

## Silloth Kite Festival

Report by: Peter Gilmour

Silloth-on-Solway Rotary Club would like to say a big thank you to all involved in the 2007 Kite Festival.

Thousands of people attended on Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th July on Silloth Green. Silloth First Responders and Elsie helped Gene and Margaret Watson in the kids tent to make nearly 400 kites over the weekend.

Kite flyers from all over the country who are members of the Northern Kite Group came to Silloth for a weekend of fantastic flying and fun.

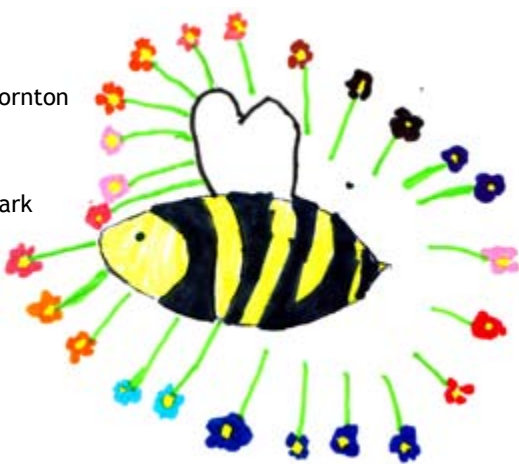
Flying anything from a giant dragon, giant fish to the four line revolution kite and many more. The weekend saw one of the leading synchronised flyers from the UK Graham Lockwood fly twin line kites, one in each hand and one flying from his waist to watch him fly one kite was good, but to see him fly three at a time was unbelievable. Graham is one of about four people who can fly three kites at once in the UK.

Brian and Dave from Wigan & Eccleston who are half of the four man flying team called the Revolutions flew their four line revolutions kites with great skill. The team are to take part in an European flying competition next year. Brian said "that the weekend was the best festival so far"

Gene & Margaret Watson could not do any sweet drops this year as the wind was flying from the wrong direction and would have taken the sweets across the road so deemed it too dangerous for the kids to be chasing the sweets, Gene did get to parachute some teddy bear drops over the weekend.

Jim and Vanessa Potts from Leeds, who form part of the flying team skartists were up to the festival for the first time

Daisy Bee  
by  
Rachel Thornton  
aged 8  
from  
Seacote  
Caravan Park



Reece Edmondson gets to the top

and flew giant kites in the shape of dragons, fish, lobsters and many other's said "that they had a great weekend and would be back next year."

Flying Ryan and his 13 year old son took to the Green to put on two great stunt shows each day. Doing wheelies jumps over cars and finishing off with a big enough bang to shake the town and you could feel the heat around the arena from explosion which all went down a storm.

Circus workshops and live entertainment from White Lies on

Saturday and the Lee Best Connection on the Sunday kept the toes of the onlookers tapping.

The event could not have gone ahead without the sponsorship of Silloth Festivals Ltd and Silloth on Solway Charity Shop. Well done to all involved in both organisations and keep up the good work. Next years event which will be bigger and better.

A big thank you must go to the following for their help and sponsorship, Wilmots Amusements, Glen Holder, John Cook Signs, G&M Watson, Alison in Silloth Café, Derwent Brewery, Cock Robin Cider, Silloth Town Council, Mayor Graham Wilkinson and Ken Wannop and his team, Go Kites, Northern Kite Group, Speedy Hire, A&D Recovery and last but not least Silloth First Responders.

Date for the Diary:  
Next years Kite Festival will be on 26th and 27th July 2008.



Above: Flyin Ryan in a crossover jump over his 13 year old son  
Right: Flyin Ryan emerges through the explosion



Zena Jones & Hannah Chiocchi on the wall



## Maggie Parker at the Gincase 18/8 to 28/9

Maggie Parker has been passionate about art for as long as she can remember.

"As a child I loved to lose myself in the fantasy world of drawing and painting. I could create on paper the things I wanted or the places I wanted to visit", she says.

Maggie grew up alongside the Solway and remembers the days when Saltpans was the local Riviera.

"The Solway remains unspoilt to this day," she says, "and I love its raw beauty, the famous blazing sunsets and the way the weather can change so quickly. I'm fascinated by the changing light and atmosphere. Light and its effect on colour are

the things that drive me as an artist" she says.

Maggie graduated in 1998 with a second class honours degree in Fine Art, winning the 'College Summer Travel Award' in 1997.

In 2003 she was short listed for the Baker and Stonehouse Art Prize in Newcastle. After graduation, Maggie went on to gain a teaching qualification, before beginning a new career as a teacher and artist. Today, Maggie divides her time between family commitments and painting.

Her work in oil,



acrylic and watercolour reflects her love of the Solway and Maggie admits the happy times spent by the sea have inevitably influenced her work.

"In fact, I feel it's almost my duty to bring the merits of this Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty to the attention of others!"