

THE KITE

NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN EDITION 2005



NORTHERN
KITE GROUP

www.nkg.org.uk

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Photo courtesy of Peter Bindon

THE KITEBEACH EXTREME SPORTS FESTIVAL

29TH/30TH OCTOBER 2005

AINSDALE-ON-SEA SANDS

FEATURING

BRITISH PARAKARTING

SUPERCUP FINAL ROUND

KITE FLYING BUGGYING AND

LANDBOARDING SESSIONS

OZONE TEAM DEMO

LIVE BAND STAGE

PKD TEAM DEMO

**AND
MUCH
MUCH
MORE**

British Parakarting
Super Cup

PKD
PARACONTROL KITE DIVISION

Sefton
Leisure Services Department
Council of Leisure and Services

<http://www.kitebeachfestival.co.uk/>

A Note from your Chairman

I have a question that I can't find the answer to, so if anyone knows the answer could you please let me know as a matter of urgency!! Q. Where on earth has the flying season gone??

All communications to the above please. It doesn't seem like two minutes since we were looking forward to the beacon festival, and here we are looking towards One Sky One World and beyond.



NKG Chairman in kite flying Shocka!!

For those of you who attended the Chester Kite Festival, YES you did see me as one of the entrants in the altitude sprint!!

I just about managed to get off the ground but I was well hidden among the other **25** entries.

At this point I have to get on my soap box, not only to bring myself up to same height as the majority of you, but also to gain your attention on the very serious matter of safety. I would like all of you to consciously "Think Safety" at every fly-in, be aware of what the flyer next to you and behind you is doing, always appoint a safety officer no matter how few of you are flying, the general public don't know about kite safety so these are the people you must look out for, and keep them safe, (Whether they like it or not) because if they are not kept safe it could mean the end of kiteflying as we know it.

I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Your own little rocker
Enid



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WELCOME TO ALL NEW MEMBERS

Paul Taylor, Jane Taylor, Jonathan Taylor, Alicia Taylor, Richard Baxter, Barbara Kennedy, Howard Bentham, Barbara Bentham, Graham Wray, Pamela France, Martin Regan, Denis Emslie, Pat Emslie, Matthew Brownbill, Niomi Franklin, Jason Franklin, Michael Franklin, David Barker, Dorothe Burgess.

A warm kiting welcome to you all, it's lovely to have you in our group.

EDITORS CORNER

Welcome to the Autumn edition of the NKG newsletter, now the main flying season has passed and the cold and wintry weather is heading our way I hope some of you will still make an effort to come and support the club at the One Sky One World and Light Up The Sky events, Even if the weathers a bit iffy you can still all huddle up together and chat you know! And the Christmas fly-ins are even easier, you can just turn up in time to go to the pub for a meal...

Personally speaking I'm looking forward to the AGM to see what new delights come to light in the kite building competition. There were a lot of entries this year and I'm hoping its going to be just as keen next year, and dont forget to contact a member of the committee if theres anything you want bringing up at the AGM under Any Other Business. Theres also a list of proposed fly-ins for the next 12 months so if you have any comments or suggestions please come along to the AGM and share them, or write, phone, email a member of the committee.

You will see I've arranged another workshop for November with Karl Longbottom to build the Winged Box he was flying at Chester, quite a few people were impressed with how well it performed that weekend. Places are limited so get in quick! And there's also a possibility of an inflatable building workshop in March or April next year with one of the countries top Inflatable builders, check the next issue for more news!

You will also notice an advert for the Kitebeach extreme sports festival at Ainsdale at the end of October, the organisers did ask us to come along as a group and to run a single line arena but we did say earlier this year we wouldnt take on any more events, so we had to say no. But plenty of members are going down to help support the event, there will be a single line arena set aside for NKG fliers, and I know quite a few members have already said they will be attending for the weekend, the organisers have even arranged a discount rate at Pontins round the corner from the beach for fliers, check out their website for details. If you do attend remember to take your NKG membership card to get in as there is normally a fee to get on the beach there.

Once again I wish to thank those who took the time to contribute articles for this issue, and if anyone else has ideas for articles or photos they think other members would like to see then just contact me at the usual address or phone number and i'll be happy to try and include them.

Dazzz

BOLTON-LE-SANDS 2 DAY FLY-IN JULY 30TH – 31ST

I am sure that the majority of us who decided to attend the two day 'Fly-in' at Bolton-le-Sands will agree that it was a good decision. Last year Margaret [Watson] had asked Graham and myself if we would like to go to this venue but we had other commitments at that time. This year we made a point of putting the date in our diary and booked our camping pitch at Redbank Farm early and we were very pleased we did so. It was a very enjoyable weekend. The camping fields of Redbank Farm provide some beautiful views of Morecambe Bay and the hills of Lakeland in the distance, and also has the advantage of being very close to the flying venue. The site has toilets, showers and washing up facilities and costs only £3 per person per night.



Photo courtesy of Mary Jones

We arrived on the Friday evening and pitched our nylon bungalow next to Sheila & Ray and Aled & Fiona, further down the field were Enid and Rodger and across the other side of the field were John & Marie Welborn and family. In the lower camping field the intrepid Dot had single-handedly pitched her trailer tent, but with the help of the female entourage of Enid, Dot & myself, Graham managed to get our weekend lodgings erected in no time! After a cuppa we decided to "go find a chippie" but our car had other ideas as the battery was flat! However, with the help of our jumpleads and Aled's car we were

mobile again and found a very good Chinese Take-away-cum-Fish & chip shop not too far away.



Photo courtesy of Marina Lockwood

We had a nice relaxing end to the evening by sitting in the gazebo of 'Chez Smith' with Ray & Sheila and Aled & Fiona. Unfortunately we had very noisy neighbours further up the field, where three families were pitched, with at least 7 kids between them, who were still running around the pitch black camping field, screaming their heads off, until well after midnight, so it was the super duper earplugs to the rescue and I never heard another thing!



Photo courtesy of Mary Jones

beach which would, I'm sure, have been big enough even for him and his three kite performances as it went on for miles and miles and hardly anyone out there!

After having a fly with Mary [Jones's] Sky Dancer he decided to unearth his own homemade version, which hasn't seen the light of day for years. After several 'tweaking' sessions of the bridles and lines he managed to adjust things to his liking and spent nearly an hour having 'fun'.

It was nice to see the sky full of a variety of kites being flown and although we were there to enjoy ourselves and not really to entertain, it was nice to hear favourable comments from the general public who had come along to see "what was going off"!

Saturday morning dawned bright and dry and sunny, not something that was forecast and the weather remained kind to us for the rest of the day, although a small shower in the afternoon did threaten to spoil things, but it cleared up in next to no time and 'play' began again .

Our first sight of the flying area on Saturday morning had been a bit daunting as what looked like a long area of grass turned out to be 'islands' amongst the water filled 'grikes/grykes'. Graham had sprained his ankle only a few weeks ago by falling down a huge hole which had opened up in the field at the back of our house so he didn't want to risk another injury. However, he did manage to find a large enough area further along the grassland and far enough away from the single line flyers. The wind was very good for him and he was in his element. He could have opted to go out onto the



Photo courtesy of Mary Jones



Photo courtesy of Mary Jones

Some opted to go out for an evening meal that night, others went to the Take-away. We dined 'at home' and afterwards joined the Smiths and the Lewis's in the gazebo again and had an hilarious night. Considering Ray used to play in a 'Rock' band in the 60's, we decided to test his memory in recalling the names of the various artists who performed the songs on the CD lists that Graham had.

Aled & Fiona declared they were far too young to remember such things, but I'm afraid Sheila & I showed our age by actually knowing some of the tunes if not all the words! Ray did better with the names of the artists but trying to pronounce "Obernkirchen Children's Choir" after a few glasses of vino was another matter!

Sunday morning dawned a bit cloudy and we thought it was going to be a quiet day for wind but the sun quickly appeared and it became quite warm. The wind soon picked up and was coming from a different direction from Saturday. Graham decided that the beach would be a better flying place for him, far more room and not many people about. It was compacted sand and very easy to walk on. We found this an ideal place to at last try and get some good photographs of him flying his three kites and I had a few moments of fun walking backwards with the camera on a tripod.

Graham was also tempted to go join the buggy people. Dot had brought her buggy along with her and was desperate to begin having lessons but first of all she had to learn to master the art of controlling the kite, the solution to this was for her to sit on the sand and dig her heels in! But, the wind was too strong for her at one point and she was dragged her along on her tummy for a few yards! Graham did attempt to fly with Dot's kite but even he found it quite hair raising so quickly declined the offer to 'have a go' with the buggy!

It was nice to see some members of NKG who came just for the day, and I noticed the lovely "Sombreros & balls" flown by Anne & Geoff Othick. But all too soon the weekend was over for some and Ray, Sheila, Aled & Fiona said their farewells.

We were staying another night and after our evening meal we joined Enid, Rodger, Dot, Jim & Vanessa, Phil & Lyn in John & Marie's caravan awning enjoying their hospitality and having a good 'chin wag' about the weekend.

The consensus of opinion was that it had been a fantastic weekend. For those of us who are lucky enough to be invited to various kite festivals throughout the season, it can however also be a bit of a strain having to 'put on a show' weekend after weekend, especially at places like Washington, and worrying if the wind is going to be favourable at the time of your 'slot', and wanting to give a good performance, never being satisfied and thinking you could have done better. Being part of the entertainment also means that you don't get to see some of the other things that are going off around you or the other people who are attending and being able to have a chat to them. So it was really nice to have a weekend of being able to relax and do our own thing as far as flying was concerned and 'socialise' both during the day and in the evening. We really hope this 'event' will take place again next year. But, to echo the words of Jim Potts "Don't turn it into a festival". Just keep it as a weekend fly-in.



Photo courtesy of Mary Jones

NKG ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2006

AGM Location 15th January 2006 12pm till approximately 4pm

The Community Hall All Saints Church, Culceth Lane, Old Church Street, Newton Heath, Manchester.

From M60 junction 22 follow A62 Oldham road towards Manchester. Old Church Street is half a mile past the junction with A663.

Old Church Street is off Oldham Road near to Carpet World which is at the junction of Oldham Road and Droylsden Road.

Old Church Street changes to Culceth Lane near All Saints church.

The Community Hall is just past the junction with Briscoe Lane and is behind some terrace houses and is approached by a short unmade road. Please do not park on the short unmade road. There is parking available in the School playground accessible from Droylsden Road.

You can access a map online by going to <http://www.nkg.org.uk/FlyingSites.htm>

There will be a £1 charge towards the cost of the meal provided (Meat and potato pie and Veg option)

AGM Agenda

Third AGM Agenda Sunday 15th. January 2006

AGM Published Agenda

- 1 Annual Report by the committee
2. Receive and adopt the annual statement of accounts
3. Any other business
Future direction of the Club.
 - a) Association with Flying Circus
Enid and Committee to recommend for it to continue at three events, New Brighton, Morecambe and one other.
 - b) NKG Festivals
Beacon Park (in association with the Council)
Chester (in association with the Council)

Festivals NKG were asked to attend

Wakefield Festival (organised by Faceless)

Safety issues addressed by the organisers this time.

Ainsdale Beach Festival

The committee turned down the formal invitation to participate but agreed to publicise it to members.

c) Oldham Council Kite Festival

This now appears to be discontinued Committee recommend if Flying Circus are involved we would join with them. otherwise we arrange a fly in somewhere else.

d) Ad Hoc Requests for displays

The committee have passed these on to various NKG members, who are willing to meet the commitment as a first step, the request has then been passed on to other groups such as Flying Circus, Wigsley's Wings, Sky Artists and Flying Colours.

The commitment and the payment is a matter to be agreed between those carrying out the display and those making the request. Club officers sometimes act as facilitators between the parties. Neither the Club nor its officers receive payment for these events. The committee suggest that this arrangement should continue

e) Flying sites for Fly ins

Proposed list for discussion published in this issue of the newsletter (Page11)

Please notify any proposed changes to the list to a committee member before the meeting. Confirm Bolton le Sands as a week end fly in, the exact date in July will need to suit the tides. (Gene and Margaret Watson to advise)

f) Public Liability Insurance update John Welborn

2. BKFA to join or not to join, committee recommend not to join John to report

Safety statement by Enid

Election of Officers

Editor
Treasurer
Secretary
Chairman

Two Auditors

The present officers are prepared to offer themselves for re election

Presentation of Cups after the formal meeting

Best Large Kite by Ron Ogden

Best Small Kite by Edna Booth if present or Ron

Open Altitude Sprint (competition at Beacon Park) by Aled Lewis

Ladies Altitude Sprint (competition at Beacon Park) by Ron

There will also be private sales allowed for NKG members to sell goods to other members.

BBC CHILDREN IN NEED - LIGHT UP THE SKY

Alas, the time has come for me to step down from this wonderful cause – in the terms of organising the kiting side of things anyway.

In my humble opinion this event has been the premier fly-in for the kiting world in the last few seasons as regards the ‘BBC Children in Need’ fundraising in the UK and the gods have blessed us with gracious winds as dusk has fallen and the night descends upon the cool November evenings.

With the support and knowledge of Dave Green the NKG has become the countries leading authority on night flying.

The ‘soup kitchen’ has developed into a thing of legend, while Ken Cain’s “chippy run” has been deemed to save the lives of many thermodynamically challenged kite flier.

So it just leaves me to thank you all for the support you have given in this last few years – and hope whoever picks up the baton will have the same amount of support.

I thank you all.

Kindest regards,

Neil Edwards

After receiving the above article from Neil the NKG committee decided we should do what we could to make sure that one of the favourite fly-ins on the Calendar and one that supports a good cause to boot still went ahead and, after discussions with those involved, I’m glad to say it is still happening.

Our thanks go out to Neil and Dave and the rest of the “otty mob” who are too numerous to mention individually who have helped to make this such a good event in the past and we hope to keep it going for many years to come.

Otterspool Promenade - Saturday 19th November (Bring your lights!)

Neil is providing his big burner for the soup kitchen.

Dave is providing the sounds with his small PA.

Flying Circus is providing their small Party Tent for the Kitchen

If people want to bring along a few treats to add to the soup kitchen as well that would be good too!

There may be a small auction to raise additional funds

A Voluntary donation of £2.50 is requested from all fliers attending

(Please bring money with you, one of the hardest parts of these events is when people promise to pay for something then dont and somebody has to chase them for it, Bring plenty of money, if you don't spend it you can always take it home with you!)

PONTEFRACT FLY-IN 21ST AUGUST



Photo courtesy of Mary Jones

that went must agree it was a beautiful day. Most members arrived around mid-day. There wasn't much wind though, so some light wind kites were flown.



Photo courtesy of Mary Jones

The best part of the afternoon for us was when we had a mass fly-in of birds, ranging from swallows from Jim & Rodger and owls from Simon & Dr Geoff. It was like a scene from the Alfred Hitchcock film!

Many members flew their sports kites at some point during the day. The day finally came to a close around 7 pm. Home now for a nice cuppa tea!

The fly-in at Pontefract racecourse on the 21st August made for another great day out this year. We enjoyed seeing everyone again and I think everyone

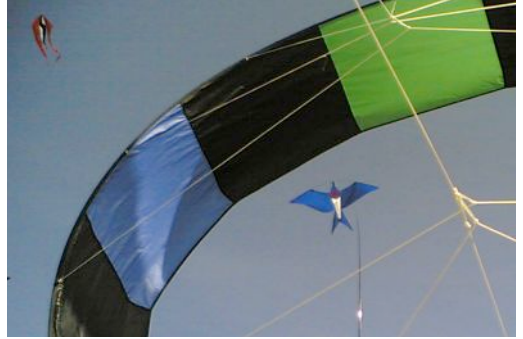


Photo courtesy of Dazzz

As the afternoon went on, the public seemed to be enjoying the show and the wind picked up, and many different kites were brought out. F-Tail deltas, pop cans, Circumflex, A Tangram, Rokkaku, and a big Jordon airform to name a few.

A white ferret even made an appearance but that's another story !.

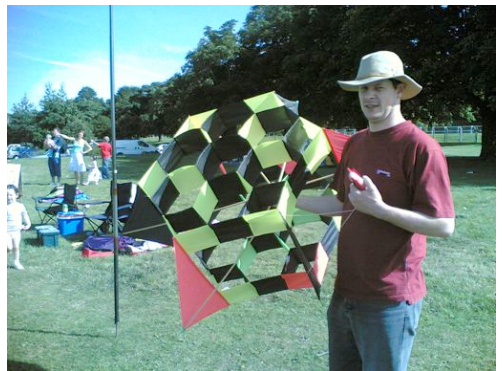


Photo courtesy of Dazzz

Julie Tebbutt

CAPTION COMPETITION



Every picture tells a story and I think there's certainly one to be told here.

So a prize is offered for the best caption to accompany this picture of Colin and the young lady in front of the ice cream van.

Send your entries to the editor before the end of the year and I shall find something suitable for the winning entry.

Dazzz

Dont forget if you want any items of NKG clothing you can download the form from the NKG website <http://www.nkg.org.uk/Clothing.htm> or you can contact Enid directly, I think Enid is the only one with NKG underwear so far but it cant last for long!

I'd recommend the NKG fleeces for those autumn and winter fly-ins and the waterproof jackets are rather good too. If you want to know how good the NKG sarong is though you may want to ask Jim Potts as he is the only person known to wear one.

Dazzz



**NORTHERN
KITE GROUP**

www.nkg.org.uk

**NKG Baseball Caps now reduced!
Blue with a Black Logo
£3.50 + P&P**

Contact Mary Jones (Treasurer)

PROPOSED FLY-INS 2006/2007

Here is the proposed fly-in list for 2006/2007, this also includes kite festivals within our membership area. Anybody wishing to comment or propose any changes can contact any committee member or come along to the AGM in January.

February 19th Sunday	Roundhay Park, Leeds
March 19th Sunday	New Brighton
April 16th Sunday	Pontefract Racecourse
May ???	Cleethorpes Kite Festival
May 21st Sunday	Otterspool
June 3rd & 4th	Beacon Park Festival
June ???	Fylde Kite Festival
June 24th. & 25th	Wirral Kite Festival
July 1st & 2nd	Sunderland Kite Festival
July ???	Morecambe Catch the Wind
July ???	Two day fly in Bolton le Sands
August 20th Sunday	Pontefract Race course
September ???	Chester Racecourse Festival
September 24th Sunday?	Wakefield, Faceless Co
October 8th Sunday?	OSOW at Otterspool and Pontefract
November 18th Saturday?	BBC Children in Need Light Up the Sky Otterspool
November 19th Sunday	Roundhay Park Leeds
December 17th	Xmas Fly in at Otterspool and Stainland

Year 2007

January 21st Sunday	Annual General Meeting at Newton Heath
February 18th Sunday	Roundhay Park, Leeds

Those events with questions marks do not have a confirmed date as yet but are usually held around those dates.

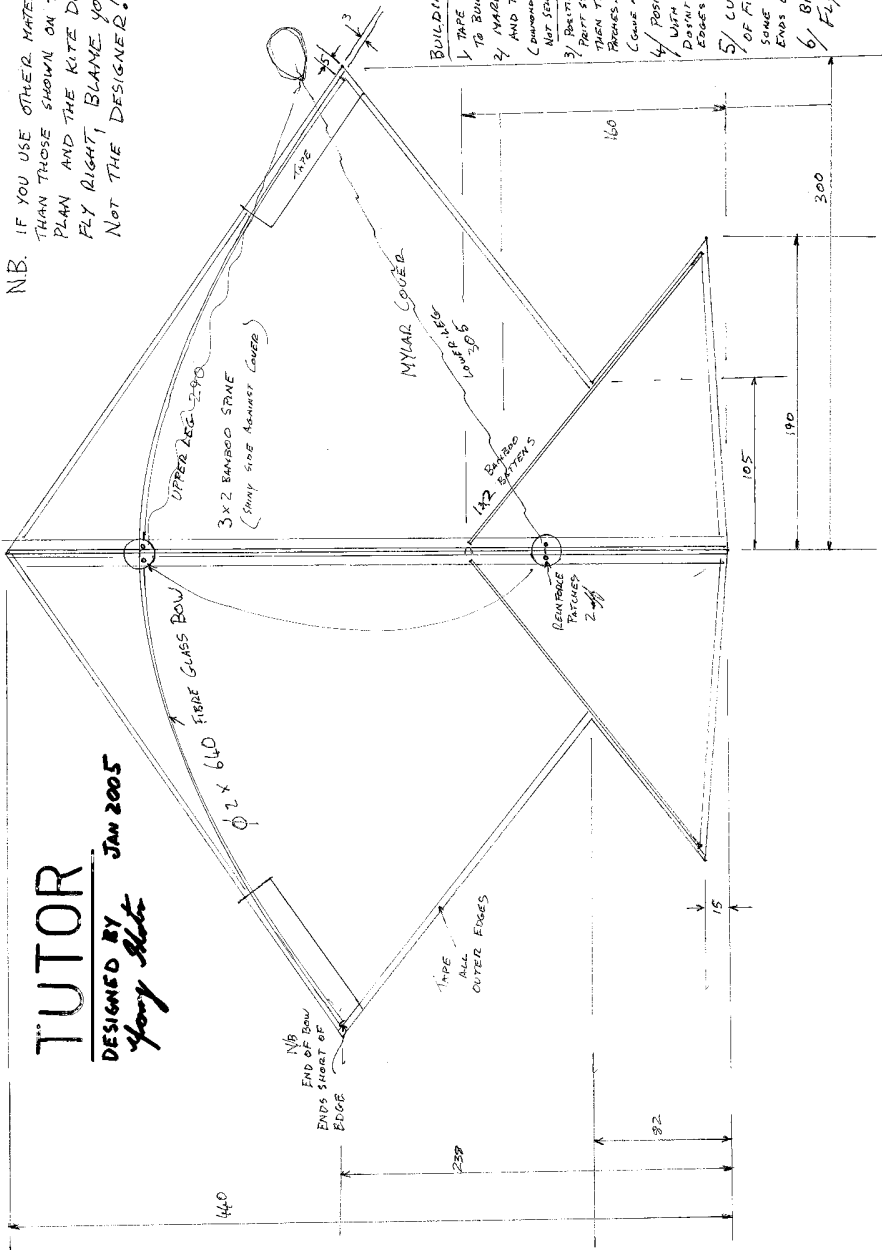
Haslingden hasnt been included as a fly-in for 2006 as the leisure centre wants to charge the club for the use of the field and won't let us book until the football clubs have had first refusal.

TUTOR

DESIGNED BY **Jan 2005**

Gary Blt

NB. IF YOU USE OTHER MATERIALS THAN THOSE SHOWN ON THE PLAN AND THE KITE DOES NOT FLY RIGHT, BLAME YOURSELF NOT THE DESIGNER!



BUILDING SEQUENCE

- 1) TAPE COVER MATERIAL TO BUILDING BOARD
- 2) MARK OUT OUTLINES AND TAPE EDGES (CHINA TAPE, FLY PAPER) NOT SEQUAPE VINYL
- 3) POSITION SPINE (USE PAPER STICK (BAMBINO) THEN TAPE - BATTERNS PHONES, FR. BATTERNS (GLUE AND TAPE)
- 4) POSITION BOW WITH TAPE NB. BOW DOESN'T GO RIGHT TO EDGES SEE PLAN
- 5) CUT OUT OUTLINE OF FIGURE. PUT SOME MORE TAPE ROUND ENDS OF BOW, BRIDLE AND FLY!

THE PLAYSAIL

The 6 x 7metre play sail (pictured) was originally made in 1998 for the Ashworth Valley Scout Centre by kite makers extraordinaire Jack and Mary Cunningham. Both Jack and Mary lifelong scouters themselves had been associated with the Ashworth Valley Centre for many years. The idea behind the Play Sail was to add a new dimension to scout activities and to encourage youngsters to take an interest in kiting.

The enormous sail was put together in Jack and Mary's dining room using an ordinary domestic sewing machine. Each section, a metre square made up of two triangular pieces of ripstop, one white one coloured, six squares sewn together to make a row and seven rows added together to make the sail.

The central section is made up of three metre square pieces of white ripstop on which Jack printed in bold lettering 'Ashworth Valley Centre. Play Sail'. The edge of the sail is reinforced with petersham and the corners strengthened with both canvas and petersham. Large eyelets inserted into each corner take the control lines, which are made up of thick nylon towrope, 36 ft long and the handles covered with tubing.



The play sail was taken to the 2003 Oldham Kite festival but due to the poor wind conditions its performance was not impressive. Jack and Mary asked if the NKG group at Otterspool could make use of the sail and so the sail was handed over to the club and Colin (Savage) agreed to look after it. The sail has since been flown on several occasions, performing well in the hands of skilled fliers. Reaching heights of 40-50ft the play sail attracts quite an audience.

The only problem inherited with the play sail was the original inscription of 'Ashworth Valley Centre-Play Sail' printed in permanent ink across the centre. All agreed that the inscription should be changed to the Northern Kite Group and include the NKG badge. It proved impossible to remove the print so the idea to replace the three central squares seemed to be the only solution.

This was achieved using the appliqué theory by first of all sewing a square of ripstop over the original material, which was then cut out. In very cramped conditions in a 11x13ft dining room using an ordinary sewing machine, the squares were successfully replaced.

A big problem was going to be the insertion of the 'Northern Kite Group', as the sail needed stretching to achieve this. Thankfully one of our members Peggy (Leaver) is Branch Secretary at the local British Legion and was able to arrange the use of the main hall where the sail could be stretched using six dining tables and a dance floor. Colin, Peggy and myself then set about arranging the letters and badge templates and finally filling in both with permanent ink.

So now the play sail is the pride and joy of the NKG and can be used at festivals to demonstrate the diversity of kite flying.

Gwen Williams

Stainland

Will be held once again at The Duke of York (Stainland) at 4:00pm. I was hoping to have sample menus in time to print in this magazine but unfortunately this was not possible. For those who attended last year it will be similar menus, a choice from the blackboard which included :- various starters & sweets, Sunday roasts, various fish & meat dishes, pies, salads etc. There is also a Special Christmas Menu (not known yet) for which a deposit of £5 will be required. When I receive the menus I will post them onto the N.K.G. site, (they may even be there now.) For those of you not on the internet, let me know and I will make alternative arrangements.

Anyone wishing to attend please let me, Sheila Smith know by November 5th as I am going on holiday to Fuerteventura for 2 weeks shortly after that date, either by

Email: rayandsheilasmith@tiscali.co.uk

Phone: 01422 376208

Write: 35, Alexandra Crescent,

ELLAND.

West Yorkshire.

HX5 9EH

Anyone requiring Special Christmas Meal please make sure I have the appropriate deposits by the above date.

Otterspool

N.K.G Xmas Fly-In, Otterspool on Sunday

18th December 2005.

We will be having a Meal [Xmas party] after the fly-in at 6 pm approx in the Otterspool Pub. Same arrangements as last year, please inform me if you wish to attend, or require further details. Last year we had 34 guests, look forward to seeing you there again.

Cheers Dave Green.

Phone: 0151 2600976

Email: davang@merseymail.com



"Ballet"



Jim Rowlands

Kite-oons are copyright Dr Mike Armstrong <http://www.spec.u-net.com/kite-oons.htm>



Karl Longbottom
Kites and Banners

performance

quality

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School House | Dorstone | Hereford | HR3 6AN | 01981 550326

NKG KITE WORKSHOP 27TH NOVEMBER 2005

After the succes of the last NKG kite workshop we are happy to say we have invited back Karl Longbottom, one of Britain's leading kite makers, to run a kite building workshop in the north of England. The kite we propose to make is the Winged Box below, those who saw it flying at Chester were very impressed with its performance. (The workshop version will have a normal double folded hem not the edge binding pictured) Due to the number of spars the carbon version is a little dearer than the Dowel framed version, If the numbers are sufficient then we could do the both kites at the same time.



Photo courtesy of Karl Longbottom

Option 1:

Carbon framed Kite

Size 1.1m span 1.45m length.

Cost per person:

Based on 10 people £60

Based on 6 people £70

Option 2

Dowel framed Kite

Size 1.0m span 1.15m length

Cost per person:

Based on 10 people £45

Based on 6 people £55

Date: Sunday 27th November 2005 starting at 10am

Venue: ERYCA Hall, Queen Street, Hoddlesden, Darwen, Lancashire, BB3 3LY (5 minutes from junction 5 on the M65)

Participants would need sewing machine, extension lead, pencil, ruler, scissors, thread, and preferably a cutting mat and knife and the class should take about 4-5 hours. Some kite building experience is required.

Places are limited so please send a £10 deposit per person and your contact details and kite preference to reserve your place, (make cheques payable to NKG) to Dazzz, 39 Blacksnape Road, Hoddlesden, Darwen, Lancashire BB3 3PN or telephone 01254 776819 for more information. Closing date is 15th November 2005.

Once we have sufficient numbers we shall send out confirmation of the workshop together with directions on how to find the hall.

Dazzz

IN MEMORY OF DAVE LAKE

I recently tried to contact Dave Lake from the York area regarding a future gathering of sport kite fliers which Dave loved doing so much. His wife reported that Dave had just been involved in a serious car accident and had died.

I had known Dave for just over four years. We both started flying sport kites at roughly the same time and looked forward to seeing each other at the start of each season to compare progress.

He was a kind, quietly spoken and gentle natured man. I don't think I ever saw him without him flying his favourite 'Gemini' kite. Sadly, this will now be left to memory alone.

In his early 40's, he has died younger than any of us realised he would – and we never got a chance to say good-bye. A few of us got together at the recent Chester Kite Festival to fly sport kites together in his memory. It felt good to honour him in this simple way. Thank you to those who joined us.

Our sympathies are with his wife and young children

Neil Edwards

CHILD PROTECTION COURSE

The NKG has recently received an offer for some of our members to go on a Child Protection Course at the Glen Burn Sports College at Skelmersdale.

The course is on the 24th January from 6:30pm to 9:30pm (3 Hours)

It consists of a single evening course, at the end of which you will receive a certificate of attendance and vetting by the police to enable you to work with children.

Costs are £20 which includes a booklet costing £7 which may not be need by everyone attending.

Since the course would be beneficial to the club as a whole the committee has agreed to pay some or all of the fees necessary depending on the number of people wishing to attend.

If you do wish to attend this course please contact Enid before the end of October.

NKG DISPLAY BOARDS

As many older members will know we have a colourful set of wooden display boards which display various types of kites and kite flying and other aspects of the NKG. These came into my possession earlier this year as the previous incumbent had no longer got the room to store them, As many will know these boards are quite large and heavy and I've been unable to fit them into my car to take to events as I dont have the spare weight or space in the car to carry them to events.

As a result I'm looking for one of two things, a volunteer(s) to take over stewardship of the boards who has the carrying capacity in their vehicle to take them to a few events each year, or a decision at the AGM to commission some new display boards made from modern materials such as Carbon and Webbing which can be easily packed away and transported, Each new display board would occupy as much weight & space packed away as a medium size box kite.



Photo courtesy of Tony Kidd

I propose taking high resolution photographs of the old display boards and getting these printed and laminated and using them on the new displays alongside other materials which can be swapped at will.

If a decision is taken to replace the old display boards we will then try to find a good home for the old display boards.

Dazzz

A roaming poet (on a bicycle) stopped by the Otterspool crowd one Sunday afternoon and asked if we would like him to write a short poem about kiting, in return for a little donation (a fast buck), so here it is.

KITE

As the wind blows northly-
Colour and light every sunny Sunday-
From earth to sky
Gravity defy-
Upon a wing and a prayer
Glide thru the air
Line to line
Next to no time-
Stretch and tickle a cloud-
Facinate- create a crowd-
This love for life carried with delight-
Upon a kite-
Mesmerize-
Skies the limit with a kite in it.

His name- Tony'A Chestnut Brown!! We gave him a fiver. It only took him about ten mins to write.

Gwen Williams

CHESTER KITE FESTIVAL

Well we turned up in Chester just after lunchtime Friday and said hello to all the other early arrivals and pitched our tent up ready for a good weekend, The Karen dragged me round the shops in Chester for a couple of hours! Ah well, things improved when we got back to find a few others had arrived in our absence and I got chance to open a beer and sit down for a rest. Friday we had a quick meeting to try and sort out who was doing what over the weekend and where we were going to ask people to fly etc, once that was done we could get down to some serious socialising!

Well Saturday morning dawned grey and damp and windless, we all had to get up early as we had a 10am start for the festival. Tony Slater turned up about 8am and was flying a light wind fighter in no time at all which gave us some hope, and as the start time approached the winds slowly came up.

The fliers meeting was a fairly brisk affair. Thanks to Selwyn for volunteering to be Field Director and allowing me to get some flying in over the weekend, and to everyone else who spared some flying time to help out with all the little jobs that need doing as well.



Photo Courtesy of Stuart Baldwin

Myself and Karen drove round the field and set up a little display of 5 twirly things which we had just purchased from Go Kites pegged from the ground up to a banner pole which looked quite good in the slight wind conditions. Then after setting out the kite arch in the hope that the wind would improve and our spike we moved round a bit further to set up the bigger stuff.

As I said the wind was fairly light to start with and there wasn't much going up to start with but as the day went on it did improve and more and more stuff went up, Thanks to the buggy crew who came in and did a powerkite demo for us, Neil, Ian, Peter, Stuart and the rest who kept flying their two line kites whenever they had room and wind for it. I was also most impressed with the octopus (Pictured) from Flying Empress kites at about 25 feet long it was a nice size and a very good stable flyer, this was the prototype that was flying and Karen has made enquiries to see if they do it in pink!



Photo Courtesy of Dazzz

Neil Edwards and Dave Green did a good job on the PA, we did have a Teddy drop display scheduled early in the day but there

just wasn't enough wind, but by 3pm we had plenty and there was a goodly assortment of animals parachuted all over the arena. There seemed to be some competition among the catchers as to who could catch the most and I think Simon Tebbutt may have won that particular session..

Thanks also to Karl and Sara Longbottom, Bryn from Wigsleys Wings and of course the Sky Artists crew who did their best to keep the big inflatables up in the air in rather dodgy conditions, (I Like the new octopus Karl)

As the day came to a close the wind died off again but the fighter kite fliers put on a good display for the public including a fight to the finish, commentary was by Tony Slater.

After the Saturday had finally finished people retired to their tents and caravans for more of that serious socialising stuff quite a few went to the pub as well on Saturday and Sunday.

Don't ask Dot about the ferret though!

Sunday dawned rather too early for my liking and I didn't even have that much to drink the night before! At least it wasn't raining..

The winds started rather light again and then eventually died to nothing by early afternoon. But then a new kite flying star was born in the shape of Barney the Kite Flying Wonderdog!

Barney belongs to Fred Kaz and Helen and loves to chase his ball constantly, so Fred tied a kite to his collar and commenced the ball chasing activities, it certainly amused everyone there although Barney was looking distinctly tired by the end of his ball chasing session.



Photo Courtesy of Stuart Baldwin



Photo Courtesy of Stuart Baldwin

The wind finally decided to make an appearance again about 4pm and we decided to go for a Teddy drop, it took a while to get a lifter that would manage in such slight winds but Flying Colours got chance to perform their routine while we tried out different lifters, after a lot of trying we finally got a kite that would lift the dropping gear thanks to Bryn from Wigsleys Wings and the Teddy drop went ahead with just enough time at the end for Graham Lockwood to perform his routine as well.

All in all it was a good weekend with plenty of laughs and very few problems, a very nice way to end the main part of the kite flying season, a big thank you to Enid for organising it, and I hope we get to go back next year, they may even advertise it so that people in Chester actually know its on!

Dazzz

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WAKEFIELD KITE FESTIVAL

The kite festival at Wakefield Heath Common was better than ever this year. Faceless, who organise the event, did as they promised last year and made the arena a safer place to be for everyone by cordoning it off from the public.

There was a kite making workshop for the children, which apparently was a huge success. Some of the kites however did end up in surrounding trees and neighbouring gardens at the other side of the common. John Welborn even managed to lose his Rhombus Powersled, which we managed to retrieve unscathed to his delight. Members of the public were really enjoying themselves on what was a beautiful day. Many sat by their cars enjoying picnics whilst watching the show, others enjoying walking around with a ice cream or two.



Photo courtesy of Peter Bindon

The large inflatables played a big part of the day. We all enjoyed seeing the teddy, owl, turtle, Garfield, and a scubediver all by Wigsley wings. Bertie Bassett even made an appearance. Fighter kites, Deltas with long tails, and Cody's were just to name a few that filled the sky, and the ground art such as the spinning baskets from Aled and Fiona and the spiky balls were all great to see.



Photo courtesy of Peter Bindon



Photo courtesy of Peter Bindon

Leeds Kites had a half price sale on and many members were stocking up on carbon and fibreglass rods along with ripstop. All in all it was a great day and everyone made a real effort to make it a success this year. We even got mentioned on the BBC News that evening with some great close up shots of the days festivities, now that's got to be good news for the club. :-)

Julie Tebbutt

KITE CALENDAR

OCTOBER

- 16 15th Annual MKF display at Family Fun Day, Botanical Gardens & Glasshouses, Edgbaston
- 16 Alcester & Worcester Kitefliers fly-in, The Worcester Countryside Centre, Spetchley Road
- 16 BKFA AGM, venue to be advised, but in the Birmingham area
- 28 - 30 White Air Windfest and Kite Boarding Tour, Isle of Wight

NOVEMBER

- 12 & 13 Fuerteventura kite festival, La Playa del Burro beach, nr Corralejo, Fuerteventura
- 13 Sutton Park - Boldmere Gate Fly-in, Sutton Coldfield, near Birmingham, West Midlands
- 18 SKF & TKF Light up the Sky for BBC Children In Need Appeal, Rougham Airfield
- 19 MKF Light up the Sky for BBC Children in Need Appeal, Mill Hill School, Pease Hill, Ripley
- 19 NKG Light Up the Sky for BBC Children in Need Appeal, Otterspool promenade, Liverpool
- 20 NKG fly-in, Roundhay Park, Leeds, Yorkshire - CHANGE OF VENUE

DECEMBER

- 11 Sutton Park - Boldmere Gate Fly-in, Sutton Coldfield, near Birmingham, West Midlands
- 18 NKG Xmas fly-in, Otterspool promenade, Liverpool
- 18 NKG Xmas fly-in, Stainland recreation centre, Sowerby Bridge, West Yorkshire
- 18 Alcester & Worcester Kitefliers fly-in, The Worcester Countryside Centre, Spetchley Road

TRICK SCHOOL TRAINING DAYS

This winters training schools for trick fliers start very soon – in fact, the first one takes place at New Brighton on the 27th November, with more to follow over the coming months – dates yet to be set but, keep an eye on the NKG website for regular updates. www.nkg.org.uk

Don't worry if your kite has seen better days or isn't particularly suited to trick flying, modern stunt kites will be available to borrow for all who take part.

The format is changing slightly this year with the emphasis on 'trick flying' rather than precision flying – though a precision based training day is organised for early next year in the Bristol region if your keen enough.

Further changes include the removal of the competition format. It was felt that we should be moving more toward just the 'fun of flying' – so that's what its about. Enjoy flying with like-minded people and learn the tricks you've always wanted too – with some of the countries leading coaches in attendance and no competitions to worry about.

The only rules for the day are you must be a current member of the Northern Kite Group or STACK (Sport Team and Competitive Kiting) for insurance purposes. Costs are £3.00 for STACK members and £5.00 for non-STACK members. The day will start at roughly 10am – so if you want to take part or find out any further information don't hesitate to get in touch.

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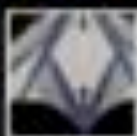
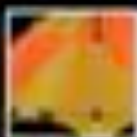
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