

Royston Power Kitters at the 2006 Royston Kite Festival

Earlier in August the annual Royston Kite Festival took place as usual on Therfield Heath. It was a lovely hot summer's day, which helped ensure the event was well attended, with around 5,000 visitors supporting the festival and its chosen charity for this year, the Alzheimer's Society.

Whilst it's difficult to complain about such a hot sunny day in the UK, the wind wasn't really much more than a gentle breeze, which caused a few problems for the scheduled arena displays. However, there was just enough wind to get most kites in the air, and whilst the exhibitors weren't always able to do everything they had planned, they did a great job of keeping the spectators entertained throughout the day.



The Festival location is also the regular flying site for the local Royston Power Kitters club, and for the third year running the RPK set up their stand at the Festival displaying information about the club and showing off some of their kiting equipment. The stand was busy for much of the day selling raffle tickets for kite-related prizes kindly donated by manufacturer Flexifoil and retailers Surface Tension and Extreme Kite Shop as well as many others. This year the RPK managed to raise over £380 to share between the festival charity and the East Anglian Air Ambulance, £100 more than last year.

The RPK also had a slot in the arena and used this to showcase PowerKite flying, kite buggying and kite Landboarding, as well as allowing spectators to sit in buggies and balance on boards to find out more about this exciting sport. Many Powerkiting stars of the future may have made their first public appearance...



The RPK also teamed up with Dunstable-based PowerKite display group Team Adrenalize in a series of high-speed downhill buggy and board races, something that may well become a regular fixture at the festival – although spectators sitting at the bottom of the hill may have found themselves rather too close to the action for comfort!

The RPK has around 15 regular flyers local to the Royston area, but with over 60 members on its web forum the club is set to grow rapidly. The club also has four qualified power kite and kite buggy instructors among its members, who offer various training sessions that can be tailored to the individual's requirements.

The RPK meet on the Heath most weekends weather permitting, and also occasional weekday evenings in the summer. They also undertake regular kiting trips to more far-flung destinations such as Hunstanton and even France.

For more information regarding the Royston Power Kites contact Shaun Higlett on 01763 249199 or visit the club website at: www.therpk.co.uk.