



# THE

# KITE

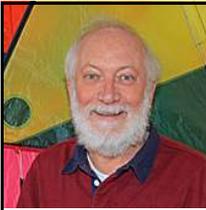
NEWSLETTER

Winter 2014 / 2015



4b2 ( Graham & Josh ) putting their heart into it





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Welcome to your Winter 2014 / 2015 Magazine.

Inside you will find forty pages of articles, stories and photographs written and submitted by members of the NKG.

Bernard Crick	-	Crosby Page 6
Graham Lockwood	-	Travel Page 8
Gwen	-	Early Learning Page 5
Jock & Peter Walker	-	Images from Morecambe & East Fortune Page 17
Len Royles	-	The Great Wave of Kanagawa Page 14
Peter Heayns	-	Photo Compeition Page 21
Sue Story	-	Kite Festivals in 2014 Page 10
Tony Kidd	-	Lytham St Annes Page 20

We also have the first of hopefully many The Bends cartoon sketches written by John Jaques.

I would also like to remind everyone that on 15th February 2015 it will be the 12th AGM of the Northern Kite Group full details can be found on Page 4

**the bends**



## Chairman's Note - Summer through to end of year 2014

Hello and welcome to this newsletter. Simon has had a very busy year so this edition covers several of our flying seasons. It seems just a short time ago that the Summer flying season was ahead of us and yet now in early 2015, the majority of last year's festivals are memories. We had extremes of wind throughout the Summer from a very blustery time at Haverigg for the Western Lakes Festival to a becalmed Beacon Festival. We were however blessed with excellent conditions for the Morecambe & St Anne's Festivals so I guess we have to take the swings with the roundabouts. Our members also attended festivals at Margam, Westmoreland, Silloth and Portsmouth, with a few venturing further afield to foreign shores. Our own festival at the Beacon was an opportunity for youngsters to fly the set of Rainbow Delta kites that the group have purchased. On the Saturday the light winds proved too little for the large show kites but with the enthusiasm of the young there was the spectacle of a dozen youngsters keeping their kites aloft. Many thanks to those members who assisted in supervising in the arena.

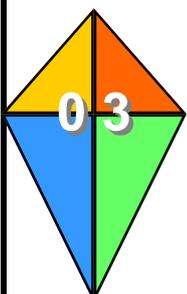


Sunday provided so little wind that super light kites were the only kites to fly.

The rest of the year offered a variety of fly-ins across the region including OSOW and a very windy Light Up The Sky at Otterspool. The Autumn culminated in a new venture, the end of season social event at Westmorland. Organised by Craig & Sue it was a mixture of great camping, flying and a wonderful evening at the local Memorial Hall. Those that were able to attend the Xmas meal at Otterspool had a great time as well. I hope that you were all well and able to attend as many of these events as possible and make new as well as renewing your kite flying acquaintances.

May I also remind folk that our AGM is on Sunday 15th of February, it would be great to see you all there!

Len Royles



## On 15th February 2015 it will be the 12th AGM of the Northern Kite Group

As previous years the AGM will be held at St Thomas's Church Hall, Moorside, Glebe Lane, Oldham. (See directions below)

The AGM will start at approximately 12.30pm with a buffet and the private sale of kites & bits & pieces for anyone wishing to sell things prior to the meeting.

The AGM is an opportunity for all members to meet and discuss the future of your group, so please come along if you can it will be great to see you there. If there is anything in particular you would like to raise at the AGM, please let the secretary know.

After 16 years as Treasurer Mary Jones will not be standing for re-election.

I think all will agree that Mary has done a great job in that time & the committee thank her for the valued contribution she has made to the group over those years.

Anyone wishing to stand for the position of Treasurer please let the secretary know before the AGM.

The positions of Chairman, Membership Secretary, & Secretary are also up for election for anyone wishing to stand.

Membership renewal is due 1st March & can be sent direct to Keith Proctor or paid at the AGM. If you are renewing at the AGM please still complete a membership form and pass to Keith with your monies. (Membership forms are available on the NKG website & will also be emailed or posted to all the membership)

### Directions:

From M62 take exit onto A 627(M) turn off onto A627 and onto the A62 round Oldham going North East then onto A672 Ripponden road Glebe Lane is off Northgate Lane Northgate Lane is about one and a quarter miles from A627 / A62 junction. Car parking is in the streets round the church hall.

Postcode for satnav users OL1 4SJ should get you close enough.

Hope to see you there.

Dave.

## A Letter from the Editor

Again all I can do is apologise for how late the; what was going to be the Autumn Winter magazine has taken to compile.

A mixture of Flu, changes at work, house renovations new business ideas and sick animals have meant I am behind with everything I had planned to do for the magazine and my own kite building projects.

I do appreciate everyone else's hard work and I have tried to include everything I have received.

May twenty fifteen be a better year for everybody than the previous year was.

Now for a little bit of light hearted relief here is a favourite quote from Jerome K Jerome

*"It always does seem to me that I am doing more work than I should do.*

*It is not that I object to the work, mind you; I like work: it fascinates me.*

*I can sit and look at it for hours. I love to keep it by me: the idea of getting rid of it nearly breaks my heart.*

*You cannot give me too much work; to accumulate work has almost become a passion with me: my study is so full of it now, that there is hardly an inch of room for any more.*

*I shall have to throw out a wing soon.*

*And I am careful of my work, too.*

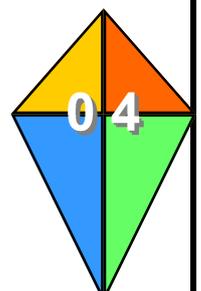
*Why, some of the work that I have by me now has been in my possession for years and years, and there isn't a finger-mark on it. I take a great pride in my work;*

*I take it down now and then and dust it.*

*No man keeps his work in a better state of preservation than I do.*

*But, though I crave for work, I still like to be fair. I do not ask for more than my proper share."*

— Jerome K. Jerome, Three Men in a Boat



## Interesting things from Tony Kidd

Glass takes one million years to decompose, which means it never wears out and can be recycled an infinite amount of times!

Gold is the only metal that doesn't rust, even if it's buried in the ground for thousands of years.

Your tongue is the only muscle in your body that is attached at only one end.

If you stop getting thirsty, you need to drink more water.  
When a human body is dehydrated, its thirst mechanism shuts off.

Zero is the only number that cannot be represented by Roman numerals.

Kites were used in the American Civil War to deliver letters and newspapers.

This arrived for me in a Newsletter from the World Kite Museum (Long Beach, WA., USA) and I thought it was interesting.

<https://www.windyty.com/?surface,wind,now,52.228,3.560,5>

## Early Learning at Otterspool

By Gwen

One sunny Sunday afternoon in July, a young family, of whom one was a 10 yr old boy and his sister, a baby in arms, ventured down to Otterspool to enjoy a little kite flying.

The boy and his father set up a two line sports kite and spent almost an hour making the most of a decent wind and a good effort at keeping the kite airborne.

However, the young lad and his dad soon tired of the kite flying and resorted to football but not before handing the kite over to mum who was carrying her baby in a sling.

Mum who had obviously flown a kite before, caught the eye of a number of passers by who stopped to watch this rare event. No doubt mum was conducting a little 'early learning' while flying the kite!



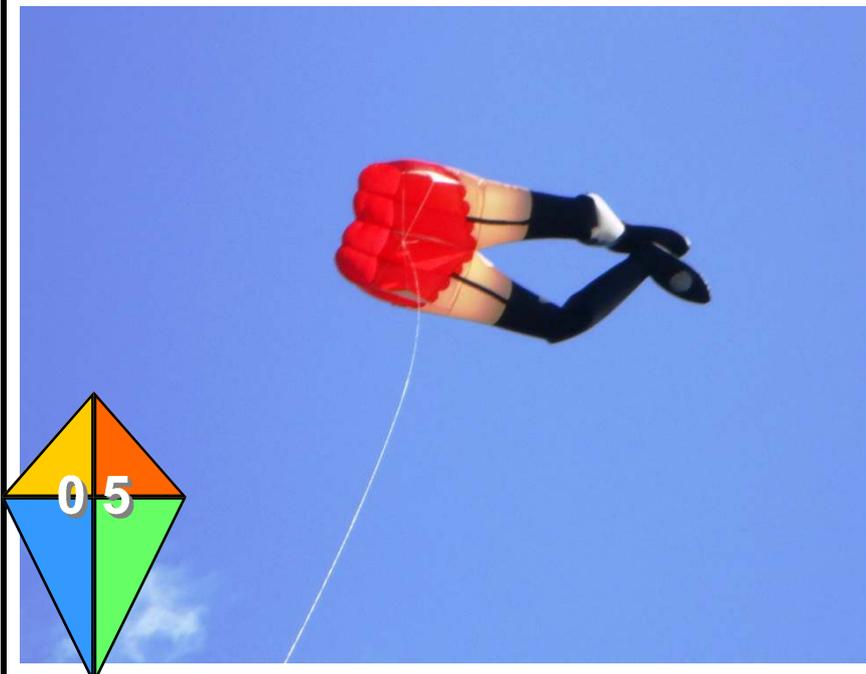
## Silver Anniversary Legs

By Tony Kidd

As I've just enjoyed a break in Galloway (Scotland) and some glorious beach flying of selected kites I had with me my "legs"

I realised that my Martin Lester, Natalie's Legs are now 25 years old and photographed them.

I've older (different) ones in the back of the garage (I cannot reach at the moment) and plenty of broken bits.



## Crosby Fly In 18 May 2014

By Bernard Crick

The Crosby Fly In was a mixed bag. The weather forecast was one size fits all, cloudy, overcast, spells of sunshine through the light cloud with a possibility of light rain showers and heavy downpours. This will be accompanied by strong blustery winds dying off in the afternoon and changing direction. You could say the weather man was covering himself, not me I believe every word of the weather forecast.

Well I decided to see if the weather forecast was correct.

I have recently fine tuned my wind speed meter and thought this would be a perfect day to try it out. Up onto the green from the car park. Excitement rose as I waited for the first calibrated results to show. It blew away, or should I say took off and did three double summersaults. This proves my theory that if your Morrison's garden chair blows over and does a certain number of summersaults in succession over a set distance it gives a clear indication of wind speed. Morrison's chairs are very difficult to get in balance fore and aft left and right so my work was perfect because it always ended up with the feet in the air. Calibration is set in letters starting from 'A'. At Crosby it was 'D' speed = don't bother go for a dose brew up and wait until the wind drops.

Having collected my wind speed meter which was by now half way to the coast guard station, I sauntered back to the car. On the way commenting to myself it's very quiet today, it must be the strong blustery wind.

At this time I did notice there were only two people about and the car park was empty. A little detective work then revealed it was 08.15. Well when you wake up and it's bright just go, that is if you are awake and always look at the clock.

Gradually the wind did drop and after many nose dives up went a kite. Little by little members did start to appear and kites rose into the sky, and most came down again.



A determined effort saw kites go up and this time stay there. Considering the blustery wind conditions we put on a good display. The usual shout from the passing children came, look look it's an Efelant no it's an Octopus yes yes an Efelant. The younger end don't tend to be to discerning so long as something is up there wallowing around they like what they see.

One black cat needed a little assistance with twisted bridle lines but a hearty crew soon sorted it out and up it went to join some of the other creatures.

Gwen was seen with Dave Holt in the company of a very large purple octopus, it was not to keen on staying aloft which was hardly surprising considering the blustery conditions.

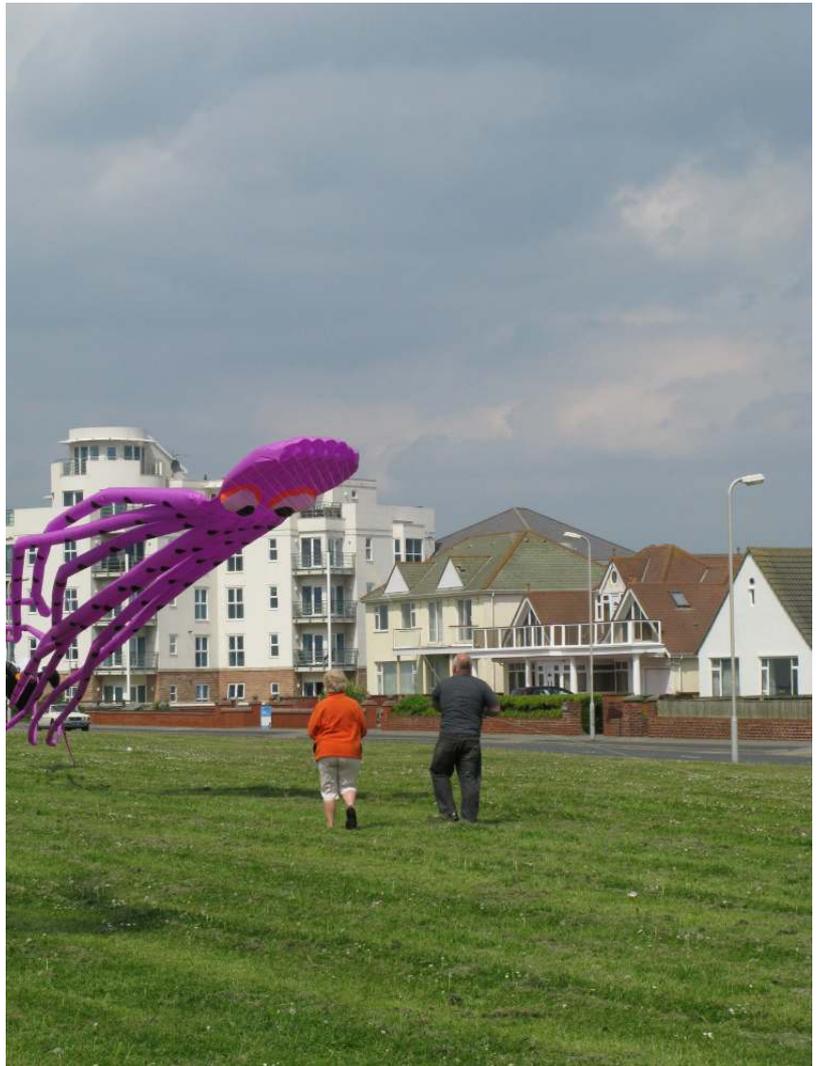
No, I was not envious my forty foot octopus is enough for me, it did look good though. Very soon after this the wind picked up and started to change direction, yes for once the weather man was right. The wind then died on us so all kites were on the ground. As luck would have it we didn't have to wait too long before we had kites up in the air again. It was now a much smoother lower wind.

Dot was flying Grommet who was much happier now, this airborne hound does need constant attention with food and fuel.

For all those not to busy with kite flying, you may have noticed a large pontoon being towed back to Liverpool.

This had been involved in transporting heavy electrical transformers to a remote location on the Ribble estuary. The site itself being impossible to reach by road.

One memorable part of my day was watching the new breed of seagulls. Evolution has given them the ability to walk on water, they don't even need to land in the sea and get their feet wet. Well that's what it looked like until I noticed they only did it in one place. Yes you guessed it they were perched on the head of the metal men.



Unfortunately for me I had to head back to Manchester, but everyone I have spoken to said, I missed the best part of the Fly In. If you have to go you have to go, or else.

Bernard.



## Travel

By Graham Lockwood

When I was a young man I took up cycling and was inspired by the Sunday Club Runs to venture into some of Britain's most beautiful areas. The Yorkshire Dales, The Lake District, The Cotswolds, The wilds of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

I also read one of my first books, **Full Tilt**, a travel book by Durvla Murphy. A lady who in 1963 cycled to India all by herself. Well that really set me off and when I was 23 I sold my house, gave up my job and cycled across Europe, crossed the Bosphorous and continued for several hundred miles into Turkey before turning round and started heading for home, but not before heading up into Denmark and Sweden.

So with this kind of interest in travel, what better way than to spend ones retirement than travelling to Kite Festivals. I have visited several countries during my 18 years of kiting, but the strangest location came about after an email arrived asking if I would put on a display in Africa, and could I recommend other fliers to come along. So I asked friends of mine if they were interested and we finally agreed to attend. It was only after we agreed that we found out there were deeper implications attached to this venture that many other fliers knew about, and because

of this turned down the offer. One factor was that the event, a 25 Year Celebration for an Oil Terminal was in Port Harcourt Nigeria, one of the most dangerous places on earth to work due to terrorists wanting to get their hands on the Oil Terminal.

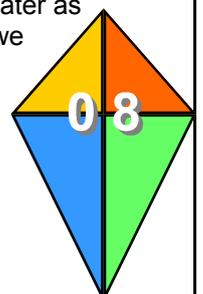
The deal was that we would be flown out on Monday, practice on the Tuesday, give a display on the Wednesday and then fly back home on Thursday. The company would cover all travel, visas, food and accommodation and would also pay a fee for each day. In reply we set down some of our own terms because of the location. We doubled the Fee and asked for 50% in the bank before we flew out. When everything was agreed we got behind the venture whole heartedly, giving advice and suggestions to improve what could be done to improve the celebrations.

Working at very short notice we arranged for a commemorative kite to be built, air banner to be flown, banners, gifts and kites that could be flown by the companies employees. When we arrived in Port Harcourt the extra baggage cost £821.00. In fact the schedule was so tight that the visas could not be issued over the weekend, which meant that we could not fly out until Tuesday.

We were picked up at the airport by armed guards to escort us for the one hour journey to the Oil Compound where we were to stay.

On Wednesday morning we were taken out to the area for the celebrations, a reclaimed area of mango swamps that had been

cleared of vegetation, drained and covered in sand for several kilometres in ever direction. A vast empty area destined for more oil refinery installations. Even with all our personal gear and the extra £821's worth of kiting tackle we made very little impact, but once all kites were aloft the company employees started to arrive and thing started to look like a celebration. The temperature soared up to around 40 degrees C and vast amounts of water were consumed or poured over our heads to alleviate the heat. It did not take long for all free gifts to disappear and all guests were being given tuition to fly the various kite designs and as the day drew on even the guards took part in trying to fly kites. Later as the light began to fade and the guests started to drift away, we started to bring the kites down.





It was at this point that the dozen or so armed guards around the area started to get restless, telling us we had to quickly gather in our gear and clear the area, which was extremely dangerous after dark. The amount of kites, banners, kite lines and tails that were strewn around would have taken two hours to pack away correctly, but it was obvious from the way the light was fading that we had about 20 minutes. I tried to wrap things up as quickly as possible but by now the light had gone and when a man with an AK 47 starts to shout and panic, you take notice. Things were just dumped in the back of the truck and we shot off across the sand at great speed.

The journey back to the compound was unforgettable, a heavy storm raged and the deluge washed out sections of the road. Heavy tankers and transporters were blocking the road where they had driven into huge craters submerged by the vast puddles and the road was virtually gridlocked. Without the two armed vehicles that were our escort, we could not have got through and things looked like they were going to kick off on several occasions. It was a relief to get back to the compound.

The next morning we were looking forwards to our trip home and having fulfilled our obligations we thought that it was all down hill from there. That was before we entered the departure hall in Port Harcourt Airport. On our arrival it was pretty bad but we had officials to help us get through the nightmare. We were issued with a leaflet explaining the do's and don'ts and one of the instructions was printed in big red capital letters

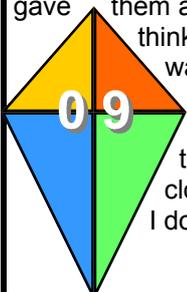
**MOST IMPORTANT DO NOT GET ANGRY OR FRUSTRATED WITH ANY OFFICIALS**

Now I could write pages of descriptions about what happened next.

Because the celebrations at the Oil Compound went on for several more days we had to traverse the customs and departure hall on our own without help from the organisers, along with probably in the region of three hundred other passengers. This departure hall was nothing more than a large marquee. Along the left hand side was three camping tables with six customs officials and two armed guards. Every bag from every passenger was opened and searched by each of the officials and even the armed guards had a poke around every now and again. Each of our party of three kite fliers

had a least four bags many were two metres long and once opened spewed their contents all over the floor where desperate passengers tripped and fell over spars and sails. Once passed this obstacle it was more officials checking paper work, passports and hand luggage even though the hand luggage had already been checked several times. Getting through this obstacle led us into a small area where we had to stand in front of several serious looking military personnel who checked our passports and visas, then we were patted down for restricted items and scanned before heading for the next obstacle several more serious looking military types who again checked our hand luggage. When I opened my camera bag the first thing the lady ( Nigerian Arm Wrestling Champion) saw was a kite reel. " What is this " she demanded and try as I did I could not make her understand. Remember the instructions in **BIG RED LETTERS** I kept reminding myself. " You can't take this as hand luggage " she bellowed, "take it back into the customs hall and send it with your luggage" .. " I'm not going back into that hall " I said. " Throw it away I don't want it " " You have to send it with your luggage " " look just throw it away, I don't want to go back into that hall " now the commotion attracted the attention of one of the guards with the big gun so I disappeared back into the customs hall. Fortunately a little quieter, but still in chaos. It took me 20 minutes to get sorted while all the time the tanyo was asking for passengers to board the plane. Once sorted I had to run the gauntlet of officials to check my passport, pat me down and finally ( I thought ) back to the hand luggage check and the lady arm wrestler. All the while being asked " have you got anything for me " along with the universal sign of rubbing fingers together as though feeling paper money. I gave them a hand full of toffees and shot out the door onto the tarmac

thinking I would be challenged any moment and taken back but I was allowed to go only to find another customs check at the bottom of the aircraft steps and officials once again going through hand luggage while passing jets taking off, blasted us with their jet wash blowing grit and hot fumes into our faces whilst clothing was being blown from open bags down the runway. I don't think I will ever forget my day out in Africa.



## KITE FESTIVALS 2014

By Sue Storey

This year I went to four kite festivals abroad. The first was at Notre Dame de Monts and was the first I've been invited to as a guest. It was 500 miles from Zeebrugge where the ferry from Hull goes to. I took three days to travel there and arrived on the Thursday.

Flyers had been invited from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> July with the festival proper being over the weekend. To my delight I found a number of friends there. Derek Kuhn was there so I had an English friend who I got to know a lot better over the week and at the next festival too. Other friends were KAPers. Jean-Daniel I have known for a long time, Patrick and Giselle Bonneaux whose photos I had seen on the Internet. Then there was Patrick and Michelle who are on the CVCF committee and who have become friends over the years.

We had sunshine and wind all the time but the wind was cold, coming off the sea. All the big demonstration inflatables were on the South end of the beach (where the Motorcaravan parking was). The arena for small kites such as mine was up the North end with a ten minute walk between the two! Of course I wandered around, kite and camera in the air, ignoring the areas.

After launching past the 'biggies' on the South side, I went along the beach but, as the tide was coming in, I had to paddle to get past the moorings of a big turtle. I realized that my trouser bottoms were getting wet so I zipped them off to shorts height and went in. A small wave or two saw to it that I had to change. What we KAPers do for our art Eh!



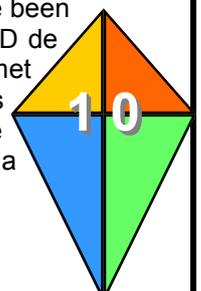
Along the promenade Etienne had a lot of interactive creations made of all sorts of recycled things and the children had a great time running through or making things turn, ring or rattle.

The highlight of the week and was the fire show with fires all along the North Promenade and gardens.

Fiery words were spelt out on the beach and Patrick B took kite aerial photos, weaving his way through the crowds followed closely by Giselle with a Go Pro camera on a pole. They have put a film of the festival on the internet. There were fires in great globes in the gardens and fires in buckets along the prom. Fiery furnaces were along the prom and there were no 'elf and safety' rules and you HAD to walk quite close to some fires. This was part of the night flight so as well as the fires there was a good lit display and a few of not involved in that flew kites on the beach. I eventually took mine onto the prom to savour the exiting atmosphere. I ended up sitting next to another flier in the gardens and having a chat, both kites flying merrily in the smoky air.

## PENVINS, BRITTANY, FRANCE

I left on the Thursday to go to the next kite festival which was at Penvins in Brittany, taking a break on the Ile de Noirmoutier on the way. I had been offered a place on the campsite 300m away at a 'Bon Price' as I wasn't allowed on the site with my big van. This festival was, I think, the most pleasant and friendliest I've been to over the years. It helped of course that there were 5 active KAPers there. The three from N D de Monts and Mickael, one of the organisers, and Laurence Ott, the second female KAPer I have met and according to Jean-Daniel, we two were about half of the female KAPers in the world, that is solo ones, not part of a couple. There was a good wind and a nice big hedge along the windy side so it got to be very pleasant flying there. The large site was on a 'Presque Isle' and part of it was a nature reserve.



There was a little island you could walk over to except at the very top of the tide and I took my kite and camera for a walk there one day, coming back via Derek's 50m 'flags' and carrying on right round the area till there were too many kite lines across my route to continue.



I needed a trip to the bar and a rest after that. The food provided was very good and plentiful and you realized how many fliers there were when the queue formed at mealtimes.

There were night flights on both Saturday and Sunday and the orange and grey spikey ball looked good lit up from the inside. Its owners and makers, Letitia and Christophe haven't been into kiting long but have made a lot of their 'signature' orange and grey kites including an octopus. Their enthusiasm was great to see.

There was an offer for the public to try two line kites and Patrick and Giselle were well occupied teaching anyone – even little ones of 5 or 6 years.



The Saturday evening entertainment was a folk rock

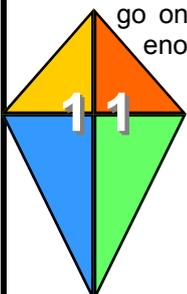
band playing traditional Breton music and the locals, and a few fliers, danced their traditional dances in a lines which move slowly left and consist of a few short steps forward and back which were sometimes quite complex. I joined in one but they go on for ages and my legs ached by the end of it. The locals kept on for hours.



Mick asked the fliers and their kites to go onto the arena and supervised the making of a kite shape on the ground for him to take a KAP photo. I took myself with my kite and rig flying above the 'kite' and this is the result.

We KAPers formed a little clique and socialized a lot. (On the last day, Mick brought a bottle of Champagne and Giselle produced some biscuits for a farewell aperitif) On Sunday, Mickael suggested a trip to the Chateau Suscinio a 10 minute drive away. We set off about 6pm and launched from near the 'doves' or moat and went our separate ways taking photos of the back of the chateau which was the sunny side. On the way back Mick suggested going back in the morning to take the front which would catch the morning sun. Unfortunately, the wind was so light that my 3m delta wouldn't take off and neither would Laurence's. I could see Jean-Daniel's Fled high up and Mick's pale blue, very light delta as well. They were floating on thermals rather than flying and were really high. I gave up and went round to them. Mick asked if I would put my

rig on his line as his was too heavy. It went up and we got some good pics of the chateau and the sea not too far away. On one you can just see the Penvins Presque Isle in the distance along the coast. After the festival I spent a few days in the area and KAPed the Petit Mont Cairn, the Pierres Plates burial chamber, the Table de Marchands (another grave) and the Pierre Brise (broken monolith) but failed in my attempt at the Carnac alignments which are rows of standing stones which fill a field width and go on for many kilometers inland. There just wasn't enough wind.

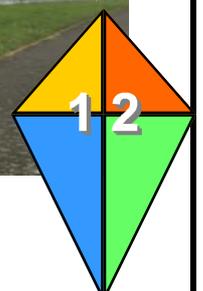




I was home for 3 weeks when I set off for the Rijsbergen Vleigerfeest. There, there was too much wind for KAPing but the grey sky was still filled with kites from a number of different countries including a good contingent from the UK. There were supposed to be 300 fliers there but it didn't seem like it. Maybe the strength of the wind kept the kites in the cars. Again I met some KAPers but some flew for a very short time, as I did, hoping to KAP the British fliers show in the main arena. The wind was too unstable so it didn't stay up long. The only decent photo was of Dick Toonen and a group of his 'Drumbox' kites on the ground.

On each day there was a full program in the main arena and the NEKF put on a great show and were awarded a cup at the end of the festival. They in turn awarded their prize to the whole team of organisers and helpers instead of a single kite or flier. The Friendship kite made its appearance and soared into the sky with its long, long tail behind it, but the Air Gallery stayed displayed in the marquee.

There were a number of two, and four line displays including some from Graham Lockwood and Josh Micheson. The wind in the arena was not good, being strong high up and practically none low down behind the nearby trees. This made flying very difficult for them. On Sunday, a great whale appeared for a while. It must be the biggest around dwarfing anything else on the field I was pleased to meet KAP friends from previous visits, Theo (who was at KAPiNED, the KAP conference in Nederlands in 2010) and Lina his wife, were there all the weekend. Both he and Cees Kuppen had displays of their photos and rigs. Bert Maetens came on Sunday and spent the afternoon catching up with people. He had met me in Antwerp and taken Frank Dehu and me on a KAP trip. He was keen to try out his new KAP Foil kites. He started with the large green one and, declaring it too big for the wind, flew his small orange one when we were at Paal. Some of you may have come across him on his first visit to Portsmouth festival this year.



## Fleetwood Fly In 17<sup>th</sup> August 2014.

Didn't we have a lovely time the day we went to..... or so the song goes.

Well the day was like that if you got out of the wind. My drive over from Manchester was in nice sunshine with the odd gust of wind.

Rodger had mentioned to me he may try and sail some model yachts before flying kites.

Fleetwood has a purpose built model boat pond of international standing, well I had a job standing when I opened the car door.

What I should have mentioned in the first place was only two members turned up for the fly In, myself and Rodger. Could it be that most sensible people had taken notice of the weather warning which said, anybody involved in outdoor

activities should avoid the West Coast of England due to high winds.

Having braved the wind I found Rodger in the car park, and after discussing tactics the only thing to do was go to the cafe. I decide, I would enjoy the day so it was a

tea and sausage sandwich, the sandwich had a definite sand flavour to it.

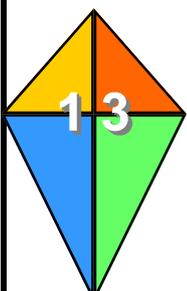
We did venture onto the front for a brief spell as the wind dropped, well below 40mph even so it was click click for photographs. Rodger refused to pose any longer, I had my back to the wind and had a job holding the camera steady.

Once again this year the fair was in the car park, but this time it was at the far end, so there was still room to park behind the cafe. A black cloud and sudden torrential downpour put a final damper on the day.

Whilst we were there discussing kites a couple came over for a chat. it was Simon and Julie Tebbutt from Leeds. As you remember they made and flew some very good kites. Unfortunately for them work issues became a problem, then Simon had an accident, so kite flying for them is now on the back burner.

The Fly In ended the way it began with the drive home, but by then the weather had changed. It was glorious, low sun wispy clouds and blue sky with a gale blowing.

Bernard.



## 'The Great Wave off Kanagawa'

By Len Royles

At our 2013 Feb AGM, the "Kites for Hope" appeal commemorating the great 2011 Japanese Tsunami was mentioned. I resolved to make a stack of diamond kites to fly on the anniversary day.

I had come across Katsushika Hokusai's 'The Great Wave' picture before and researching the subject took me to the wiki page [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thirty-six\\_Views\\_of\\_Mount\\_Fuji](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thirty-six_Views_of_Mount_Fuji) where there was a lot more information. I realised the original title for the picture could probably be used as part of a stack to be used with a picture kite of the wave.

I got in touch with Akihiko Nara the organiser of the appeal and he advised me how the Japanese script could be arranged. So 'The Great Wave off Kanagawa' translates from '*Kanagawa-oki nami-ura*' from '神奈川冲浪裏' and these latter characters could be split into six groups.

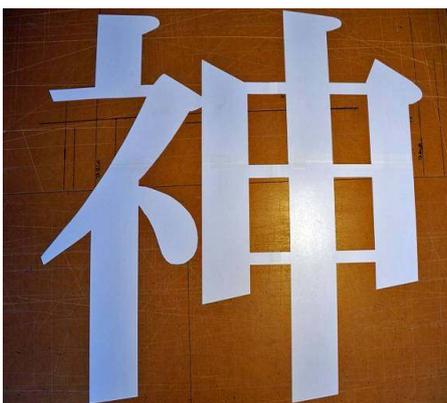
I very quickly made up six character kites and the one picture kite and finished them just in time for the anniversary. Because of the limited time I used magic markers to ink the patterns onto the kite fabric.



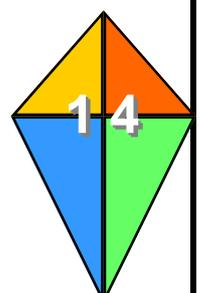
Although they flew well, it soon became clear that the material used for the character kites was not holding the ink and had started to smear. I had used a different fabric for the picture kite and that was perfectly OK.

For the following year I had decided to make up a set of appliquéd Rokkaku kites to replace this stack. I used the same Japanese characters scaled to fit a 850mm sized Rokkaku.

I started by printing and cutting out a set of character patterns. Then I traced out the pattern on to the foreground black material which was then stuck down with ODIF 505 Temporary Fabric Adhesive to the pre-cut Rok background fabric. I had already marked out alignment marks and it was relatively easy to reposition the overlay before smoothing it down firmly.



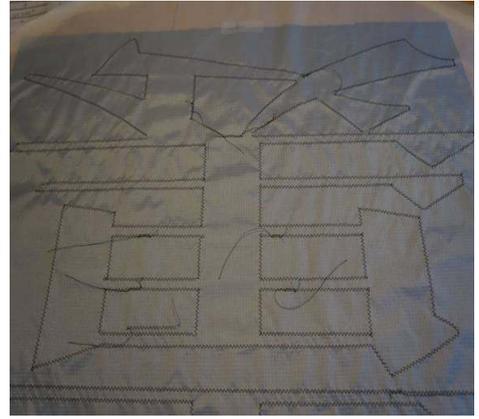
The images show pictures taken of the various characters being worked on. The material was then sewn together, stitching on the correct side of the line! At least one row of stitches had to be unpicked when I got lost in the maze. The result showing the rear after all the stitching was complete.





Then the front was marked out with all of the material to be removed clearly marked and the excess material was cut away. The fabric adhesive used had sufficient tack to hold the fabric together for sewing but easily parted to allow the cut material to be lifted.

The end result of all the trimming was a black image on the white background.



The application of an edge border, spar pockets and bridles quickly converted the material into a set of kites.

I fitted the first kite in the stack with 6mm spars with outside ferrules added at the bridle points due to the expected extra



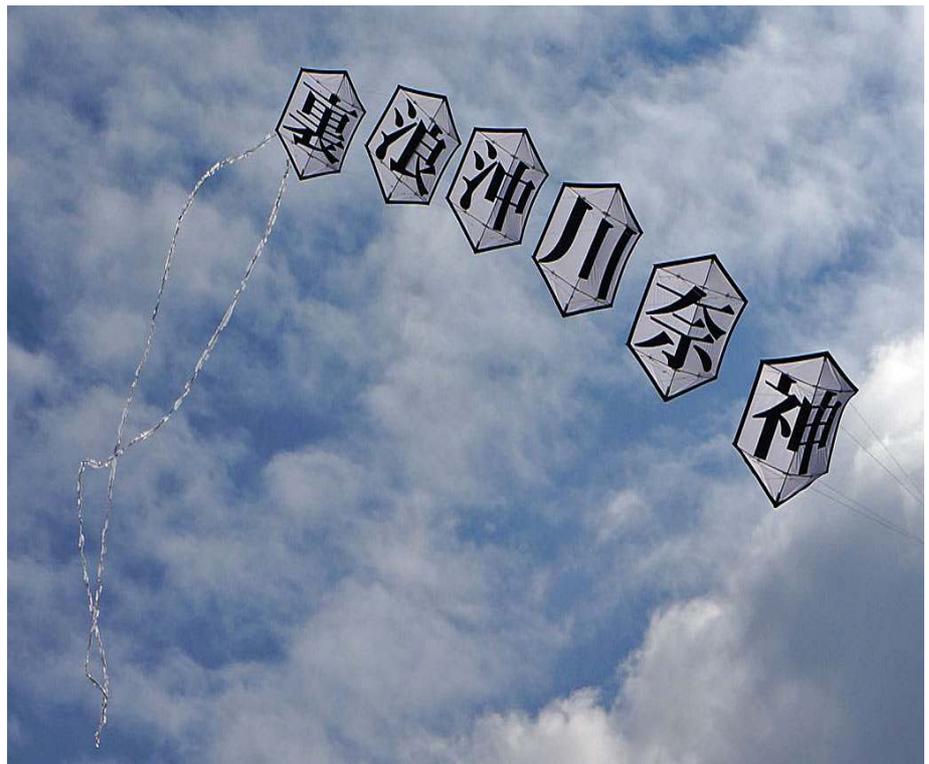
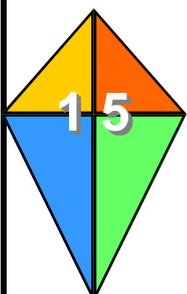
stress on this kite's frame but the rest of the stack was done in 5mm carbon. The reverse picture shows that at this stage I hadn't cut the redundant white material away from the back of the black characters. I was too keen to see them fly.

The Rok's flew well in the very changeable conditions once I had let enough line out to get them in some clear air. They were pulling like a train and the line was quickly changed from 140lb to 240lb rating. Despite their relatively small size their combined area is just over 3m<sup>2</sup> whereas my largest standard Rok, 2m high comes in at about 2.6m<sup>2</sup>. The intention was to make a picture kite eventually and then this would rise to 3.5m<sup>2</sup>.

The looped tail was necessary to prevent random spins of the last kite. I later tried shorter tails on each kite to make the stack more balanced but the tangles when the wind dropped made that a real headache.

I did make one mistake in setting up the kites as I managed to get the character order the wrong way around! Some day when there's insufficient wind to fly I should rearrange the stack to the correct order.

Len Royles



## Laundering Kites

From Tony Kidd

If there's a chance to ask Members a question in the Newsletter, eventually can I seek advice about laundering a rip-stop kite that's been dunked in the sea - assuming that is an issue particularly as this Flowform was brand new from GoKites. Some years ago on the River Mersey I dunked a Swallowtail stunt kite and the tide was going out so powerfully I believe the kite was functioning under water and was a real challenge to extract back onto dry land. IN my Scotland experience more recently the 'sail' was in coastal breakers and washed back onto the beach.

## Kite Flying

By Bernard Crick

Do you ever have those ureka moments, or as they used to say in hippy times "Far Out Man".

No, no, not that only tea to drink.

By chance I had to deliver a trailer tent I had sold to an address in Cleveleys. Well why not go early head for Fleetwood and spend an hour or so flying kites, it was after all a glorious day. The drive over was with wall to wall sunshine but not with burning sun. My first priority on arrival was of course tea, and a piece of cake. Sitting there tea in hand crumbs everywhere, thinking there's no wind. Well there was wind but you could only just feel it on your face, had you moved a newspaper you would have generated more wind.

Well me thinks you have got to try. I rummaged in the car and came out with my red canard , it's not a very light wind kite but good fun on a short line. I put it together in the car park as canards can be a bit fiddly to put together.

Off down the beach we go , kite with line attached, low sun, low tide no wind. At the point where the beach drops away towards the sea, I thought this is it, and it was. The canard just lifted out of my hand, it was like magic. The thermals did all the work it was like a giant ground based fan. I only had a 50mtr line but it used all the line with very little effort from me.

The line was slack but it stayed up there without a care in the world I didn't have a care in the world either, apart from the fact it was almost dark. I have never enjoyed flying a kite so much. No friction, no falling out, no orders "you will fly", no frustration or sickening thud as kite meets ground.

As they say it was Far out Man.

Bernard.

## Heath Common Kite Festival September 28, 2014

By Sue Storey

When I arrived I saw a 'trick kite' in the distance and found Sean (Northern Kite Monkeys) at the end of the lines. He would have the prize for the 'tried the hardest to fly all day' if there had been one. He was still trying at 4pm when everyone else was packing up and saying goodbye.

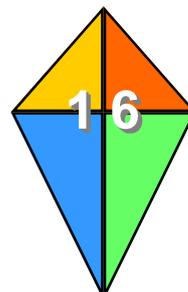
We all had some exercise trying to fly in 0-4 mph. The indoor kites, my Zero 1.1, Dazz's iFlite and two of Karl Longbottom's flying dinosaurs won in the morning :-). At times there were quite a few kites in the air and some even flew as high as the treetops. Graham Lockwood must have won the "highest kite in the air" prize (if there'd been one) with his lightweight black bird which went really high and found wind up there. Well done Graham. At one stage, Dazz got a large white lifter flying and optimistically laid out a large green octopus but the wind was gone again. There were a lot of people and kids running to fly their kites when a breath of wind arrived. (There was a lot more hot air coming from the groups of fliers catching up.) The trouble was that the wind came from a different direction every few minutes.

The food provided by the church bakers was delicious and the ice cream I had later was too. While I was in that area, I looked in on Alan and Becky in their kite making workshop. They seemed to be busy but later said it had been slower than normal as did Tony and Marie at Go Kites.

When the wind finally died, I found Steve (Northern Kite Monkeys) near the pub so we went in for a pint and a chat.

It was good to see you all, most of you for the first time this year! I should be in England more in 2015 so I look forward to seeing you at more UK kite festivals next year.

Sue Storey



Images from Jock and Peter Walker from Morecambe and East Fortune



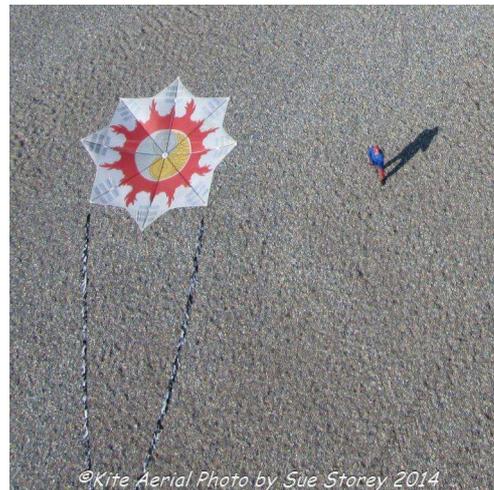
## Dieppe 2014

By Sue Storey

It was good to be at Dieppe again and I arrived on Friday after travelling for three weeks since Rijsbergen. I had planned to tour Holland but as the forecast was bad, I kept going South till I found warm sun and a pleasant campsite in Burgandy and then later, at Gien on the Loire.

I came from there to a lovely quiet campsite by a stream and two lakes near Dieppe to recover before the festival. I was "bien placé" on the fliers' motor caravan parking near to the English crowd, the water and electricity as well as being nearer to the main flying arenas.

The Germans around me were very friendly too - even when I drove off still attached to the shared electric wire. He had mended it by the time I returned 10 minutes later. The arena next to the m/van parking was our 'playground' with more space to fly in and we were able to keep an eye on the kites while socialising near the vans.



Saturday and Sunday mornings were misty days just right for the "no wind" kites. I'm glad I brought Zero 1.1 and I flew In



company with Jim and his tiny Iflyte - both of us standing on the promenade wall. A little wind came up in the afternoons and the sky was filled with kites on Sunday with the promenade and viewing areas filled with sightseers.

The pebble beach had an interesting combination of enthusiastic first time fliers running around, worried owners of the big lifters carrying all sorts of line laundry - and KAPers I might add.

Sunday morning sees the Grande Parade d'ouverture with fliers carrying their banners round Dieppe. As usual I just missed the 10am start and watched them disappearing down the rue. I was hoping to KAP them, so after breakfast I went to the other end of the arenas but the wind was too light and I was back at the van long

before they trudged back at 11-30.

I did however meet Peter Bults of [www.kapshop.nl](http://www.kapshop.nl) and Peter Van Eykel both KAPer friends from KAPiNED and KAPiFRANCE125. They managed to take a KAP photo of the parade outside their hotel. José Wallois did Stirling work explaining KAP in the Photo Aérienne tent where KAP photos, including some of mine, and a number of rigs and cameras were on display.

I did KAP a little during the week but had problems with either the wrong choice of kite or forgetting to press 'all the right buttons not necessarily in the right order' on the camera, because I was using various SDM scripts on the Canon camera. On Wednesday I met NKG members Carol, Len and Gwen, here for the first time and loving it. Gwen was flying two of Karl Longbottom's jellyfish which looked great but were pulling really hard in the breeze. The NKG banner and kite showed me where they were and we had a good chat, which is part of the fun of festivals.

It was sunny, warm enough for shorts all week with a 'good flying breeze' after the crowds went home! The wind was mainly along the flying field but very blustery keeping everyone on their toes. The demonstration of kites with hummers on got a bit out of hand as the blustery wind made them fly where THEY wanted too, taking out anything left in the demo arena. You couldn't hear the hummers as the commentator was so loud in his descriptive exclamations "wwoouww" "wwoouww" as they zoomed around, landed and were sent up again.



A roc fight took place every evening, continuous two and four line demonstrations every day and French junior fighter kite championships on Wednesday. One of the m/van couples were a team and flew their aerial ballet using two line kites with a long tail between them, like Graham does. The tents near those arenas were predominantly different countries specialising in fighter kites with a good variety of designs to choose from.

A number of displays with information of 100 years of kite flying were on show and quite a few replica historical kites were in the air too, some of which went to Amiens on Dieppe's second weekend for a 'festival of the air' commemorating the 100 years since the start of WW1.

There was a huge display of Steiff Roloplan yellow and red kites and one newer huge Roloplan style kite took to the air on the beach with a large bell on the end of the long tail!



As well as their splendid kites, the Indian "special invitees" have had a marionette show for the kids, complete with a little portable stage. The Indonesians were the other "special invitees" and shared the big marquee with India making a trip there quite an exotic experience.

There were spectacular and 'new to me' kites this year which is good because the same kites seem to appear at all the festivals. The teams from the Far East have some beautiful kites. Some are very elegant while the Taiwanese kites are like animals and birds especially 'la chouette' - owls which bring good luck. Three 'Transformers' men and two motorbikes were on one lifter on the beach and a row of multicoloured raccoons (or lemurs) with stripy tails were next to them.

It was near there that I crossed lines with a green delta (don't know what happened to it though I searched the sky and the beach ) and my Dopero Drone came down heavily between people on the promenade and the rig and camera on the stony beach. The camera was OK - partly because it wasn't on (user error) and the rig's legs took the shock. I thought the kite was OK but when I next flew it, it kept pulling strongly to the right. On a closer look, one spar was an inch or so shorter than the other and was cracked too. Another trip to the Bilboquet's and Roland's stalls was called for. I then spent my last euros on some orange ripstop and then had to go to the ATM for more money.

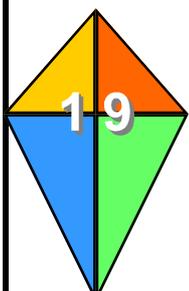
Thursday was my last day and it turned out to be the best for my KAPing. Around lunchtime I saw two, three masted sailing ships, which looked like they were heading for Dieppe. I collected my Power Sled 24, the rig and two cameras and headed for the pier. Corantan and Fabian had the same idea. I KAPtured the front half of the first ship but was slightly better organised by the Stavros S. Niarchos sail training ship arrived and KAPtured a few photos as it entered between the pier heads. Later I took the Power Sled and rig along the road, finding an area free from lines to launch and spent a happy hour KAPing. Gwen found me there and I took a break and had a delicious caramel waffle with loads of dress whipped cream on. As I was shortly leaving, I worked my way back saying goodbye and left about 6pm, stayed at the m/van parking at St Valery sur Somme to catch the ZEEBRUGGE to Hull ferry on Friday evening.



That's it for this years' foreign festivals. À la prochain année.

Fly High

Sue Storey



## Lytham St Annes

By Tony Kidd

There's some superb images, as you will know, on the Facebook pages and some appropriate comments on my inability to join everyone else due to brain cell failure.

I made the attempt to bring the NKG Library to the Members for a change as my usual efforts for years has only coped with the AGM and muddy Beacon.

On this occasion I set off without preparing properly or double checking the details on the assumption it looked promising at Lytham St. Annes and I was confident that I could find my way.

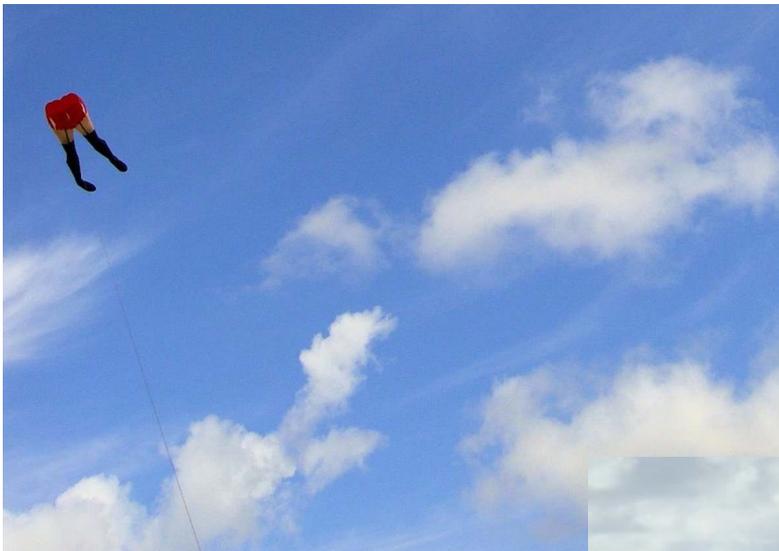
My intention was to enjoy the middle of the day there and return to a family meal near Chorley in the evening.

In due course I made it to the Windmill (pictured) and could see that the tide was "IN" so assumed everyone was in a Tea Room around midday.

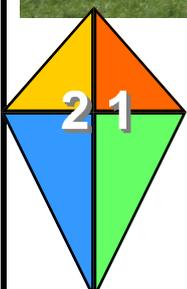
Having eventually found a parking place and deposited all my change into it I found a couple of local families struggling with their diamond 'Eddy' kites and added my Martin Lester Design:

Natalies Legs to much amusement. My brief foray to the Coast was enjoyable and I've since been rightly characterised in the "idiot" camp so will have to try again - and much better next time.

John Anthony (Tony) Kidd



Images from Peter Heayns



The NKG Photo Competition



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Below Image 2





Above Image 3

Below Image 4





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Below Image 6



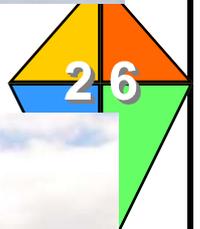


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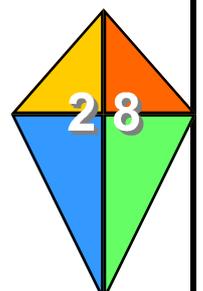
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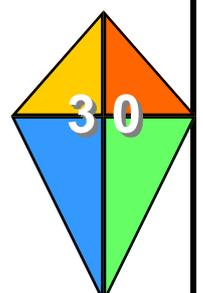
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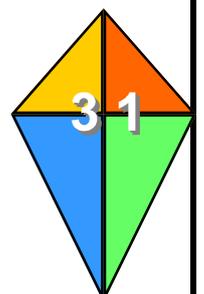
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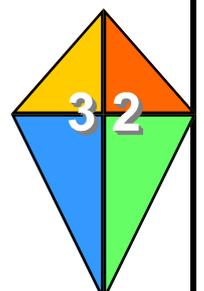
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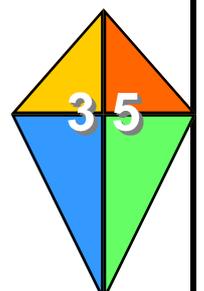
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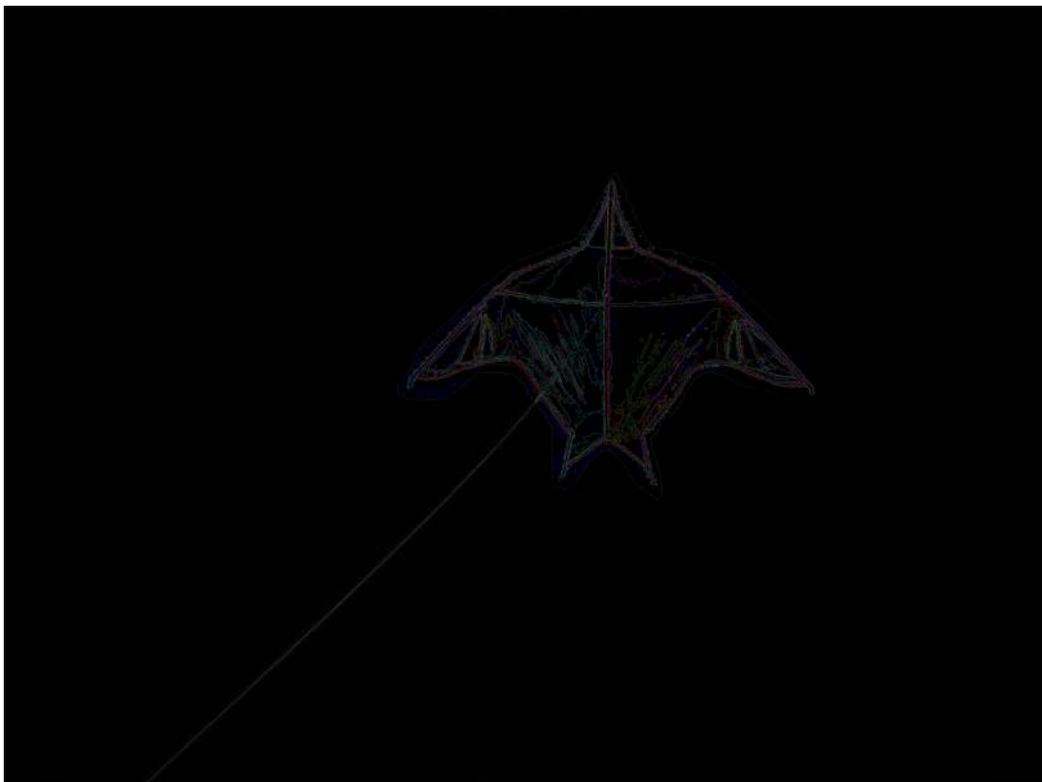
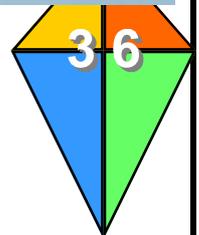
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### Photo Competition Rules

Only those who have entered the competition can vote.

Each photo entered entitles that person to 3 votes for other peoples work.

Your own work automatically gets one vote on entry.

Voting forms will be sent directly to those who have entered by E Mail.

The prizes.

1st prize £20 Go Kites Voucher, 2nd prize £10 Go Kites Voucher and 3rd Prize £5 Go Kites Voucher.

## UK Kite Events

Information taken from [www.kitecalendar.co.uk](http://www.kitecalendar.co.uk)

### FEBRUARY 2015

1 MKF Fly-in @ Cofton Park, Longbridge, Birmingham, B31 2BQ

### MARCH 2015

1 Indoor Kite Event (for Kitefliers only), St Josephs Catholic College, Swindon, Wiltshire SN3 3LR - NEW DATE

1 MKF Fly-in @ Cofton Park, Longbridge, Birmingham, B31 2BQ

7 - 8 Rosebud Kite Festival, Rosebud Foreshore, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia 3839

8 NKG fly-in, near the Coast Guard Station, Burbo Bank Road North, Crosby, near Liverpool, Merseyside

15 NKG fly-in, on the beach, near the Leisure Centre, Fleetwood, Lancashire

15 NKG fly-in, Pontefract Racecourse, Pontefract, Yorkshire

29 Minchinhampton Kite Day, Minchinhampton Common, near Stroud, Gloucestershire GL6 9AQ

### APRIL 2015

12 21st Calke Abbey Kite Day, Calke Abbey (National Trust), Ticknall, near Melbourne, Derbyshire DE73 7LE

25 - 26 North Hants Kites Jolly Up 16, on the field off Southlea, Farleigh Road, Cliddesden, near Basingstoke, Hampshire RG25 2JL

### MAY 2015

2 - 3 Broad Haven Kite Fliers 'Rendezvous', Beach flying at Broad Haven Pembrokeshire, SA62 3JH Wales

4 Broad Haven Kite Fliers 'Rendezvous', Flying at Hilton Court Gardens, Roch Pembrokeshire, SA62 6AE Wales

16 - 17 Rufford Abbey Spring Kite Weekend, Rufford Country Park, near Ollerton, Nottinghamshire NG22 9DF

22 - 25 Margam Kite Festival, Margam County Park, Margam, Port Talbot, South Wales SA13 2TJ

24 Family Kite Day, Minchinhampton Common, near Stroud, Gloucestershire GL6 9AQ

29 - 31 Exmouth Kite Festival, The Imperial Recreation Ground, Exmouth, Devon EX8 1DG

### JUNE 2015

6 - 7 23rd Basingstoke Kite Festival, Down Grange Sports Complex, Pack Lane, B-stoke, Hampshire RG22 5SN

6 - 7 Mawddach Paddlesports Festival and Kite Festival, on the beach opposite the Lifeboat Station, Barmouth, Mid Wales

7 MKF Fly-in @ Cofton Park, Longbridge, Birmingham, B31 2BQ

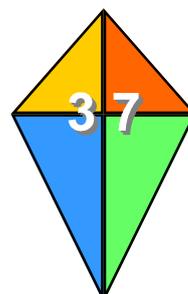
13 - 14 Teston Bridge Kite Festival, Teston Bridge Country Park, Teston Lane, nr Maidstone, Kent ME18 5BX

20 - 21 Shropshire Kite Festival, Lacon Childe School, Love Lane, Cleobury Mortimer, DY14 8PE

20 - 21 3rd Kite and RC Model Show, Sumners Ponds, Barns Green, Horsham, RH13 0PR

21 17th Streatham Common Kite Day, Streatham Common, London SW16 3DW

28 Herne Bay Kite Day, The Memorial Park, Kings Road, Herne Bay, Kent CT6 5DD



## **JULY 2015**

4 - 5 3rd Prudhoe Kite Festival, Highfield Park, Prudhoe, near Newcastle, Northumberland NE42 6EY

5 MKF Fly-in @ Cofton Park, Longbridge, Birmingham, B31 2BQ

11 - 12 37th Annual Brighton Kite Festival, Stanmer Park, Brighton, West Sussex

11 - 12 Barmouth Kite Festival, on the beach opposite the Lifeboat Station, Barmouth, Mid Wales

18 - 19 Leominster and Hereford Kite Festival, The National Trust, Berrington Hall, Leominster, HR6 0DW

25 - 26 4th St. Annes Kite festival, on the beach, Lytham st Annes, near Blackpool, Lancashire

25 - 26 15th Dunstable Downs Kite Festival, Whipsnade Road, Dunstable, Bedfordshire LU6 2GY

## **AUGUST 2015**

1 - 2 North Hants Kites Jolly Up, on the field off Southlea, Farleigh Road, Cliddesden, near B-stoke, RG25 2JL

2 MKF Fly-in @ Cofton Park, Longbridge, Birmingham, B31 2BQ

8 - 9 Rufford Abbey Summer Kite Weekend, Rufford Country Park, near Ollerton, Nottinghamshire NG22 9DF

8 - 9 Teston Bridge Kite Festival, Teston Bridge Country Park, Teston Lane, nr Maidstone, Kent ME18 5BX

15 - 16 24th Portsmouth International Kite Festival, Southsea Common, Portsmouth, Hampshire

15 - 16 5th Western Lake District KiteFest 2015" NKG, Millom Rugby Club, Wilson Park, Haverigg, Cumbria

16 Kite day at Croome, (NT), near High Green, Worcester, Worcestershire, WR8 9DW

22 - 23 Bristol International Kite Festival, The Downs, Stoke Road, Durdham Down, Bristol BS9 1PG

## **SEPTEMBER 2015**

5 - 6 Kites over Bewl , Bewl Water Country Park, nr Lamberhurst, Kent

6 11th Kedleston Hall Kite Day, Kedleston Hall, Derby, Derbyshire DE22 5JH - provisional date

6 MKF Fly-in @ Cofton Park, Longbridge, Birmingham, B31 2BQ

27 Family Kite Day, Brean Down Cove Café, Brean, North Somerset TA8 2RS

## **OCTOBER 2015**

4 ExKitement, Apedale Community Park, Alsagers Bank, Apedale, Newcastle under Lyme, Staffs ST5 7LB

4 MKF Fly-in @ Cofton Park, Longbridge, Birmingham, B31 2BQ

11 OSOW = ONE SKY ONE WORLD - an Annual Worldwide event, flying kites for peace:

11 MKF OSOW, Rufford Country Park, near Ollerton, Nottinghamshire NG22 9DF

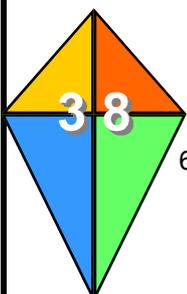
## **NOVEMBER 2015**

1 MKF Fly-in @ Cofton Park, Longbridge, Birmingham, B31 2BQ

15 Indoor Kite Event (for Kitefliers only), St Josephs Catholic College, Swindon, SN3 3LR

## **DECEMBER 2015**

6 MKF Fly-in @ Cofton Park, Longbridge, Birmingham, B31 2BQ



## N K G Events 2015

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February AGM Oldham, St Thomas's Church Hall, Moorside, Glebe Lane, Oldham, OL1 4SJ

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March fly-in, near the Coast Guard Station, Burbo Bank Road North, Crosby, near Liverpool, Merseyside

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March fly-in, on the beach, near the Leisure Centre, Fleetwood, Lancashire

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March fly-in, Pontefract Racecourse, Pontefract, Yorkshire

15 & 16 August 5th Western Lake District Kite Festival Millom Rugby Club, Wilson Park, Haverigg, Cumbria

## International Kite Festivals

### April 2015

18 - 26

29th International Berck-sur-Mer Kite Festival, 5 Avenue Francis Tattegrain, 62600 Berck-sur-Mer, Nord-Pas-De-Calais, France

24 - 3/5

Cervia International Kite Festival, Cervia, Italy

### July

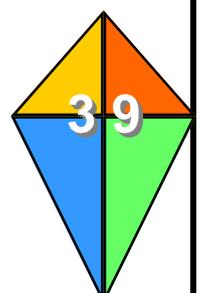
4 & 5 6th Kite Festival Twenterand, Leidijk East 40, 7676 TB Westerhaar-Vriezenveensewijk, The Netherlands.

**Once again all I can do is apologise for the wait everyone has had for this edition of the NKG The Kite Newsletter.**

**It has not been for want of news,**

**Plenty happened in 2014.**

**I just hope for everyone 2015 proves to be a better year.**





# THE

# KITE

NEWSLETTER

## **The Library**

### **Books & Magazines**

American Kite (Magazines) (Vol 6 No1 and Vol 7 No4) 1993/1994  
The Book Of Kites, Paul and Helene Morgan 1992  
Colonel Cody and the Flying Cathedral by Garry Jenkins 2000  
Creative Book of Kites, by Sarah Kent 1997  
Fun with Kites by John & Kate Dyson 1976  
The Kite Making Handbook, by Rossella Guerra & Guiseppe Ferlenga 2004  
Kite Passion (Magazines) No 1, 3, 13, 14, 15; 1996—1999  
Kitelines (Magazines) (4 Issues between 1989 and 1998) 1989/1998  
Kites available by Isac C. Rust 1990  
KITES (Exhibition Brochure) 1987  
KITES (Magazine) First Issue of July 1995  
KITES : The Science and the Wonder by Dr. Toshio Ito and Hirotsugu Komura 1983  
Kites and Kite Flying (Copy A) by Ambrose Lloyd & Nicolette Thomas 1978  
Kites to Make and Fly by Jim Rowlands 1989  
The Magnificent Book of KITES, by Maxwell Eden 1998  
Making & Flying Kites by Jack Kine 1978  
Making & Flying Fighter Kites by Phillipe Gallot 1990  
Making & Flying Stunt Kites and One-Liners by Wolfgang Schimmelpfennig 1995  
The Making of Japanese Kites, by Masaaki Modegi 2007  
MKF News (Magazine Format) - 17 Copies 2001/2006  
NKG Journal and Newsletter for 1987, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99  
NKG (The KITE Newsletter) for 2004 Edited by Neil Edwards/Dazzz  
NKG (The KITE Newsletter) for 2005, 06, 07 Edited by Dazzz  
Paper Kite Calendar (2007) a boxed set to view Jeff Cole & Wayne Hoskins  
The Penguin Book of Kites, by David Pelham 1976  
Sir George Caley's Aeronautics 1796 - 1855 1962  
Soft Kites and Windsocks by Jim Rowlands 1993  
Stunt Kites to Make and Fly by Servaas Van der Horst & Nop Velthuizen 1992  
Stunt Kites! Edited by David Gomberg 1993  
Thai Kite Heritage Group Illustrated Patterns  
The Kiteflier (Magazines) #1 (14 Issues 86 to 110) 2001/2004  
WINDSOX (Magazines) (No's 40 and 41 of 1991)

### **DVD's**

Advanced Rev Flying - John Barresi by John Barresi 2007  
Flight School Tuition for Dual Lines - David Goss by David Goss 2007  
Flying Techniques - Robertsaw Brothers by The Robertsaw Brothers 2007

### **Kites & Hardware**

Large Kite Arch - "The Don and Di Arch" Caution SIZE of 150 Kites needs 2 or 3 to handle  
Medium Sized Kite Arch Caution; this can generate a lot of pull  
Kitecraft 'K1' Sport Kite A quality precision trick kite suits 4 - 12 mph best  
Kitecraft 'K2' Sport Kite Smaller version of 'K1' suits 4 - 15mph  
Didakites 'Vertical' Sports Kite Good intermediate/advanced trick kite  
Tumbling Star Box Kite  
Level One Genesis Stunt Kite  
Elliot Sport Kite with Line & Straps  
Rev Handles + Line Set + Ground Stake  
"The Jack & Mary Playsail" Caution this is huge and takes some handling