

# THE KITE

NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN EDITION 2006



NORTHERN  
KITE GROUP

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

## CONTENTS

A Note From Your Chairman	1	KARA Update	8
Welcome To New Members	2	Paint The Sky Kite Exhibition	10
Editors Corner	2	Where have all the flowers gone?	11
NKG AGM	3	Kite Building In Schools	12
NKG Proposed Fly-ins	4	NKG Banners	18
Ainsdale-on-sea kite festival 2006	4	Wakefield Kite Festival 2006	19
Bolton-Le-Sands Fly-in	5	Kites For Sale	20
Martin Powell News	7	Traditional Kite Festivals Of India	21
Grahams Bus Pass Party!	7	Xmas Fly-in Stainland	24
Guinness Anyone?	8	Kitecalendar	24

*Photo courtesy of Mike Lewis*



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## A Note from your Chairman

Once more I ask myself where has the Festival and Flying season gone to ?????

I hope you all enjoyed your chosen venues, I know Rodger and I did, and when we couldn't fly we had some kite talking time, also in the evening the social side of our get-togethers are legendary, A Reet Good Sup and A Reet Good Natter, or just the Natter if that's what you want.

The Bolton Le Sands two day fly in was brilliant, just the N.K.G and a huge beach, good wind, good weather, good company, and a good ice cream van. On the Saturday evening we had a gathering outside of Josie and Ken Brethertons caravan, A couple of the members put kites up with lights on, and various others WORE lights. I have already made an arrangement with the Farmer, that next year I will book the specific amount of spaces we need and pay him in advance for them, because this year I thought there

would be more NKG members camping and asked him to save the field for us, so Farmer Archer turned members of the public away who phoned to book for that week-end, the result was he lost out. So next year when we know the date of the two day fly in I will be asking you to book with me, and pay me at the same time to keep the Farmer happy.

**ENID KNOWLES**  
Chairman



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The 3rd Chester Kite Festival had the makings of a fantastic event, when we arrived on Friday afternoon, the kites flying guided us onto the Racecourse, by the evening, the campers had arrived, most had a fly, later a string of lights took to the air. I took stock, we had large inflatables, from Sky Artists, Dazzz, and Wigsley Wings who had come along for the week-end and a fly, Flying Colours Team display, Graham Lockwood, Team Synergy the trick flyers, Beardrops, Dave Holt poised to do the P.A., and the NKG ready to fly whatever was asked of them. On Saturday morning we had the Flyers meeting, then NOTHING!!!!!!

We had Two Days becalmed, only just managing the Altitude Sprints, but we have been asked to go again next year on the 22nd and 23rd of September 2007.

Wigsley Wings have very kindly made a donation to the N.K.G for the support the members have given to them at Beverley etc.,

Now all I am going to say is SAFETY, please remember it at all times.

I'll see you all soon.

Your own Little Rocker,  
ENID.

NKG 2006 Whilst every effort has been made to maintain accuracy within this magazine, neither the editor nor any club officers can be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained within. Opinions expressed within this edition are not necessarily the same as those of the editor, or Club Officers. No reproduction of any part of this magazine may be used without permission of the editor.

# WELCOME TO ALL NEW MEMBERS

Michael Burke, Betty Burke, Christopher Bailey, Malcolm Beard, Clive Dainty, Lesley Raine, Peter Horsefield, Maureen Horsefield, Miles Treacher, Dawn Treacher, Clare Treacher, Andie Awde, Paul Batstone, Jaqueline Batstone, Fred Senior, Lorna Senior, Peter Lightfoot, June Lightfoot

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

## EDITORS CORNER

Welcome to another edition of your club newsletter, and as the season starts to wind down I hope some of you are thinking about getting some kite building done ready for the AGM and the kite building competitions in January.

Congratulations go to Brian Williamson for winning the last caption competition, the winning entry was: *DAVE SAYS, "i am telling you, her name was Mary Poppins, and she swears it will fly," COLIN "Nothings happening yet Dave and ive been here for hours."*

Your prize is on its way to you now Brian courtesy of Manni from Emkay



And I think its only fair we put up a picture of Brian at Bolton-le-sands earlier this year as the subject of our last Caption Competition, if you take a look at the picture of Brian on page 5, and send your entries me via post, email or just by posting on the forum. This issues prize has been kindly donated by Dick & Shirley Turpin from The Highwaymen.

There were a few last minute additions to this issue among them the notice for Ainsdale on the 14th & 15th of November which you can find on page 4, theres also a powerkite event at Fleetwood on the same weekend, you can find more details at

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

Thanks to Neil Edwards for arranging some dates for the Indoor kite flying at Chorley this winter. The provisional dates are: Nov 4th, Dec 2nd, Jan 6th, Feb 3rd, mar 3rd. These are all 3 hour sessions on saturday afternoons from 3pm - 6pm. More details can be found on [www.nkg.org.uk](http://www.nkg.org.uk) under NKG events.

I'm looking forward to One Sky One World and Light Up The Sky and your short of some lights i'll have some snazzy swirly light sticks and some 3 colour light up bracelets for sale at the LUTS, all proceeds to charity of course.



Dazzz

Deadline for the next issue is 15th December 2006

The usual activities will include

Best Kite Competition 2 classes large and small  
(**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.

AGM Agenda

- 1 Report by the committee .
2. Receive and adopt the annual statement of accounts.
3. Any other business ( see below )
4. Election of officers Editor, Treasurer, Secretary & Chairman
5. Appointment of one member to act as auditor

AOB

Future Direction of the Club

NKG Festivals Beacon Park ( in association with the Council; )

Chester (in association with the Council )

Festivals NKG were asked to attend

Flying sites for Fly ins, suggestions and review. (Do we need a summer break from fly-ins due to large amount of other festivals/events?)

Monthly programme of events/ fly ins, including OSOW and Light Up the Sky

Financing the Club, where we stand now

Insurance updates

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

John Welborn  
NKG Secretary

## AGM Location

The Community Hall All Saints Church  
Culceth Lane, Old Church Street,  
Newton Heath, Manchester.  
12pm till approximately 4pm

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

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

## Directions

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

Old Church Street is off Oldham Road near to Carpet  
World which is at the junction of Oldham Road and  
Droylsden Road. Old Church Street changes to Culceth  
Lane near All Saints church.

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

## NKG FLY-INS 2007/2008 (PROPOSED)

### 2007

21st Jan AGM Newton Heath, Manchester  
18th Feb Roundhay park, Leeds  
18th Mar New Brighton, Wirral  
15th Apr Pontefract Racecourse, Yorkshire  
20th May Otterspool Liverpool (Cleethorpes may clash)  
17th June No Fly-in due to local events (Beacon, Wirral)  
15th July Bolton le-sands (Tide dependant)  
19th Aug York Racecourse?  
16th Sept Chester Kite Festival (To be confirmed)  
23rd Sept Wakefield Kite festival (To be confirmed)  
14th Oct OSOW (To be confirmed)  
21st Oct Pontefract Racecourse, Yorkshire  
17th Nov Light Up The Sky, Otterspool (To be Confirmed)  
18th Nov Roundhay park, Leeds  
16th Dec Xmas Fly-in Stainland & Otterspool

### 2008

20th Jan AGM Newton Heath Manchester  
17th Feb Roundhay Park Leeds  
16th Mar New Brighton

Once fly-ins have been ratified at the AGM in January we do our best to keep you up to date via this newsletter on what events are happening in the NKG area, some events we only find out about at short notice so we advise all those with Internet access to check the web site at <http://www.nkg.org.uk> and look in the forums for up to date news. We also occasionally send out an email with late breaking news about events we feel the members may be interested in, if you put your email address on your renewal form you should receive these automatically.

Please note that attendance can vary at Fly-ins especially if there other events happening in the area during the summer, if you want to find out who may be turning up the forums are a good way to check.

### **Ainsdale-on-Sea Kite Festival October 14th/15th 006**

Once again the North West's only blue flag beach will be holding the regions biggest kite festival of 2006. The event is an amalgamation of all things that are powered by the wind. The weekend will see the final parakart race of the countries premier national race series on a possible course of 10 miles, with pilots coming from all over the country to fight for their final placing and to enjoy the weekend. It will also join together single line kites with their power kiting cousins, we have confirmed that the 'Sky Artists' will again be attending bringing their unique and impressive displays with them to add to the splendour of the occasion. Single liners have their own dedicated area of the beach that is marshalled and roped off. All enthusiasts are welcome to attend and join in the fun.

We also have major kite manufacturers and companies in attendance, parakart rides and a party at night at the Sands pub. Last years event was a major success that brought in a lot of passing public to enjoy the mix of kites and kites. This year it will be even bigger and better!!  
Come along and enjoy the fun and share in the total kiting experience!

## BOLTON-LE-SANDS

It's the first time I have been over to Bolton-le-sands, but after a magical weekend it will not be the last. I arrived Saturday morning with my wife Debbie around 9am, a pop up tent and 3 bags of kites. A short 40min run from wigan up the M6 off junction 35 and we were there. We hit the beach straight away. There to greet us was my good buddy Neil Edwards.

The first impressions of the site were good and once we had our chairs out, broolly pegged and kite bags at the ready, we sat and looked at the breathtaking backdrop of miles and miles of beach and landscape, fabulous.... The weather was hot with a wind that was perfect for trick flying 6mph-8mph.

We were soon joined by other NKG members on the beach, John and Gina Belliss with their Indian fighters, which mesmerised onlookers, Neils better half, his lovely lady Lindsey. The Bleasdale family arrived on cue ready to fly and sunbathe the day away, Steve and Lesa [new members]arrived with their bundle of fun[baby] who was no trouble all day. The day went well and numerous kites were tried and flown by dozens of our now swelling ranks of members.



*Picture courtesy of Neil Edwards*

We booked in at Red Bank Farm around 6pm, which was a clean, no nonsense site with adequate facilities and a friendly owner. What it may have lacked in mod cons it certainly made up for in the vistas it offered. We had a view money cannot buy, which was ever changing as the evening went on with hot, dry and clear views of our wonderful country and in my opinion the best country in the world bar none WEATHER PERMITTING.



*Picture courtesy of Neil Edwards* Lesa and Steve were celebrating their wedding anniversary, Fred and Helen were as usual good company, Enid I have to say looked like a sixties chick, whatever our Boss is taking is really doing the job. The Lady looked fantastic. All our members drank and had a really nice, stress free evening.

The sunset was amazing and one we all will not forget. A ball of red fire dropped behind the hills as we watched in turn Neil Edwards, now in the swing of things commenting how it looked like a peruvian setting, and he was spot on.

The sun went down and the more adventurous of us got their latest and greatest kites out and entertained with a vision of Heaven and Hell. Simon with his Angel kept the site gasping as his lampman shone on and off this beautiful kite, lighting the sky with a golden Angel one second and then on his dardhmaul [red faced devil kite] the next. I retired early 11.30 satisfied and full of expectation for the day to come.

SUNDAY, well what can i say only its the best day ive had flying and looking up at the sky full of NKG members kites, and getting fuller as the day went on with our members kites.

I was up and on the Beach for 6am tricking and flying my Deep Space I was soon joined by Dave Bleasdale in the mood for a full on display. By 7.30 we had 20 kites up and nailed to the sky, the wind weather and growing company was perfect, Neil Edwards arrived and got on with swelling the sky with his kites and soon it set the tone for the day. Simon had his HUGE lifter up with all sorts of other kites helped by Julie, it looked good. John and Gina flew their hypnotic fighters all day. Bernard's Red Canard flew better then I've seen one do before. There were two rare and amazing kites which looked like stained glass, I believe called Charles Jewels. The beach was full of all our members putting up kite after kite after kite. A real treat for us all Jean and Margaret mixed and flew. Dot sat with others helping, chatting, eating, drinking, and just had a real wonderful day.



*Picture courtesy of Neil Edwards*

Selwyns Flamingo drew the attention it deserved with his fish also, they were a real eyecatcher. The icecream man arrived on time and did the rounds several times. The parking area was packed with cars, kids and kites all the day long. What could be nicer than sun, sea, kites, ices and some of the best company and friends you could wish for, a really wonderful English pastime and a weekend I will never forget and will struggle to match. Artistic licence is the word that springs to mind as droves of young and old mixed and marveled at the 100 or so kites of all shapes and sizes. marconis, lifters, Animals, Birds, Facets, box kites in ther dozens, and the brightest thing on the ground .....RAYS TRUNKS..... Sheila has a bikini the same I am told, but RAY says it doesn't fit him anymore.

I found a mobile and returned it to its relieved NKG member owner, and my shower bag that was left by me was collected by the absolute star ENID who amazes me everytime I think of the Lady's no nonsense attitude and willingness to help everyone. My weekend was one to remember..

Brian Williamson  
(Big Bri)

## ENGLAND WORLD CUP HERO RETURNS!

Wow – what a trip! A big Thank You to the 5 people who ordered a Belier from me. This raised over £200 towards my sponsorship for the Germany trip, which was 6 wonderful days cycling through rural Prussia.

Was it worth it? Oh yes! Our group of 50 has raised close to £100,000 for Scope, which will keep 4 outreach workers employed for a year. I had the satisfaction of completing the challenge and the opportunity to experience Berlin. And of course it completed the recovery from my illness in 2005. Not bad for a 60 year old!

Once again, thank you for your support.

If you didn't order one, and would still like a Belier for Xmas, then the money raised will go to The Christie Hospital, which is my current charity. It's the leading Cancer hospital in the North West.

Martin Powell  
3a Sandy Lane  
Dobcross  
Oldham

## GRAHAMS BUS PASS PARTY!

*Graham Lockwood*  
*would enjoy the company of*

my friends from the NKG



*to help me celebrate my eligibility*  
*for a "Bus Pass"*  
*Festivities start at 7.30pm on the*  
*2nd of December at the*  
*Spring Grove Tavern*  
*Kirkburton*

## GUINNESS ANYONE?

At the time of writing this article the Midlands Kite Fliers are setting about trying to break the World Record for flying a kite at the 'highest altitude' – the event is known as KARA (Kite Altitude Record Attempt) and it has taken over a year in setting it up. We wish them every success.

I'm certain few people have a clue as to the amount of work involved arranging an event such as this – me included – but, I do know that not only have the kites got to be designed, made, tested, Guinness Book of Records contacted and co-ordinated with, they also have had to arrange the use of an airfield to fly from – and an Air Vice Marshall as Air Traffic Controller to divert all those Jumbo Jets around them. They will be attempting the Record on the Bank Holiday of August and will be trying on the Saturday, Sunday and the Monday. Yes, it's quite some undertaking.

Anyway, they have inspired me – and I got round to thinking what the NKG could do, and one evening after a small glass of wine the idea came – lets break the 'Duration Record' for kite flight. A quick peep on the Internet revealed that if we kept a kite aloft for just over a week we would get our names in that famous big book.

We are looking for fliers of all levels of experience to help out but obviously the more experienced and skilled amongst you would help bring success that bit closer. The Western side of our region has a history of sustained winds and there are several fairly isolated patches of land that we could use and practice on.

The idea is still very much in the 'developmental' stages, but we do need more volunteers and so this letter is appearing in your magazine. If you would like to get involved please get in touch either through the magazine or our NKG website.

Neil Edwards

### \*KARA Update\*

BKFA was on hand to witness the second weekend booked to attempt to break the current UK altitude record for a train of kites, generally accepted as Cody's 14,000'. The first weekend in Lincolnshire achieved a height of 3,966' – this time it was hoped to go all the way (a report of that first weekend can be found on the BKFA forum).

Sunday 27 August saw the day dawn bright and clear. Cloud cover was variable throughout the day, varying from around 10% to 90%. Winds were also variable, generally in excess of 6 mph but gusting to 19 mph plus, and averaging around 9mph – with the gusts right on the upper limit of these kites.

The team started to arrive from around 06.30. Led by Dennis England, it included Peter Musk, Mick & Carol Beasley, Damion Tyson, Scott Butler, Chris Addicott, Kevin Heasman and John Ostler, Steve & Derek Neal. BKFA was represented by Jerry Swift whilst Carolyn assisted the team.

The first launch was unsuccessful due to kite instability. The second attempt started at 0824. More successful, this launch saw four 1m rhombox kites fed into the air, followed by the first of the 2m kites. This was where the real problems started. With some 11,000' of line out, kite number four was looping wildly. It was hoped that the 2m kite (number 5) would calm it down, and to a certain extent it did. But

number five was also pretty unstable and by this stage the only way the train could be managed was by extensive use of 'line grabbers', large ground stakes and a car to pay line out: it took four people to hold the kites which were running through a 'sky pulley' attached to a tractor, then through another ground pulley before being attached to the car.

With a total of 13,000' of line out, it was decided that the unstable number five kite needed to be retrieved in order to trim it. A 'line grabber' was attached and then it was noticed that the line was showing signs of damage, probably by the grabber. With wind strength increasing, less than 2 hours before recovery would have to start in order to complete it before dark and a weakened line, the decision was taken to abandon the attempt. By this stage number four kite rear cell had collapsed and number three was looking unstable.

This is evident from the fact that number one was stable, whilst identical kites further down the train had varying degrees of stability problem.

Recovery was a slow process. The line was fixed to the tow car which then slowly pulled the train down. When it got to the end of its run, the line was secured, the tow vehicle returned to the start and the process was repeated. The 2m rhombox and two of the 1m kites were all successfully recovered; on kite number four both cross spars in the rear box were shattered.

Again a line grabber was secured. What happened next is not entirely clear but looking at the end of the line it is believed a sharp metal edge on the grabber cut into the line sufficiently to sever it. Two kites, the barograph recorder and some 4,000' plus of line were lost. They were last seen heading out across The Wash, climbing. Clearly the team were bitterly disappointed. Estimates of height reached, based on angle and amount of flying line out, vary between 6,000' and 9,500', but in truth we are unlikely ever to know.

Discussing the event with the landowner, John Atkinson, Dennis expressed concern that he could not afford to repeat the attempt next year. To everyone's surprise and delight, John volunteered to sponsor the purchase of a further barograph recorder if the team return next year for another attempt. He has turned out to be a real star, totally supportive and totally committed to success.

A number of lessons have been learned and the team are now discussing what kites to use and how to handle the vast length of line required for this attempt. It is clear that more than six rhombox kites are simply not manageable. Three require hauling with a car and securing the lines is very tricky. Multiple reels of line present real line handling challenges, even more difficult when lines need to be joined, despite the very clever metal joiners devised for the record attempt.

Running the line through the kite appears to induce significant stability issues. An alternative approach may be needed.

The 'line grabbers', whilst ingenious are clearly a weak point in the system and the team generally agreed some other method is required. There is general agreement that any further attempt will require fixed loops in the flying line that can be used not only to join lines but also to add kites and to enable the line to be attached to a strong point: inserting 'line grabbers' is too likely to damage the flying line.

So BKFA would suggest Dennis and the team achieved a great deal, and would further wish them every success with a further attempt next year.

Jerry Swift  
BKFA

**Karl Longbottom and Michael Goddard**

**11th September - 26th November**

**Kirkby Gallery / Library, Newtown Gardens, Kirkby, Merseyside, L32 8RR**

**Knowsley Arts Service welcomes the spectacular artwork of professional kite makers**

**Karl Longbottom and Michael Goddard**

Designing kites creates the challenge of combining shape, colour and balance with aerodynamics. Boldness and simplicity, visual metaphors and the impact of colour are key elements in creating kites. The surface design can dramatically influence the viewer's perception of the form of the kite.

Karl and Michael have used carefully coordinated colour schemes when designing their kites, which are then constructed using carbon fibre and ripstop nylon. Both designers have been inspired to construct traditional kites such as the Japanese Edo and Rokkaku, which are then given a more contemporary surface design. The materials they use has enabled them to experiment with new shapes and structures, resulting in fantastic moving sculptures and artworks in the sky.

Karl's kites have quietly won a great reputation in the UK and abroad for excellent quality and great flying characteristics. He works with kite designs from all around the world and is greatly influenced by traditional Japanese kites and the Pop art movement of the 1960's.

Michael Goddard has been designing and making kites for over 20 years. He is currently a lecturer in visual communication and has a background as a painter and graphic designer. His kites are decorated with colourful and bold graphic compositions. Many of his early kite designs were influenced by the visual cultures of North American and African art. More recently the interpretation of rhythms in music and contemporary architecture have featured strongly in his work. Michael has displayed his kites in Europe and as far afield as Jerusalem and on Bondi Beach in Australia.

Paint the sky will display a variety of Karl's and Michael's kites as art forms, along with sketchbooks of detailed designs.

**Opening Times: Monday & Friday:- 9.15am-5pm, Tuesday & Thursday:-9.15am-7pm, Saturday:- 10am-4pm, Sunday:-12-4pm, Closed Wednesday.**

**For further information please contact Knowsley Arts Service on**

**T: 0151 443 5617/5619**

**F: 0151 443 5618**

**E: [arts.galleries@knowsley.gov.uk](mailto:arts.galleries@knowsley.gov.uk)**

## WHERE HAVE ALL THE FLOWERS GONE?

Things have certainly bloomed for our kite group in recent years with membership and support at fly-ins doing very nicely indeed.

However at recent events in the eastern parts of our region the turn out has been disappointing in the extreme.

The western side of our region remains strong. Indeed there fly-ins arranged every single week.

But get past Leeds and everything appears to be grinding to a halt.

Lets change this.... Please support your Kite Group.

One kite in the sky barely attracts attention – but put 20 kites in the sky and it becomes a real spectacle, indeed a traffic stopper.

Several members from the west have pledged to come over and help raise the numbers, but unless the ‘locals’ make an attempt to join in then in my opinion the eastern region will suffer as part of the group.

If you have any feelings on this subject there is the NKG Forum where it helps to put your views, or of course you can write a piece for our magazine – but please don’t leave the debate till the AGM if you can help it. Though it will no doubt be discussed there.

There are a few problems presenting themselves with this drop in turnout. At the recent Wakefield event, no Committee members turned up, no fliers of any experience turned up and no Safety Officers were elected as a result of this. This would put our ‘clean insurance record’ at considerable jeopardy if any accident occurred.

Given how litigation and safety assessments have changed over recent year,. I feel that unless this situation improves then the NKG as a whole have to look carefully at arranging events where - through lack of support - the whole NKG is put at risk in terms of litigation, not to mention people who make a 200 mile round trip to be greeted by a horse in a field and not a single kite in the sky! What’s the point of that?

Just a few years ago it didn’t matter if 4 men in a field met up and flew through the day till their hearts content – but it does matter now. We are now a professional group with professional responsibilities. So come and help put some colour in the sky throughout our region – and lets hope the group blossoms again.

Neil Edwards

## KITE BUILDING IN SCHOOLS

In the Spring of this year I was approached by Mr Brian Haywood, head teacher at Dovedale school in Liverpool and asked if I would arrange for a group of people to go along to the School and instruct a class of 9/10 year old pupils on how to build and fly kites.

Appreciating that this might be difficult to attempt on my own, due to the likely number of pupils I would be dealing with, I enlisted the help of a small number of NKGers who often fly at Otterspool. At that time, a date had not been set for the lesson to take place and so there was sufficient opportunity to carry out some research into what design of kite might best suit the challenge.

As the pupils were so young, the requirement of sewing fabric material of any sort was out of the question. Plastic sheeting, joined by adhesive tape was something that youngsters of this age might be able to cope with, also it was cheap and readily available. Utilising these materials made the choice of kite design to be adopted led me to choose the ubiquitous Sled, but which one.

Studying the kite design books soon showed what a wealth of different designs are available, some with circular holes in the sail, some triangular, some with no holes but sporting tails, some looped and some single strand, some with longerons, some with tapering sleeves along the top of the sail, in order to lend some rigidity. Fortunately, Dave Green had made a study of sled kites in his earlier days as a flyer and he was able to give advice on the choice to be made, no holes but with a looped tail and using garden canes for longerons. The next step was to build a prototype, fly it and if successful, refine the construction to suit classroom requirements.



*Picture courtesy of Mike Lewis*

Materials were gathered, plastic garden rubbish bags and green coloured garden support sticks from the local garden centre. One member of the team had a roll of plastic ribbon blue and silver in colour, (it looked like some sort of electronic tape and was given to him many years ago by Tony Slater). This was ideal for looped tails, thanks Tony. Other members found rolls of Duct tape/Carpet tape, call it what you will. This proved to be much more substantial than the normal Selotape as is used for office documents. Flying line, wound on to suitable handles, was ordered from Tony at Go Kites and a date was set for bringing everything together, Wednesday 10th May.

The fact that the pupils were still at lunch when the team first arrived gave us the opportunity to distribute the required materials onto the classroom tables, without the hindrance of inquisitive hands. The prototype kite was hung on the classroom wall to act as a visual aid to the construction and also several different styles of kites were also put on display in order to act as an incentive to the potential kite constructors.

Having come to the end of the lunch break, the pupils began to file into the classroom, all wide eyed and excited, and take their places, four pupils to each work table. After a brief address, explaining what we, and they, were about to do, work started by marking out from the templates previously distributed. School scissors had thoughtfully been provided by the school staff. You probably remember the type from your own school days. They were about four inches long, with rounded ends, made of some type of dull metal and would not cut through warm butter. A child would never be injured by using them, neither are they ever likely to cut straight lines from sheet plastic. Fortunately, a few pairs of decent scissors had been given to him many years ago by Tony Slater). This was brought by the team members and, with close supervision the youngsters were able to make progress in cutting along the lines previously marked.

Appreciating the difficulties youngsters would have in cutting and handling adhesive tapes, most of the tapes had been pre-cut to size and brought to the classroom attached to unwanted CD's. In this way, it



*Picture courtesy of Mike Lewis*

was easier for the youngsters to peel off the tape as and when required. Work carried on at a remarkable rate, the youngsters were quite bright, ready to listen to instructions and were prepared to learn from the other members of their respective tables. Although there were not sufficient instructors available to have an adult at each of the six tables being used, we managed to move around, giving help and instruction as it was needed.

Mid session and there was a break for play-time. The instructors were invited to the staff room to partake of some liquid refreshments (i.e.) tea or coffee. When work resumed, It was time to affix the bridle lines to the kites and start to decorate with felt tip pens of various colours. As this workshop was taking place in Liverpool and Liverpool football team were shortly to compete in the F.A. cup final a few days later, much of the decoration depicted aspects of football, what the final score would be, who was most likely to score it and all had no doubt which team was going to bring home the cup.

In all a total of 24 kites were made during the afternoon and at the end of the session two of the instructors were asked to make a tour of the tables and to pick out the best kite from an artistic point of view. One kite was marginally better than the rest and this had been decorated by a pretty girl, named Sophie. Dave had commented how this youngster had taken her time with each aspect of the kite making. Accuracy and neatness had been shown in her work throughout the afternoon and she was rewarded by the presentation of a professionally made kite, kindly donated by the instructors. A second instructor was asked to judge the best technically constructed kite. This again happened to be the kite built and decorated by the same youngster. As she had already been awarded a prize, a further prize was awarded to the youngster who had been judged to have constructed the second best kite.

Time now to wrap up the kites and to mark them on the outside of the wraps with the youngsters names. We don't want any arguments when we come to fly them. It was decided that I would take care of the finished kites until such time as a date, convenient to all, could be arranged for a mass fly-in at Otterspool.

A date was set for the proposed mass fly-in but unfortunately the weather was not suitable due to very high winds and there had to be a hurried postponement. This was then rearranged for Friday 14th July. The day itself was beautiful, with the sun shining and a decent wind of about 8mph. The 24 children arrived at Otterspool by mini-bus, with form teacher Mrs Bagley and Head teacher Mr Haywood, the children excited and desperate to get their kites up in the sky. The lines were attached to the kites by the NKG members, who included Dave ,Mike, Colin, Jack, Mary, Ken, Olive and myself.



*Picture courtesy of Mike Lewis*

Before flying the kites the children were asked in which direction the kites should be launched and they all remembered that the wind needed to be behind them and they were all able to point in which direction the wind was blowing. After some minor adjustments to one or two of the kites, all 24 were launched and flown successfully, to the delight of the children.

We organised an altitude sprint with Dave, Colin and Mike demonstrating how this should be done. For this demonstration the children were divided into three groups and each group cheered on their respective champion.

They were then divided into two groups for the altitude sprint and a professionally made kite was awarded to the winner of each group. When the flying was over the children were treated to a demonstration of Dave's three kites one man routine and then a team fly by Flying Colours. The following day we received a bunch of letters from the children thanking us for showing them how to make and fly kites, and for Dave's demonstration, which they all loved. The whole event was enjoyed by the NKG team, the school staff and of course by the youngsters themselves. So successful was the day that I can well imagine that this could become an annual event.

Whilst flying at the same site during the school summer holidays, we were thrilled to see two of the kites being flown on a far corner of the field. Two of the pupils had brought along their parents to witness the kites flying. Who knows? Perhaps budding NKG'ers in a few years time.

Gwen Williams

Dear :

Gwen and friends

Thank for helping us to made the kites it was lovely and great!  
And I had a wonderful time flying my kite and I have now a new skill of flying kite, I enjoyed the Friday afternoon, it was so kind of you to spend your time with us making kites and teaching us how to fly and I had a balliant time to spend with you on Friday the afternoon!

from  
Sophie



Here's just one of 20 letters written by the children to Gwen after their kite building and flying session earlier this year, I will be putting them all online in colour on the NKG web site when I put the full colour PDF version of the newsletter online.

Dazzz

# Karl Longbottom

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## New Kites from Karl Longbottom

Extremely popular already this year is the new Red Kite made from ultra light carbon and icarex. It can be flown in zero wind conditions; anyone at Bedford Festival can vouch for that; a flock of 5 birds flew when nothing else could. It comes in a range of colours including a two colour version. Red Kite kite priced at £95.

The Altitude Sprint kite Karl has developed has proved to be a winner at a number of festivals already this year although he has been beaten by one of his own Dunton Deltas! The kite is called a Deltasled (or Aquadelta by the AKF after a few ditchings in the sea at Weymouth) priced at £40.



Photo courtesy of Danny Rice

Finally for a bit of a joke Karl decided to show his pants off this year, not surprisingly they have caused both amusement and comment from commentators, kitefliers and the general public. After his batch of Y Fronts going down a treat, he decided to go for a female version. The high wind thong is still on the drawing board (or is it chest of drawers) but Bridget's Knickers have already proved a success alongside his Thunderpants. Both versions fly like a fighter kite, both come in a range of colours and are priced at £45.



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SHOP OPEN FIVE DAYS A WEEK: TUESDAY - SATURDAY 10.00AM - 5PM

## NKG BANNERS

We have arranged with those nice folks at Air Attractions to get some more NKG banners printed, so those of you who missed out last time can now join in the blue banner brigade...

The price is slightly more than last time but this is due to a change of printers who, Francesca assures me, produce even better quality printing with more vibrant colours than the last batch we had.

### Prices:-

£70 Printed banner (No sleeve)

£85 Printed banner with sleeve

£6 6 metre pole

£5 P&P

To order your banner please contact Dazzz stating what you wish to order by the end of October. *(Cheques made payable to NKG will need to be sent to me by the end of the month for me to order your banner, all banners will be sent to you by Air Attractions as soon as they are completed.)*



Although our main activity is advertising banners and inflatables, we also have a number of activities of interest to kiteflyers.

You may have seen some of our specialist banners, such as our inflatable fish or inflatable club banners, but did you know that we can also supply mini or large banners, each personalised for individual club members?. Or, did you know that we operate a mail order service for fabric, kite parts and line? - or that we can organise and run kite-making workshops. We can also make custom kites.

### Fancy your own large inflatable kite?

Ever fancied making a inflatable soft kite but don't know where to start?

We can help! We have combined our expertise in inflatables with the latest in 3D modelling software, to provide a **unique pattern making service**. We can take your desired object and print all the relevant pattern pieces for you. We can include outlines, seam lines, stress point reinforcements, etc. All you have to do is cut out and sew it up! We can even get the patterns printed directly onto the fabric if required! Of course, if you want us to, we can do the whole thing for you from start to finish.

We specialise in off the wall and crazy ideas (have you seen Rob Brixton's fish and chips theme?).

So, if you think we can help you, contact **Francesca** or **Jon Caton**.

Call Francesca on 07881 957113, email: [sales@airattractions.com](mailto:sales@airattractions.com)

or visit us at [www.airattractions.com](http://www.airattractions.com)

## WAKEFIELD KITE FESTIVAL 2006

A disappointing start to the day with heavy rain and a complete lack of wind but the weather forecast says it will get better in the P.M, so we will give it a go.

Arriving at Heath Common at about noon and the rain had stopped but the wind hadn't arrived yet. Plenty of interest being shown in the kite workshop marquee, where youngsters were queuing-up to join the hourly sessions to be tutored on how to build plastic sled kites. Well organised by The Faceless Company who had a fair sized team of instructors, ample materials and working surfaces for the youngsters to work on. The idea of starting each session every hour, on the hour, with the participants each being pre-booked, meant that all the youngsters taking part were at the same point of assembly at the same time.

There was plenty of yellow coated marshals in attendance at the flying site to keep the traffic moving in the right direction and ample parking areas set aside, allowing the vehicles belonging to the flyers to be parked adjacent to the flying areas.

As is the usual case when the wind is slack, when a breeze did blow, it was constantly changing direction. The windmill's and other spinning things, being displayed at the front of the traders stalls were looking decidedly docile at this time. However, true to their promise, the weather men arranged for a few patches of blue sky to begin appearing through the cloud cover, the sun came out and the breeze made up it's mind from which direction it wished to approach Heath Common. With smiles all round, kites were lofted and the festival began to happen.



*Picture courtesy of Dazzz*

Mr Joe Public, his wife and their off-springs, turned-up in their droves. All parking areas were filled to overflowing and the sky was filled with dancing colours and it remained that way for the remainder of the afternoon. The traders were busy, we had a band playing Latin American music to us, the ice cream van was dispensing it's wares, hand over fist, we had sunshine, a breeze, ample space to fly and everyone was enjoying the carnival atmosphere.

Well done and thanks to The Faceless Company for a well organised festival. Can we please do it all again next year?

PS. The Faceless Company. What a strange title. Some years ago I asked how it came to choose this name. The explanation I was given was this. When the company was just starting as Street Entertainers they were having difficulties in attracting new participants because some of them were rather shy (like me) and did not wish to be embarrassed by appearing in front of their friends and neighbours. To help overcome this problem it was decided that the whole cast of some of their earlier performances should wear face masks, becoming faceless. This worked, confidence was gained. The masks have gone but the name remains.

## KITES FOR SALE

Allan Gilbert has entrusted me with the task of disposing of his treasured kite collection. He was a very active member of a number of different kite clubs over the years but in the last 12 months has been diagnosed with a terminal cancer; his prognosis is short.

I have not put prices on any of the items but would ask people to contact me with an offer. All the money raised will be passed on to Lesley, Allan's wife. I have catalogued his kites below. There are also various lines and reels which I will be taking to events in the future.

Karl Longbottom

Size	Kite	Condition	Features	Maker (where known)
	Bee	as new		Karl Longbottom
	Snowy Owl	as new		Karl Longbottom
	Fighting Edo	as new	Early model	Karl Longbottom
1.5m	Carp Edo as new	App carp	(with scales)	Karl Longbottom
5m	Double Parasled	used	Large size	Karl Longbottom
4m	Bol	used	Made to match parasled	Karl Longbottom
2m	Inflatable Ball	used		
2m	Rokkaku	used	Appliqued dragon	
2m	Rokkaku	repaired	Appliqued dragon	
1m	Star	as new	Not ripstop	Whitebird
4m	Multiflare with drogues	used		Cotterell design
3m	Red exotic bird	as new		Premier
1m	Multiflare	as new		Vertical Visuals (J Pelham)
	Box kite (5 cell)	good		Monday lunch (H Howes)
1m	Rokkaku	as new	Appliqued Japanese lady	Raindrop (H Howes)
1m	Rokkaku	as new	Matching Appliqued Japanese lady	Raindrop (H Howes)
	Ba 6	as new		Skybums (P Morgan)
	Tapered Ba	as new		Skybums (P Morgan)
	Tumbling box	as new		Nova (P Morgan)
	Leconu, straight (waffle)	used		Graham Wyle
1m	Parrot	used		Joel Scholtz style
1m	Winged box	as new	Flight Fantastic	
3m	Mockform	used	Made at Don Mock workshop	L Gilbert
1.5m	Mockform	good		Don Mock
2m	Rokkaku	as new		Don Mock
<u>Japanese Washi Kites</u>				
1m	Rokkaku	water damaged		
1m	Rokkaku	water damaged		
1.4m	Rokkaku	water damaged	very fragile	
1.1m	Hakkaku	water damaged	8 pointed star with hummer & tails	
<u>Two Line Kites</u>				
6ft	Flexifoil	used	Early model	Flexifoil
	Bust a blood vessel	good but dirty		Free Spirit Kites
	Bust a blood vessel	good but dirty		Free Spirit Kites
<u>Four Line Kites</u>				
3.6m	Beemer	good	Handles, no lines	HQ Kites

## TRADITIONAL KITE FESTIVALS OF INDIA

No month is without a festival in India. Ours is a land which has cherished festivities with the vision of oneness in life. Each community has retained its own uniqueness and adopted some customs from others. Thus each community has its own traditional festivals. Therefore in India, there are as many festivals as there are communities, religions, seasons and social functions. Festivals have a great role to play in the life of man.

The meaning of festival in Sanskrit is “Utsava”. The word Utsava is derived from “Utsarati” which means “elevates”. These festivals should be for elevating man further for linking him to his expanding existence.

Our festivals are expressions of our gratitude towards nature, deities and planets such as the sun and the moon which enrich our lives as they are for cementing our ties with others, family members or society and to relate ourselves to Divine. The speciality of our festivals is that there is always some festival or the other celebrated in honour of deities such as Hanuman (Monkey God), Ganesha (Elephant God), Naag (Snake God), Lord Krishna, Lord Rama, etc. Then there are festivals which mark important stages in the life of man – birth, marriage, first pregnancy, baptism, thread ceremony, anniversaries, birthdays, etc. Then there are the festivals to celebrate the triumph of good over evil – Diwali, Dassera, etc. Then there are the festivals linked with change of seasons, harvesting of crops or changes in planetary movements.

Makar Sankranti / Uttarayan is one such festival. On this day, there are two natural phenomena occurring. One is MAKAR SANKRANTI – the entry of the sun in the “Makar Rashi” (one of the zodiac signs) and the other is UTTARAYAN – the beginning of the northward journey of the sun. Uttar means North and Ayan means journey. Most of our festivals are backed by religious beliefs and ceremonies. It is this pressure of religious beliefs that motivates man to participate in the festivals. Our pandits (Godfathers) advocate that on this particular day, there are changes in the atmosphere and that these changes are beneficial to human health and hence every person should expose himself maximum to the sunlight, because the sun’s rays are at an unique angle only on this day. People go to rivers, lakes, sea, beaches for bath and then go to temples or pilgrimages thereby exposing themselves to the sun. People give alms to the poor and give food and money in charity on this day. For how long can one indulge in this? So one of the ways devised is to play games or flying kites from rooftops, grounds and beaches. In the eastern parts of the world, particularly in India, we have kites flown on manjha – cutting line, and therefore the kite flyers indulge in kite fights. This is so exciting and engrossing that people forget their responsibilities and duties. People young and old, males and females, from all walks of life fly kites from their roof tops right from dawn to dusk. They have their meals on rooftops.

In fact, the Gujarat Government has declared this day as a Government holiday and all shops and establishments, schools and colleges are closed on this day. The rickshaw operators, taxi operators and even the tobacco, cigarette and “paan” (beetle leaf) vendors take the day off and indulge in kite flying. The streets wear a deserted look. All the traffic is in the sky which is dotted with kites of different sizes and designs violating all traffic rules – its free for all. They are all busy having aerial battles trying to cut each others kites (lines), and at every kite cut the enthusiasts shout “Kaypo Chhe” – meaning I have cut your kite. The climax is from late afternoon till dark. After an enjoyable and, should I say, a busy day, when it becomes dark the kite enthusiasts experience a feeling of sadness because the fun and enjoyment have come to an end. However, a few enthusiasts still have some more fun up their sleeve. They fly kites with lit candles inside Chinese lanterns which are tied on to the line of a kite, anywhere between 5 and 10 lanterns can be tied on to a kite. This is “NIGHT FLY IN INDIA”. Then there are the colourful and noisy fire works which illuminate the sky.

This festival is not an isolated day of kite flying – meaning flying kites only on this day. Actually kite flyers start flying kites a couple of months before Makar Sankranti or the kite festival, only the mood and magnitude of the festival is absent. Preparations for the festival start about a fortnight before the due date. Kites are sold not in ones, twos or dozens but they are sold and purchased by scores and hundreds. Similarly, Manjha is sold in multiples of 900 metres. After bringing the material home, the kite enthusiasts start preparing the kites for the ‘D’ day by bridling them so that there is no time lost in fighting the fierce battles. Traders start selling kites for the festival from January 1 onwards. Kites are sold in shops, hand carts, footpaths and road side. The climax is on the eve of the festival. This day in local language is called “Katal Ki Raat” meaning “night of murder”. In the last couple of days, shops are open till well past midnight. These outlets are decorated with kites and illuminated with electrical lights and flood lights. Shop keepers who ordinarily sell goods other than kites, also start selling kites for this festival. A visit to the kite market on the “Katal Ki Raat” is an unforgettable experience and attracts locals as well as foreigners.

It is customary to eat Til Chikki (sesame cake – ingredients being sesame seeds and sugar) on this day. Til is good for health in the winter season as it fortifies us against cold, and especially at the change of season, Makar Sankranti marks the end of winter, from then on, the day starts becoming longer. The wind on this day is most unpredictable both in terms of direction and speed.

It is also a time of religious thanksgiving as the Gods awaken from their slumber.

Man is a creature of circumstances. Accordingly, in the eastern part of the world because of low winds and abundant availability of suitable kind of bamboo sticks and paper and light weight fabric such as silk kites are made from these materials. On the other hand, in the western countries, because the winds are of high speed, no paper is used, only fabric is used, mainly rip stop nylon which goes into making parachutes and sails of ships; and instead of bamboo sticks, fibre glass rods and carbon rods are used. The line used is also thick made of nylon or Dacron. Kite cutting is now spreading at an astounding pace from the eastern part of the world to Europe, America and Australia.

As against Makar Sankranti / Uttarayan which is based on solar movement, in India we also have a very popular Kite Festival which is based on the lunar calendar. This festival falls after the Makar Sankranti Festival. It is observed on the 5th day of the bright half of the fourth month of the Hindu Calendar. This festival is called “BASANTI” OR “BASANT PANCHAMI”. It heralds the onset of the spring season. BASANTI is very popular in Northern parts of India, particularly in the State of Punjab. A sizeable chunk of pre-partitioned India now falls in Pakistan. BASANTI is observed with full gusto and enthusiasm in Pakistan also. In fact it is a bigger Festival there and is celebrated for almost a week with colours and fragrance of mustard (yellow) and with kite flying. Although the Basant Festival is based on the Hindu lunar calendar / almanac, surprisingly there is no corresponding date in the Islamic calendar which is also based on lunar movements. There is a difference of about 12 days, a few hours, minutes and seconds between the lunar year and the solar year. The lunar day could be of 21-27 hours depending on the season, but the solar day is of 24 hours. As per the Hindu lunar almanac, the day begins at sunrise, whereas in solar system the date changes at midnight. Thus the lunar year is shorter than the solar year by 12 days approximately every year, year after year. In the Muslim / Islamic calendar the day begins immediately after sunset. The Hindu year is adjusted after about every 33 months by having an extra month in the year. This month is called “Adhik Maas”. “Adhik” means extra and “Maas” means month. During this month Hindus perform religious ceremonies, undertake penance, give alms to the poor, go to the temples to offer prayers and take outdoor bath on sea beaches or rivers. Marriage ceremonies and other auspicious functions are best avoided during this month. So, after 33 months, Hindus have a year which will be of 13 months. This is something like having a leap year with month of

February having 29 days every fourth year. The Muslim / Islamic calendar has no such adjustment. Therefore the dates of Hindu calendar and Islamic calendar do not match, although both are based on lunar movement.

In India we have four important Kite Festivals. Besides Makar Sankranti – January 14th and Basant cited above, Delhi celebrates its Kite Festival on August 15th which is the Independence Day of India and Kolkatta celebrates on September 17th which is the ( Vishwakarma Pooja Day ) i.e the day on which the Divine Architect, Architect of the Universe

As against this festival flying, in India we have developed kite cutting as a sport. We have kite cutting competitions for individuals / teams at City level, State level and National level. Since competitions can be between / amongst equals only, we have clear cut rules to ensure this, eg. The size of the kites as specified, the line used for making Manjha is as per specifications, etc. These competitions are conducted on knock out basis and league basis.

Kite flying has assumed International dimension in the last about 25 years. There are quite a few International Kite Festivals every year in different parts of the world. In India also, we have a very popular International Kite Festival organized by Gujarat Tourism during Makar Sankranti week since 1989. The International Kite Festival, Ahmedabad is meticulously managed and offers excellent facilities and hospitality to the participants who come from different parts of India and various countries of the world. As it happens, the International Kite Festival, Ahmedabad, is the first International Kite Festival of the calendar year.

My club, including myself have secured 1st prize at City level, State level, National level as well as International level. I have been a chief judge at the International Kite Festival at Ahmedabad.

Kite is known by different names in Indian languages – “Patang”, “Kankawa”, “Guddi”, etc. Patang is a Sanskrit word and it means butterfly. But Patang is also a proper noun. In the epic Shrimad Bhagwat Gita, Patang is the name of the third son born to Devkiji the mother of Lord Krishna and the sister of Kansa. Patang is the elder brother of Lord Krishna.

If you want an introduction to India and its culture, and to experience the Indian kite fighting enthusiasm and passion, then a visit to Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Khambhat, Surat, Jaipur, Hyderabad, Banares, Amritsar, Varasani, etc during the festival of Makar Sankranti, January 14th is highly recommended.

In so far as community kite flying / traditional kite flying festivals in the world are concerned, I would say that Ahmedabad is the KITE CAPITAL OF THE WORLD.

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## KITE CALENDAR

### OCTOBER 2006

8th NKG OSOW, Otterspool, near Liverpool, Merseyside  
8th NKG OSOW, Pontefract Racecourse, Pontefract, Yorkshire

### NOVEMBER 2006

18th NKG fly-in for Light up the Sky for BBC Children In Need Appeal, Otterspool, Lancashire  
19th NKG fly-in, Roundhay Park, Leeds, Yorkshire

### DECEMBER 2006

17th NKG Xmas Fly in and Lunch at Otterspool, near Liverpool Lancashire  
17th NKG Xmas Fly in and Lunch at Stainland, West Yorkshire

### JANUARY 2007

21st NKG AGM Newton Heath, Manchester

### FEBRUARY 2007

18th NKG fly-in, Roundhay Park, Leeds, West Yorkshire

## STAINLAND CHRISTMAS FLY-IN CUM MEAL

Will be held once again at The Duke of York (Stainland) at 4:00pm, on the 17th of December. I was hoping to have sample menus in time to print in this magazine but unfortunately this was not possible.

For those who attended last year it will be similar menus, a choice from the blackboard which included :- various starters & sweets, Sunday roasts, various fish & meat dishes, pies, salads etc. There is also a Special Christmas Menu (not known yet) for which a deposit of £5 will be required. When I receive the menus I will post them onto the N.K.G. site, (they may even be there now.) For those of you not on the internet, let me know and I will make alternative arrangements.

Anyone wishing to attend please let me, Sheila Smith know by December 1st, either by  
Email ----- rayandsheilasmith@tiscali.co.uk

Or

by Phone ----- 01422 376208

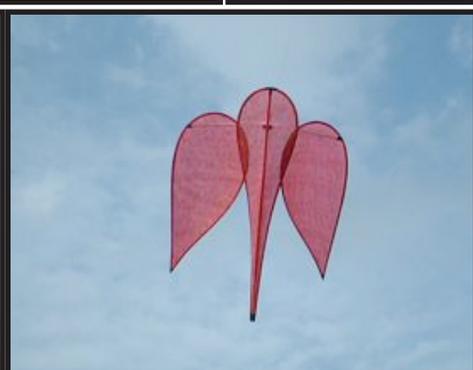
Or

by Writing ----- 35, Alexandra Crescent,  
ELLAND.  
West Yorkshire.  
HX5 9EH

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

Sheila Smith

Bolton-Le-Sands Photos courtesy of Simon & Julie Tebbutt



# GoKites

**Tel: 0191 2672075**

## End of Season Sale

Hurry to avoid disappointment – All offers are whilst stock lasts.

Level One Smash	Was £45	Now £30
Level One Merlin Exception	Was £85	Now £55
Level One – Level Two	Was £70	Now £45
Level One - Genesis	Were £130	Now £90
Level One – Amazing - Red	Was £145	Now £100
Level One – Tivar (3m Sport Kite)	Was £175	Now £120
Spirit of Air – Viper Both Colours	Were £65	Now £50
Premier – Mesh Delta's	Were £113	Now £75
Premier - Cubes	Were £68	Now £40
Premier – 9ft Delta's	Were £42	Now £30
Premier – 11ft Delta's	Were £76	Now £55
Premier – Clarke's Crystal Box	Were £29	Now £20
Premier – Parafoil 15	Was £68	Now £40
Single Line Parafoil 40" x 52"	Were £32	Now £20
Colours in Motion - XXL F-Tails	Were £85	Now £60
Colours in Motion - Like a Bird	Were £42	Now £30
Colours in Motion – F-Tail Dimension	Were £71	Now £50
Flying Empress – 10m Octopus	Were £210	Now £160

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