a lovely
sight, billowing out and darting around, Neil was
trying with all his might.

Very soon a crowd had gathered, they stood and
watched with awe.

Neil was in his element and the crowd liked what
they saw.

But suddenly the weather changed, there was a
mighty squall,

It lifted Neil right off his feet, he was heading for
a fall.

He clutched the lines, he held on tight. He
couldn't risk to lose his kite.

It took him high, right out to sea. The people
cheered, what a sight to see.

Very soon he was out of sight, clinging on and
praying.

Blackpool Tower came into view and the kite had
started swaying.

More crowds gathered on the prom, the
coastguard was alerted,

A rescue plan was being formed, the flight must
be averted.

Still Neil clung to his favourite kite, he didn't
dare let go.

His teeth were chattering, his arms were weak,
the sea was far below.

Just then the wind stopped blowing, he saw the
clouds above his head.

He fell to earth just like a stone and woke up in
his bed.

Oh yes, it had only been a dream. He'd been
saved from a watery fate.

Because you see he cannot swim, and water's
his dread hate.

*Many thanks to Mrs Wendy Windle, who's
late husband I had the honour of looking after, for
writing this poem.*

GOOSTREY

This year the Goostrey Kite Day will be
held on Saturday 17th July.

This event is organised each year by the
good people of the village in order to raise
funds for Cancer Relief.

The kite flying takes place on the school
field, whilst the school rooms are utilised to
help separate the visiting public from their
hard earned cash, all to benefit Cancer
Relief of course.

Goostrey is a very attractive place set in
the heart of the Cheshire countryside.

The event is well supported by the local
populous who give freely of their money
and time on the day. However, the cream
on the gingerbread is provided by the many
unsuspecting passers by who are lured to
the site by so many brightly coloured kites
fluttering over such a rural setting.

Once your skillful flying has enticed the
poor weary travellers to the site, you can
rely on the ladies of the team to ply them
with their home-made foodstuffs, drinks,
games of chance, fortune telling and other
mysterious ways of charming loose change
out of otherwise firmly shut wallets.
They might even purchase one or two
of the Sled kites which some of us will
be making, all for the good cause,
of course.

Because of the popularity of this annual
event, it is supported by flyers from the
Midland Kite Fliers, Alcester & Worcester
and other kite groups, so there is usually a
good selection of kites to be viewed.

Unfortunately, there can't be many of us
who have not yet lost a close friend or
relative as a result of this scourge. These
ladies are doing all that they can to support
those who are able to fight the problem.
Let's give them all the help and support
we can.

Goostrey can be found nestling between
the A50 and the A535 roads, just to the
north of Holmes Chapel. We will be flying
all day, it would be nice to see you there.

Jack and Mary Cunningham

LOCAL FUTURE EVENTS - (for national and global events, see kite calendar)

May 16th Beacon Country Park
May 29th Blackpool Air Show

June 5 - 6th North West Kite Festival - Beacon Country Park
June 12 -13th Fylde Kite Festival
June 20th Wirral Kite Festival - New Brighton

July 11th Morecombe Kite Festival
July 17th Goostrey Kite Day - Goostrey
July 18th Stainland Recreation Ground - Sowerby Bridge

August. Oldham festival details will be in your next edition

September 26th Wakefield Festival - Heath Common

October 10th One Sky, One World - Pontefract Racecourse / Otterspool Promenade

November 21st Beacon Country Park

December 19th Otterspool Promenade

For any further details, please dont hesitate to contact your committee.

You will notice on the 'Local Fly-ins list' that not all are named NKG fly-ins. This is because in the past many of our events have clashed with others that are sometimes only a few miles down the road.

Therefore your committee has decided that it would benefit all if we 'piggy back' with other events, sometimes organised by other kite groups and organisations. A fine example of this is the 'Wirral Kite Festival' at New Brighton organised by our friends at 'Flying Circus'. Previously we had a fly-in on the same date not many miles away, whilst 1000's were meeting to fly at New Brighton. Also, the 'North West Kite Festival' at Beacon Country Park may not have our name at the beginning of it, but we are the main team of fliers behind it - so it too becomes an official fly-in for us.

The long tall and short of it is that more kites are in the sky for all to enjoy, and keep attracting new members!

Your list of events for which we are covered by insurance (thanks John Welborn) is enclosed, if you are going to any others - simply inform John.



Ode to the India Kite Fighter

Over the Mersey to Otterspool,
where the river is bright and the air is cool.
Theres Dave, Joe, Jack and Mike
precision flying with Delta kite.

My kite is so much lighter,
It's my beloved Indian Fighter.
I can't explain the buzz I get
when up it shoots just like a jet.
Darting left, then to the right,
turning circles oh so tight.

So come on all you female folks.
Its not just the domain of all the blokes.
If you like fun, also speed,
of valium there is no need.
Just have a go, when the winds are lighter,
I know you'll love the Indian Fighter,

Gina Bellis



Thanks to all who have contributed to this issue. I look forward to receiving more and more mail off you all.

A special thanks must go to Mr Lloyd Kirton of Midland Kite Fliers, and Mr Alan Rogers of our own Northern Kite Group without who's help you would not be receiving this new magazine.

Any articles sent to me are best sent via email in 'Word' format to kites4neil@msn.com but any other format or normal mail will also be welcome.

Once again thankyou to everyone, lets continue to enjoy our flying and grow as a group.

A Call To Arms

On saturday and sunday, the 5th & 6th of June, the Northern Kite Group is supporting the Northwest Kite Festival at Beacon Country Park, near Skelmersdale. Parking and camping passes are enclosed in your envelope. We will be the main display event of this wonderful festival along side kite traders, entertainers, a fun fair and thousands of the general public. A height limit of 1500 ft has been applied for, and there will be a night flight as each evening draws to a close. Full facilities will be available in the form of food wagons and portable eblusion units!

We need you there with us!

Following recent disappointments with our usual main sponsor - Oldham council, your new Chairman has secured funds for the year ahead by co-ordinating this event with Lancashire County Council.

Lets show them what we've got. Big kites, small kites, one line, two line, three line, four line - it doesn't matter - just bring them along.

Many of us we're lucky enough to visit this event last year and it was simply wonderful. So hope to see you there.

Come on Northern Kite Group - lets show them what we've got!

MAY

Last updated 4 May, 2004

- 8 Display by Sky Symphony Kite Display Team, Warwickshire Gala Day, Agricultural College Grounds, Morton Morrell, Warwickshire
- 8 & 9 Swindon International Kite Festival, Science Museum, Wroughton, near Swindon, Wiltshire
- 8 & 9 Oostduinkerke International Kite Festival, Oostdunkerke, Belgium
- 9 GOKF fly-in, Priory Park, Bedford
- 14 Brighton Kite Flyers Evening Fly in, Stamner Park, Brighton, East Sussex
- 15 & 16 Cleethorpes International Kite Festival, The Beach, Cleethorpes, Lincolnshire
- 15 & 16 7th Suffolk International Kite Festival, Rougham Airfield, Bury st Edmunds, Suffolk
- 15 & 16 10th Hardelet-Plage International Kite Festival, Hardelet Plage, near Boulogne, France
- 15 & 16 19th International Ostend Kite Festival, Ostend, Belgium
- 15 & 16 SPKA's Fun Buggy race and Freestyle KiteATB, Stevenston, N. Ayrshire, Scotland
- 16 Balsall Common Kite day, Balsall Common, Coventry, Warwickshire
- 16 NKG Fly-in. Beacon Country Park, Up Holland/Skelmersdale
- 16 Poole Kite Picnic, Baiter Park, Poole, Dorset
- 23 GOKF fly-in, Ferry Meadows, Peterborough, Cambs
- 29 - 31 Middle Wallop Kite and Buggy Festival, Army Air Museum, Middle Wallop, nr Andover, Hampshire
- 29 - 31 Tewkesbury Kite Fun weekend, Tewkesbury School, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire
- 30 Display by Sky Symphony Kite Display Team, Kenilworth Show, The Showground, Hurst Farm, Crackley Lane, Kenilworth, Warwickshire

JUNE

- 5 & 6 Basingstoke Kite Festival, Down Grange Sports Complex, Basingstoke, Hants
- 5 & 6 Bedford International Kite Festival, Russell Park, Bedford
- 5 & 6 Northwest Kite Festival, Beacon Country Park, Up Holland, near Skelmersdale, Lancashire
- 6 Brighton Kite Flyers Fly-in, Telscombe Tye, near Brighton, East Sussex
- 6 Ashdon Kite Festival, Waltons Park, nr Saffron Walden, Essex
- 6 Edward Elgar Kiteflying Tribute Day, Malvern Common and Hill, Malvern, Worcestershire (Provisional)
- 11 - 13 Skegness Windfest, The Beach, Skegness, Lincolnshire
- 12 & 13 Fylde International Kite Festival, The Beach, Lytham st Anne's, near Blackpool, Lancs
- 12 & 13 Margam Park Kite Festival, Margam Park, near Bridgend, South Wales
- 12 & 13 Teston Kite Festival, Teston Bridge Picnic Site, Teston, nr Maidstone, Kent
- 13 Peterborough Kite Festival, Ferry Meadows, Peterborough
- 17 - 20 20th International Kite Fliers meeting, Fano Beach, Fano, Denmark
- 18 Brighton Kite Flyers Evening Fly in, Stamner Park, Brighton, East Sussex
- 19 & 20 2nd Market Bosworth Kite Weekend, The Country Park, Market Bosworth, Leicestershire
- 19 & 20 Shrewsbury Kite & Boomerang Festival, Sundorne Playing Fields, Shrewsbury, Shropshire
- 19 & 20 Southampton Kite Festival, Lordshill Recreation Grounds, Redbridge Lane, Lordshill, Southampton
- 20 2nd Wirral Kite Festival, the "Dips", next to New Brighton promenade, The Wirral, Cheshire
- 20 Butser Hill Festival of Flight, top of Butser Hill, near Queen Elizabeth Country Park, near Petersfield, Hampshire
- 26 & 27 Chale Kite Festival, Chale Recreation Ground, Chale, Isle of Wight
- 27 GOKF fly-in, Ferry Meadows, Peterborough, Cambs

JULY

- 3 & 4 Sunderland International Kite Festival, Northern Area Playing Fields, Stephenson, Washington, Tyne & Wear
- 4 Display by Sky Symphony Kite Display Team, Winterton Show, Winterton Showground, near Scunthorpe, Lincolnshire
- 4 Brighton Kite Flyers Fly-in, Telscombe Tye, near Brighton, East Sussex
- 9 - 11 5th International Kite Festival, Lebanon
- 10 Display by Sky Symphony Kite Display Team, Harthill Carnival, near Wo rksop, South Yorkshire
- 10 & 11 Brighton Kite Festival, Stanmer Park, Brighton, West Sussex
- 10 & 11 Barmouth Kite Festival, Barmouth Beach, Wales
- 11 Catching the Wind, 2nd Morecambe Kite Festival, The Beach, Morecambe, Lancs
- 11 GOKF fly-in, Priory Park, Bedford
- 16 Brighton Kite Flyers Evening Fly in, Stamner Park, Brighton, East Sussex
- 17 Goostrey Kite day for Cancer Charities, The Village Primary School, Goostrey, near Holmes Chapel, J18/M6, Cheshire
- 17 & 18 ~~4th Kennett Valley Kite Festival, Henwick Wortby Sports Field, Thatcham, nr Newbury, Berkshire~~ CANCELLED
- 17 & 18 4th Hereford Kite Festival, Kingstone High School, Kingstone, near Hereford
- 24 Whitley Bay Kite Festival, The Links, Whitley Bay, Tyne & Wear
- 24 & 25 Tewkesbury International Kite Festival, Tewkesbury School, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire
- 25 Petworth Kite Festival, Petworth Park, Petworth, West Sussex
- 25 GOKF fly-in, Ferry Meadows, Peterborough, Cambs



The Highwayman