

THE KITE

NEWSLETTER

Hello; and as today is the 1st January 2013, I wish you all a Happy and prosperous New Year.

Welcome to all our new members, we hope you will enjoy participating with us in the many and varied kiting events planned for 2013.

I am optimistic that 2013 will be an improvement on last year, which proved disappointing, due to events being either cancelled or rained off.

This coming year, however, there appears to be a renewed interest in Kite flying, with a number of events added to the existing annual list.

The AGM on the 20th of January is the first gathering of the 2013 NKG kite calendar and I hope that as many members as possible will attend, enjoy a chat and sharing an excellent buffet as well as contribute to what will be an interesting and informative agenda. Added to which a kite workshop will precede the meeting, offering some useful tips on kite making.

I look forward to meeting you all at the AGM; and wish you an outstanding year of kite flying helped along by steady winds and plenty of sunshine.

Gwen Williams



Dieppe Festival 2012

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Latest news

The NKG magazine is back! though not in the form that we're used to.

Its not easy for any editor to do all the work that's needed and then have to print / pack / stamp and post it to all that read it—so we've come up with an internet version that your reading now. We are hoping one of you will volunteer to arrange printing, pack & posting so if you can help get in touch.

There are those amongst us who will not be able to get to a computer so if you know such a person please print them off a copy or ask someone you know with a printer to do that for you.

I'm afraid it might mean some folks miss out, but hopefully they will be a small minority.

The aim is to produce a magazine for you each quarter—and if you want stuff included just get it to me—it will help reduce the amount of drivel that I come up with!



Pictures can paint words—this picture tells me I need to buy some more ripstop.

Photo's of people will be especially welcome and festival reports mean other members get to know what is happening.

We are 35 years old as a group this year, and in that time there have been only about 5 regular contributors to our magazine and most of those are no longer available to give us their wisdom—so somewhere along the line you (yes dear club member – we mean you!) are going to have to consider sending something in for us all to read.

BUT.....

But will the members send stuff in for our electronic mag?

Will they send stuff in? lets wait and see. If they don't, it doesn't matter because we will be running about average with virtually all other kite groups, but I think we'd all agree it is useful to have something that keeps us regularly informed of events & progress—even if this means its not a published paper copy of events. I can picture my old friend Peter Fisher reading this with a furrowed brow as he use to love to keep his paper copy by the loo !

Should you feel like sending a piece in for others to read..... kitecrazy.neil@gmail.com will get it to me. Neil



The optimist
pleasantly ponders
how high his *kite*
will fly; the
pessimist
woefully wonders
how soon
his *kite* will fall

A great year ahead !!!

There is some *great* news coming down the wires—after all the cancellations we suffered in 2012 it looks like this year some of our favorite events are back on track.

Lytham is a great beach festival that's due in July, for over 10 years it was off the calendar following the sad death of a woman who stepped in front of a sand yacht —Silloth is also back

again (hooray) with camping on the village green giving a great feel to this event.

There is also another major event to tell you about, but its 'top secret' for the moment.

Stay tuned and don't forget to keep an eye on the great kitecalendar.co.uk that is maintained tirelessly by Julie and Jim White.



Relax at Silloth.

Report from Dieppe festival

September 2012 saw a few of the group head to Dieppe kite festival—one of the premier events on the continent.

If you've never been to a festival of this size it can come as a bit of a surprise—not that there are hundreds of kite fliers enjoying their hobby, but that hundreds of thousands of spectators turn up to enjoy the spectacle. At Dieppe around seven hundred and fifty thousand (3/4 of a million), arrive throughout the week and line the various display fields.

There are several competi-

tions that take place and judges are often required to make difficult decisions, with prizes ranging from all expenses paid trips to kite festivals on the other side of the planet, to perhaps a paid return visit to the festival next time around.



This picture below shows two 'trainee' judges who were spotted hard at work on one of the hottest days and needed emergency cool beer to offset sunstroke!

This year was blessed with superb weather for 9 of the 10 days. All fliers were keen to share their latest building techniques, and as we were on the field right between George Peters and Robert Brassinton, with Don Mock behind us, we had great opportunity for increasing our knowledge.

A bit of history

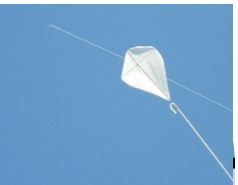
The festival has been going strong since 1980 and rotates each year with another Dieppe in Canada. The bond between these two Dieppes is strong—forged from the loss of a great many Canadian soldiers on the beaches of the French Dieppe coast in World War 2.

Each time the event comes

around, a new 'host nation' is chosen to display the kites and history of kites that pertain to that country. This year it was the turn of the UK—which came as a slight surprise to several UK fliers—but with an old friend of our group at the helm (Derek Kuun), it all turned out very nicely indeed.



"Those bagpipes sound just like Edith Piaf" some wag noted, as the UK contingency sets off for a never to be forgotten trip around the town.



"Hope is knowing that people, like kites, are made to be lifted up"

Something for the non kite fliers.....

Yes, for the non kite fliers amongst us—the town is full of shops.

Anyway where was I, oh yes—kites. There are 3 main display arenas for multi line, single line, and larger display kites—though a lot of larger stuff gets set up on the beach.

Running alongside the main field are dozens of huts in

which you will find secreted a prominent kite flier from virtually every country you can think off, all keen to tell you anything you dare to ask. I got a peep at some Columbian bamboo, it is as thick as your wrist but as light as a feather, and was shown how they now make the truly enormous tails that Columbian kites are famous for (they use very soft web-

bing). There are no pockets to the kite and they just lash the bamboo to the sail.

Listed in the 'top 300 events around our world' and in the 'top 150 things to see before you die' this festival really is a must to visit if you can.

Its success its testimony to the hard work of an incredible band of people—thanks are given to them all..

Membership is due

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Membership is due

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SOON

**Send fees to
Keith Proctor
c/o 35 Kings rd
Mexborough
S64 9BS**

**£7 for individuals
+
£1 for joint
Member**

**Note that under
16 means you
have to join with
an adult.**

**Membership runs
from start of
March to end of
February.**

**Cheques payable
to 'Northern Kite
Group'**

**Please download
your membership
form at the clubs
website**

www.nkg.org.uk

BEACON PARK—festival report from Josie

It was a depressing start to Festival with advanced bad weather warnings. Saturday morning lived up to its stormy weather forecast and it was considered a good idea for Tony to start selling wellington boots at future events. Another ominous sign was Ken not in his customary bare feet and shorts, not a good sign at all. Bad weather or not, we were there to fly kites and the usual safety meeting took place asking flyers to put on as good a show as possible. Height restrictions were set at 1,000 ft. due to the low cloud base. Safety being of prime importance.

A programme of events had been compiled, but due to bad weather the kiting programme may have to be re-adjusted to suit weather conditions. Kite flyers were then asked to restrict driving vehicles to and from the field to prevent the entry to field getting any worse.

Members present were asked to be extra vigilant due to thefts in previous years. Tony's van had been hit the previous evening by stone wielding vandals, he also sustained damage to his caravan. Dave got the sound system working and the Festival was underway. Erratic wind conditions were ignored and kite flyers got on with doing what they do best – kite flying. Wind toys were much in evidence giving good colour and causing amusement for the public. Despite bad weather the best show possible under the conditions prevailing was given. Giant Cray Fish, Keith's Giant Snakes, Giant Fish, Crocodile. Lifter kites. Individual kite flyers were much in evidence also. Altitude sprints were held, Gwen being the overall winner with Josie as second in the

Ladies' Altitude Sprint
The usual raucous Charity Auction took place Saturday evening, funds to be allocated to Children In Need Charity later this year. This gathering of kite flyers gave everyone the chance to compare notes on the day's kite flying and it was a very happy, social occasion. Sunday produced keen winds but no rain, thankfully the dark clouds passed over and we were all relieved to see blue skies appearing. Kiting Stalwarts – Joe and Flo commented on low attendance at recent kite festivals, due to the poor weather.

Teddy Drops took place, although few children came and those that did had to borrow NKG's cuddly toys. Dave and Angela Green gave a beautiful display of kite flying to music. Indian fighting kites display followed with helpful and explanatory commentary from Dave.

As Sunday's weather improved, lots of large kites emerged. Flying was tough but enjoyable until the wind decided to disappear causing smaller kites to fall out of the sky whilst the larger kites struggled to keep airborne for a little longer. Roger was disappointed by the diminishing wind that prevented his flying lesson using his new kite purchased at

the Auction the previous evening. No doubt Roger will have his flying technique sussed by the next Festival so he can demonstrate his skills then. Sunday evening, and departure time for cars, caravans and motor homes from the very muddy field's heavily rutted exit provided watchers with some interesting views. Several drivers required assistance to drive off, others just 'went for it', giving entertainment to kite flyers and the watching public in general. No prizes awarded for 'best car' exit from the field, but escaping drivers were grateful to the Ranger whose Landrover had come to their assistance and Ken who once again had towed several stranded vehicles off the field. Typically, Sunday night provided the best weather of the week-end. Despite everything, most people had enjoyed their week-end and went off home planning their next festival.

EPILOGUE: The week-end concluded as it had begun with vandals on the midnight scene, trashing the portaloos this time. Thankfully the four remaining people only heard the disturbance from afar.

Josie



The way things used to be

Here's some names of festivals from the past—see if you remember any?

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Temple Newsam | Norland Moor |
| Hengistbury Head | Ormesby Hall |
| Priory Country Park | Cannock |
| Old Warden | Beverley |
| Littleton road playing fields | Palm Bay recreation ground |
| Maidens Grove | Gwithian |
| Pinkneys Green | Damp |



We are in there with the best of them!

I've been sent a snap of the NKG Pin that adorns the panel in Reception of the World Kite Museum where I called in May and here's a copy for the Archive. At the time I was distracted by the Kite Section and forgot to capture the panel holding hundreds of pins from around the World.

I gave them this Pin in 2000. Tony Kidd



Some Japanese
Kites
weigh over
2 tons

Go Kites

Go Kites

Go Kites

Go kites are friends of the NKG - They now stock a full range of kite building materials and provide a service that is second to none.

www.go-kites.co.uk

Beginners 'workshop' at this years AGM



2012 has seen Richard and myself make a kite most weeks of the year, so we have sewn together a good few! - but what we learnt was just how easy it is to make them! - though you'd be forgiven for believing its not so easy if you are new to this and have been thinking about making your own, some of the plans can be a bit confusing!!!!

On 20th January 2013 at the AGM, in the hour or so before business commences, Richard, Simon and myself are setting up a workshop aimed at beginners and all 'wannabe' kite builders, with a couple of sewing machines set up for you to use, and plenty of spare ripstop to practice on.

There are so many different ways to make kites, and we will have available all the bits that we have found made it all so easy for us (roller cutters, cutting mats, double sided sticky tape etc etc). So if you ever worried about how to make....

a hem and what size should it be (so easy its almost cheating)

a seam (same as above)

a pocket (loads of really easy ways to show you)

how to attach a keel (some amazingly simple methods)

how to make and attach a bridle (lol, the 'Greenwood' bridle, you wont even begin to believe how easy this is).

Richard and I developed a really nice twin keel delta that's a great flier and will have a few sections of this kite 'unfinished' so that you can help put them together and hopefully see just how simple it really is.

There are not many better feelings for kite fliers than flying a kite you made yourself, so come and have a go! You will soon be building and designing your own.

See you there if you can make it.



What events have we got lined up so far?

Sunday 20th January 2013

NKG Annual General Meeting – Oldham

Sunday 17th February 2013

NKG Fly-ins – New Brighton & Pontefract

Sunday 17th March 2013

NKG Fly-ins – Roundhay & Beacon

The rest of the years club events will be decided at the AGM so keep an eye out for more information soon.

In the meantime don't forget the following.....

Berck sur Mer—April 13th to 21st

Cervia—April 20th to 1st May

Western Lakes festival (Millom) 11 / 12 May

Harewood House 18 / 19 May

Barmouth 13 / 14 July

Silloth 20 /21 July

Lytham St Annes 27 / 28 July

And..... So you can plan ahead,

2014. The 1st ever Brazilian International Kite Festival at Sao Paolo on the Beach

As well as these events you see to the side, a few of us are hoping to include a few 'kite building workshops' throughout the year.

The art of kitebuilding within the group is most important. It is a skill easily learned and brings not only satisfaction to the individual, but brings out some character within the group.

Those of us that are lucky enough to travel to some of the bigger festivals in the UK and abroad, are well aware that most of the kites we see are often unique and made by the individuals that fly them.

Last years festival at Millom was superb, but it was noted that many folks were flying kites made and sold only by shops—in fact only a few people were spotted flying kites made by themselves (your Chairwoman was one of these few flying her own).

So at the AGM, I am going to ask for funds to encourage folks to come along to the workshops and either learn, or improve their ability to make their own kites.

If Mary (our Treasurer) has not yet collapsed after reading this proposal, the idea would be to allow enough funds to be made available to give those of you that do attend these workshops, immediate payment of a rather healthy supplement towards fuel costs, and pay for most of the kite building costs.

The Group has a good deal of money which is currently sat doing little to help the club, so I feel this is a good way to spend it and to help keep the traditions which our older friends (still with us or sadly departed) have passed down to us.

The sum of money involved should be enough to really encourage you to come along to a workshop but the amount is best discussed at the AGM amongst us all, with a defibrillator unit ready and charged for some action!

Neil.





A look forward to the start of the season

Millom kite festival (pictured above) is coming — 11th and 12th of May to be precise. It has become a real favourite, with loads of room to fly, and a great location—with the gorgeous backdrop of ‘Black Coombe’ hill.

The drive to this corner of the Lake District, especially if towing a caravan, shouldn't be rushed and requires a steady nerve (if your passenger is anything like mine they may require a blindfold or sedatives), but once you arrive its clear you've reached a great flying area. I'm usually rewarded with a small shandy after setting up the awning and then its time to relax and fly for the rest of the time here. Stargazing at night and perhaps another shandy in the bar of the adjoining rugby club are a must if you can.

There are shower and toilet facilities on site for all, and the village has one of the best chippies in the world. The sand dunes and beach that neighbour the flying site are great for exploring and the wildlife is abundant; bring binoculars if you can. The camping spots were snapped up in record time last year so keep an eye out for notifications of when they are available to avoid any disappointment.

The week before Millom there is usually an event at Driffield ‘Showground’ (towards Hull for those that don't know it). It was cancelled last year and at the time of press there is no signs to show if its happening or not. This event is not one I'd support again anyway, as the florists business who ask us to put on a kite display for them, charge each of us for doing so! I'll be buggered if I'm paying £100 in fuel costs only to be told I've got to pay £20 on top to fly my kites for them!

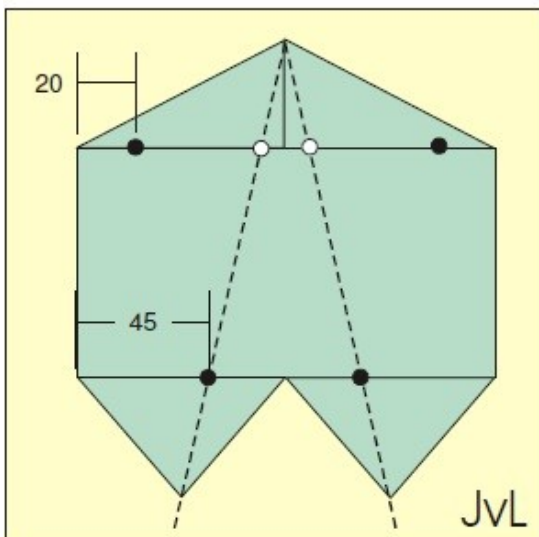
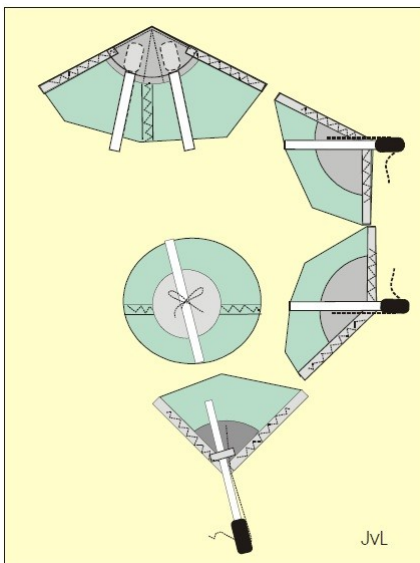
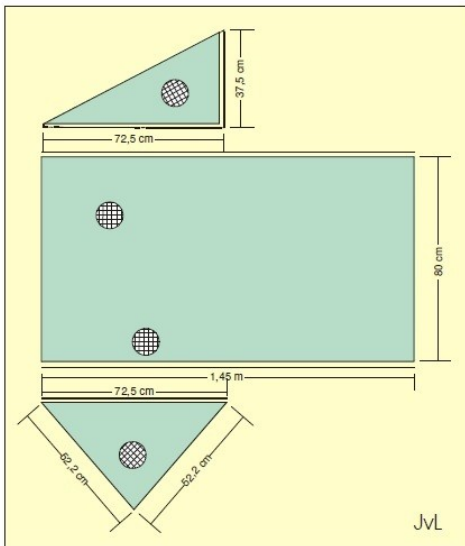
Bah humbug! - I'm being too grouchy. If you live nearby then its worth a visit.

Now, let me tell you— the week after Millom, 18th and 19th May to be precise, it is the Harewood House festival (near Leeds). This is a wonderful event! For the last few years we have flown on the main lawn in front of the House—and when we fly on the lawn its not exactly the best area for flying kites, but we do what we can — *however*, two things to note.....

Firstly, what the lawn venue lacks in clear winds, it more than makes up for in being a fantastic social occasion and an area of real beauty;

Secondly, there is just a chance that we will get to fly out on the open fields again, where we really could fill the sky with as many kites as you can imagine. This is one of the nations top breeding sites for the bird of prey the ‘red kite’ and it is not uncommon to see them fly right up to your own kite and have a real good peep at it!

See you there if you can make it. Neil.



Baden-Powell kite plan

This kite has some history to it—and recently I've taken to building historical kites. Those that know me will remember a time where you would never see me unless I had 2 or 4 lines in my hands and was trick-flying or Rev flying. But, now I seem to love building kites as well.

Baden-Powell is a name usually synonymous with the cub-scout movement, but his brother (Captain B.F.S Baden-Powell) was interested in the concept of flight, and around 1894 built what was called the 'Levitor' which became known to us as the Baden Powell man lifting kite.

The kites were used to lift men 100ft up for aerial observation or for helping lift large loads like wireless antenna. The kites were also sent to South Africa for use in the Boer War, but by the time they got there the war was over, so they never got to fly.

This particular version (adapted by our friend Jan van Leeuwan) is thankfully a bit smaller than the original—but be aware it still pulls like a truck! It is an excellent kite for 'KAP' as it is also incredibly stable. I framed mine with P300 carbon (approx 8mm) - and it still flies easily in 3mph winds

As this is a magazine will be winging its way to you electronically, the rest of the plan can be accessed by putting the following info in your web search engine...

www.kiteplans.org/planos/badenpowell/badenpowell.html

Don't worry about the written instructions being in a foreign language as the pictures tell the only story you need to know—and if you get stuck just shout for help. That is the advantage of joining the club, and there are plenty in the group to help you.

Neil



From your Librarian

Dear Gwen and all who fly with us:

I've had a further donation to the Library stock from my local contact Rodney S. Burrows and I've updated the Spreadsheet accordingly. [see website] (ed)

We now have a 4th copy of Kites and Kite Flying by Ambrose Lloyd & Nicolette Thomas of 1978 (although Copy A is on my Missing List) as well as a 'new' item in the form of Making and Flying STUNT KITES and One-Liners by Wolfgang Schimmelpfennig of 1993. This was originally in German but was then translated and abridged and re-printed for the US and International Markets in 1995.

I expect you've all seen examples of these previously or have copies. Schimmelpfennig's work is of good quality with excellent illustrations and a multitude of details in my opinion. To take in and build upon his examples would likely be a lifetime of dedication by a keen constructor.

I plan to make it to the next AGM on my Crutches if I've not been able to cast them off before then. It is my intention to bring the Library Stock to that meeting - for members to peruse.

John Anthony (Tony) Kidd

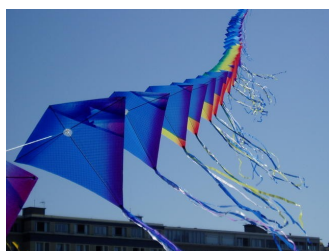
And also

Nothing to panic about, however I have to report that despite having taken my Orange Elephant's Head to Newcastle, then on to Edinburgh on 3rd September when visiting friends, I subsequently had the misfortune to fall down the stairs in my host's 'Castle' apartment later in the week. I've been three weeks now in a knee splint and on crutches that is very restricting for mobility - and neither can I drive. The CT Scan and results are not until October.

Anyway, none of my problems affect NKG directly although I'm effectively sitting on the Library. I've told the Committee I'll pay the cost of photocopying the Library Contents List so each member could have a printed copy if there is any postal distribution. My Post Office is close to my home although with the Crutches it takes twice as long to get there and back at the moment. I've also listed the missing items from the Library if any Members will admit they are holding out on us all.

Anonymous postal deliveries would be acceptable from Members to my home address.

John Anthony (Tony) Kidd, retired and one-legged mega architect for now.



In 1978

Kuzuhiko Asaba

flew

4,128 kites on a
single line



Gwen Williams

Chairman

tel:0151 733 5240

gwen.williams66@googlemail.com



Mary Jones

Treasurer

tel:01942 201265

Mary@kiteflyers.net



Dave Bleasdale

Group Secretary

tel:01257 453538

kiterdave@btinternet.com



Keith Proctor

Membership Secretary

tel:01709 860999

kpsautos@chessmail.co.uk



Neil Edwards

Editor

tel:07588 605442

kitecrazy.neil@gmail.com