

THE KITE

NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2009





<http://team4mation.net/>



A Note from your Chairman

Hi Everyone

It has been a busy October with events every weekend Wakefield Heath Common was a fine day with strong winds so it was well attended by members and the general public.

The local church ladies had baked the best bakewell tarts I have ever tasted for their refreshment stal. We even bought one to take home, A good display of kites were flown by everyone. I managed to fly my new kiterunner kite a new nagasaki hata and a Carl Longbottom pterodactyl Aled Lewis insisted his Indian fighters were much better and then demonstrated just how skilled he is with them.



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One Sky One World was next and both sites had good attendance with similar numbers of members and over 200 kites flown.

Then it was time for Light Up the Sky at Otterspool, I continue to be amazed at the organisation that goes into it by Gwen and her team of supporters. I was offered a cup of coffee as soon as I set foot on the field and pans of hot soup kept appearing throughout the day.

The auction was well supported and I won Freddy the Frog previously looked after by Selwyn and Jim. I hope to fly it many times before passing it on again. It just fits in my roof box.

Do not forget my spell as Chairman ends in January at the AGM so we will need someone to take over.

Lastly remember what Enid would say and think safety at all times when flying

It is a bit early but may I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy new year

John Welborn
Acting Chairman

WELCOME TO ALL NEW MEMBERS

Pam Evans, Andrew Paraskos, Gillian Paraskos, Jonathan Paraskos,

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

EDITORS CORNER

Hi Everyone, my usual apologies for the lateness of your magazine, but I got there in the end, many thanks to Big Bri for sending in some great festival reports and Neil as well, anything I couldn't fit in here will be in the winter bulletin in early January.

A big thank you for those who turned out to OSOW and LUTS, the weather wasn't brilliant and from all accounts you did a great job, if you have any money or collections still to send in then please let Mary our esteemed treasurer have them by the end of November so we can get it all collated and get a final total.

Finally I hope to see plenty of you at the AGM in January and some kites entered into the kite building competition as well, with a bit of luck I might even have time to get something made myself this year, although there are so many things on the list it's going to be hard to choose which it should be...

Dazzz

KITE BUILDERS RETREAT

In other areas over the winter period various groups have what's called a kite building retreat. Generally, it's a weekend event of building a pre-cut kite of a reasonable specification.

In the past we have asked Karl Longbottom to run some classes, but nothing that would cover a two-day period. I hope we can use Karl again as he is the UK's leading kite maker and we can learn so much from him.

I'd really like to get involved in a weekend project where we get the chance to learn above and beyond what only a single day could produce. With the funds in the group being so very healthy perhaps the committee could agree to part funding the event? Do you want to get involved?

Just to inform you of what is possible, a club in the south of the UK is inviting Cliff Quinn from the USA to run a Marconi building class – Cliff is one of the 'Master Kite Builders' in the World. The cost of the class including flying him over to the UK and providing his accommodation, then building his pre-cut Marconi is £85.

It's a matter of numbers, the more the merrier – and the more, the cheaper!

Neil Edwards

The hottest weekend of the year was forecast from early in the week. What was more pleasing was the word BREEEEEEZIE they all kept using. I scanned the weather all week and for once I packed the caravan with my Bikini shorts and sun cream by the gallon. I was confident and giddy, we knew we're in for a stinking weekend as I left Friday for Harewood. The Weather Man (and Woman), had got this one bob on this time.

Took the M1 after the M62. It's about 15 miles longer, but ya miss Leeds completely, which proved to be a good decision, total run of 82 miles from door to Pitch of Caravan.

Harewood House if you haven't yet visited is simply stunning! A Grade one listed building, the house was built between 1759 to 1771 for Edwin Lascelles whose family had bought the estate after making its fortune in the West Indies through Customs positions and slave traders to me and you and lending money to planters. The house was designed by the architects John Carr and Robert Adams. Must have been a fair job with no JCBs and no B & Qs around that time.

Much of the furniture is Chippendale. Mr Chippendale, or Lance (Lancelot) to his mates, came from nearby Otley. Also keen gardeners will know of Capability Brown who played a major role in the planning of the gardens, to which Sir Charles Barry added the magnificent Grand Terrace in 1844 (I think).

Harewood house has a long history of taking visitors and groups like the NKG, interested in its imposing architecture, and collections of paintings. The guidebook I have is excellent reading, little known fact: the house used to be a Convalescent Home in the early 19th century. The House still remains the family home of the Lascelles family. Currently Sir George Lascelles is the man, he's the seventh Earl. Although, these days it's a trust, managed by Harewood House Trust.

There's allsorts of stuff to do, Himalayan Adventure play area and gardens, large and very kew! (I had a go), and great bird garden with a big emphasis on Education. I found the staff helpful and they, I think, enjoyed our visit also.

Friday

A relaxed theme was the order of the day Friday as folk from all over arrived. The usual suspects had arrived early, Mr & Mrs Potts had position A as the organisers, I also spotted Phil (Kon Tiki Phil) and his good lady, Oh, and that Ladder he had AT DRIFFIELD was propped up. I know he used to be a fireman, but he's retired I'm sure. Talk about bringing work home, that's just obsessive. Phil, seek help mate! lol

Anyways, there was Vince from the North East kite flyers, he was tucked in nicely. Bazza B and his Mrs were along, all the way from Nottingham. The site filled quickly and by Saturday morning I counted over 20 vans easy. There was a good few tents too. Gwen & Sally represented the Otty crew. I also spotted and talked with Mold Mike, who was up for the day on Saturday. I had a great spot with Frank & Jen at the rear....No jokes please about rears, Frank never flew a kite all weekend. He was a little poorly, occupied with his rear, hope he gets well enough to tow home. Dave B's family were next door, Gwen & Sally my other side and John & Gina further up. Karen (but no Dazzz) car shared with Dale with Jessica Holt riding shotgun. Don't the young grow quickly, Dales a nice young man and Dave Holt's not-so-little-anymore daughter Jessica is shooting up. I spoke to Karen (the Power Kiter lol) who looks very well, very fit after a tough year with close family worries. Dazzz has a J O B. Things are good, I hope, for them.

(the Power Kiter lol) who looks very well, very fit after a tough year with close family worries. Dazzz has a J O B. Things are good, I hope, for them.

Phil the Power Kite specialist had a few like-minded folks along. Little know fact about Phil: he really is a MAGICIAN, a proper one, and awesome with that Buggy and Power Kite. The display was quite breath taking. Had us all mouth open and gasping, I take my hat off to these guys, they fly in all conditions and really do put on a great display in some really inappropriate places.

Pity he couldn't make the Pa Speakers DISAPPEAR when he clattered it on his demo (sorry couldn't resist Phi) He was a little unfortunate. A gust caught him in a really bad wind. BANG! He clattered the stanchion and speakers. A great display by his team though, lifting guys 30ft high, and some kewl freestyle stuff too. The crowds love it and got a real closer than required look at Ripstop. Nuff Said! Well-done fellas.



Picture courtesy of Mary Jones

The view of the House and grounds is a real picture when ya open the blinds in a morning. The riot and shattering noise of birds happens early, around 4am! I found the squirrels in the trees amazing. I watched around 15, YES, 15, all in the same tree for about 20 minutes at around 5am. I realised they weren't just being squirrels doing squirrel stuff, they were actually PLAYING SQUIRRELL TIKI, or TAG as my daughter calls it now. In this, modern hi-tech world we live thank God for places like Harewood to get away from it all. I thanked my daughter by the way for inventing Tiki (tag). She really thought that her and her pals had invented a new game!

Saturday

The flyer's meeting was at 10.15, a brief word from Jim on field positions, safety and commentary. Neil Edwards was going on the microphone. Lyndsey, I expect would be his runner, sound engineer, canteen,

unsung hero, who doesn't even fly kites! Before long the skies were a mass of colour. The winds arrived on time, Neil switched it on a little later than I would have liked, 10.17 and 28 seconds. The altitude sprint was the first main event and went down a treat, no damage done in gusty winds. All did well. The winner. Phil I think the chaps name was, won both days,,,,,,,,,RINGA.

Myself and the Revolution flyers, along with the Home Made Quad Squad occupied the front of the field. Left side, near the public viewing and commentary with the European Air Gallery to our right. These guys have the patience of saints, the time they took building and setting up these pieces of art is dedication itself. They flew first slot and gave us all a great view of the kite Masterpieces. The wind wasn't kind at all, but they did a super job. I've flown one of these kites and they're a real handful in a sweet wind. The wind we had was from all directions, nasty and gusty and kept you on your toes.

Graham Lockwood and his Fab assistant took to front and centre next. I really didn't envy them. The wind was Wicked, swirling, stopping, lumpy and very strong at points. Like flying in Rice Pudding - Nice sweet bits and then some big lumps, thin bits and then more nasty bits. Graham did his thing. Sometimes tracking back to gain momentum and then the next second, hanging on for dear life. The HUGE CROWD appreciated the commentary from Neil, which explained the difficult situation, dedication and skill involved. A good job from all so far. Neil was entertaining, informative and so funny. I've never flown with so many world champs, Record holders and exclusive folk in my life. Great job mate.

The Quad mob was up next. Myself, Dave B, Richard, Kevin, Simon, Paul, Bazza B and, to be honest, I didn't fancy it at all. I had low wind rods in a standard kite like most of us, which gives more lift than Marilyn Monroe's skirt, but quite fragile also for the gusty conditions. The gusts worried us a lot. We flew as best we could, not a great display from our standards, but one, which got a few wows. Neil offered the public a chance of a quick tutorial and we had several takers. Two young lads at first, they were nervous, but did ok for a first try, and then a few others gave it a shot, with mixed results, tutored by Dave B and myself. Later we were quite busy answering questions from the public on where and how they could get a Revolution to try. Job done. Gina also got some PRIVATE TUITION from Dave...Mmmm I'm tellin' John.



Picture courtesy of Brian Williamson

Next up was the Magnificent Dragon, 40ft of it I think. Jim and a team of helpers flew the kite, the best flight I've witnessed of that particular kite. The now MASSIVE CROWD, well into the thousands watched amazed.

Have to say, all the time this was going on, the Teddy Bear Droppers had a queue 30 people long and

Have to say, all the time this was going on, the Teddy Bear Droppers had a queue 30 people long and more at times. It really was relentless and a hard task. I think. Teddies dropped all day long. Gene & Margaret with a few fit helpers never stopped. I know Gene isn't well and Margaret is a real trooper. I'm sure I can speak for us all, and it goes without really saying, we wish Gene a speedy recovery. A little prayer, some kind words and a little help from their friends will go along way I'm sure of that. Well-done the Bear Droppers and helpers, the KITE FLYING stars of Harewood.

Jim & Vanessa were at our rear flying a mix of inflatables, Wigsleys were rear and centre with those Massive Bears I love so much. Just behind us Dave and Sky Magic skillfully flew above a very large tree, which was smack bang in the middle of the arena. They must have broken the WORLD RECORD for penguin flying on Sunday. Denis and Keith also had their flight path blocked by the same Monster tree. I spotted so many great flyers both days, it really was a treat to be involved.

As close for the day approached, the crowds, now in the tens of thousands, watched Aled and John with their fighters. The crowds didn't want to leave. The comments and thanks we personally received made ya feel a few foot taller that evening. The weather was awesome, the temperatures soared with us and got well into the eighties.

The evening brought some drink and merriment WITH PUBLIC AND FLYERS. I was, as I'm sure were most, EXHAUSTED AND LOBSTER RED. Phil was about with the ladder again (what's he up to), I could see the use for it here. Several kites had been stuck during the day, up trees. Phil, along with a few tipsy helpers, plus bystanders, rescued SEVEN in total I think. I won't list the kites or the embarrassed pilots for professional reasons, but lets just say, one fella had THREE up the same tree and we know who you are lol. Harewood Trust have put a Brass Plaque on the tree and named it after him, so I'm told.

Sunday

Sunday brought the same HOT HOT HOT sunshine, the same order in flying, but the winds were a little more consistent. The Crowds were again filling the place to bursting point. Really is a sight to see. I'm sure all Good Looking Women are Solar Powered, they only seem to come out when it's sunny (thanks for that one Rich).

The area of public flying was jammed with small kites, small foils and allsorts of stuff and at times well outnumbered the kites we displayed. Barry at Go Kites had hardly a kite left. I walked through a couple of times and smiled to myself, as I thought what a beltin' way to spend a typical English Sunday afternoon. Kite flying really is a typically English trait. Also the FAMILY feel of the event was very, very prominent. Kids of all ages - babies to teenagers, Men - young and old, Mums, Dads, White, Black, all mixing, flying and having a splendid weekend in peace and sunshine...Quite a site.

The weekend drew to a close and with a sense of satisfaction and of a job well done I thought THE WINNER for the weekend...Good Old ...ENGLISHNESS. YIP...ENGLISHNESS. Maybe a new word, maybe an old one, but its one I think sums up Harewood and Yorkshires Hospitality at its best.

BRIAN WILLIAMSON., .



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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2010

Annual General Meeting to be held 17th.. January 2010 at:
St Thomas's Church Hall
Moorside
Glebe Lane
OL1 4SJ

Directions

From M62 take exit onto A 627(M) turn off onto A627 and onto the A62 round Oldham going North East then onto A672 Ripponden road

Glebe Lane is off Northgate Lane

Northgate Lane is about one and a quarter miles from A627 / A62 junction

Car parking is in the streets round the church hall

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 adjoining the Church accessible from Droylsden Road.

There will be a free buffet meal with sweet provided .

The usual activities will include

Best Kite Competition 2 classes large and small

A Straightforward competition. The kite is to be made by the entrant and the one voted best by the members present is the winner. If you want this competition to continue more entries are needed than last year. All the cup winners in this annual competition since its inception have been exceptional in the design of the kite and /or its decorative applique work .

note a small kite will be one whose width plus spine length is not more than two metres

Displays of Photographs, Kites, videos etc.

Private sales of kites and associated bits and pieces.

Please note there will not be a raffle or auction this time

Presentation of Cups

AGM Agenda

Report by the committee .

Receive and adopt the annual statement of accounts

Any other business (see below)

Election of officers Editor, Treasurer, Secretary

Appointment of one member to act as auditor

Appointment of New Chairman

AOB

Future Direction of the Club Festivals etc

Flying sites for Fly ins, review . Monthly programme of events/ fly ins, including OSOW and Light Up the Sky

Safeguarding Children update on the New Act and its implications for all Club members.

Please note Although any other business can be raised at the meeting it would be preferred if items could be notified to the Secretary beforehand.

BEACON KITE FESTIVAL JUNE 2009

As always I was weather watching the week before the Beacon. As I think many more would have been. Rain, Rain and more Rain said the BeeB.

Also, and lets get it out in the open, its no secret, the clash with the Wirral Festival makes this a special, but difficult week for any Club member and Kite Lover. My loyalties, if you like to look at it that way, will, without question, always fall with the Beacon. There's no personalities involved, political motivation, or any other reason for me personally, other than I'm a local fella and this is our club's Wembley/Premier Event/Big Day. I, for one and my family, feel proud and grateful, as many are, just to be involved and able to add to the spectacle. I do of course feel sad about then missing the Wirral. Some good pals and, I'm sure there are others who feel just the same, will fly at the Beacon and the Wirral. I just hoped we could all get great weather and E N J O Y. Maybe next year it can be resolved, I think you will all agree.

We arrived at The Beacon at 11.45am on Friday. Boy oh boy it was glorious. I had my shorts on and Debbie didn't need a cardi! Frank & Jen were the only van I could see as I drove on the freshly mown grass and dropped the steadies. Within 30 minutes I had a cold one in hand. Anticipation was in the air. The wind was a little low, a northern, north easterly breeze, round 5 or 6 mph. Jim & Vanessa arrived soon after me and became the first of many. A good section of the allotted camping area was filled by 3pm, John & Gina, Josie & family, Bongo Bernard had the week-end off, Mary Jones, John Wellborn l& family, Dave B & family. Keith & Lorna (I think its Lorna) ar-

rived and gave us a master class in reversing a caravan and van, followed by the other part of the team, Denis. Why is it, myself included, does nearly every Man & Wife with a caravan have to go through what can only be described as the CARAVAN DANCE. I know ya all know what I'm talking about. Luckily, it always seems to end in smiles and laughter, but we all seem to repeat it. Maybe there's a case for a wife swap while parking the caravan, but it's sure entertaining to watch or offer help as Potts did with Keith.

The arena was smaller, I thought, not as wide or long. Myself, Jim, Phil (Kontiki Phil), who hadn't got a ladder with him at this point, were joined by a small army of helpers and moved the barrier and posts. Vince is handy with a lump hammer. Margaret and Gene mucked in as always. It was also all hands to the pump as the Scout's marquee frame, which had been erected by all off us and was being fitted with its sides, decided to join the kites and became airborne in the now high,



which had been erected by all of us and was being fitted with its sides, decided to join the kites and became airborne in the now high, blustery winds. A decision was made to leave it strapped down without the legs. A wise one I thought, Jim agreed and we nailed it down for the evening.



I'd set a Rev up to the wind earlier. The wind was getting lumpy and the sun was starting to play hide and seek. Eventually, after about 15 minutes, the wind did a switch around and blew straight toward the Wirral, south westish from the Beacon. By around 7pm the site was quite full and we had our first spits of rain as Paul arrived with his Pop Up. Kamikaze had made the trip from over Sheffield way with his family. It's great to see some old friends and acquaintances. Few kites now flew, but it was quite

chilly by dusk as my lovely wife left for a nightshift. I was HOME ALONE (kids at my mums)

Saturday,

I unlocked the gate onto the camping area at 4.50am. Deb was due back around 5.10am from work. The weather and day were yet to be complete or show its hand, but I could feel the rain that was on the way. Clouds were low and so was the temperature. Reports of Flash floods and hail had swept the camp from Friday. It Didn't Look Good!

By 7am the rain was in and didn't look like stopping. The time rolled on as I spotted Pete Fisher, Gwen, Selwyn, Colin and his pal, John and his lad, Ian Parks, and quite a few more old friends. The wind blew strong and rain fell constant, not heavy stuff, Billinge rain we call it, the stuff that soaks ya wet through. It slowly, very slowly, brightened by around 2pm, all was not lost and we all got together and came up with a revised list of events.

The rest of the day was dull and few spectators braved the wintry conditions. The Burger van never opened. The Doughnut guy left before dinner. Never the less, the NKG FLEW and put on quite a display for three or four hours. Even the trick lads did a stint with Ian on the now rehashed commentary booth. They did very well in the worst winds of the day.





I'd hurt my back and decided my bed at home with a hot bath was on the cards. I live a few miles away and opted for my own bed, didn't fancy the caravan at all. As we left kites still flew and folk mixed, but anticlimax filled the air, as the Auc-

tion had been canceled and rescheduled for Chester.

The news of the day had to be about our Little Star, our boss lady, our Safety Queen, our very own ENID. Due to wanting to start a family, Enid and Dizz had decided to step down from the NKG throne. I won't dwell on WHY. I did dwell on how she will be missed as the head of our club. I mention Dizz, because with every great woman there's usually a great fella. I'm quite sure this is the case here. Enid and Dizz both intend to attend as often as possible our club events. That's if they can sort out who is driving Enid's DODGEM. John Wellborn has stepped up into the breach once again and will fill Enid's role until the AGM in January. All the best Enid and Dizz, we LUV YA.

SUNDAY

I woke after a crackin' nights sleep in my bed at home. Around 9am. PANIC...9am. I can't remember the last time I slept in so long. I had everyone up, washed and dressed, then to the Beacon by 10am. The day showed some promise and we were optimistic.

Richard, Simon and Kev arrived, so a Full Rev team was on the cards. By 10.45 we had Mike, Dave B, Paul and the three arrivals flying team stuff. Neil Edwards showed up and I thrust a Rev in his





Neil Edwards showed up and I thrust a Rev in his capable hands. Mold Mike, Gwen, Selwyn and some Otty members flew my fav stack - the Red, White and Blue Dina kites. They really do look cool. I was jonesin' for a go, but never got the chance. Kontiki Phil and his better half had their lifter bobbing high in the sky, with a quality catch of fish for laundry, Jim, Vanessa, Keith, Denis, John, Gina and Frank, the field was full of kites and colour as the Beacon began to spring to life.

I announced the Teddy Bear Drop was now open and ready for the brave bears to take a ride as the public began to fill the open spaces after Church. Mary took the microphone and with Jen as sound engineer, gave a thankful public a good insight into what was on display. My two kids, along with my fit as a fiddle Mrs and Zoe, chased Bears all day in quite a good blow. The rain did try a tiny spit, but the sun shone on the righteous as a cleaner, more consistent wind blew. The Revolution team did three cracking displays and flew all day. I did my commentary on the tanoys as James Bond themes fitted to the Quad line display. The ground display of Bolls was great and many more kites of that type. Bongo Bernard flew a number of different kites. John Well-born flew a very rare Gibson Girl for a while. Mary kept the Safety and Public in check.

The day and event finished very well and that feeling of disappointment was a vague memory now. With the forecast we had, the CLASH and other events, it was never going to be the best ever Beacon Festival, but I sure hope it's the worst as we really enjoyed everyone's company over the weekend. So thanks everyone. If there's anyone I missed or didn't mention, apart from Phil's Ladder, I'm very sorry.

The winner for the weekend had to be, for me, Dizz on Enid's Dodgem. Flying an F Tail 499ft up, while driving a motor vehicle – Enid's Mobility Scooter!

The Losers - the folk that didn't get a RATH-BONES STEAK or MEAT AND POTATOE PIE down their neck while in, or almost in... God's Homeland... WIGAN.

God Bless All

BRIAN WILLIAMSON,



Pictures courtesy of Mary Jones

DIEPPE KITE FESTIVAL 2010

Next September it appears an invasion from the NKG is heading toward France that is almost akin to the D-day landings themselves, so I hope this helps in preparing for the nine-day festival that is Dieppe.

Travel

If your booking car & caravan / campervan to travel by ferry, most of us have found that the best prices are through the 'Caravan Club' – it can often be cheaper to join just to get the best overall price. Booking early saves £'s. Dover to Calais via boat or tunnel is one route, followed by a three hour drive down virtually empty motorways, many of which are toll roads, figure on spending £15 – 20 on the tolls to whiz you there or go on the 'A' roads but increase the journey time significantly. The other common route is Newhaven (near Brighton) straight into Dieppe's port. A longer crossing, which will cost more, but you arrive within 100yds of the flying site. Transmarche is the only ferry company I know that covers this route.

An up-to-date passport is essential, even if we are all in the EU.

French police are very strict these days on car regulations – a warning triangle, high visibility vests for each passenger, spare bulbs for every light, and headlamp deflectors so as not to blind oncoming traffic when driving on the wrong side of the road are all mandatory – or face a big fine.

Where to stay

Hotels are best booked after reading this as many are almost fully booked already, though Peter Fisher and Ian Parkes both got a late great deal last year. Camping on the side of the flying site in previous years has been reserved only for campervans, but rumours have surfaced that caravans may also be allowed – but beware! These are only rumours and if you don't get confirmation you risk having to pray there are spaces available at local campsites. Last time there was not enough space for more than 3 or 4 extra caravans on top of the already congested space full of the motorhomes. Security around this area is generally regarded as very good. There are two commonly used campsites, one approx 9 miles north, and one approx 3 miles south – the one to the north is changing its profile to mainly static vans, so the one to the south known as 'La Source' is probably the best choice, its also closest for travelling back and too and getting taxi's in at night time if you fancy a nice meal and a glass of wine or two.

What to expect at the festival

If you want to fly in the arenas you must notify the organisers well in advance of your details including the insurance you have. A car pass can be requested in the months prior to the festival – a must if you want to park close by. At the weekends its not unusual to have two hundred and fifty thousand visitors turn up, so getting to the flying site before 9.30a.m on these days is essential.

The French have an unusual approach to organising things. When you try to collect your car or arena pass don't be surprised to find yourself at the end of a long queue all going through the same routine: "We cant find your name" – "We cant find your pass" – "We cant find any of the passes" – "We have forgotten to print any passes" – and finally, "Here is you pass". This will happen almost without fail. Another astonishing event that occurs daily, whether there are half a million people watching or not, is that as soon as anyone mentions it is remotely near lunch time, its tools down – and everything stops. The skies then empty whilst food is eaten with great gusto and wine is slurped like life itself depended on it. Then, after a lunch break that exceeds any EU directive you can imagine, its back to flying again.

If your not sure about what's going to happen on the days your there, fear not – a daily newspaper is printed specifically for the festival highlighting the 'must sees' and timetables for the day. Invited guest fliers from around the world take up residence in small huts surrounding the site to display the kites that pertain to their part of the world, and more importantly, they are more than willing to tell you about it and

printed specifically for the festival highlighting the ‘must sees’ and timetables for the day. Invited guest fliers from around the world take up residence in small huts surrounding the site to display the kites that pertain to their part of the world, and more importantly, they are more than willing to tell you about it and teach you all manner of things if you can only be bothered to ask.

One of the things that surprises many first time visitors is the lack of ‘kite traders’.

Don’t go expecting to fill your bag with tons of kite goodies, you’ll be lucky if two or three small stalls set up selling mainly small kites for kids. Another thing you can expect is lots and lots of amazing kites. We’ve been lucky enough to stay for the full nine days for our last four visits, and every single day I’ve seen kites that amaze and astonish at the same time.

Shopping

Lindsey says there are shops.

Using the French language

Over the next few magazines I’ll be providing a few tips on the language. A few handy sayings can make all the difference – pronunciation is in brackets. Lets start with a few essentials:

Cerf-volants (surf-valon) – kite

Duex cerf-volants (du surf-valon) – two kites

Une bouteille de vin (Une bootay dew van) – a bottle of wine

Un bouteille de vin avec un cerf-volants (Une boot ay dew van avek une surf-valon) – a bottle of wine with a kite.

Vingt Oeufs (van oof) – twenty eggs.

Vingt Oeufs avec un bouteille de vin avec un cerf-volants (van oof avek une boot ay dew van avek une surf-valon) – twenty eggs with a bottle of wine with a kite.

Well done for now, keep practicing, we are progressing nicely.

More tips in this series to follow in your next magazine.

Neil Edwards

CHESTER KITE FESTIVAL 2009

Wind! That’s what springs to mind when I think of Chester Festival. Will there or won’t there be any.

My main thought and prayers wasn’t just for some wind this year. I’m sure all of us would swap all the sweetest winds anywhere just to see a few friends that have been and will be missed this year, get back to their fittest and usual selves. I’m not gona list the friends/pals/members. We all know someone within our Club, groups or life, who is sick or poorly. Just take a moment and wish them All The Best, a speedy recovery and have a quick word with the big fella upstairs for them. God Bless

CHESTER, what a nice place to come and fly kite. I do look forward to this special festival. It’s a very interesting place ya know. With its Roman Walls and Medieval Rows and Clock. It’s also a city, which some folk may be surprised at, it was given city status around the time John Wellborn was in short keks - 1541. The City of Chester sits nice on the River Dee, founded as a fort by the Romans. Although it has a definite Roman feel, with the road systems, their names and the walls, much of the City is in fact Victorian. We of course plan to use the famous Chester Racecourse as our venue for kite flying, camping, and weekend away.

The trip was a very uneventful one, but one we all enjoy. I arrived quite late for me. Greeted by around twenty units of caravans, tents, allsorts of stuff. It was warm and there was a wind, hooray! Phil (Kon-Tiki Phil) waved hello. Ladder over his shoulder still, wonder if he’s going Apple Raiding or sumat, he does like that ladder. Jim and V were in centre, with about 3000 yards of warning tape out, saving the

Phil (KonTiki Phil) waved hello. Ladder over his shoulder still, wonder if he's going Apple Raiding or sumat, he does like that ladder. Jim and V were in centre, with about 3000 yards of warning tape out, saving the best spots for friends. Boston Frank & Jen, David Green, Selwyn, Colin with his slightly feminine banner, loads of familiar faces all lined up a ready to go. I found a spot at the far end, near the toilet that was provided. The lads in our team had also made camp there. Dave B arrived soon after me and then a few more, Sally and Gwen among them with a nice spot at the end of the row. Quite a good turn out - twentyfive plus units. Lets see what the weathermen have for us.

The view from the camping area is a stunner and differs depending on the time of day. The mix of old and new beyond the racecourse is a fair site to see with the huge spire, huge bridge and Viaduct. From our spot everything is uphill, we sit in a bowl on the course, not really good for wind I suppose, but great for views and some pictures. Bedtime arrived as the nip came in the late almost Autumn air. The trees at the rear of us do look great this time off year. The Russian vine on the bridges is just on the point of turning through from green to gold and then a deep crimson. I love this time of year. Lots off things to lookout for as Nature changes its wardrobe. The bird life around can be special, I spotted a few geese, swans, ducks and one or two birds of prey. Some bats and an owl in the distance really thrilled me as I sat with our Jess listening to it. Kids will enjoy if bothered to be explained to. From a distance I wouldn't commit to what the earlier birds of prey were, but I think they were Buzzards. The mist and night roll in and we settle for bed, some do anyways, the Rev lot huddle under the Bedouin Village Kev, Richard, Paul and Simon have erected. A few cupas and I'm ready for bed leaving the lads eating their barbie of...Simon had raw lamb...blood dripping it was so undercooked... Kev sizzling other stuff while Richard manages the fire. They must have thirty lights under that Gazebo village. Hope they don't wake with bad stomachs from the lamb Simon had.

I slept in for a change, up around 7am and out the door, washed and shaven. Damp, no wind, but the sun was looking through a crack in clouds. There was a pleasing blue tint, not on Jenny's hair, on the clouds as the "current bun" tried to burn away the dew. I woke the living dead with a COCK A DOODLE DOOO. I thought it was funny, I'm glad the Village People did (lads in tents), or that's what they looked like as they crawled from their Pop Ups. Kev first, then Rich, then Paul, who looked like he had eaten his bedding! Dave Green wished a good morning and slowly the morning and people woke.

The wind was very light, I watched Graham Lockwood run lines out and set up his kites. I hope we get a good blow this year, I do like watching Graham and his ground crew (Mrs Lockwood). I set about making up new quad line sets from scratch. We needed 6 x 90lb quad sets and 6 x 50lb quad sets. Quite a task but one I was up for and, one by one, the lads all chipped in. The lines we use are Kevlar Laser Pro Gold from the USA - very expensive, so we don't wanna cut the 120ft lengths wrong, short or mix the gear up. I have a tried and tested way of line set making. Perhaps there's better ways, perhaps there's worse, what I do know is, it works. Around dinner, 12 o'clock, we had the job done. Twelve quad sets all finished, wound on winders and ready to use. The cost to buy 12 quad sets would come well over £700, if bought from dealers. YES...£700...just on lines.



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Some kites had flown while we were building the sets. The wind wasn't that fab though. I'd seen Gene & Margaret, Jim, Dave and his crew, and many more trying and assessing the conditions. Denis and Keith building a Teepee...I think that's what it is. I bet that's a job for that ladder fella, Phil. The day was now warm and sunny, but very slight breezes again.

I have to say Bravo to the organisers and their support for us kite flyers. I did fear that this year would fall foul of cuts and the past three year's NO WIND conditions. I'm so glad they haven't moved the funding. Thanks also have to go to the Traders. The event isn't a mass publicity event. In fact there's hardly a notice anywhere in Chester. The commitment of people like Tony and Marie from GoKites has to be applauded and goes to show, it's not just about the money, it's about kites and the community we have. I don't think anyone's ever gonna get rich off the public and footfall that Chester brings, so cheers to the traders who work damn hard for very little reward from what I see.

The earlier flyers meeting announced by Jim had the very capable Dave Holt in the Glass PA box. I do think Dave does a grand job. His calming tone really does fit with the scene. Wouldn't be any good at a wrestling match or a bullfight, but he does know his stuff when it comes to kites. His knowledge does help flyers and explains some of the finer points we face, difficulties and what we are doing. So cheers Dave Holt for the efforts...usual good job.



OK, Time for front and centre, kites at the ready. Lets see what we can do with these Revs fellas. The wind was near zero but we took our spot in the arena. Myself, Dave B, Richard and Kev. Simon and Paul kindly offered to ground crew, a job that was very much appreciated and one I hope we didn't need, but with the conditions as they were, well, flying Revolutions in no wind and information wants some proper Top Notch flying. I think the long winter practice days at Ainsdale are about to pay off for us. Kev was very nervous when I looked at him. He's a great pilot, but has only been flying Revolutions 12mths. As Richard's the silent type and so is Dave. I was handed the microphone and asked to commentate for the public. With a swift kick and a positive push Kev lined up with the other lads. I have to say at this point what year we've had as a Revolution Kite Display Team. Still quite new, but we have achieved so much.

The music starts and Dave Holt hands the commentary to me. James Bonds Mission Impossible starts to play. Quite fitting, as the flags on Tony's tent aren't even moving now. Dave B does a demo of the Revolution kite and its Maneuverability's. Then Richard and Kev fall in and away they go. I do some witty gags and some brief info on what and who we all are. Seems to work OK. With no preparation done for the microphone at all I jump in with the lads and we fly as our usual Team4mation foursome. Boy oh boy, did we have to concentrate and work hard. And what a job the lads did with a lack of wind. It really does limit our routine, most of our stuff we've practiced for months is not doable in the conditions, which is heartbreaking for all kite flyers who put the hard hours and line time in. Not being able to do your best stuff is a downer, but that's kites for ya.

The trick lads did a sterling job, Peter Fisher, Mike and Adam, flanked by Neil and John. They struggled in the now zero wind but tried their best and put on an interesting display. Flying Colours didn't fancy a try, can't say I blame them. Graham Lockwood was amongst the frustrated pilots wandering like lost souls, praying for some wind...then WOOOSH...a blast of wind across the Rudee that soon had pilots running for lines and kites. The air soon filled and from nowhere we had ourselves a proper festival of kites. The day ended well. Kites had been flown and for around two hours the wind blew very nicely, until it slowly dropped to zero again. What a tease!

The shock of the day was not the wind, nor the look on everyone's faces as the wind showed. The shock was Gina, is it really Gina and John. I know we all thought Gina shouldn't be up and about really, but what a trooper. I chatted with Gina for a while. She looks well enough, tired, a little gaunt but she raised a smile between worrying about everyone else and how they're coping. What a lady! I bet she was a RUM UN a few years ago. I bet she still is! I'm sure you will all join me in wishing Gina a speedy recovery. With John now in charge (with Gina's permission) I think that's a banker. Get well soon Mate.

Well. The flying ended and the Auction began. Neil and Phil had taken the role of Auctioneers, I wonder if Kontiki Phil's Ladder is up in the Auction. I can see him bringing it over. Its a good 'n', can't see him parting with that though, he never puts the thing down for a minute - his Mrs isn't that tall. A fine Woman she is but I think its time she gave the Yellow Wagon a ring (nut house) or put her foot down. Neil and Phil soon had the Auction reaching legendary status with their sharp, dry wit and Devil may care attitude to detail. The wine flowed and beers were drunk and so was Dave Green... DRUNK... let me tell ya...Very Drunk indeed.



I think at this point in my write up it's fair to explain that there are a nucleus of Big Hearted folk in the NKG, people who without their real efforts, this club would CEASE to be. Dave Green has been one of these people for many a year, so have a great festival DG. The Auction raises a pot of money from many donations from everyone. It's not how much but the idea and sentiment behind the efforts. John Well-born got into a bidding war with Dave G and Kev. I think the final score was a draw, one win each. John did end up with quite a haul, along with Mary, Neil, Jim, Dave Holt and myself. The generosity of a main body of people never stops me being amazed. How long that may continue we shall see. Its not just in pound notes either, not at all, it's a community that seems to run itself to anyone who doesn't get involved. I do fear that if people like Gwen & Sally, Margaret & Gene, Dave Holt, Neil, Dave Green, many other people, people we somehow just now almost take for granted and we shouldn't. Well if they stop bothering we are in trouble.

Take Jim and Dave B (as far away as possible please) this year most people would just see a normal running NKG. Correct, it's pretty much run as per usual. The effort this year both Jim and Dave have put

running NKG. Correct, it's pretty much run as per usual. The effort this year both Jim and Dave have put into the club is quite simply Gold Medal stuff. Dave B has a full time job, a young, active family and fancies himself as a Percy Throwers TV replacement, growing enough onions to keep India In baghees. Along with his personal interests he still takes the trouble to help run and direct club matters. Which are so time consuming I wouldn't begin to even try and do myself. Jim this year has taken over most of the events. No different really is it? Nope, I hear ya say. That's cause the guy's done such a seamless job. A brick of a fella, along with Vanessa of course. I'm done banging on now and if I haven't mentioned your own personal efforts for and on behalf of us...BRAVO to ya. Those that are sat reading and haven't bothered, please think on a slightly different theme than usual. There's the old saying that rings ever so true.

THINK WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR CLUB/SPORT NOT WHAT IT CAN DO FOR YOU...Rant over

The Auction closes and raises a nice POT. People leave entertained and happy. Job Done and Bravo to one and all. The night creeps in quick with the cooler weather. Switching the caravans and tents into night mode looks almost Christmassy as it bring the dark to fall on the vista of campers. The lads or Village People in the tents start BAR-BIES ...The smell of Paella sends me back to Spain. The smell wafts from Dave and Selwyn's Socks...I mean pans, Colin is doing his mad chef impression. Slowly the hush falls as a mist draws in, quite strange mist, seems to hang around just about five feet off the grass and gone in a flash. The day ends well. Everyone entertained and done their bit, entertaining in many ways. A few carry on long into the small hours, many a beer drank and whisky sipped



SUNDAY starts very cloudy and damp. I'm up early and out the van around 6am. I decide to see if the Village People are still alive after a feast of raw lamb and god knows what else. Just for the crack I shuffle my feet around Paul's tent first making a grunting noise every few seconds, then just stand there in silence. I repeat this for around five minutes before Kev decides it's not the Yeti come for him and he unfolds his self and scrambles out the tent. We do the same around Simons new tent - a tent big enough for a battalion of Para's, but Simon likes the space. I do my shuffling and "Creature from another World" stuff again, Kev and I can hardly keep our sides from splitting with laughter. Small things and small minds may spring to your mind but Simon has a bird Phobia and I'm doing my Best Big Bird is Trying to get into your Tent routine. Funny... ya had to be there really.

Before long we are all saying Good Mornings to many flyers and friends. The weather looks OKish, but.NO WIND. The air is heavy and though the clouds are not over thick the sun is not yet through. Soon its show time. With the wind now at 0.00 MPH, I fear the worst. With a quick chat and a "lets go for it" we fly over to the Arena, working like Trojans to get there. Same format as the day earlier only less wind. Today. Dave has started his commentary and I take over the microphone. The Lads are up for it, but you can cut the tension with your fingernails, that's if you've any left. James Bond again chimes in and off Dave B goes, Kev falls in with Richard, Simon and Paul watching like two hawks for a kite to fall

hawks for a kite to fall tumbling out of the still sky. I do a few jokes and explain how hard no wind flying really is. I turn 360 and there isn't another kite aloft on the Race Course and it doesn't look like there will be for some time. We extend our routine and I talk about skill levels needed to fly a Revolution, explaining that we have all been SAS trained, are all experienced Helicopter pilots and Kev is the Man in Black off the Milk Tray adverts. Also I ask for volunteers or if you think you can fly come and see us. The best one was I thought of was, if the Pilot who landed a Jumbo Jet on the Hudson River recently (New York) is in the crowd, would he like to try his arm at flying a Revolution. All went well. I jumped in on the end and how we managed to keep flying was a little miracle. Then again, the cold winter at Ainsdale just paid of in buckets I reckon. Bravo Team4mation. A job well done and a Mission Impossible. The trick lads again struggled a little in the awful flying conditions, but did their slot. The rest of the day from a kiter's point of view was very, very disappointing. None of the other Teams managed their slot and some people tried to fly and for brief moments they managed to keep Karl Longbottom's newest low wind kite aloft. Karl I met for the first time at Chester, quite a normal fella for a kite God! A really pleasant bloke, he was along with his good lady, whose name I forget. Great to finally shake hands with Karl.

Karl made me some custom red, white and blue shorts. They were for a friend as a present in the USA. I went over earlier this year, my pal said he loved um, but put them in the Auction, I suppose when you own a kite shop, the need for a kite is minimal. Ben from Revolution kites bought the shorts at the Kite Party Auction. What really is interesting and makes the planet we live even shorter is Karl is in Canada a few months later, notices the shorts flying and goes over, it's Ben flying them...what a small, but fantastic world we live in.

Sundays tends to be a little anticlimactic. With the wind not really showing at all. It added to the now chilled flyers who had tried and mostly been frustrated by the wind. Some may say so what, it is what it is, just chill and relax. I am sorry but I don't subscribe to that club at all. I wanna fly and believe that's what we are there for. The vast majority I'm sure are the same. If you don't think that way, kewl enough, I'll finish with a big daft grin on my face as I pick a couple of stars of the weekend for me. So...in reverse order;

Team4mation at number three. What a display of skill, over and above anything else I've been part of in kites. Had better displays, better flies, but that was true quality Revolution flying...superb fellas, superb.

Jim Potts at number two, sober or not. Jim is the link in the chain we all better pray doesn't break. I hope Jim and V keep their passion and health for years to come and beyond. A worthy second place for me, very worthy.

In first place, well there's a few people that probably could sit and think they're in for a good shout and rightly so. There's the other angle that says who am I to choose, fair play there also.

My Vote for the Chester Champs...Tony and Marie Dane from Go Kites. They can't have made any money at Chester, impossible. Been better stacking shelves at ASDA if its for just the money and a lot less hassle too. So, if your sat thinking that's what they're there for, or Oh Yeah, tell us another one, then you're just missing the point completely.

Bravo Marie & Tony, and well done everyone who tried their best to put on a show and entertain.

PS, who bought Phil's Ladder?

BRIAN....

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NOVEMBER 2009

- 8 KCoS fly-in, North sands, St Andrews, Scotland
- 15 NKG fly-in, Beacon Hill County Park, Up Holland, nr Skelmersdale, Lancashire
- 15 NKG fly-in, Roundhay Park, Leeds, West Yorkshire

DECEMBER 2009

- 6 KCoS fly-in, the big field right in front of the beach, Ayr, Scotland
- 13 GOKF fly-in, Priory Park, Bedford, Bedfordshire
- 13 NKG Xmas fly-in, overlooking the Mersey, Otterspool, South Liverpool, Merseyside
- 13 NKG Xmas fly-in, Stainland Recreation Ground, Stainland, Yorkshire
- 27 GOKF fly-in, Ferry Meadows Country Park, Ham Lane, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire

JANUARY 2010

- 3 MKF New Year fly-in, Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre and Country Park
- 10 - 15 20th Gujarat International Kite Festival, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India
- 17 KCoS fly-in, the big field right in front of the beach, Ayr, Scotland
- 31 KCoS fly-in, North sands, St Andrews, Scotland

FEBRUARY 2010

- 20 & 21 12th Festi-vent sur Glace, Saint-Placide, QC, Canada
- 21 NKG fly-in, New Brighton Dips, Wirral, Merseyside
- 21 NKG fly-in, Pontefract Racecourse, Pontefract, Yorkshire
- 28 KCoS fly-in, the big field right in front of the beach, Ayr, Scotland

MARCH 2010

- 14 KCoS fly-in, North sands, St Andrews, Scotland
- 21 NKG fly-in, Roundhay Park, Leeds, West Yorkshire
- 28 16th Calke Abbey Kite Day, Calke Abbey, Ticknall, near Melbourne, Derbyshire

APRIL 2010

- 25 KCoS fly-in, North sands, St Andrews, Scotland

JUNE 2010

- 4 - 6 4th Exmouth Rotary Kite Festival, The Imperial Recreation Ground, Exmouth, East Devon
- 12 & 13 Teston Bridge Kite Weekend, Teston Bridge picnic site, nr Maidstone, Kent ME18 5BX
- 17 - 20 26th Fano International Kite Fliers meeting, Fano Beach, Denmark

JULY 2010

- 3 & 4 Sunderland International Friendship and Kite Festival, Northern Area Playing Fields,
- 17 & 18 Herefordshire Kite Festival, Berrington Hall, Leominster, Herefordshire HR6 0DW
- 24 & 25 Silloth on Solway Kite Festival, The Green, Silloth on Solway, Cumbria
- 24 & 25 2nd International Dover Kite Festival, Astor Playing Fields, Tower Hamlets, Dover

AUGUST 2010

- 7 & 8 Big Kite Weekend, Teston Bridge picnic site, nr Maidstone, Kent ME18 5BX

Morecambe "Catch the Wind" Kite Festival 2009
Picture by Dazzz





Thank You all for your support through the 2009 Season
We look forward to seeing you all again next year.

Need something?

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Marie & Tony

A large, multi-colored kite is shown flying against a clear blue sky. The kite has several distinct sections, each labeled with text. The labels are: "Spirit of Air" (top left), "Premier" (top center), "Spiderkites" (top right), "Climax" (middle left), "Didakites" (middle right), "Rhombus" (bottom left), "HQ" (bottom right), and "Colours in Motion" (top right, above Spiderkites). The kite's design features a mix of red, white, black, and blue patterns, including stripes and solid colors.

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