

# THE

# KITE

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER EDITION 2005

**GoKites**  
10, Denton Park Shopping Centre, West Denton  
Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS27 7LJ, NE5 2DQ  
Tel: 0113 275 2075 Fax: 0113 275 2076  
Email: sales@gekites.co.uk



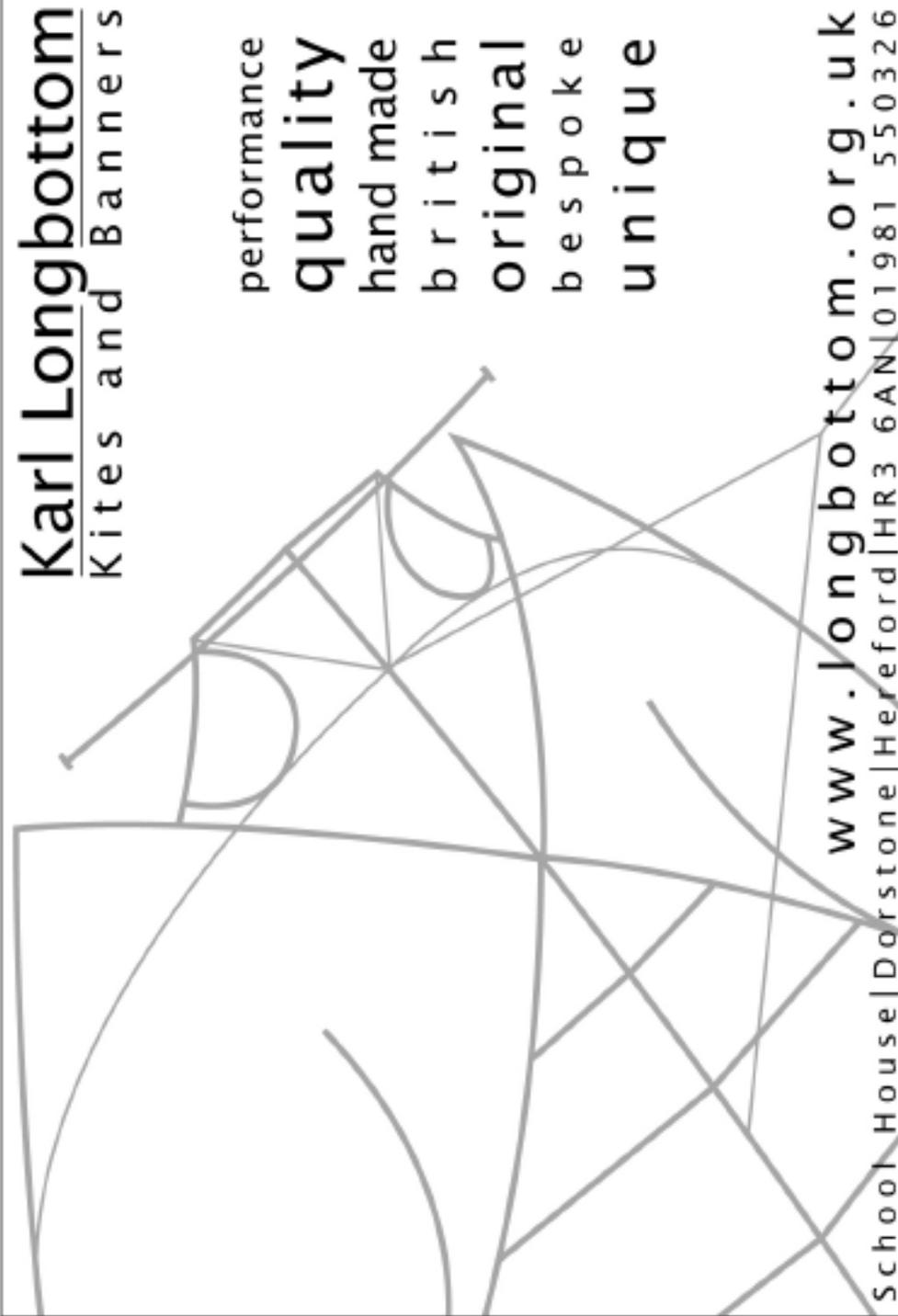
**NORTHERN  
KITE GROUP**

[www.nkg.org.uk](http://www.nkg.org.uk)



## CONTENTS

A Note From Your Chairman . . . . .	1
Welcome To All New Members . . . . .	2
Editors Corner . . . . .	2
Beacon Festival 2005 . . . . .	3
Goostrey Fly-In For Cancer Relief . . . . .	5
Children In Need . . . . .	6
Burrs Country Park . . . . .	7
Kiteoons . . . . .	7
Pontefract Fly-In 17th April 2005 . . . . .	8
Thank You . . . . .	8
Pictures . . . . .	9, 10, 11, 12
Future Training Days Dual & 4-Line . . . . .	13
Butterflies & Sombreros . . . . .	13
NKG Kite Workshops . . . . .	14
Flying Colours . . . . .	15
Ballet Boot Camp Weekend . . . . .	16
Very Nice People At Hangtime Kite Sports . . . . .	18
Fylde Kite Festival 2005 . . . . .	19
Kitecalendar . . . . .	20



**Karl Longbottom**  
Kites and Banners

performance

**quality**

hand made

british

**original**

bespoke

**unique**

[www.longbottom.org.uk](http://www.longbottom.org.uk)

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

## A NOTE FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

WOW !! What a Fantastic week-end we had at The Beacon Festival, I would like to say a BIG THANK YOU to all of the members who helped to make the Festival a special time for everyone who came.

Karen George made a beautiful Traditional Hexagon Kite, which she presented to The Beacon Park Rangers. (there is a photograph in this magazine) Ian and Julie Parkes came up with the idea of having a Buffet on the Saturday evening, they did all of the organisation, and everyone brought something to eat or to drink, or, in the case of Flying Circus, they brought a Marquee for us to Party in. The N.K.G. Auction followed the Buffet, with Dave Green and Neil Edwards as our Auctioneers. I haven't laughed so much for ages, the Audience Participation was 100% (the Comedians couldn't have matched the patter). One or two of our members excelled themselves with their very own Cabaret Act.



**ENID KNOWLES**  
Chairman

Tel: 01704 894166



**JOHN WELBORN**  
Group Secretary

E-mail:welbornkk@aol.com

Tel: 01904 489771



**MARY JONES**  
Treasurer

E-mail: Mary@kiteflyers.net

Tel: 01942 201265



**DAZZ**  
Editor

E-mail:Dazz@dsl.pipex.com

Tel: 01254 776819

As for the flying, everyone tried their best, but one day the wind was too strong, and one day the wind was too light !!!!!, so the display could have been better. The Rangers liked what we did, and have invited us back next year, maybe we will have better luck with the wind.

Since the Beacon, we have enjoyed, the 1st Wirral International Kite Festival at the Dip's New Brighton, which is organised by Flying Circus, and was wonderful, it is being compared with Dieppe. Fylde Festival, again a Flying Circus event, which is a very friendly get-together of flyers from all over the country.

Burrs Country Park, Bury was a no flying wind day, but again the N.K.G members did their best, then had a good natter, got a sun tan, and witnessed a mini Twister which carried off one of Flying Colours Display Kites, (Dave Greens I think ?) it was retrieved just before it went for a swim in the River Irwell.

We also visited Sunderland International Kite Festival, with flyers from around the World, and lots of clubs from the U.K. being represented. Next we have Morecambe's "Catch The Wind" Festival, and at the end of July the N.K.G's two day fly in at Bolton-le-Sands.

On the 17th and 18th of September 2005, it is the 2nd Chester Kite Festival in association with the N.K.G. I know a lot of us are looking forward to it. We get a good flying field, and a chance for us all to meet up again. I hope to see you all soon at our Fly in's and Festivals.

Your own Little Rocker. Enid Knowles.

## WELCOME TO ALL NEW MEMBERS

Nichola Denton, Shaw Denton, Lynne Robinson, Stephen Palmer, Phil Womack, Ben Womack, Toni Dane, Marie Dane, Bradbury Goff, Oran Barnes, Barbara Barnes, Steve Woods, Karen Woods, Christopher Woods, Hannah Woods, John Hinds, Philip Wharton, Maureen Wharton, Howard Jones, Muriel Jones, Brian Cheadle, Sam Cheadle, Lesley Skelhorn

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

### EDITOR'S CORNER

Welcome to the summer issue of the NKG KITE newsletter, its been a busy few months for many of us and one of the reasons the newsletter is a little late is the sheer amount of events happening in June kept me rather busy. The success of the Beacon event particularly the auction has meant that we have included 4 pages of colour photos in this issue as well as the colour cover.

In other news the club has been asked to put on an event in Southport in September from 23rd-25th, it means doing as much flying as possible from 4pm till 8pm and you wont be able to leave the site until after 10pm, there is very limited camping available and a limited number of tickets available for those who wish to attend on a daily basis, if you are interested then please contact Enid Knowles via email or letter and let her know what dates you wish to attend and if you wish to camp, Enid will co-ordinate the numbers to let as many members as possible attend this rather unique event.

Well done to Neil Edwards and Dave Green and all those who helped raise money for Children In Need as well, an excellent result was achieved as you will see later in the magazine. And thanks to Fred Kaz for his help with the newsletter and Arena passes for Beacon and Alan Rogers for printing up some arena notices for us.

I'm also still trying to get some NKG banners printed up and have been getting quotes from various suppliers, hopefully we will have some good news in the near future.

Congratulations to Liam Waring for being sponsored by Go Kites, you can see the presentation at the Beacon festival on the front cover of the Newsletter.

Please note that since we have received no word from Oldham regarding an event for August we have switched the fly-in on August 21st to Pontefract Racecourse just off the M62.

For those wishing to camp for the July fly-in at Bolton le Sands the phone number for the camp site, Red Bank Farm is 01524 823196, the cost is £3.00 per person and they will accept some caravans. Web Site is at: <http://www.redbankfarm.co.uk>

And finally a reminder that the winter indoor meeting and AGM is in January 2006 this time round, if you have anything you wish to bring up at the meeting under Any Other Business then please contact a member of the committee so we can publish it in the next issue of the newsletter for everyone to see, the deadline for the next issue of the newsletter is 15th September 2005.

Dazzz

## BEACON FESTIVAL 2005

Although the Beacon Kite Festival has been running now for several years, this is only the second one to be organised by the NKG, and it's getting better all the time. I have only been attending for the last three years but in that time it has gone from strength to strength. There were more people camping on site than I have ever seen there before and the event was well supported by club members and visitors coming in for the day. Flying Circus were also present and supplied the excellent PA system used throughout the festival. They also contributed to the display of kites with Dave Holt's fabulous dog inflatables making an appearance; my own personal favourites of the season so far.

Last year the weekend started out cold with strong wind and drizzling rain on the Friday. This year the Friday evening was better; it wasn't raining! After an overnight shower of rain Saturday started off quite overcast and blustery with a taster of the strong winds which were to come. Very early on the wind was already starting to pick up. Nevertheless the flyers meeting was held and roles handed out for the day with a full schedule allowing for altitude sprints, teddy bear and sweet drops, team, trick and multiline demos and a spot for Graham Lockwood to perform his one-man-three-kites routine. As it turned out the wind increased to the point where, unfortunately, the teddy and sweet drop had to be abandoned and most of the other scheduled events were quite badly disrupted or cancelled.

Members of the public arrived in small numbers at first but increased to a reasonable sized crowd by early afternoon and demos went ahead with an amazing performance from Graham Lockwood and team Flying Colours in huge winds. For a while after lunch the sky cleared and we had some bright sunshine though the winds never decreased. Later there was a quad line display with Vented Revs and Sky Dancers which went quite well then Peter Fisher and myself attempted a dual line trick display with the winds registering 39mph (yes, MPH) on the wind meter. Personally I wouldn't recommend it and if asked again I might politely decline! The altitude sprint, which should have taken place in the afternoon had to be dropped, another victim of the extremely high winds.

In the meantime Neil Edwards and Dave Green provided some excellent commentary showing their great knowledge and sharing their enthusiasm with everyone. Providing the background information and comments is a difficult job and we are fortunate to have two people within the group who can do the job really well. They also make a great double act as auctioneers, but more of that later.

The event was billed as a "Kite and Outdoor Sports" festival so there were lots of other things for the public to see. There was a climbing wall for the kids to try their skills on and a display team called "Team Extreme" performing tricks on bikes, skateboards and in-line-skates on a 'half-pipe'. I didn't get to see the actual display but from what I saw of them warming up they looked impressive. There were traders on site as well with Tony and Marie from Go Kites and Jake's Kite Beach Shop among others, so plenty of places for people to buy kites if they wished. From the looks of things a good few did as the public field was filled with people flying single liners, dual liners and power kites.

There had been an intention to provide a 'kite school' for the public at the end of the day but the winds were too strong for it to be viable, so that idea was shelved as well. So as the day closed, people packed up and the public left it was time to organise the evening entertainment. There was a late idea for a little get together with some food and a few drinks and as it only came up the week before the festival we decided to see if we could rally people together on the NKG website forum. For those that were there on the Saturday night you will know how successful that was. There was a huge buffet made up of food provided by many club members and of course some drinks to help get the proceedings moving. Jack and Mary Cunningham's fruit cake was a definite winner! For the evening, we had the use of a huge

party tent kindly provided by Flying Circus complete with PA and lighting, which was quite cosy with about 40 or 50 people in attendance.

The evening began with food and drinks followed by the auction. This was definitely in the correct order for two reasons. Firstly the auction took around three hours to get through and secondly, I'm sure that the fantastic total raised was directly proportional to the amount of red wine consumed! Dave Green and Neil Edwards acted as auctioneers and did a brilliant job. At times it was more like watching a sketch from the Two Ronnie's than participating in an auction! There were some really great items donated by members all of which helped to increase the total. Items included, among others, a brand new Flexifoil Erazor, a Dieppe Rok, a brand new Level One Easy Vented donated by Tony at Go Kites and a fabulous hexagon made by Karen George especially for the event with "BEACON 05" appliquéd beneath the dragonfly logo of the West Lancashire County Council. There were also some lovely items of jewellery, some made of copper but mostly from mother of pearl, donated by Harry Douglas and Rita Owen from Poole in Dorset. I made bids on most of these items but I was outbid for them in the end.

If you weren't there and missed Jim Potts modelling the sarong he bought in the auction well, I'm sorry but it's impossible to describe in words! No doubt there will be a photograph of the incident somewhere on the internet! (*Too right there is! Ed*) The final total raised was somewhere in the region on £560.00 which I think is something of a club record, so well done to everyone who donated or bought something (or both!). After the auction there was a last dash for the remaining food and beer then off to bed exhausted.

Sunday dawned with the promise of better weather with the wind having died down slightly and after some initial cloud the sky cleared and the sun shone. People began to get kites into the sky again and the day got slowly started (it was Sunday, after all). After a late flyers meeting the field quickly filled up again and the public began to arrive in bigger numbers. The program of events was similar to the previous day and a quick bear and sweet drop was arranged to make sure that there was at least one of each over the weekend. It was just as well as, somewhat predictably, the wind died to almost nothing soon afterward. It seems you just can't get two days the same; it's either gale force or 2mph. That's kiting, I suppose.



The wind was up and down during the afternoon and at times there was enough to run some of the planned events. Graham performed again as did Flying Colours and Peter put on a good show of dual line trick flying with an ultralight Nirvana. Something of a change from the fully vented version with wind brakes from the day before. However, the lower winds now meant that the altitude sprints could go ahead as planned. In the men's event there was some contention over whose kite was highest so a fly-off took place to decide the eventual winner. In the end it was Geoff Othick from Selby who finally took the

honours. The ladies event took place in difficult fluky winds and at first, it looked as though Karen was going to win with her 'Smilie' Roller, but in the end it was Fiona Lewis who took the winning slot with her Indian Fighter. Later in the afternoon Karen George flew a huge hexagon kite with the West Lancashire Council logo and name appliquéd on it which she had made and presented to the Beacon Country Park rangers to commemorate this years' event. The hexagon tail was really impressive at around 20 to 30 metres long (I know, I untangled it!) and Karen managed to get the whole thing in the air just long enough for a quick display before the wind died again. For the rest of the afternoon it was a struggle to keep anything flying so the weekends' events started to draw to a close. Colin and Jack did try to get a playsail flying for a while but in the end I think they had to admit defeat under the circumstances.

All in all you could probably say the weekend was a game of two halves but in the end everyone was a winner. This is definitely a festival that is growing and getting better and this year the bar has been raised again. Well done to everyone involved in the organisation of the event and thanks to everyone who came along and made it such a good festival.

Ian Parkes

## GOOSTREY FLY-IN FOR CANCER RELIEF

Dear Editor, May I, through your pages, thank the NKG members who turned up to lend their support at the Goostrey 'Fly-In' for cancer relief charities.

Although the date chosen this year by the organisers coincided with two other major kite festivals (Lytham and Shrewsbury), a dozen or so NKG members decided to forego the luxuries and thrills of these larger events in order to help raise much needed funds for charities.

Goostrey is a small village in south Cheshire, near to Holmes Chapel and, as is typical in these small communities, everyone appears to pull together and there is a special event of some sort or another, on most week-ends. For the past 5 years or so, one of these events has been the 'Kite Day', at which youngsters living in the area come along and, with some help, make themselves a simple kite. Although the kites are given away free of charge, a polite notice points out to the accompanying parents that a donation of at least one pound, is expected for each kite made. This ploy helps to circumnavigate any queer rules or restrictions imposed by the European Community, which states that any toy SOLD within the market must carry a stamp indicating the toy is of a sufficient standard of safety.

The event is held at the village school, which has a small grassed area, on which, the kites can be flown. Over 50 kites were made by the youngsters and much fun was apparent when the fruits of their labours actually flew. We were fortunate with the weather, with sunshine and smooth winds for all of the afternoon and we were able to hold the workshop in the open-air, under the shade of the trees. We were also fortunate insofar as the kite sails had been previously cut out for us by Mr Norman Booth, before he was taken from us. His widow gave them to us, in the hope that they could be used. Well they have. Edna and I can visualise the smile on Normans face when he looked down and saw them flying. For those of us who wished to fly bigger, faster kites, an adjoining field had been made available to us by one of the local farmers. There were other fund raising events going on at the same time as the kite flying and we are told that the event as a whole raised a total of £442.00 Well Done NKG'ers and sincere thanks to all who made it possible.

JackCee

## BBC Children in Need Appeal

Positively changing the lives of disadvantaged children in the UK



23 May 2005

Mail Edwards  
Northern Kite Group  
32 Churchfields  
Auburn Hill  
Main Street  
B24 0HT

Dear S, appreciate

Thank you so much for your very kind and generous donation to BBC Children in Need in 2004. The year of the 25th anniversary of our appeal and every penny will be used to fund a project that supports disadvantaged children and young people in the UK. This year 2005 the focus will be on children who are committed to operating a voluntary organisation - we employ just over 90 fantastic volunteers of all ages and all our work is covered by the internet earned in your donation.

Your donation will be funding a project within the next year, so effectively at the time of next year's Appeal you will have given in the bank - and we will need to ask for your support once again. If you would like to receive next year's fundraising track and to be put on our mailing list, please email [purple@bbc.co.uk](mailto:purple@bbc.co.uk), or write to us at the address below.

To read further about the work of BBC Children in Need and how your donation has helped to change the lives of disadvantaged children within the UK, please log on to [bbc.co.uk/childreninneed](http://bbc.co.uk/childreninneed). Alternatively, if you would like a hard copy, please write to us at the address below.

Once again, many thanks for your support - it is very much appreciated.

Yours faithfully

Rajni Patel  
Frances Assistant

Police No. London 020 445 7000 020 855 7000 Fax: 020 855 7002 020 855 4453 e-mail: [purple@bbc.co.uk](mailto:purple@bbc.co.uk) Chairman - Andeola Monro-De-Quincy Chief Executive - Colin Douglas

## RECEIPT

Received the sum of £ 725.00  
Pounds And No Pence

Seven Hundred and Twenty Five

No. 762009

For the BBC Children in Need Appeal

From Northern Kite Group

Date 23 May 2005 BBC Children in Need Appeal

BBC Children in Need Appeal committees based in England, Northern Ireland & Wales, comprise members of the public who volunteer their time. BBC Children in Need Appeal committees are not paid for out of the money raised from donations. Administrative and professional costs are not paid for out of the money raised from donations.



# THANK YOU

Northern Kite Group  
for supporting the  
**BBC CHILDREN IN NEED  
APPEAL 2004**

by donating £ 725.00

Signed on behalf of the BBC Children in Need Appeal

Receipt number 762009



Administrative and professional costs are not paid for out of the money raised from donations. All donors are registered and acknowledged.



## BURRS COUNTRY PARK

On the 26th June Flying Colours along with a supporting cast of about 25 other NKG members went along to Burrs Country Park in Bury to put on a display for the Rangers who were holding a craft fair. As we turned up we found a pleasant if windless flying field to set up on and everyone set to getting out banners and other ground display items so if there was no wind at least the field would look colourful!



As time wore on and everyone had tried numerous kites in the occasional breezes that had tricked us into thinking that wind was coming we decided to put lots of kites together and lay them on the grass for the public to look at, as numerous people went off to the pub for lunch the wind did arrive! In the form of a mini whirlwind that whipped along the arena, picked up 3 or 4 different kites and whirled them into the air, we managed to grab most of them as they went up but one of the Flying Colours Matrixes went up in a perfect back spin in the middle of the whirlwind and got carried away over the fence towards the river Irwell, luckily

the whirlwind died and the kite drifted down just before it reached the river and got rescued.

After that excitement it was just a matter of trying to fly again during the occasional flutters of

wind that came our way and we did manage a few short sessions where we got some kites in the air, but not for very long, still it was a pleasant way to spend a warm sunny Sunday afternoon in pleasant surroundings and with fellow kite fliers.

The rangers seem pleased with the display and another ranger has already asked us to put on a display at another country park next year near Leigh, more news on that when we have it.

Dazzz



Aaaaaandy Waaaardley



## PONTEFRACT FLY-IN 17TH APRIL 2005

Our first official fly-in at Pontefract racecourse seemed to go down very well with many members I'm pleased to say, and what a smashing day it was.

The weather was kind to us in spite of a bad week, the sun shone all day and 35 or more members turned out to put on an excellent show!

Another good selection of kites were flying including cody's, Deltas, Rokkaku's and fighter kites. A particular favourite of mine was the golden jubilee Rokkaku.

A lot of power sleds filled the sky, with the additional line laundry attached ranging from ostrich legs, to fish, dogs, sharks, and teddys! as usual

It was all great to see.

Graham Lockwood practiced his routines with his 3 kites throughout the afternoon. Most members started to leave around 5.30 pm onwards as the rain clouds started to appear. :-)

Julie Tebbutt

## THANK YOU

In case you haven't heard - the New Brighton Kite Festival is the biggest thing to hit the UK since Washington Festival almost 20yrs ago!

It's going to happen again next year and the year after that etc etc, so make plans NOW!!!!

I must say that it was comparable with Dieppe – reputed to be one of the worlds leading kite festivals – and its right on our own doorstep!

If you missed it, I'm afraid you missed one of the most spectacular kite displays that you could ever hope to see. It will live long in my memory.

Guests were flown in from all over Europe and we were privileged to see kite designs that are never usually witnessed on these shores. It was spectacular to put it mildly.

And so, the purpose of putting pen to paper / fingertips to keyboard – was to simply say thank you to Phil Womack and the Flying Circus for putting on such an incredible event. It was a most wonderful day. It was a privilege to be part of it.

Neil & Lindsey

Pontefract Fly-in



*Photo's Courtesy of Simon Tebbutt and Peter Bindon*

Wirral Kite Festival 2005



*Photo Courtesy of Chris Hare*



*Photo's Courtesy of Mary Jones and Anne Othick*

## FUTURE TRAINING DAYS DUAL & 4-LINE

Keep an eye out on our website for some future training days for both dual-line and four-line kite flying.

As most of you will know, I recently became the 'local' representative for the STACK group who promote and teach techniques for all things related to two and four line kites.

There are at least 20 of us in our group who now have 'Revs' in their possession (possibly the largest UK group of Rev fliers in the country) and training sessions to suit all skill levels are currently being co-ordinated. At time of press, a firm date has not yet been fixed so its up to you to keep an eye on the forum, or – if you've not yet got access to the World Wide Web, let me know of your interest by contacting me personally on 07881-825899 and I will then keep you informed of developments.

Within this last year, dual-line flying has grown handsomely within our group, encouraging many new members to join and indeed take part. These dual-line 'schools' will also continue throughout the autumn and winter periods, this year to include a specialist 'trick-flying' school. Again, watch your forum or get in touch personally.

Look forward to meeting you soon,

Neil Edwards

## BUTTERFLIES & SOMBREROS

Sunday 3rd April saw us setting out once again over the Pennines and into Lancashire for an NKG event. Our destination - the small village of Hoddlesden near Darwen: the reason - a kite-making workshop with Karl Longbottom.

Following Dazzz's directions, as we neared Darwen it became clear that, to keep interlopers like us out, the locals had resorted to the tactic of changing road numbers and classifications. In some places the road signs had been removed completely. Despite this cunning ploy and thanks to Geoff's innate sense of direction, we finally arrived at the ERYCA hall only five minutes late! Having set off early we were the last to arrive. We knew we had reached our destination as Enid was waving frantically at us from a window at the front of the hall!

After finding a space to work and unloading machines and equipment from the car, we settled down to produce some kites. Nine people had chosen to make a 'Basket & Ball' (a German design from the 1950s) and two the 'Papillon' (designed by Didier Ferment). Geoff had previously attended two of Karl's workshops so we had an idea of what to expect and we knew that by the end of the day we would have two new kites to add to our collection. We were all issued with appropriate pre-cut panels and oddments of tape, Velcro etc and the first stages of construction were explained. Everyone worked at their own pace and soon intense concentration gave way to jovial banter as the worktables filled with yards of colourful ripstop. Enid kept everyone supplied with cups of tea and coffee and Monty, Karl's dog, kept an eye on the proceedings from the comfort of his bed in the centre of the hall. Machines

whirred, needles raced up and down, interrupted by the odd expletive escaping from a frustrated sewer whose nice neat stitching had suddenly dissolved into bird's nest of loops and knots. Experienced sewers were all keen to give advice and comments like 'you won't notice it when it's fifty foot up' restored both spirits and production.

In what seemed like no time at all Dazzz and Karen were opening packages of delicious sandwiches which they had provided and we decamped to a comfortable corner of the hall for lunch. Karl entertained us with tales of his recent 3-week trip to India and everyone got to know fellow NKG members a little better.

Well refreshed, work resumed in earnest with kites beginning to take a recognisable shape. Karl kept everyone on track and the more experienced sewers got quite competitive about being the first to finish. Soon Baskets were being connected with Balls and the intricacies of the ingenious bridle of the Papillion were being explained. One by one the kites were finished and began to litter the floor. When the last spar had been inserted and the last knot tied we trooped out of the hall and into the street to gather around the War Memorial for a photograph. A gusty wind meant a struggle to control the kites, which looked like a bunch of colourful sombreros and butterflies and attracted the attention of several of Hoddlesden's inhabitants who came out to get a better look.

Photographs over we returned to the hall to pack up our equipment. Karl showed us several of his other kites, which he makes professionally. We couldn't resist the temptation to buy a Marconi Kite and a kit for another Basket and Ball (the idea of the kite is to catch the ball of one kite in the basket of another so you need at least two kites). It took a bit of manoeuvring to get our new kites into our MG along with two machines etc (we've since divided the spars of the B&B kite to make it more transportable) but finally we said our farewells and set off for home. This time there were no diversions.

After we'd set off, the rest of the group took their new kites up to Dazzz's field to try them out. They all got airborne but the wind was too strong and gusty to fly them for long. The following weekend I made the second B&B and we tried to fly them both at the Pontefract fly-in, but without success. We had to wait until the Beverley for a steady wind of a reasonable strength and all three kites flew well, though catching the ball proved more difficult than it sounds.

So if you see an orange and black Papillion or a pair of red/white and blue/white Basket and Balls playing 'catch' at a kite festival this summer, it's probably the Othicks flying their workshop kites; come over and say 'Hello'.

Ann Othick

## NKG KITE WORKSHOPS

Due to the success of the Kite Making Workshop in April, we are thinking of running some more if anyone is interested in a beginners Kite making workshop later this year then please contact me and if there is enough interest we will see if we can get one organised for all those who think they might want to give it a go.

We also plan to run another kite making workshop for those who have already some experience in the early part of next year so if your interested in that contact me as well.

Dazzz

## FLYING COLOURS

I had, for a long time, been a wish of mine to become a member of a sports kite display team and to be able to fly in formation with others. The difficulty always appeared to be finding a group of flyers, each having the same interests, each being able to spare the time to put in sufficient hours of practice and living within a reasonable travelling distance of each other. All of these requirements can together when Dave Green kindly invited me to join a group of NKG'ers he was trying to assemble, to fly as a team at Otterspool. As Dave had previous experience of team flying, he was able to coach us into a basic routine.

The NKG members initially involved were Dot Mansley, Gwen Williams, Joe Barnes, Dave and myself and we worked towards getting a set of matching kites and flying lines. Initially we made four Shurican type kites, in matching colours and purchased 1000 metres of budget priced Dyneema flying line and cut it into the appropriate lengths. This was a step in the right direction but the budget line later proved to be unsuitable. At about this time, two other flyers joined the crew, Mike Lewis and Colin Savage. We now had seven flyers and four kites. At least, we could fly two teams of three or one team of four.

With a team of three we dipped our toes into the water by going into the arena at the 2004 Tewkesbury kite festival, to give a demonstration of our skills. As we entered the arena the wind dropped to zero and we were left standing like dummies, waiting for it to return, which it did, eventually. Although our performance did not match some to the other well-practiced teams who were entertaining the spectators, we were generally satisfied with our performance and we received much advice and encouragement from the members of the other teams present. It was from a member of one of those teams that we learned that they had recently purchased a new set of kites. Ah! We thought, what are they doing with their old kites. Could we perhaps purchase them? After much negotiation, we purchased twelve second hand kites for £600.00. Three 'standard' Flexifoil Matrix, three similar 'vented', for flying in high winds and three 'mega-vented', for flying in even stronger winds. We then purchased a bulk supply of better quality Protec Dyneema and made four sets of matching flying handles. At last, we could fly as a team, with matching kites and with lines of the appropriate quality.

Practice continued on Wednesday and Sunday afternoons, with new flying figures being introduced occasionally and with the team members changing positions on the flying grid in order to give each of the flyers the opportunity of practicing following as well as leading. Following is rather more difficult than leading, if you are to keep the spacing of the formation correct.

Our next acquisition was a set of four 'ultra light' kites of the same design. We now had four sets of kites, capable of flying in wind speed of from 3 mph up to 35 mph. At last, we could now fly a four-man team in almost any weather conditions. We have recently kitted ourselves out with a 'uniform' of white tee shirts and red peaked caps, so look out for us on the flying fields.

Following a performance earlier this year at New Brighton, at which our performance was judged and scored by assessors from STACK, the team were pleased and pleasantly surprised to find we had come top of the STACK (winter league) scores. We are still looking forward to the presentation of the trophy, sometime during the summer months. Since that time, most of the team have undertaken still further training in team flying at a STACK Boot Camp. Details of this are given elsewhere.

How has all of this been financed? Out of the pockets of the team members. Although we are proud to be members of The Northern Kite Group and we each wear the NKG badges and pins, none of the monies used to form the Flying Colours display team has drawn on the Group funds.



*Photo Courtesy of Ken Savage*

We have, since our formation, been invited to give displays at one or two events each year. Some of the event organisers have offered ‘expenses’ and these are held by the team to offset the costs of maintaining, and eventual replacement, of the equipment used.

When not attending any of the Groups ‘Fly-Ins’ we can be found on most Sundays and Wednesday afternoons, still practicing and trying out new routines at the Otterspool Promenade, Liverpool.

If any NKG member wishes to try their hand at team flying, or in joining the Flying Colours crew, please contact Dave Green. Now that so many of our members have acquired four line kites (Rev’s and Dancers), is there sufficient interest to form a second team of Four Line Flyers?

Jackcee

## **BALLET BOOT CAMP WEEKEND**

On the 19th and 20th of April a special Boot Camp training weekend was held at Otterspool. The two day event was set up for NKG members interested in Ballet/Precision Freestyle, individual, pair and team flying for either competition or demonstration purposes.

The weekend was organised by Andrew Phelps of Stack UK, ably assisted by Keith Griffiths and Vee Knox. Whilst members of Stack UK have previously been involved in one-day training events at Otterspool, this was the first weekend course of its kind at this site. Eight enthusiastic NKG members took part in a full and busy two-day programme and whilst it was quite intense all found it extremely interesting and enjoyable. Neil Edwards provided the essential refreshment tent and this was manned by Sharon Waring and Mary Cunningham, who also provided the refreshments. With Sharon’s deliciously warming scouse, Mary’s rich and tasty fruit cake and copious amounts of tea and coffee, we were all set up for

whatever the weather could throw at us, and it did!

Saturday was very wet and windy, but a little respite from the rain in the late afternoon allowed a couple of hours flying practice.

At first we all tried to squeeze into Neil's tent, but this became increasingly difficult as the morning wore on. Thankfully Dave the manager of the Otterspool Pub very kindly allowed us to use the Park Ranger's Visitors Centre, so we were able to carry on with the theoretical component of the course without ourselves and papers getting wet or blown away.

The first day's programme began with the basics of Precision Freestyle Competition followed by the background of Ballet Competition; a ballet being a routine of manoeuvres set to a pre-selected piece of music. The basic concepts of a good ballet routine include a rousing piece of music and kites moving in time with the music and with each other. A great deal of time was spent discussing music selection. Some key elements when selecting music include: 1) Speed-not too fast/too slow. 2) Style-choice of music presence. 3) Variety/Contrast-mood, tempo and volume.

After choosing a music track, the impact of that piece of music needs to be assessed and this can be achieved by using a method devised by Carl Robertshaw known as Dynamic Mapping. Similar to a graph chart with peaks and troughs, this method maps out the variety of tempo in a given period of time allowing you to determine which manoeuvres are best suited to a particular section. A similar mapping exercise was first formulated by David Morley and was therefore known as Morley mapping.

The choice of moves would then be taken from a list of standard manoeuvres. We were each asked to prepare a list of manoeuvres commonly used and to classify each movement in its form and content under the headings of, angles, straight lines circles, smooth, pass, wide and narrow movements.

Critically assessing our standard manoeuvres was a first for most of us but a really worthwhile exercise. Another important aspect of music and manoeuvre choice is the 'Wow' factor. Ooohhs and aaahs from the crowd would mean that you were catching their attention with strong and exciting movements, a must for any performance.

The next step in the preparation of the ballet is the drawing up of individual moves and at this stage adding musical cues, which are all important to the timing and interpretation of the routine. All the preparation thus far involves listening to the chosen piece of music over and over again, so it is important to choose a tune you can live with for months or maybe years to come. Knowing the music well is the key to good interpretation.

Once the music and routine have been chosen the next step is 'stick practice,' where individual or team members familiarise themselves with the manoeuvres using a hand held miniature kite on the end of a short bamboo or wooden sticks. (I've often wondered what the general public think as they watch the kite flyers stick practice in the car park at Otterspool!!)

As the final exercise of the day, members were asked to listen to a piece of music from Space Odyssey 2001 and to either prepare their own routine or use a Stack pre-selected routine followed by stick practice. Thankfully the rain stopped towards the end of the afternoon so everyone took to the field for a short practice before packing up for the day.

Sunday morning was much the same, wet and windy, but again we were able to use the pub accommodation thanks to the manager. Everybody arrived early to help erect tents and prepare for the day. The days programme started with a session on Arena Craft. This involves preparing yourself, your kites, your lines, music and ground crew before even setting foot in the arena. This is essential preparation for both competition and demonstration, as a time limit is placed on the flyer once he/she sets foot in the

arena. For the competition flyer, wasting time means losing valuable points.

Marking out the boundaries to be used in the arena is all-important, as the kite flying outside the arena during competition may be penalised. This also applies to routine flying particularly where the public are concerned. Some very useful tips were given on how to manage a ground crew. By using a series of hand signals the ground crew can be instructed to move, alter the position, or rescue a fallen kite. This beats shouting against the wind. The morning session finished with stick practice before retiring for lunch. More hot scouse, sandwiches and fruit cake.

Fully replenished we were out on the field to fly for the rest of the afternoon. Andy, Keith and Vee spent the whole afternoon coaching individuals and teams, who were either flying to individually composed routines or the Stack Routine set to Space Odyssey 2001. The music, which lasts one and a half minutes, could be heard over and over again at three different areas of the field. Despite winds of between 18-22 the fliers put on a good demonstration for the few members of the public daring to walk the promenade that afternoon.

The final session of the day was a realistic competition situation with an arena set up for the occasion. Andy, Vee and Keith put on their Stack Judging Hats and members not flying would act as ground crew for the competitors in the arena.

The weekend ended with the presentation of certificates to all the participants. All efforts were thanked and appreciated, particularly the hard work put in by Andrew Phelps, Keith and Vee. This was an excellent weekend, professionally conducted and packed with learning opportunities. Despite the weather and unfortunately the loss of one of Andy's new kites, all felt the weekend had been a great success. Our thanks go to Neil and Peter for setting up the Boot Camp and to Dave Green who provided accommodation for Andy, Keith and Vee.

Copies of the Stack Guidelines on Ballet/ Precision Freestyle Competition are available to anyone who may be interested at <http://www.stackuk.org> Or ask Neil Edwards who will be happy to help. Better still, book yourself on to the next available Boot Camp!

Gwen Williams

## **VERY NICE PEOPLE AT HANGTIME KITE SPORTS**

The kite shop on the Esplanade/beach at Fleetwood has now changed hands. The new owners are Anna and Alex Fishpool, who have a large CV for outdoor activity work. They stock single, dual, four-line and also top end trick kites, together with kite Carbon tubes, rod, fittings, lines and would stock materials if there is a call for it. They are hoping to have events on the beach soon. There is to be a soft seating area for customers with TV and cyber café. A local club will be formed shortly. For NKG members showing their card there is a 10% discount except on magazines and videos. The shop is open Wed to Sun 10.00 – 17.30 and all week in the summer. I went as a customer and left as a friend. For weather conditions and kite enquiries ring 01253 870000.

Dennis Chappell

## FYLDE KITE FESTIVAL 2005

This year we had decided that Fylde Kite Festival should be one of the most chilled festivals around and as Saturday morning dawned bright and clear and almost windless, we knew we didn't have much choice anyway! We tore the program up and just decided to get on with the Festival and see what happened.

The altitude sprints were well attended as always and people did their best to show off their kites in the roasting sun when the wind did decide to make an effort. Graham put on a good show as always even in the light winds and as the day came to an end everybody came off the beach looking tired but tanned and happy, even Enid only had 1 layer of clothes instead of her usual 5!

The auction was well attended with Dave Holt doing an excellent job as auctioneer, congratulations to those who bought the exclusive Fish on Sticks donated by Go Kites, and I'm glad to say the auction raised enough funds to help cover the festival costs, thanks to all those who helped.

Sunday morning started early as we headed out for some breakfast at 6:45am, since the roads were being closed at 8am for the marathon. By the time we got back the wind was up and Karl and Sarah Longbottom already had their Peter Lynn Turtle in the air and more big kites were going up every 10 minutes or so, Andrew and Kathleen Beattie were launching their big inflatables, Karen and I were launching the Flying Circus Airforms and Delta Serpents, by 9:30am it looked like a kite festival!



Unfortunately the Marathon meant a lot of people couldn't get to the site very early so it was a slow start, but the wind remained with us and we had a full programme throughout the day with altitude sprints, a trick out display by Team Synergy which was Neil Edwards, Peter Fisher and Ian Parkes, the North East Kite Fliers got the european air gallery into the air and gave us a great display.

Everybody seemed to enjoy the day and it did end a little strangely as the wind went from 15mph to zero in the space of a few seconds and everything fluttered out of the sky, as it looked like there was a storm heading our way everyone decided to start packing up and got away early, as luck would have it the rain didn't hit until nearly everything was cleared away.

Many thanks to the NKG, NEKF and KCOS who attended and helped to make it another great Fylde Festival.

Dazzz

# KITE CALENDAR

- JULY**
- 4 - 11 6th International Kite Festival, Lebanon
- 9 & 10 Brighton Kite Festival, Stanmer Park, Brighton, West Sussex
- 9 & 10 Barmouth Beach Kite weekend, near new RNLI Lifeboat Station, Barmouth, Wales
- 16 & 17 4th Hereford Kite Festival, Kingstone High School, Kingstone, Herefordshire
- 17 Catch the Wind Kite Festival, Morecambe, Lancashire
- 17 Petworth Kite Festival, Petworth Park, Petworth, West Sussex
- 17 Alcester & Worcester Kitefliers fly-in, The Worcester Countryside Centre, Spetchley Road, Worcester
- 23 & 24 Tewkesbury Kite Festival, Tewkesbury School, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire
- 30 & 31 NKG fly-in, Bolton le Sands, near Morecambe, Lancashire
- 30 & 31 The Blackpool Monster Kite Show, The Beach, Blackpool, Lancs
- 31 Skegness Flexifoil Power Kite Demo Day, North Beach, Skegness
- AUGUST**
- 6 End-to-End Motorcycle run for Myton Hospice, Warwick (not a kite event, just kitefliers on bikes for charity!)
- 6 & 7 Kites in Argyll, The Memorial Park overlooking Campbeltown's Harbour, Argyll, Scotland
- 7 Whitley Bay Kite Festival. The Links, Whitley Bay, Northumberland
- 7 14th Royston Kite Festival, Therfield Heath, Royston, Hertfordshire
- 13 & 14 12th Coventry Kite Festival, Memorial Park, Kenilworth Road, Coventry, Warwickshire
- 13 & 14 Teston Bridge family kite weekend at Teston Bridge picnic site, nr Maidstone, Kent
- 13 & 14 High Force Kite Festival. Raby Castle, near Middleton in Teesdale, Co Durham
- 13 & 14 5th Pembroke Sky Festival, Carew Airfield nr Tenby, Pembrokeshire
- 18 - 21 Northampton Balloon Festival, The Racecourse, Northampton
- 20 & 21 Kites over Capstone, Capstone farm country park, Capstone Road, Gillingham, Kent
- 21 NKG fly-in. Pontefract Racecourse, Leeds
- 21 Hunstanton Kite Festival, Smithdon High School Fields, Hunstanton, Norfolk
- 21 Alcester & Worcester Kitefliers fly-in, The Worcester Countryside Centre, Spetchley Road, Worcester
- 27-29 Portsmouth International Kite Festival, Southsea Common, Southsea, Hampshire
- 29 1st Charlecote Country Park Kite Day, Charlecote Park, near Stratford upon Avon, Warwickshire
- 29 Alcester & Worcester Kitefliers fly-in, The Worcester Countryside Centre, Spetchley Road, Worcester
- SEPTEMBER**
- 3 & 4 SkyFest, Museum of Flight, East Fortune Airfield, East Lothian, Scotland
- 3 & 4 Bristol International Kite Festival, Ashton Court, Bristol
- 10 & 11 Rufford Abbey Kite Weekend, Rufford Country Park, near Ollerton, Nottinghamshire
- 11 Harrogate Kite Festival, Killinghall Moor Country Park, Harrogate, Yorkshire
- 11 Boldmere Kitefliers Fly-in, Sutton Park, Boldmere Gate entrance, Sutton Coldfield, near Birmingham
- 16 - 18 Poole Windfest and Kite Boarding Tour, Sandbank, Poole, Dorset
- 17 & 18 2nd Chester Kite Festival, in association with NKG, The Roodee Race Course, Chester
- 17 & 18 Historical Kites Get Together for VE Day, Great Barugh village, near Malton, North Yorkshire
- 18 9th Rushcliffe Kite Festival, Rushcliffe Country Park, Mere Way, Loughborough Road, Ruddington, near Nottingham
- 18 Alcester & Worcester Kitefliers fly-in, The Worcester Countryside Centre, Spetchley Road, Worcester
- 25 2nd Kedleston Hall Kite Day, Kedleston Hall, Kedleston Road, Derby, Derbyshire
- 25 Wakefield Kite Festival, Heath Common, Heath, Wakefield, West Yorkshire
- OCTOBER**
- 8 & 9 Bawl Water kite weekend, Bawl Water reservoir, nr Lamberhurst, Kent
- 9 One Sky One World - kiteflying for Peace in the World. Events all over the World: NKG OSOW at Pontefract Racecourse, Pontefract, Yorkshire  
NKG OSOW at Otterspool promenade, Liverpool
- 9 Boldmere Kitefliers Fly-in, Sutton Park, Boldmere Gate entrance, Sutton Coldfield, near Birmingham
- 16 15th Annual MKF display at Family Fun Day, Botanical Gardens & Glasshouses, Edgbaston, Birmingham
- 16 Alcester & Worcester Kitefliers fly-in, The Worcester Countryside Centre, Spetchley Road, Worcester
- 28 - 30 White Air Windfest and Kite Boarding Tour, Isle of Wight

# KITEWORKS UK



Power kites for buggying and land boarding

Safety gear, harnesses, clothing and eyewear

Two and four line sports kites

Single lines kites from children to large decorative

Inflatable kites and drogues

Wind spinners and turbines, telescopic poles and banners

Vast range of accessories, carbon and glass rod/tube for all kites

Ripstop nylon - fifteen colours available also 2,4,6 oz pu coated nylon

Tapes, webbing, sleeving, zips, thread and bungee elastic in various sizes

Flying line sets and in bulk for all kites including cotton for fighters

Kite bags in various sizes to carry upto 25 kites - heavy duty and very strong

**SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR FULL DETAILS**

**CARL ROBERTSHAW FURY+FURY.85-ALL MODELS NOW IN STOCK**

**NEW BENSON KITE DUE IN SOON FORWARD ORDERS NOW BEING TAKEN**

[www.kiteworks.co.uk](http://www.kiteworks.co.uk) (chalkies)e.mail [keith@kiteworks.co.uk](mailto:keith@kiteworks.co.uk)

Address: The Studio, 22 Cranfield Place, Walsall, West Midlands WS5 4PL

Tel/fax: +44 (0)1922 624739 Mobile: 07775643746



**PREMIER  
RHOMBUS  
FIGHTER KITES  
SPIRIT OF AIR  
ECHO-GAYLA  
H/Q**

**FLEXIFOIL  
P.A.D.  
CARL ROBERTSHAW  
TIM BENSON  
REVOLUTION  
OZONE**

Please note: visitors are most welcome, call first to ensure we are available

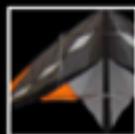
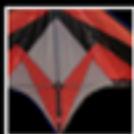
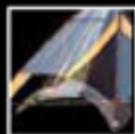
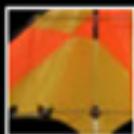
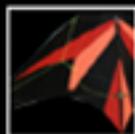
# GoKites

**NEW GENESIS NOW IN STOCK**

**Level  
ONE**

**Exclusive to Go Kites in the UK**  
**Sport Kites** **Tel: 0191 2672075**

**The Ultimate  
in Trick  
Kiting**



**All Level One kites stocked including the  
reknowned Amazing. Also stock Spirit of Air,  
NewTech, Go Fly A Kite, Premier and much more.**

*Why not book your materials in advance and have them  
delivered to your local Kite Festival, Ripstop, Tyvek,  
carbon, fibreglass, nocks, ferrules etc*

**Visit our website and register for 10% online discount**

**[www.gokites.co.uk](http://www.gokites.co.uk)**