

THE KITE

NEWSLETTER

Hello and welcome to the second edition of the 2013 NKG newsletter, I'd like to think this was the early Spring edition but the weather so far is still very obviously winter.

Our AGM eventually took place on the 10th February, after being postponed in January due to snow. Even though it threatened snow on the day, thankfully it did not cause any real problems. I would like to thank all the members who attended and contributed to the meeting.

The agenda, whilst including the annual committee reports, discussions on festivals and fly-ins, also included a number of additional matters such as suggestions on how to commemorate the 35th year of the NKG, which in itself evoked a lengthy discussion.

However, to catch up with all the matters discussed at the meeting including all 2013 events and fly-ins, please refer to the minutes, which you will now find on line or sent by post for those not connected to the internet.

Today was my first 2013 Fly-in, up at Beacon Park. Whilst it was cold and wet underfoot, we had a steady wind and put up a display worthy of many a small festival.

I can sympathise with members who feel the weather too cold and wet to venture out at this time of the year but you are, I'm sure, like myself looking forward to Spring and Summer and to the many events on the calendar for 2013.

So I look forward to meeting up with you at either St Annes, Fleetwood, Millom, Silloth, Harewood House, to name but a few forthcoming events. Gwen.



Report on the AGM 2013 - by Peter Lightfoot



Sunday dawned bright and clear in Redcar. The sun started to peep through the clouds as we ate our breakfast and even though the weather forecast predicted snow across the Pennines later that day, we looked forward to the journey and set off at 9-30am for the AGM for Moorside in high spirits. The landscape was glorious in monochrome – something magical about trees that have lost their leaves to be replaced with snow on the windward side. Before we knew it we were approaching junction 22 Saddleworth – only 5 miles to go. We arrived just before noon, plenty of time to say our hellos and happy new years. Neil was busy with his sewing machine and had a steady stream of students learning the ropes; the clubs library was on full display (thank you Tony), alas only one kite for the competition and so no need for a vote. A rough head count showed that we had a quorum (30) and so in no time at all the dinner gavel had been sounded.

The buffet lunch was a good selection of savoury items from around the world together with classic desserts. Everyone appeared to be having a jolly time but we had to stop and start the meeting - the official minutes will no doubt appear somewhere else. The meeting opened with the usual items, but the ratification of the fly-in programme prompted the first real debate. The general mood was to find ways to promote and generate more interest in kite flying and

increase attendance at club fly-ins. As usual the list of events was dominated by west coast venues but quite unusually fly-ins on both second and third Sundays of the month were agreed to hopefully increase attendance and raise our presence in the community. I find it ironic that members are expressing concerns over the prohibitive expense of travelling 50 – 60 miles up or down the west coast. When we support club events we rarely have return journeys

that are not less than 250 miles and they require very early mornings or over-night stays. Unfortunately poor health and even worse weather prevented us from attending many events last year. The rest of the meeting then seemed to be a race against time to fit in all of the AOB. Bernard's suggestions for celebrating the Coral (35th) anniversary were well received but I'm not sure where they are going or who will be helping with the spade work. I felt that Neil's enthusiasm to regenerate kite making workshops was stonewalled without detailed proposals rather than agreeing principles. With membership falling I think everyone is in agreement that things have to change but we are all reluctant to commit to extra responsibilities. Once the meeting had ended we lent a hand to tidy the hall and left promptly.

The journey home was in the dark through a mixture of light rain, sleety rain and heavy rain until eventually we were within 30 miles of home where the air was clear and no signs of any rain having fallen all day.

Finally a big THANK YOU to those who give both their time and energy to the running of the club, you might not get any recognition but it doesn't go unnoticed.

Peter Lightfoot, (apprentice geriatric and enthusiastic kite flier), February 2013.



Enough material to practice but there was not really enough time to make full use of it.



Dennis' first try at sewing doesn't exactly go to plan, as he sews his thumb to the new kite.

Luckily he could see the funny side.



To continue our recent theme on building ‘historical’ kites—we present the ‘Navy Dove’.

I first came across this kite some time ago in an article written by Paul Chapman for the NKG back in yesteryear. Some of you will know Paul from doing the commentary at some of our leading kite festivals.

I had seen it flown by the man himself at a couple of large French festivals but have never seen anyone else fly it.

Designed by Lieutenant Dove of the Royal Navy, this kite was able to pack away flat on a ship's deck (unlike the Cody which it resembles).....



..... It was originally called the Paloma kite and was used to hoist bombs way up in the air, which enemy aircraft were supposed to kindly fly into. You will notice ours is cunningly designed to be most effective in a sunset or sunrise.

With nothing better to do, myself and Richard Greenwood set about making one—there were a few tricky moments but nothing any of us (or you) couldn't figure out with a few minutes thinking and a scratch of the chin.

I will confess that it is a bugger to bridle as there are lots of bracing lines to be sorted out, due to the fact there are no spars to separate the upper and lower sections, just bracing lines. Lots of bracing lines.

I can't copy the plans here as they are too extensive, but they are available if you type in 'Kite Plan Base' and search under single line box kites.

We took it along to a 'Historical kite flying day' which Alan Poxon (a member & great friend of the group) arranges each year—but alas the wind was a bit low that day (it needs at least 10mph).

Neil (ed).

Ps. Alan is arranging the dates for this year's meeting as we speak so keep an eye out on kitecalendar.

A note from the Editor

You can be so proud of yourselves. No matter what your hobby or sporting passion, it's obvious we've all had a tough last year with many difficulties; so what to do? Sit back and do the same old thing—or fight back and change things around? Well, the Group have faced these issues head on, and come up with radical changes to the way things happen. We are lucky that we are part of a group that tries to listen and tries to act upon what it hears.

So, you will find new dates that give you the chance to fly more (and hopefully write about it a bit more). As you now know, we also have a bold new modern format for presenting the magazine to you - where hopefully you'll agree there has been some great submissions to this edition, and that all this is a great move forward for all of us.

One thing has become blindingly obvious in the 4 months that I have been liaising with the Committee in this new roll as Editor — and that is that Dave Bleasdale does more for your club than you can possibly imagine — and then some. I suggest the next time you see him, you shake him by the hand, because without him and the effort he puts in, your club would be dead in the water.

Hope you enjoy this issue and of course thanks go to those NKG members who have taken the time and the thought to contribute to it in order that you might enjoy perusing its contents. Ed.



'Graham Lockwood - the early years' - by Marina

PLACES YOU GO TO AND PEOPLE YOU MEET WHILST FLYING KITES!

As I write this Graham is in India flying kites as part of the invited 'English Team' to fly at the Gujarat Festival, and since Graham began kite flying it's always amazed me how far it's taken us and also introduced us to so many different people.

In the mid 1980's when our daughters were aged about ten and eight, Graham decided he'd make some kites for them both out of dowel and any scraps of material that came to hand (I've very rarely worn skirts since). Of course these weren't really for Nichola and Alison to fly but for himself! - and the girls enthusiasm soon waned after they found they very rarely got a chance to fly anything! At the time he didn't consider it 'macho' enough for a grown man to be flying kites alone, so Graham's interest moved onto other things. That is until about ten years later, when our elder daughter Nichola returned from a holiday with a small stunt kite and once he'd seen what a real stunt-kite could do, he wanted one!

At this time Nichola was in college and one day got talking to John Spencer who was one of the technicians (and also a kite flyer). When she introduced him to Graham, it turned out that they'd already met a couple of years before at a 'workshop' day due to their mutual interest in automata!

John Spencer was a member of the Northern Kite Group and it was with him we attended the kite festival at Oldham Edge in August of 1995, where we met Ted Iredale, Ray & Sheila Smith, all of Elland, and John and Barbara Baker of Leeds.

After joining the NKG we regularly met up with Ray and Ted at Stainland. Ted had already been experimenting with trying to fly two kites at once, but he was then in his late/mid 70's, and encouraged Graham to have a try - he found it incredibly difficult as he'd only just learnt to fly a single stunt kite, never the less he was 'hooked'!

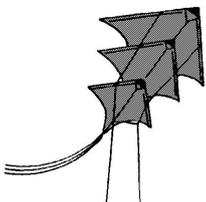
By then he'd begun making his own stunt kites and after meeting up with John Baker could at last get the correct materials. And thanks to John and Barbara we were able to attend a kite and hot air balloon event held at Castle Howard, which also included a visit into the stately home.

We were advised that if we really wanted to see a good kite festival we should go to Malcolm Goodman's event at Washington. So in July 1996 this is where Graham first saw multi fliers Ray Bethel and Mark Coventry. In later years Graham would meet up with Ray Bethel and then keep in contact with him. Mark Coventry was camped further down the row than us and plucking up his courage, Graham went to have a chat with him. This resulted in him agreeing to buy three of Mark's kites and we agreed to meet up at the St Anne's kite festival in two weeks time to complete the sale.

Now he'd got some professionally made kites he began to practice in earnest, but still mainly using his homemade versions, as he still found it a very complex learning process; there was much crashing and the breaking of spars—although not in my earshot, I'm sure many rude words were uttered!

In the August of 1996 we were back at the Oldham festival. Amazingly Ron Ogden had invited Graham to appear in the arena to give a demonstration! He wasn't confident at all and found the whole experience *very* nerve wracking; afterwards he said he didn't really want to ever do it again!

We tried to attend as many kite gatherings as we could and at York racecourse in 1997 we met John Welborn, who said we must go to Kelburn Castle's 'Festival of Flight', near to Largs in Ayrshire, in May. It seemed an awful long way just to go to a kite festival, but we took a chance, and really enjoyed the beautiful location, the kites, hot air balloons, BBQ and ceilidh. We liked it so much we went back again the following year, when we plucked up courage to take a helicopter ride - fantastic!



'Graham Lockwood - the early years' - continued!

We got quite a shock later in that same year to be invited by the late great Eddie McGrath, to come and fly at the Cleethorpes beach festival! But the beach was so narrow that the only place Graham could fly comfortably (and safely) was out on the mudflats—and I doubt any of the crowd would have known we were there! Anyone who knows me, knows of my opinion about Cleethorpes 'beach', and after too many years of standing on 'Lockwood's Island' getting wet and packing away wet and mud soaked kites, I refused to go again!

Another East coast venue we attended regularly was the kite festival held at Beverley Racecourse, we went to this one many times and often took the chance to walk down into the historic market town with its great little cafes, restaurants and of course the impressive Beverley Minster.

In 1999 we went to a festival in Edinburgh and had a very enjoyable walk into the city, I will not forget having a very exhausting and fruitless walk trying to get to the top of 'Arthur's Seat'. Other festivals took us to Fairbourne and Barmouth in Wales, and Silloth in Cumbria, just to mention only a few, but more on that next time.

Marina Lockwood.

Part 2 of 'The Lockwood Story—the later years' to follow next issue!



Go Kites

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Go kites are friends of the NKG - They now stock a full range of kite building materials and provide a service that is second to none. Visit www.go-kites.co.uk or see them at any of our NKG or NEKF festivals

KAP (Kite Aerial Photography) “A Higher View” - by Sue Storey

I have been ‘KAPing’ for about 6 years now, after contemplating it for a good few years. I started out with a home-made Picavet rig made out of wood. The Frenchman ‘M. Pierre Picavet’ invented a way of keeping the camera level which is still in use today.

I initially invested in the Pentax S7 camera and a Brookes BEAK rig which turned the rig round using a ‘GentLED’ triggering device to set it going. For the extra lift I needed a different kite and got a Power Sled 24, after which there was no stopping us and we KAPed at every opportunity. Eric was my right hand man, [and husband] and was very useful holding the line while I attached the rig, and he enjoyed it as much as I did. We found it gave an extra dimension to the kite flying and has now become the main reason for kite flying nowadays.

Two years ago I decided I needed a waterproof and sand proof camera, so I bought a Pentax W90 Camera. I have also made a pendulum rig from half inch aluminium bar which I can use over water with no worries. Of course this only takes photos in one direction till I move it but its worth it.

In May 2010 I went to KAPiNED in Holland for their international KAP convention. This was attended by KAPers from all over our planet. Some of us were asked if we could do some presentations. These were many and varied! Some explaining their rigs, (from Christian Becot’s very simple one using a plastic tube as a pendulum) and then Michael Lavasky’s quite complicated set up. Others showed their KAP photos or other aspects of KAPing. My presentation was in knot tying and I made a lot of boards with the knots tied in stages (which I still have if it would be of interest at an NKG weekend).

Each evening we were joined by a video link with Brookes Lefler, the Grandfather of modern KAPing who has produced many hundreds of Brookes rigs. On the Tuesday, after two days’ rain which kept us all in, we went out on the KAP excursion. We went to Kinderdyke which is famous for the 18 windmills along the canal. Only one kite and camera went for a swim! The next day some of us went to Muider slot, a castle near Amsterdam. That was interesting because all we could see was the castle’s turrets. When I took my camera down, from the castle had a moat and formal gardens. When we left the next day, some of us went to Willemstad which was the star shaped Vauban fort village with the moat (now a marina) entrance opening on to the wide Mass River. Some of the men eventually took their kites towards the town KAPing all the way.

At festivals at home and abroad, I like to go and chat with KAPers and see their various rigs and kites. I’ve got to know many of them this way and have visited some Dutch and French KAPing friends on my holidays. I always feel safe in their company.

This year in October, I will be making my way to the South of France for KAPiFRANCE. This will be near the birthplace of Arthur BATUT who made the first KAP photos at Labruguière where he lived, but I have a whole Summer of KAPing before then. If you see me with my rig in the air, I will be pleased to explain further about KAP and ‘show you my etchings’

I love seeing places from “A higher view” and you’ll find photos on my website.

<http://kiteaerialphotos.wix.com/sueskite-site> Though I haven’t added any lately, there’s a wide range of KAP photos there.

There are even more on my Flickr site – all arranged in sets <http://www.flickr.com/photos/45529469@N00/sets>



photo courtesy of Sue Storey

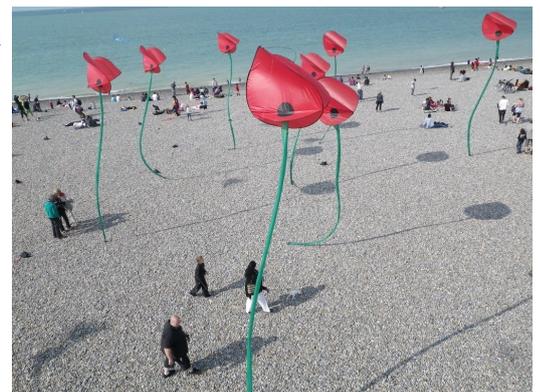


photo courtesy of Sue Storey



photo courtesy of Sue Storey

Fly High, Sue Storey.

FLY INTO KITES

April

14th — Otterspool
20th — Bonus fly at St Annes
21st — Fleetwood Beach

May

11th/12th — Millom
18th 19th — Harewood House

June

22nd/23rd — Beacon Kite Festival

July

20th/21st — Silloth
27th/28th — St Annes

August

11th — Otterspool
18th — Fleetwood Beach

September

15th — Worden Park, Leyland
22nd — Wakefield (to be confirmed)
29th — Taylor Park

October

13th — One Sky, One World, Otterspool / Pontefract
20th — Light up the Sky, Otterspool

November

2nd/3rd — Harewood House Autumn Glory
17th — Beacon

December 2013

8th — Otterspool (including Xmas meal)

January 2014

12th — Pontefract
19th — New Brighton

February

16th — AGM Oldham

March

9th — Middleton Park, Leeds
16th — Crosby



Don't forget to check 'kitecalendar' for other great events

“A kite is a victim you are sure of.

You love it because it pulls gentle enough to call you master, strong enough to call you fool; because it lives like a desperate trained falcon in the high sweet air, and you can always haul it down to tame it in your drawer.

A kite is a fish you have already caught in a pool where no fish come, so you play him carefully and long, and hope he won't give up, or the wind die down.

A kite is the last poem you've written so you give it to the wind, but you don't let it go until someone finds you something else to do.”

From the 'Spice box of Earth'
By
Leonard Cohen

Latest News

Some of our friends in the North East Kite Flyers have been helping out with the latest filming of the new series of 'A Question of Sport'.

Peter and Josh, Fred and Carol, with Tony and Marie all turned out to help with the filming of the 'mystery guest' section where this time around the celebrity was flying one of their kites.

The film shoot took place at Newbiggin,

which is about 10 miles north of Whitley Bay.

A great time was reported to be had by all.

There's no date set as yet for when we get to see the 'action', but



Only one eye, and even fewer teeth—Pete is a great friend of the NKG and a celebrity in his own right.

when we know we will let you know. Who is the celebrity? - well despite several hefty bribes and one or two attempts at blackmail, Peter's lips remain sealed—but only because he's agreed to have them stapled together!

Only kidding.

Well done to all those involved.

Ed.

Taking the bad with the good.

We will start with the sad fact that Woodvale is now cancelled again.

A huge amount of effort has been put in by our friends that have been associated with this event since 1971, but sadly to no avail—I don't know if it helps to say thanks for trying, but thanks. (with a

curse of chronic flatulence to those responsible for its demise)

As you know Driffield has been cancelled again but our friends from the North East Kite Fliers have come up with an alternative venue for that same weekend of May 4/5/6th, so you are invited

to fly 200yds from the beach at Blyth in Northumberland, there will be camping allowed with water & toilets & great company provided. Contact Peter Heanes of NEKF.

Ed.

Membership reminder

A quick reminder to all members who have not renewed their membership yet.

Membership subscriptions are due for renewal on the 1st of March.

If you have not renewed your membership then your insurance is NOT valid, this includes the personal insurance that is taken out on top of the clubs group insurance. All the best for now & we are looking forward to a great year. Keith.

Please renew now.

Send your completed form, and payment to:-

Keith Proctor
C/O. 35 Kings Road,
MEXBOROUGH.
S64 9BS.

Photographer's corner

A new feature— and if you want to see it again next quarter, you need to send me some pics!

We have some great photographers in the group, so if you have the skill to catch a magic moment get snapping and then email me your best shots!

From the next edition there may even be a small prize that varies each time depending on who wins. Just for fun to get the ball rolling this time around. Ed.

1



2



3



4



5



6



Thanks to Bernard Crick (1), Sue Storey (2 + 3) and myself (4+5+6) for these shots. Lindsey (my other half) is the judge — Bernard wins this one for photo number 1.

From your Librarian a brief history of our beginnings.

It's Tony Kidd again with news following requests at our AGM about the pre-history of the NKG.

I've double checked my archive and the most recent review of the genesis for the NKG was included at length in the 30th Anniversary Issue of The KITE newsletter for autumn 2008. You can also review this on the NKG Web-site.

Our past indicates that the "Great Northern Kite Rally" was held at Rochdale on 9th September 1978 and a Dr. Mike Ware was quoted in Mr. Manchester's Diary on 29th August 1978 that the interested parties had requested a CAA clearance for flight over 200ft.

I would need to track down some microfilm copies of that paper if a face copy was required, but Manchester's Central Library is presently being refurbished so is currently inconvenient to access, and I can't find it on line.

The article also states that subsequently 30 people attended an inaugural meeting of the interest group at Greens of Burnley on 5th November 1978 - effectively the formal genesis of NKG. Cheers, Tony.

Happy 35th birthday to the NKG

Hi everyone—and a happy birthday to our great kite club!
At the recent AGM it was agreed to make some key-rings to help celebrate the NKG becoming 35 years old.

The key-rings would be given out to members at NKG events.
The intention is to put some kite or NKG related photo, image or design into blank acrylic key-rings.

We are looking for suggestion on the graphics to use, have you got any good photo's we could use or are you good on the pc & could put together some type of graphic design we could use.

We could have a selection of key-rings with different pictures in.
The picture would measure 35mm x 25mm when in the key-ring
Thanks, Dave.

Stop Press

From NKG Facebook page.....

There is going to be a bonus chance to fly at an official 'Press day' on the **20th of April** to help promote the great 'St Annes kite festival' that will take place later in this year in July.

If you want a chance to get in the papers and help promote the event, then the press & sponsors will be present on **20th April**. Hope to see you there and hope you make the headlines!



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