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THE KITE

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER EDITION 2006



**NORTHERN
KITE GROUP**
www.nkg.org.uk

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Photo courtesy of Mike Lewis

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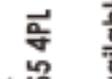
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Please note: visitors are most welcome, call first to ensure we are available



JULY

- 22 & 23 NKG week-end fly in, Bolton le Sands, Lancashire
22 & 23 Tewkesbury Kite Festival, Tewkesbury School, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire
22 & 23 Richmond Kite Festival, Old Race Course, Richmond, Yorkshire
29 & 30 Silloth Kite Festival, The Green, Silloth, on the Solway, Cumbria
30 Dunstable Downs Annual Kite Festival, Dunstable Downs, near Dunstable, Bedfordshire

AUGUST

- 12 & 13 13th Coventry Kite Festival, Memorial Park, Kenilworth Road, Coventry, Warwickshire
12 & 13 Teston Bridge family kite weekend at Teston Bridge picnic site, nr Maidstone, Kent
12 & 13 Whitley Bay Kite Festival, The Links, Whitley Bay, Northumberland
12 Pembrokeshire Sky Festival, Carew Airfield, nr Tenby
19 & 20 High Force Kite Festival, High Force Waterfall, near Middleton-in-Teesdale, Co Durham
20 NKG fly-in, Heath Common, Wakefield, South Yorkshire

SEPTEMBER

- 2 & 3 1st Summer Kite Festival, The Racecourse, Beverley, near York, East Yorkshire
2 & 3 Bristol International Kite Festival, Ashton Court, Bristol, Somerset
9 - 17 14th Festival International de Cerf-Volant de Dieppe, The Seafont, Dieppe, France
9 & 10 Great Barugh village fete and kite-fly weekend, Great Barugh, near Malton, North Yorkshire
9 & 10 Rufford Abbey Autumn Kite Weekend, Rufford Country Park, near Ollerton, Nottinghamshire
10 MKF fly-in, Sutton Park, Boldmere Gate, Sutton Coldfield, near Birmingham, West Midlands
11 - 17 Kite Jam, various locations in Llandudno and Anglesey, North Wales
16 & 17 Chester Kite Festival, in assoc. with NKG, The Roodee Racecourse, Chester
17 10th Rushcliffe Kite Festival, Rushcliffe Country Park, Ruddington, Nottinghamshire
24 Wakefield Kite Festival, Heath Common, Wakefield, Yorkshire

OCTOBER

- 8 - NKG OSOW, Otterspool, near Liverpool, Merseyside
8 - NKG OSOW, Pontefract Racecourse, Pontefract, Yorkshire
14-15 Ainsdale beach Southport

NOVEMBER

- 12 MKF fly-in, Sutton Park, Boldmere Gate, Sutton Coldfield, near Birmingham, West Midlands
18 NKG Light up the Sky for BBC Children In Need Appeal, Otterspool, Lancashire
19 NKG fly-in, Roundhay Park, Leeds, Yorkshire

DECEMBER

- 10 MKF fly-in, Sutton Park, Boldmere Gate, Sutton Coldfield, near Birmingham, West Midlands
17 NKG Xmas Fly in and Lunch at Otterspool and Stainland, Lancashire

A Note from your Chairman

Hi everyone, I hope you all enjoyed the Beacon Festival as much as I did, thank you all for your hard work in making the Event so enjoyable, it was wonderful to see all of the different shapes, sizes and colours of kites in the air. The Lady Mayoress who paid us a visit on the Saturday afternoon said she would be back on the Sunday with her Grandchildren. The Auction.. Started with two very new recruits to Auctioneering, Simon Tebbutt and Rodger Dawson, by the end of the evening they had passed their test, and the Auction raised £457 - 00. Well done to everyone who took part.

The Sunday was another relaxed flying day in good weather, and by following the programme Dazzz printed out for us, we all knew what to get ready to fly next. The Teddy Bear Drop was as popular as ever, as was Graham Lockwood with his three kites (it's fun to watch the faces of the public when they are trying to work out how he does it). Team Flying Colours gave us beautiful performances of Aerial

Ballet, and Sky Artists spent the week-end at the far side of the Arena keeping their Big Kites aloft, while the rest of the N.K.G. members flew whatever the programme asked for.

Dave Holt spent the week-end in the PA Trailer giving the Public a commentary of the event, and an insight into kiting, He was nearly fried and dehydrated in the attempt. The Rangers and the Countryside Manager Steve Kent were very pleased and have asked us to do it all again NEXT YEAR! (SMILEY) Steve Kent also mentioned that beacon were up for an award after Judges had visited the park during our festival and were impressed with what they saw, I will let you know what happens when the results are out.

After Beacon the N.K.G. were invited to a day out at Tatton Park with Kite Collective, it was a good chatting day, very hot and the wind blowing at 20+ Mph. A lot of time was spent retrieving a very large green octopus from a very large tree. Before I go, just a word about SAFETY, always appoint a safety officer of the day, no matter where you are flying, or how few of you there are. Then everyone must be watchful for the general public, our fellow flyers, and anything that could cause a risk of any kind. (bet you all thought you were getting away with it, and I wasn't going to drone on about SAFETY, sorry folks.. Not to worry, I haven't asked all of you to equip yourselves with a Hard Hat, YET) I'll see you all soon

Your own Little Rocker

ENID



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WELCOME TO ALL NEW MEMBERS

James Braidwood, Antony May, Johnathon May, Steven Robinson, Adam Robinson, Terry Lee, Shay Newman, Cath Fearn, Edward Charles, Roy Smith, Kathryn Smith, Michael Potts, Conor Potts, Nathan Potts, Poppy Potts, Robbie Potts.

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

EDITORS CORNER

Hello everyone again, firstly my apologies for the late appearance of your newsletter, I've been a bit busy, but I have to say its been an excellent year so far, and I'm looking forward to the rest of the year continuing in the same vein. Thanks to Jim, Mary and Mike for some excellent photos from the Beacon park event, I hope you all enjoy them on the centre pages.

We've received a letter and certificate from Children In Need for our fundraising efforts last year which I have included here and theres a message from Gwen on page 8 regarding this years effort which she has kindly agreed to help co-ordinate once more.

A new area has appeared on the NKG web site called the NKG Library, where members can donate items to be borrowed by other members and track who has the item, go to www.nkg.org.uk and click on Forums and the library is at the bottom of the page. This informal arrangement means you can keep track of things you lend out and also see what else is available to borrow from your fellow club members.

Congratulations to Bill Bleasdale for managing to complete the crossword set by Jackcee in the last issue, a prize is being aranged for you as I type this Bill.

There is another kite event happening at Moss Bank Park, Bolton on August Bank Holiday monday, since the weather didnt cooperate last time they wanted to give it another go, so if anyone wants a day out, keep an eye out on the forums on the NKG website for more details nearer the time.

Dazzz

FYLDE KITE BAN

3rd April Safety fears lead to Power Kite ban

Power Kites are to be banned from Fylde beaches, foreshores and public open spaces to ensure the safety of visitors and residents. The ban follows a recent incident involving a Power Kite line becoming tangled around a pedestrian.

30th May - Kites fly again on St Annes beach

Fylde Borough Council is delighted to announce the lifting of the temporary ban of power kites on St Annes beach in time for the Bank Holiday weekend. The Council has done everything in its power to resolve the issue as quickly as possible – without compromising safety on the beach.

A wide ranging dialogue has taken place with kilters who have been able to give the Council a good deal of reassurance enabling the decision to be taken to lift the suspension this weekend. The kilters have carried out their own robust risk assessment which has been sufficient to enable kiting to resume on St Annes beach. The new safety measures to which the kilters MUST adhere, include a “no fly zone” within 50m of the dunes – this applies to all kiting activity, including setting up. All those participating in kiting must also behave in a responsible manner to avoid the reluctant but necessary re-introduction of the suspension.

Cllr Susan Fazackerley, Portfolio Holder for Risk Management and Health & Safety, said: “This is an interim measure to allow the safe continuance of kiting on the beach pending the introduction of a full beach management programme later this year – Safer Sands.

“We must however stress that kite buggying and sandyachting are still not allowed on the beach or other council open spaces pending the outcome of legal proceedings.”

As part of the Council's ongoing commitment to safety, specialist consultants have been enlisted to carry out a full survey into risks on the beach, which will comprise four components: a site specific assessment; an analysis of legal issues; consultation with key beach users and the public and the design of a workable Beach Management Scheme.

This scheme will include details of stewardship and enforcement; communication techniques; capacity and resources issues and providing details of legal issues.

The consultants will utilise expertise from the RNLI and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) and the full report is expected to be completed by the end of September 2006.



As new members we were a little apprehensive as to if we would know anyone there. As we pulled in the car park we could see a group gathered around a car and as I walked across to them I saw Enid sat in the car. (Ah kite fliers I thought) As we had met Enid at Woodvale where Enid had kindly asked us to go to Chester, It was there we became members of the N.K.G. After saying our hello's I went off to gather Pat from the car



Pictures courtesy of Mary Jones



and fly on the field. No sooner had we got the lifter up than we became one of a flock of kites in the sky. Surrounded by people with this one common hobby. There were some people we had seen before at other festivals. None we knew to talk to, but our apprehension was soon put to bed, as we could not have wished to have flown with a friendlier group of people. As we left for home at the end of the day we were saying our goodbyes to new friends. We would like to say a big thank you to every one who was there on Sunday the 16-4-06 for the great time we had. So thanks again

Pat & Denis Emslie

The Wirral Kite Festival was very memorable for many reasons, a good site, reasonable weather, a nice friendly atmosphere, the spectators turned up in their droves, a well organized event etc...

Another highlight for me, and perhaps many others, was the reappearance of two old stalwarts of the Northern Kite Group, Messr's Gwill Williams and Alan Bole. Both of these gentlemen are residents on the peninsula and so it is true to say that this is their home ground.

Some years ago Gwill and his good lady Lena came to the conclusion that the house they were living in was too big for their needs and they started seeking something smaller. They managed to find a property which suited their needs and in preparation for the move Gwill sold off many of his kites and kite materials at 'give away prices'.

Unfortunately the arrangements which had been made for the move fell through and rather than go back to square one again Gwill and Lena decided to stay at their old address, without many of Gwill's kites.

One of the kites which he had parted with was a pink coloured Delta kite purchased by Mr Dave Green, the very kite with which Dave won the the NKG's Altitude Sprint Competition, at Beacon Country Park this year.

Mr Alan Bole has been winning altitude sprint competitions since the time when Adam and Eve were just courting. His favourite kite for this purpose has always been a Delta kite, designed and made by Helen Bushell. It just so happened that Alan had brought along this special kite on the second day of the Wirral event and so both of these Delta's were to go together, in competition, on Sunday morning.

The commentator, for the benefit of the visiting public, went to great lengths to explain that most of the kites on the starting line had, at some time, been specially designed for this particular type of event and to climb as quickly as possible.

He mentioned Dunton Delta's, Karl longbottoms rigid sled kites with two keels, the Rokkaku's, which at one time was the kite to fly in altitude sprints, the Roller kites of Alex Pearson fame and the Indian fighter kites, which in recent years have been knocking spots off all other types of kites being flown.

A good breeze was blowing and so only a thirty second time allowance for the climb; 5-4-3-2-1 and they were off... And of all these kites... specially designed for sprints, which do you think was to come first? Yes! The tried and trusted Delta. This time not the pink home made kite, made by Gwill and now owned by Dave Green. It was the white Delta, flown by Alan Bole. Well done Alan.

I have noticed in recent years that members, who at one time were first on the starting grid when an altitude sprint was called, are now hanging back and not entering, just because they are not flying these up to the minute, specially designed kites. I even know of one member who will not enter if any of the contestants are flying Indian fighters. This I think is poor sportsmanship.

Remember... for there to be a winner, in any contest, there has to be losers. Get your best kite out and get entering again, Let's see twenty or thirty kites scrambling for the sky, even if they are the good old favourite Delta's, or even Indian fighters.

Jackcee

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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 dittings in the sea at Weymouth) priced at £40.



Photo courtesy of Darryl 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.

EDDIE MCGRATH 1937 - 2006

Eddie was a great character, a tremendous artist, kite designer and long standing member of Northern Kite Group.

I first met Eddie at a Kite Festival at Cofton Park Birmingham years ago where we both started flying Indian fighter kites. Before Eddie had a lung removed he was to be seen at most of the big Festivals over the years, and was well known to all the major kite designers. He would be flying his kites and talking about new designs, and of course with Ann he organised the camping arrangements at Washington.

He told me that Takeshi NishiBayashi was the name of the creator of my favourite small kite the elephant sled .

Some of his kite designs and windsocks have been published and also in the origami world his folds are to be seen in their books.



I attended the funeral service held on Friday 19th. May to commemorate and give thanks for his life but the commemoration really began during the Cleethorpes Kite Festival week end (the Festival he created) where the Methodist Minister met and flew kites with Eddie's friends.



A kite fly was held on the Sunday for kites that Eddie had made or designed. What a fantastic tribute it was. There were pandas and tiger flowforms, masque kites, elongated diamonds with swords and helmets on , his famous small owl kite , to say nothing of his windsocks and spinning snakes, I flew the rose hexagon he gave

me last year and later flew a small manoeuvrable cat he had made years ago. The North East Lincolnshire Council have also created an Eddie McGrath Award for the most innovative kite at the Cleethorpes Kite Festival. It was won this year by Jock Walker from North East Kite Flyers with a train called Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.

The Rose Fledge Kite which won the NKG best Kite Trophy in 1997 was displayed in the Church during the service.

The service was attended by kite flyers from all over the country including Wigsley Wings, Malcolm and Jeanette Goodman , Tony and Marie from Go Kites and Jim Rowlands. Members of North East Kite Flyers, Northern Kite Group and Midland Kite Flyers were well represented. Eddie's family were especially pleased to see Ton and Maria Vinken who had made a special journey from Holland. Eddie was also a Citizens Band Radio user and there was a group of "breaker" friends in attendance as well. Members of the Origami organisation were also present.



Eddie was an artist and we were told about his many ways of expressing this talent from cartoons to origami folds and wood carvings. We were told that his attempts at playing musical instruments were not very successful apart from the drums. We have all heard him drumming at various places.



During the Service his grandchildren passed out a special collection of stones for the congregation to keep. It was a great celebration of his life and we all sang "We will never walk alone" at the reception, a song he used to lead at family celebrations.

Ann was supported by a loving family of two daughters, their husbands and her grandchildren as well as brothers and sisters. Loving Prayers and deepest sympathy are extended to Ann and all her family.

John Welborn

Pictures courtesy of Thijo van Beek

The Highwaymen

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WWW.POWER-KITE.BIZ

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2 NEW BUILDINGS, HINCKLEY, LEICESTERSHIRE, LE10 1HW



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Temple Newsome – the NKG don't fly here as a group anymore. Surrounded by large trees with poor toilet facilities. Good parking though and I guess if you lived next door it may ok. Turbulent winds commonplace though due to so many trees.

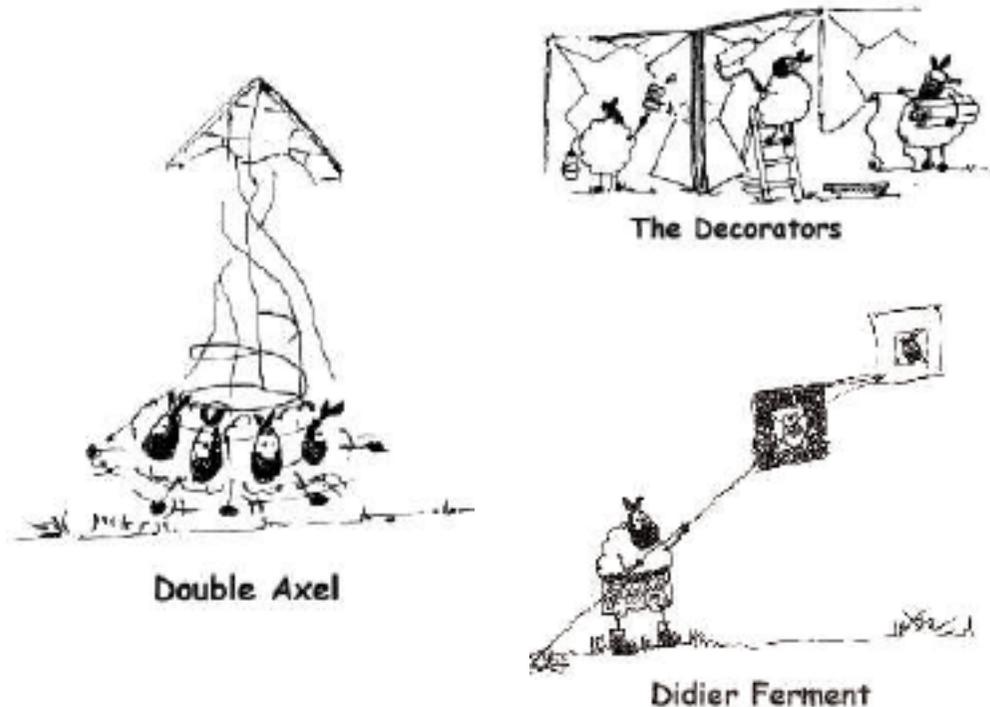
Woodvale – (Near Southport) set on RAF Woodvale, the NKG plays a support role to the Model Aircraft Festival that takes place here. It's a spectacular event at a spectacular location. Displays include one of the Northwest's biggest 'Classic Car' shows, a huge fairground, giant car boot, stunt car and motorcycle teams, some of the most amazing model aircraft you've ever seen – oh, and I nearly forgot - kites. Last year nearly 250,000 (two hundred and fifty thousand) people came to this event. Toilets are plentiful, parking is well organised – but if you don't get there early enough you can expect the queue to be a few miles long to get in. Keep an eye on the website for further details toward the end of summer.

Pros – a family friendly event, beer tent, live music, just about everything else. Kite trader present.

Cons – it doesn't last long enough.

Hope you find some of that useful, see you soon.

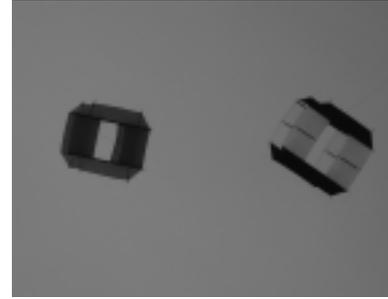
Neil & Lindsey



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

NKG WORKSHOPS

Here's a couple of pictures of completed kites from the spring workshop where we made both Papillons and Winged box kites with Karl Longbottom



Picture courtesy of Ann & Geoff Othick



Picture courtesy of Mary Jones

The next proposed workshop is set to be on Sunday October 22nd 2006 at the same location near Darwen in Lancashire, and we are fortunate to have Premier Kites soft kite designer Dave Holt presenting a brand new style of workshop. The subject will be "How to build a soft kite from an idea."

Dave will take the workshop participants through the process of how to make a soft kite from the first concept to the finished result.

This class will consist of two parts. In the first part Dave will give a talk on how to perceive your model or idea as a flyable kite and then progress onto how to make patterns from paper. He will then talk and demonstrate techniques of scaling up your patterns to full size, cutting, sewing and finally bridling your project. The second part of the class will involve building a small soft kite or piece of line laundry to put into practice all you have been taught. This class would be ideal for anyone wanting to start making figure kites and promises the end product will not be too difficult for beginners but at the same time fun and satisfying for advanced machinists.

Full details in the next issue of the newsletter but if you want to book early then send a £10 deposit made payable to NKG to:

The Editor
39 Blacksnape Road
Huddlesden
Darwen
Lancs
BB3 3PN

LIGHT UP THE SKY 2006

Our annual 'Light Up The Sky' event for Children in Need will take place on Saturday 18th November at Otterspool Prom' from 2pm onwards.

I am hoping that we will be able to arrange a small marquee again this year serving ongoing hot drinks and food and not forgetting a small auction later in the afternoon. I appeal to those in the know or who have contacts with someone or some organisation with a marquee, willing to let us have it for the afternoon, to let me know as soon as possible. We topped the £1000 mark in 2005, so this year we need to be aiming even higher..

Thinking ahead and trying to find ways of improving our fund raising efforts one aspect of raising money that does come to mind is sponsorship forms; whilst only a handful of members returned forms last year, this one fundraising effort can and did raise more money than most other activities. I should be getting sponsorship forms in September, so will be looking for more takers this year.

I would be most grateful for any other fundraising ideas from members.

Gwen Williams

ZURICH PERSONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE



**NORTHERN
KITE GROUP**
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The premium has been sent off and the policy has been set up. Cover begins from 12th July 2006. When a policy number is received along with the summary of the policy the Secretary will send each person a letter containing the policy number and the dates for which cover is granted.

As it is the first policy of this type that they have issued, this may take a little while, I will also be out of action for a few weeks recovering from an operation, but will send out confirmation letters to all those members who have registered once I have recovered.

John Welborn

New Brighton – 3 large separate fields running along the promenade front, known as the 'dips'. Easy parking and toilet facilities open at the field nearest to the golf club. When the festival is on there are plenty of toilet facilities. The festival held at this location is growing in stature and financial support as Liverpool nears its 'Capital of Culture' status, approximately 30,000 people came last year, keep an eye out for further details. Camping here is currently under review but at the time of writing is restricted to local campsites, the nearest of which is a few miles away, still worth the effort though.

This is home to a great kite festival, possibly the biggest in the UK, with fliers coming from many different countries to participate. Miss it at your peril.

Pros – good parking, ground drains well. Kite traders present.

Cons – if you've got young kids be aware there is a busy roadway close by. Dog walkers

Otterspool – (Near Aigburth, Liverpool) 3 grassy fields running alongside the promenade and banks of the Mersey River with views over the Welsh mountains. Good parking, Pub with toilet 50 meters. Home of the NKG's 'Light up the Sky' fund raising activities.

Pros – parking and pub, great views, usually has smooth winds.

Cons – Ground drains poorly after heavy rain. Can get very busy with general public in summer.

Pontefract Racecourse – very large site, often shared with 'traction kites' and Model Aircraft fliers – but there seems to be enough room for everyone. Good parking, toilets on site. Very nicely kept venue and should be the pride of all the locals. The gardeners deserve a pay rise. As mentioned previously with racecourse venues, when the winds come over the Grandstand it can be very bumpy, but this is rare here.

Pros – this is another nice venue and well worth a visit. Large shopping centres 1 mile away and good pubs nearby.

Cons – not much for the kids if they're not into the kites.

Roundhay Park – (Leeds) a large parkland venue, good parking and toilets 3 minutes walk. Plenty for the kids to see other than kites. A new venue for the NKG so still short on opinions for this site, but it sure is picturesque and set in a very up-market district of Leeds. At our last fly there in February we were visited by one of the local residents 'Jingle jangle, jewellery jewellery jewellery' – yes, our very own Jimmy Saville.

Pros – well worth a day trip just to see the park. Ground drains well.

Cons – directions to the site need amending, virtually everyone got lost. (Jim Couldn't fix it).

Stainland – grassy field, parking is out of sight and 100m from the flying field. Toilet facilities may depend on whether the cricket teams small clubhouse is open. The site is in a hilly area, which can make the wind bumpy, that said – it is a favourite venue for many of the clubs fliers.

Pros – a favourite site for local fliers. Nice views.

Cons – can suffer from turbulent winds, parking, and toilet facilities.

Chester Racecourse – beautiful venue, parking is easy, plenty of toilets on site, as a group we are very privileged to be able to camp on the racecourse itself. Chester town centre two minutes walk away.

Pros – location location location. Kite traders present.

Cons – its in a bit of a dip, so the wind can be a bit ‘iffy’

Baildon Moor – I don’t think the NKG fly here anymore

Beacon Country Park – (Near Skelmersdale) this is the home of the NKG’s very own Summer Festival. Parking is good, toilets are close by when the festival is on – but at other times they are 10 minutes walk away. As well as our own kites, there’s a display of Power Kiting as well as several stalls selling brick-a-brack and a climbing wall for the kids.

Pros – the views are really special and it’s a great place to camp, not to mention support your club. Kite traders present.

Cons – the wind can be turbulent and can switch a full 360 degrees in one day.

Birchwood Forest Park – (Near Warrington) no longer used by the NKG. This site was always previously used in wintertime and never seemed to drain that well. Parking is by the side of the site, but once on the field it’s often difficult to see your car. A toilet on site opens occasionally.

Pros – well, if you live next door to it I’m sure it would be ok. Might be worth trying on a nice summers eve.

Cons – as previously mentioned above.

Cleethorpes - this is a festival many members travel to. Its family friendly with swimming baths situated beside the flying site and a fairground along the beachfront. The Festivals camping facilities are half a mile from the flying site but are 1st class with a heated shower and toilet block – you need to pre book a pitch. The beach that we fly on is quite narrow so the skies can get a little crowded sometimes. Parking is good. Toilets are plentiful.

Pros – camping facilities and best curry houses between here and Delhi. – Kite Traders present.

Cons – flying space can be limited.

Heath Common – (Near Wakefield) a large area of common land on which you can have a lovely fly but you tend to share the area with the local gypsies horses. A dog training school is also present most Sundays till dinnertime. That said, the horses are tethered and once the dogs have left it can be a very nice venue. Easy parking and lovely pub with toilet approx 100 meters away, it also has nice views.

Pros – the pub and parking. Wind usually ok but can be gusty.

Cons – lots of dogs and their owners. Don’t fly near the horses as it ‘spooks’ them.

MICHAEL FOWLER 1930 - 2006

Almost all of Michaels work life was connected with the sea. After attending Sheffield City Grammar school and serving an apprenticeship with Newton Chambers Ironfoundry /Engineer /Chemical Manufacturers, he joined the Royal Navy, and later Alfred Holt & Co ‘Blue Funnel Line’, where he enjoyed a varied career both ashore and afloat.

His time supervising new shipuilding in Japan was his first introduction to kite flying, and each Sunday would find us on Mount Inasa watching the elaborate displays, he continued flying, making his own kites for many years before joining the NKG.

He was appointed Senior Shipbuilding Superintendant for new buildings in Singapore, Poland and the UK, and was accompanied by myself on all occasions.

He retired in 1986, then he had time for his interests, walking – photography – gardening – music – artwork and in the earlier years as a radio ham.

The illness brought most of these to a standstill, but he could still enjoy his classical music & spent many hours listening to his tapes & discs.

May I take this opportunity to thank the members of NKG for the flowers, letters, cards, phone calls and kind thoughts during Michaels illness, they were greatly appreciated. I would like to say a special thank you to Peggy Lever for her constant lively phone calls and all her cards with special little messages. We had lots of smiles from her.

My best wishes to you all and I wish you good health & happiness in the coming years.

Regards

Sylvia Fowler

1ST SUMMER KITE FESTIVAL (BEVERLEY) 2-3 SEPTEMBER

Wigsley Wings are hosting this event, invited guests include The Midland Kite Fliers, The North East Kite Fliers, Northern Kite Group, Sky Artists and Graham Lockwood.

This festival has a fantastic flying area being the inside of the racecourse, with great views over Beverley. There is camping from 5pm Friday – 9am Monday, this costs £22.50 and must be pre booked, pay by credit/debit card/cheque. Weather permitting camping will be within the flying area. Campers will be given a pass for entry into festival and they must carry this with them at all times. Showers will be open 6-8 am, 6-8 pm Saturday/Sunday.

Day visitors will have to prove membership of a kite club i.e. membership card otherwise entry fee will have to be paid. £2.50 adult, £1.50 child. Only the person/s named on the card will be allowed free entry.

The flying area will be as last year, members flying area for those members with Public Liability Insurance. Clubs will be asked to produce a copy of their insurance. If fliers have no Public Liability Insurance they will be asked to sign a disclaimer and there will be an alternative arena for them to fly in. No movement of vehicles will be allowed between 10.30am & 5pm. Speed 5mph with warning lights. There will be an auction on Saturday at 8pm, the meeting place will be given out on the day. As well as the kite festival there will be a car boot, both days, craft stalls and other displays happening elsewhere on site.

For camping contact . Blooms A1 Events 01430 860070
www.kite-festival.co.uk. Email ann@countyshow.fsnet.co.uk

Linda Richardson

CHESTER KITE FESTIVAL 16-17 SEPTEMBER 2006

Proposed Programme

10:00 Free Fly
11:00 Mass fly of bird and fish kites
11:30 Mass fly of Box kites and cellular kites
12:00 Altitude sprint (Possibly 3 rounds)
12:30 Teddy Bear Drop (Display only) provisional
13:00 2 line: Trick Display, Team display, Graham Lockwood
14:00 4 Line: Rev, Skydancers etc, Power kites Demo, Rev race
15:00 Teddy drop (Public)
16:00 Dragon kites and mass oriental kite fly (Inc Fighters)
(Possible Rok fight if theres enough interest)
17:00 Close

Directions:-
Roodee Chester Racecourse.
CH1 2LY

Follow the Ring road around Chester until you see the signs for the racecourse.

Notes: Times are 10 am till 5 pm Sat & Sun, Camping is free to NKG and MKF members as long as they show membership card on entry. Campers can arrive from noon on the Friday and depart before 11 am on the Monday. WC,s are close by and mains water. There are no showers available.

NKG FLYING SITES

In response to Peter's question in the last issue of 'KITE' with regard to updating the information on our 'Flying Sites' page, I offer the following suggestions which you may lampoon / lambaste at your will.

In my opinion each and every site people can fly at could be listed, with pertinent details such as location / parking facilities / toilet facilities / multi-map / photo's where possible.. - and a 'suitability' comment for that particular site, e.g., - this site doesn't drain well after heavy rain – or, lots of dogs are walked on this site etc etc. There could also be positive comments as well.

The fliers based in each local venue will be more familiar than others to the site in question so perhaps we can agree to start a specific thread on the Forum, or get Peter (if he doesn't mind) to contact the local fliers for their opinions.

For those who are new to the group or just haven't seen all the venues yet, there's also a little list in this issue that may help you choose when and where to go. Hope it helps,

These comments for each site are made to assist new members who haven't been to these venues previously and were considering coming along to try one out for the first time. They are just my opinions – and may differ from other people's opinions.
In alphabetical order:

Ainsdale Beach - (Near Southport) typical beach site, parking ok (but fee payable if not with an NKG event), toilets near by. Woodvale Aerodrome is nearby so watch your height!

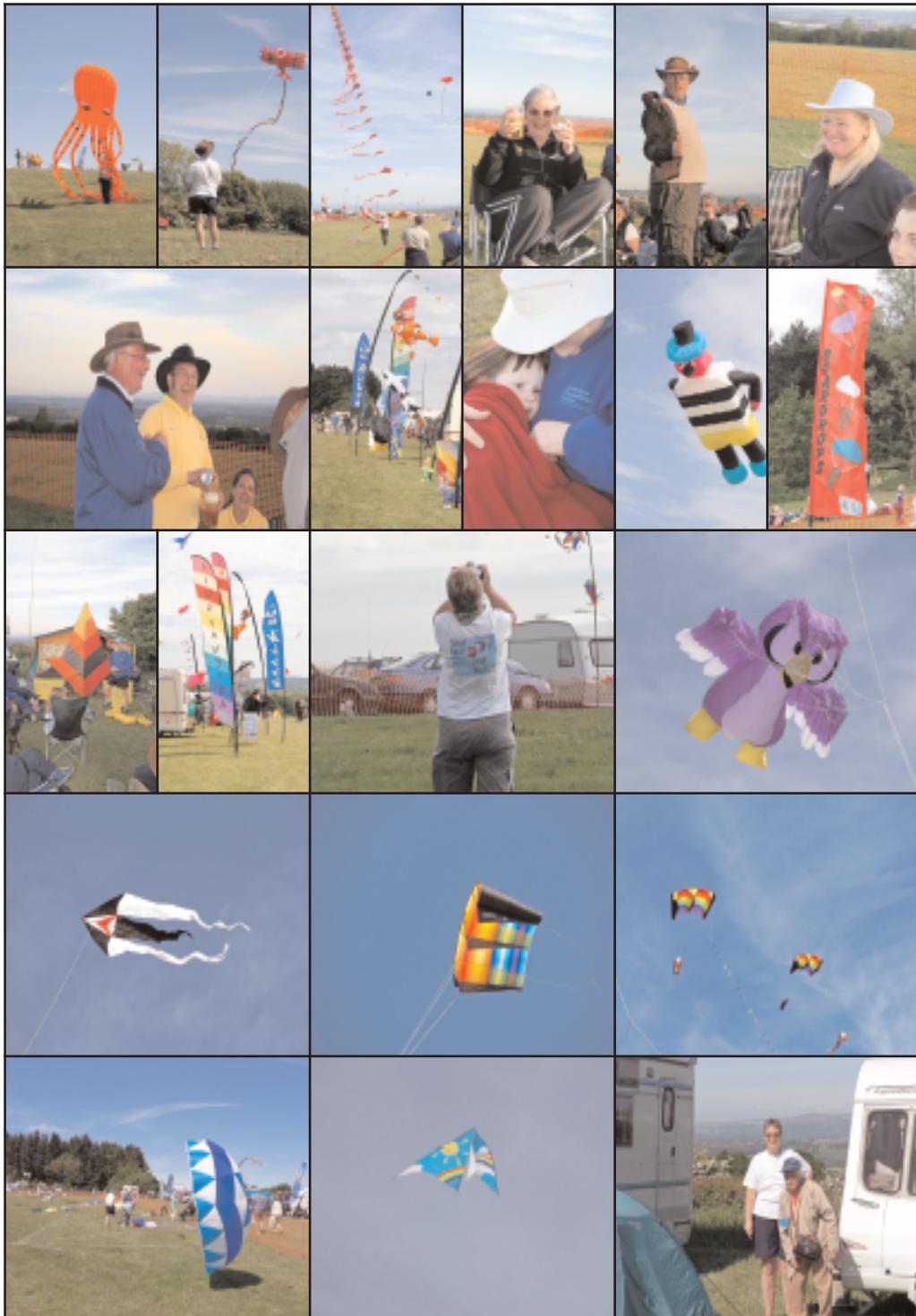
Pros – wind usually good.

Cons – this is pre-dominantly a 'power kiting' venue. Parking fees.

Beverley Racecourse – many members travel to this venue. It's a family friendly site with giant car boot and small fairground for the kids. Great views. Camping for the festival can be crowded, most people book beforehand in order to avoid missing a pitch. Camping for the full Bank Holiday weekend is £22-50. No vehicle movement between 9am and 5pm. You can walk straight across the racecourse to visit the town of Beverley. Showers available, plenty of toilets on site.

Pro's – family friendly and great location. Kite traders present.

Con's – if the wind is over the Grandstand it can be very turbulent, also this is 'Common Ground' and therefore cattle have been allowed on the field before we all arrive – although they're gone when we get there, they do leave reminders of their previous presence in several areas of the site.



BEACON PARK KITE FESTIVAL 2006

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JIM SIMPSON, MARY JONES, MIKE LEWIS



