

THE KITEFLIER

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Issue 113

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**Newsletter of the Kite Society of
Great Britain**

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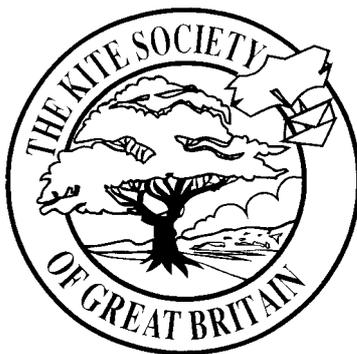
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Front Cover
The Swiss Schaffhausen
kite team "Bird" kites at
Portsmouth 2007.
Photo Gill Bloom

The mystery reporter in the last issue was Hugh Blowers—who continues to provide many an interesting festival report for us. Now known as The Man of Mystery!

Whilst every effort is taken to get the details correct The Kite Society cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions that occur. Opinions expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the



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Editorial

After an interesting year of too much rain, the final few festivals escaped the downpours and saved the day all giving good flying and spectacular displays. Let's hope next year all the events have good weather.

We are hoping to have a number of workshops at Weymouth but we need your support—see page 6 for details.

We are a member of the World Kite Museum, Washington, Hall of Fame Board who each year nominate kitefliers to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. This year we nominated Peter Powell and he was elected by a vast majority. We think this is a well deserved recognition of Peter's contribution to worldwide kiteflying.

We are pleased to be supporting The Prince's Trust at the Hamptons Kite Festival which takes place on October 20th—see page 7 for more details of this event. The idea is to encourage children to take up more sport and outdoor activities. Your support at the event is welcome.

Membership Information

The main vehicle of communication between members is the quarterly publication 'THE KITEFLIER'. published in January, April, July and October of every year. 'THE KITEFLIER' contains news of forthcoming kite festivals, kite retailer news, kite plans, kite group news and a comprehensive events list. Other benefits of membership include free, or reduced, entry into selected kite festivals in the U.K., special parking arrangements where possible, discount - from 5% to 15% - on all kite purchases from the majority of kite retailers in the U.K.

A membership 'year' runs for four issues of 'THE KITEFLIER'. plus other occasional mailings. Each member receives a membership card entitling them to free entry and discount.

If you wish to join The Kite Society you can join online and pay using Paypal (credit or debit card payment) at www.thekitesociety.org.uk or send your name and address (plus the names of any supplementary members) and your payment for the appropriate membership type, to the address shown above. All cheques, made payable to 'The Kite Society' and, for overseas members, should be drawable in the U.K. and be in sterling.

Membership Type	Fee
Individual	£11.00
Family - all members in the same household.	£12.00
O.A.P.	£9.00
O.A.P. - Family (Husband & Wife)	£10.00
Overseas - Europe and Surface Mail	£13.00
Overseas - Airmail	£16.00

The Chinese Kite is Dead—Paul Chapman

and there are no bicycles in Beijing

Maybe it is a harsh statement but it seems to be true, or at least nearly so. The car is king in Beijing and bicycles seem no longer welcome. The civic authorities have torn down vast swathes of the traditional hutongs. These were the local urban villages populated by people who were proud of their history, traditional skills and interests. I have been privileged to meet some of the best kitemakers in these hutong lane dwellings. But towering metropolis buildings and vast boulevards demonstrate the new financially focussed China and now largely replace them. A few hutongs remain, but they are emaciated and some seem to have taken on a new life as the Amsterdam of the East where you meet sleazy peddlers who pester you with offers of drugs and sex, but you will not find anything about kites. Tiananmen Square, where in the past I have seen several huge dragon kites flying together, along with soaring birds and miniature insects, has become a desert where hawkers try to pass on appallingly made western deltas and little diamond trains that have the flying angle of a slug. The same can be said of the seaside town of Qingdao where there was almost no kite activity despite it being the holiday season. The only kites that I saw included a lone delta flying every afternoon from the observation tower at the top of the little mountain next to our house, and another that was struggling to rise from amongst a new high rise housing development.

We made a brief trip to Weifang where we stayed at a hotel that overlooks the riverside park. Perhaps not unsurprisingly for a city that makes the claim to be the Kite Capital of the World there were kites to be seen. There were lots of deltas and flat serpent kites. There was also a very poor dirigible kite sporting long tails. But there were no traditional kites, no dragons. The reason for the Weifang trip was for a family party and to commiserate my forthcoming big birthday – Tony Cartwright beats me by one day. The day after the party, and while my friends were meeting with their family, I went to the Weifang Kite Museum. There had been some doubt about whether the museum still exists but it does, and seems secure at least for the near future. I went primarily to see if there were any new kite books and came away with two. One was a big book that celebrates the artistry of the renowned kite-

maker, Cao XueQin. Drachen Foundation has this listed as a book about Beijing's Kite Kong but it seems to be focussed on the old kite papers that document Cao. I had met Kite Kong before when he lived in the hutongs and where he had shown me the kite he had made for the last Emperor of China. Kong also spoke about Cao and how he had discovered a copy of the Cao papers and had made his kites in the same style. Perhaps Drachen are half right and the book is about both of them. Anyway it was an excellent find and I will try to use my knowledge of Chinese (roughly GCSE) to explore it. The other was a book that seemed to celebrate the past great kitemakers of China; along with Kite Kong there were kites from Ha YiQi and Pan BoHua. These latter kitemakers were great makers in their time but have since largely turned to kite mass production; India seems to be their big market. I also noticed that many of the kites in the kite museum appeared 'fresher' than in the past. A few years ago there were many more superb kites but some were deteriorating badly. Many of the replacement kites are good but there was a very definite lack of dragons.

My next stop in Weifang was a visit to Mr Qian. The name Qian means Money, however Mr Money seemed to me to be the last traditional kitemaker in China. He is the craftsman and his wife is the artist and between them they produce beautiful kites. I first met Mr Money several years ago. I had spent a week with Mr Yu (Fish) learning the art of bamboo splitting, bending and then making. We had been to the park where they



The Chinese Kite is Dead—Paul Chapman

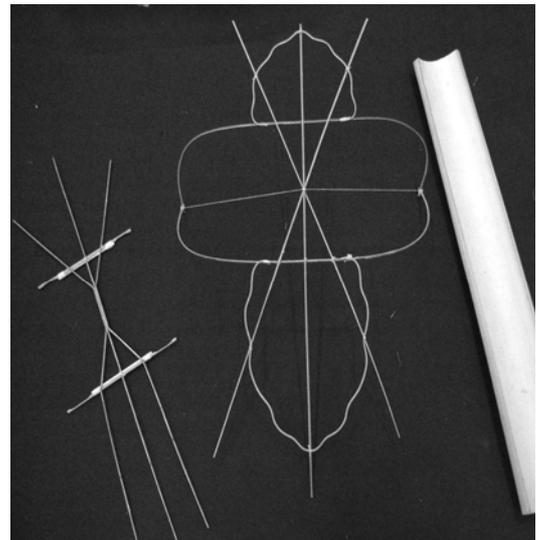
taught me how to whip heavy wooden spinning tops and where I was introduced to Mr Qian. At first I bought several of his little 'hard wing' kites, but later, on another visit I asked him to make some big 'exhibition' kites. The annual order was repeated several times and each one probably represented a few months' earnings. It may be because of these commissions that he was noticed by the Kite Museum because he is now the kite artist in residence there. Last year I had asked the Qians to make large copies of the highly decorated 1830s pear top kites from Epinal in France. I also took away a soaring hawk kite. Mr Qian's hawks are really special. They will, with a bit of practice, fly around just above the grass, soar and circle overhead and generally swoop around in such a realistic way that twitchers come up to ask about my pet bird. The Bristol seagulls hate the hawk and frequently mob it. This time I went to see Mr Qian for more hawks.

point of balance where the bird would be beak-up to about 10 degrees. Mr Qian explained the reason for the wing framing. The wing bamboo framing looks complicated – and it is. It is designed to flex in a carefully controlled way. The wings must bend back to allow the sails to billow when climbing rapidly. They bend and twist differentially for circling flight. Then the whole wing structure is capable of surviving a quick twist to readjust it to make sure the trim is correct. And finally it is sufficiently robust to survive numerous smacks into the hard ground. Mr Qian was so pleased with his explanations that we went out, first to show me his technique for flying hawks indoors (we were in the tree lined yard outside his housing block), and then to the kite museum to inspect his studio, and finally to the riverside park where he showed me the intricacies of hawk flying. Again we were the only ones with traditional kites and these soared high up and between the tall riverside buildings.



At first sight the Qian hawk looks simple enough. The body is 3D and the wings are framed with bamboo. The lifelike painting on the silk is, of course, superb. But the bridle is a single point attachment at approximately the

Last year Mr Qian told me that the number of traditional kite-makers was declining rapidly, and that those remain-



ing were getting older. Young people are not interested. They want a quick return for their time and will not contemplate the long apprenticeship. China appears to be in the same state that Japan was in the 1950s and 60s. If they are lucky then there will be a resurgence of interest and kitemaking will again be considered important as a living cultural art. Until then, and perhaps with only the last flicker of life coming from the likes of Mr Qian, the traditional Chinese Kite is as good as dead.

Coming Events

Brenzett Easter Weekend 2008

I have now confirmed with the site manager at Brenzett that we are able to use the main field to the rear of the Brenzett Aeronautical Museum for the whole of the Easter weekend (2008) and those who wish to, will be welcome to arrive one day early and leave one day after the official Easter weekend. That means we will be welcome on the site from the 20th of March to the 25th of March 2008 and so far as I am concerned five days free camping and hopefully a bit of flying must be worth a couple of coats of look

The site manager (Ray Brignall) will also hire in a couple of Portaloos for the those without facilities and he may even be able to provide one or two "commercial" stalls, one of these will hopefully be selling hot food. Having said that I have advised Ray that most of us will be self catering and as this will be the first show I do not expect many public visitors to turn up.

However, bearing in mind the general growth of the other "free" flying weekend that I arrange namely Kingsfold I suspect that providing the weekend is supported by kite flyers in the same way as they do at Kingsfold it will not be many years before the event itself will be self generating

Their will be no charge to camp as the main objective of the weekend is to start and to build a new annual kiting event which will be open to other kite clubs, kite flyers and to the general public which if successful will bring in enough members of the public who will hopefully pay to visit the museum while they are on site and that in a nut shell is what this weekend will be all about, fun for us, entertainment for the public and to try and increase the number of visitors to the Aeronautical Museum itself

This event is open to all kite clubs and individual kite flyers and all will be made welcome but I suspect that BKF will be the dominant club simply from the ratio an number of BKF members who attend the Kingsfold Steam and Kite festival

To see what the museum is all about go to www.brenzettaero.co.uk

To let me know if you can make it please email me and let me know, the more of you that are

able to attend the more chance I have of getting extra facilities and possibly evening entertainment

John Dimmock
Email admin@media-services.co.uk

Weymouth 3rd, 4th & 5th May 2008

As part of the above festival we are considering the idea of running a number of kite workshops during the Saturday. These will take place at the Pavilion. If there is not enough interest then we will not bother!

In order to judge the interest from kitefliers we are asking you to tell us what would you find interesting and who you would like to run a workshop.

This will not be free! Each workshop will be priced by the presenter according to the number of attendees and the kite/item being made.

There would be a possibility of extending the activities into the evening with a "scratch" buffet—everyone brings food to share—so this will not cost anything (other than drinks at the bar!).

What we need is some response from you. This should include who you want to present and what item of theirs you would like to make. We need to get responses in by Christmas—to give us time to invite the proposed presenters. There will be a form on the web site in the next couple of weeks or you can send an email or letter.

Dieppe 2008

Many of you have been asking about Dieppe 2008—the French one not Canadian! The decision for the dates is not taken until November but will be published on their web site as soon as it is made. www.dieppe-cerf-volant.org/dccv/ukaccueil.html.

We anticipate that it will be 6th—14th September—but we could be wrong and take no responsibility.

Hamptons Kite Festival

Get flying with the Hamptons Kite Festival

Kite enthusiasts will be pleased to hear that there is a new addition to the kiting calendar this year: on Saturday 20 October, leading residential property agency Hamptons International will be hosting the Hamptons Kite Festival at Alexandra Palace, London. Packed with displays from some of the country's top stunt kite flyers, workshops and competitions, it promises to be a great day out for kilters of all ages and ability.

Hamptons International has organised the festival as part of its patronage of The Prince's Trust, the UK's leading youth charity. Through practical support including training, mentoring and financial assistance, The Prince's Trust helps 14-30 year olds realise their potential and transform their lives.

As part of the festival, Hamptons is running a kite designing competition for children under 14 years, with a top prize of a fabulous family holiday to Dubai. Pop into any branch of Hamptons for details of how to enter and to pick up a kite kit for just £3. Proceeds from all kite kit sales will go to The Prince's Trust. The closing date for the competition is 12 October.

What's on at the festival

The festival itself features a packed timetable of entertainment and attractions, running from 11am until 4pm. There will be kite displays set to music, spectacular stunt kite shows, competitions for both kids and adults with great prizes up for grabs, and kiting equipment on sale. Those keen to improve their kiting skills will be able to take advantage of the flying workshops, while younger children will love the face painting, parachute play workshops and bouncy castle. If you need a break

from all that activity, there will be plenty of opportunities to refuel at the food and drink stands.

Special guests attending the festival include Carl Robertshaw, twice World Sport Kite Champion and seven times European and British Sport Kite Champion, Gill Bloom, co-president of The Kite society of Great Britain, the Flying Squad and Team Spectrum. Carl and Gill will be on the judging panel, using their skills and experience to select the best designed kite, as well as adjudicating in the highest flying, best trick and longest in the air competitions.

How to get there

The festival is taking place at Alexandra Palace in North London. The park is easy to reach by public transport: trains run from King's Cross to Alexandra Park station and the closest underground station is Wood Green on the Piccadilly line. There is also ample parking available at the park.

The festival itself will be free to enter and runs from 11am until 4pm, with the main kite designing competition taking place at 11.45am. You are welcome to bring your own kites to fly at the festival; standard kites will be provided for those entering the flying competitions. If you would like to bring a picnic, there are plenty of picturesque spots in the festival ground and surrounding park for you to lay out a rug and sandwiches.

With an abundance of top kiting talent, fun and entertainment for both big and little kids, and the opportunity to improve or show off your kiting prowess, the Hamptons Kite Festival will be a great day out for all the family. See you there on 20 October!

For more information, please see www.hamptons.co.uk/kitefestival, www.princes-trust.org.uk/sportunited and www.alexandrapalace.com/outdoor.html.

Below are two pictures from the very wet press day. At Primrose Hill in August! The one on the left by the official photographer—the other by Doug Jones.



Book Finds

Drachen Foundation are selling "**Anna Rubin Artistic Kites**". This is a photographic essay of celebrated artist Anna Rubin's art kites featuring photos by Stephane Clerisse. Also included is an interview and art kite making lesson. More information about Anna Rubin can be found on her web site www.annarubin.at where quite a few photos of her kites can be seen. The book can be bought from the Drachen Foundation www.drachen.org price \$20.00.

Also from The Drachen Foundation is a book by Charlie Sotich called the **Cocktail Napkin Kite**. "There is nothing tiny about Charlie Sotich. To honor Sotich, the Drachen Foundation is pleased to bring to print the first of many "keepsake" publications honoring esteemed members of the world of kiting. The hand made, limited edition collector's book includes instructions and material to make your own "Sotich Cocktail Napkin Mini Kite"." There were only 50 copies left when we saw this one. Hand stitched and hand bound—price \$25.00.

The Drachen Foundation is an excellent source of kite related books and other kite related information with access to their archive available from the web site. There are also distinct sections for the various collections they have acquired including the Cody Collection, Jalbert Collections, Van Veen collections and others.

Masaki Modegi has bought out a new book "**The Making of Japanese Kites: Tradition, Beauty, Creation**". The book, created in cooperation with the Japanese Kite Association includes background information on Japanese kite styles and directions for construction of 15 traditional Japanese kites.

In this informative, inspiring and comprehensive book, Masaaki Modegi, Chairman of The Japan Kite Association and Curator of the Tokyo Kite Museum, explores the fascinating history of kites and what they have meant to Japanese culture going back in time. Relying on the ample resources of the Museum and of the Kite Association, the book includes 50 color photographs, mostly of traditional kites of Japan, with a special focus on those of the Edo period, as well as kite of the world. Softcover 112 pp. 7 3/16 x 10 1/4 in., 48 color & 64 b & w. Available from www.jptco.co.jp \$16.95.

The Flying Cowboy is a relatively new book about Samuel Cody written by Peter Reese.

The book is available from Amazon.co.uk price £17.99. More information can be found on www.theflyingcowboy.co.uk. Published by NPI Media Group ISBN 0752436597.

Another source of interesting information about kite books is books.google.com. The nice thing about this site is that—where the publisher has given permission—you can search inside the books and find the key word in context. Searching for kite brings up over 14000 hits. One such book is *The Social History of Nepal* with the following snippet (unfortunately not all pages are catalogued, so the follow up pages are missing!

Kite flying was another means of entertainment right from the king to the common mass. Although we do not exactly know when did it start, the popularity of the game during the reign of Girbanyuddha Bikram Shah gives us ample evidence of its existence during the medieval period. The people enjoyed the kite flying specially during the festival of Dasain. It is still a practice among the people to fly the kites during the Dasain in Nepal. Generally after the monsoon is over specially the young boys enjoy a lot in flying kites. But during the Dasain (Dasahara) even the grown up persons enjoy it very

Roli Books **Kite's Eye View** by Nicolas Chorier with a Foreword by Zubin Mehta.

Aerial photography is prohibited in India. It can only be done with permission from various government agencies. It is for this reason that there are hardly any substantial books on India from the air. For the first time, Nicolas Chorier achieves this feat by using the fascinating technique of kite photography (taking aerial pictures by using a kite to lift the camera). The book showcases the finest work of the French photographer, who has been shooting in India for many years. Seen here are unique and spectacular views of the wonders of India, jewels such as Amber Fort, Mehrangarh Fort, Nagaur Fort, Pushkar, Chittorgarh, Taj Mahal, Hampi, Mamallapuram and the beaches and backwaters of Kerala. Accompanying the pictures is the photographer's anecdotal take on his India odyssey. For anyone who loves India and its rich heritage, this lavish book is a sumptuous treat for the eyes.

Roli Books, ISBN: 8174364714. Available via Amazon from £17.25.

Pothecary Corner

A Trip Back in Time

Bill Baulch sadly passed on in June this year. I don't think I ever met Bill but I know now of the wonderful collection of kites he had amassed over many years.



Andy King spoke fondly of him at a recent festival and remembered many of the kites Bill bought in his shop back in the seventies.

The Solent Kite club were asked to decide what best to do with the collection and settled on splitting the collection. I agreed

with their thinking that if it were kept together then it would have sat in someone's loft or garage and never seen or enjoyed by anyone. The ones with a maritime bent now supplement the club's collection on that theme whilst the rest were sold to fliers who would give them the best public airtime with all proceeds and pictures of as many as possible back in the air going to Bill's relatives who now live in Canada.

Among some of the fine originals were some lovely Benson Boxes but Marilyn and I were lucky enough to buy some of the two line sport kites, some of which we just about managed to fly at Portsmouth.

Everyone (it seems) had a Peter Powell at some point in their life and, so many have commented favourably at our attempts to fly them in the fickle winds, that we shall be attempting to slot them in to festivals we are invited to next year whenever wind allows.

For those that missed it, Marilyn, Mags and myself managed to get six in the air at the same time briefly on the Sunday with stirring music bringing lumps to the throats of many as they wallowed in nostalgia.

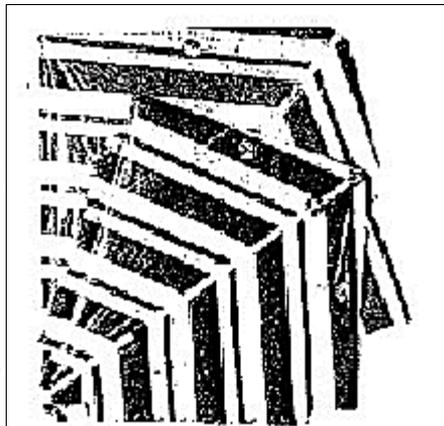
On the Saturday we had managed to launch a stack of ten, original Max

Puckeridge Aces. With the music rolling and after a few technical problems the wind dropped bang on cue leaving kites 9 and 10 flapping about, doing their own thing as I hauled the entire stack across the arena. We were so mad keen to fly them, we would have tried in any conditions. Next year, however, they won't come out of the bag much below 10mph!

It was interesting to find the piece below from the "European Kite Flyer" published in 1978 containing some paragraphs the like of which you won't see these days.

Close Encounters Kite Display Team

You may have seen lots of people wearing our team colours (black and yellow) with "Display Team" on the back and have asked if we have changed our line up.



Ace Kite

The Ace is manufactured under UK licence by ASL of Gloucester and under Spanish licence by Es Cometas of Spain.

The new Ace kite claims indestructibility and, almost unbelievably, lives up to its claim. The new and especially formulated high density plastic sail is tearproof to a degree not yet seen in a kite. The spars of precision drawn fibreglass can be bent double without any damage and at long last the problem of the centre clip holding the longitudinal and transverse members in place seems to have been solved (see photo). We dived this kite 28 times onto a concrete pad from a height of 60 metres without even nicking the sail. Jet alone making an impression on the spars or shock absorber. We then tried scraping the wing-tip along the same concrete patch at full speed hoping to snap the cross spar, again without success. Dragging it nose down along the road should have made some impression, but a gentle pull on one line and the kite turned about and sailed into the sky.

Well – no – not really Close Encounters refers to Marilyn and me and we will, hopefully, be flying old and new routines for a long time to come yet. However, since we gave

At the suggestion of Max Puckeridge, the designer, we tore (with a lot of difficulty) four large holes in the sail and tried flying the kite – the performance suffered, but it still worked, and worked well!

The list of features to be found on this kite, from a technical point of view, deserve an article to themselves and will probably get one in the near future. The design has been evolved under the eagle-eyed supervision of Mr. Puckeridge over a period of two years and would do justice to any full scale aircraft designer. It flies exceptionally well as a two string kite, but with only a simple re-arrangement of the clip-on bridle it can be flown as a single string fighter. In this mode it lacks the zippliness of a traditional eastern design but is still a good flyer and an excellent trainer for this difficult art.

The makers are keen to emphasise the safety aspect of this machine, since, at less than two and a half ounces (about 65 gms) and with a highly energy absorbing spine, it could be nose-dived into a small child at full speed without doing any more damage than would a gentle clip on the ear!

At a recommended price of £3.75 this must be among the best value for money bargains of the year. I only hope some of the other manufacturers will take a few tips from it. It comes complete with line and full flying instructions in a portable carrying bag and is a far cry from some of the cowboy items we have been seeing during the last couple of years.

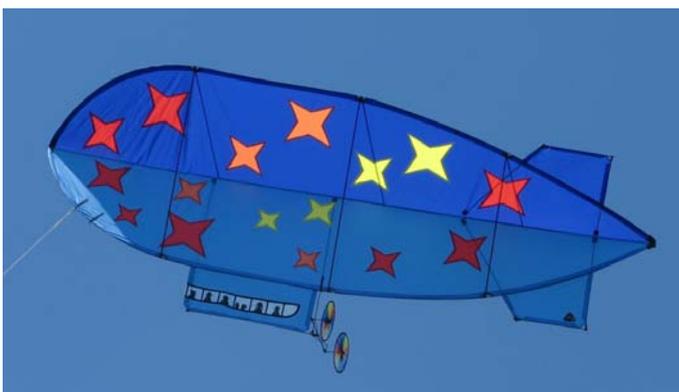
Pothecary Corner

up serious competition and relinquished our national titles we have spent much more time coaching and therefore picked up lots of new friends along the way. Some of these are so enthusiastic they wanted to become more involved than just as spectators so now come along and help with setting up and ground crewing. They have not yet put in the hours days months and years to have the experience for the demands of ever changing conditions in the festival arenas but hopefully that will change after winter in the practice field. Friend Mags got a taste of what to expect when we were desperate to get the Peter Powell's in the arena for Portsmouth. The Sunday before, we all got absolutely soaked for a few hours because time was short but the wind was reasonable when it did blow - and the Tuesday evening we flew until after it got dark before disappearing down the local Indian restaurant to talk excitedly about the coming weekend. All that - then no wind on the Saturday - and not quite enough in our allocated slot on the Sunday. That is why that, in 2008, we will continue in our efforts to always bring something different to the arena but now, only when the wind is right. Often the different, or the unusual kites require a little more wind to fly solo, more to fly as a pair (visa vie) "Sky-Dancers) and even more as a team - and then all that happens just the same when there is too much wind. Don't get me wrong though - we love it! - The buzz we get from when it goes well more than makes up for the times when it doesn't!

A Single Line

When have you ever known me to have a single line to say about anything?

Besides the festivals we also do a lot of 'private gigs', shows, school fetes and the like. For these events, we like to put up a lot of static displays - large and small. We have nine inflatable Red Devils which are great for encouraging



chaperoned youngsters into the arena for a single line fly. For the bigger ones we have a couple of HQ pumpkins called Tommy.

Some of the new ones given to us by HQ we have tested are very good. We really liked The Zeppelin. It's not an inflatable but made up of 3, large flat panels in the shape of a star fruit and I seem to remember about 7 feet long - but don't quote me!

I needed Marilyn to discipline me, as usual, in to following the instructions or I would still be out there, but once it was together it was surprisingly strong and flew really well in the gusty wind we had that day. It moved about quite a bit, but never once took a nose-dive toward the ground. The silhouettes of the passengers add to the fun and the spinning turbos give it that extra finishing touch. It does take a while to assemble though and, therefore, would probably stay in the bag when we do a show, so we put it in the auction at Portsmouth for some lucky person to own.

The Garden Kite has got to be great value for money it looks great as a static but spinning in the wind, garden kite but has an ingenious attachment so that it flies in a very stable and eye catching fashion. My only problem was in choosing the best photo because everyone I took showed it in a different colour as it spun.



The Umbrella has been about for a while. You have to constantly tend it and remember the dihedral shape to aim for during assembly. It will stay up for quite some time in the right wind and certainly draws a smiling crowd to join in the fun. See Mags looking silly with that one on the web-site.

Charlie - did you want a good sized delta which flies from slight to strong winds and will 'stay there all day'? HQ have a range of different ones just like Charlie - some cheeky person asked why I didn't have the "Bald Eagle" version



We have taken Charlie on holiday twice this

Pothecary Corner

year as he fits cosily into the case and we used him successfully as a barrage balloon against some inconsiderate kite surfers who wanted to take up all the beach just to park their kites.

Visit our website for the link to HQ or our sponsors Kiteworld.co.uk for an idea of prices.

COMPETITION RESULTS



No dear. I don't think they'll notice if your nail varnish matches the kite

All season we have been running a competition sponsored by Kiteworld.co.uk who put up the prize of a Prism Hypnotist complete with lines and the flight school dvd together worth nearly £100-00. we had about 70 entries – many of which I will put on the website (time allowing). We nar-

rowed that down (with great difficulty) to eight – it was going to be four! – and Michael from [Kiteworld](http://Kiteworld.co.uk) chose the winner – Ann Girling from Southampton, who was ever so pleased when I phoned to say her cheeky entry had won. Thanks to all those who entered.

LINES

Flyers often get asked the length of the lines they are using and what length is best. Most sport-kite flyers use 85 to 100ft when flying freestyle/tricks as an individual but pairs will need to be using something longer. When we started teams and pairs all seemed to be using 150ft to give themselves more room to manoeuvre. But there is a compromise here. The longer the line the more weight in light winds to consider and more bend in the line giving slightly less direct feel! Also we quickly found that changing to 125ft lines made the arena bigger. However we have now moved out to 131ft(40 meters) as we are happy to recommend lines from Flexifoil. The lines come pre-stretched on a winder which looks clumsy but is easy to use – and are sewn into the sleeves. The ends have tags that make it much easier to separate line from the towing points on the

kite, the lines are different colours (one red, one blue) and have very little stretch therefore giving a great instant response.

I'm going to ask that anyone who wants to join in with us team flying in future brings a set of these with them. Considering what good lines cost when we first started these are an absolute steal at around £20 per set.

COACHING

Time allowing I will try to keep a "news page" running and up to date on the web site. This will announce things that are happening with us such as festivals and coaching days, if you would like any coaching – we don't charge if you come to our practice sites – you just have to fit in with our schedules and cover the costs of any breakages if you use our equipment. Contact us through the website at (don't forget there are 2 e's in the middle www.closeencounterskites.co.uk).

At the end of another season we would like to say thanks to all those people who have come to see us and taken the time to chat and even email us – see you next year and bring some good wind this time please!

Some of you will remember me writing before about a friend of mine, Dave Goss, a kite enthusiast who travels in his mobile home around the USA enjoying his retirement in a way most of us can only dream about.

Dave usually fits a few kite festivals in to his travels and runs an interesting blog which you might find worth a visit <http://goss-travels.blogspot.com/>

Allan and Marilyn Pothecary

Regarding Bill Baulch, we received a letter from David Webster.

I am sorry to tell you sadly Bill Baulch (aged 86) from Southampton died on the 7th June 2007. Bill had a large collection of single line kites from several well known kite makers. He was the organiser of some of the Royal Victoria Park and Hengistbury Head kite festivals in the 1980s. The Wessex Kite Group greatly appreciated Bill's hard work to ensure the smooth running of these festivals.

Review of 2007—George Webster

Gill asked me to write 'something as usual'; so here goes: a brief look at some of the more interesting things that have happened at festivals this year. Sorry, no pictures this time but I'll try to get some for the next issue.

Weymouth.

It was good to see Gill and Jon, Andy and Becky again but the festival was not great, largely because of the wind. Particularly on the Sunday the wind was strong enough for spectators to be convinced that we had what we wanted while actually it was so tricky that even Pete Dolphin gave up.

Even the local whose annual pleasure is to slag off Andy and myself (on the grounds that we can't speak English because we are ill-educated, so there) didn't turn up. However I did see one of the best pieces of flying all year—Marilyn Pothecary relaunching her 2 liner straight out of the sea. Part of their 2008 routine?

Swindon

I was involved with Dave Robinson in arranging the box kite exhibition (list of kites in last issue). Ernest Barton and I seemed to spend half of Saturday moving the boundary ropes back as the kites numbers increased. Usually, since this is one of my chances to fly, I look forward to getting out of the hangar. This time not much flew as the rain was incredible and the site of the marquee not ideal for those without webbed feet!

Cleethorpes

There were some very interesting visiting fliers. Team Mangalore from South India had upped their game considerably and showed a Charlie Chaplin and smile kite and a striking owl in addition to the large dance and temple figures of previous years. The Team from Southern Thailand hadn't much luck with their kites but the buffalo head kites were very good to look at—they seemed to link Malaysian and Bangkok designs.

There were the usual three awards: Jock Walkers Falcons for best British, Team Mangalore for overseas and Karl Longbottom won the Eddie Mcgarth Cup for most innovative British Kite (the Angel).

This is a festival which has had its problems in the past but everyone seemed to enjoy this one, from peering through the mist to an after buffet fly on Saturday..

Bedford

Bad weather problems ranging from too little wind to rain. We managed to clear the site before the deluge on Saturday. I felt that the most interesting of the overseas fliers was Robert Brassington who had several new kites including his stained-glass deltas.

Wirral

As a result of the Beattie's Wedding and the events at Sunderland there was a particularly rich collection of home and overseas fliers this year.

Andrew and Kathleen met at the Wirral 3 years ago and were married at a civil ceremony on the Saturday morning. All the visiting fliers were issued with rather superior T shirts which they wore as the happy couple exchanged vows over the P.A in the afternoon. They advanced across the site under white kite arches, for each to have an antique cow-bell hung round their neck given by Peter Lynn. (Don't ask. Something to do with a goat which they had given to him in New Zealand as a Birthday present). The crowd were slightly puzzled but as ever at the Wirral appreciative and easy going. The kitefliers showed their affection by clubbing together and buying 9 toasters as wedding presents. These were presented to the auction by Andy that night and somehow were individually sold back to him by my co-auctioneer Paul Reynolds at £10.00 a time but a sliced loaf was thrown in as well.

Malcolm Goodman had arranged the overseas fliers; at the auction he and Jeanette were presented with a Triptych of Japanese Kite prints in recognition of their work over 20 years at Sunderland.

What about the kites? There were probably the best display of soft kites which I saw all summer. This included Wigsley Wings doing sets (5 bears later 5 trilobites), the first English flight of the Peter Lynn Large crab—flown by the Penneys - and the return of Ralf Zimmerman with 3 sizes of owl, the usual sea creatures and the first good flight of his spectacular dragon. It was good to see him again. Other overseas fliers included Mr Ha, The Nakamuras, a team from Bali (first time I'd seen a dragon and a large fish here ,Andreas Agren's ships (who remembers kite and Tango?) and great Dutch kites.

However the rain was a problem, Nathalie Rey-

Review of 2007—George Webster

nolds looking out from a tent at 22 Kelvin Butterflies being flown in a fierce rain storm described them as “barking”.

Richmond (the proper one in Yorkshire) A small local festival with the best views I have ever seen—about 270 degrees over the town Castle and hills.

Whitley Bay

Another small, local festival right on the cliff edge. For the third time the North East Kitefliers competed for the Websters trophy (named not after me but the brewer whose empty can is the trophy), this time won by Dave Holt.

Portsmouth

Just three highlights of this great festival as I’m sure it will be reported on elsewhere and our Eds will provide pictures.

On the Saturday the winds were light but we managed (roughly) to run the programme however there wasn’t a single soft kite to be seen in the static display until after 5pm. Even Bernard Dingworth (he of seals etc) was flying a double roller (or kholar or piapero) really high on the limit.

The team from Schaffhausen, Switzerland, was the big revelation of the year for me. They flew large beautiful (but static) butterflies, aeroplanes and impressive serpents. Their roks were the fastest spinning that I’ve ever seen, they behaved like Indian fighters (results one 1st and one 2nd place)

Thirdly the most courageous display was given by Brighton Kite Fliers when they used Ostend Birds(!?!!) as lifter kites. I knew some of them were thick-skinned but this was an amazing indifference to style and beauty. Particularly as they had a great display of various colours of spirit kites made at a club workshop with Martin Lester,

Bristol

Nostalgia seeing three of the original decorators in action. A festival which has successfully developed the themed single line display from ‘Martin Lester’ to ‘sea world, ‘serpents’ and Nick James. Still the best food stalls but now being challenged by Cleethorpes.

Some final thoughts

The quality of multiline demos this year was ex-

ceptional—with Portsmouth having the best programme

Hard Luck to Denis England and his gallant team who had a go at a U.K. height record over the Wash on Portsmouth Weekend, but congratulations on having the unconfirmed record for length of line below a power sled.

18/19th July was the saddest date for me—it should have been High Force but the sponsors couldn’t find the money.

Unluckiest festival might be Allenheads; postponed in July because of water logging and cancelled in September through Foot and Mouth.

Two things for next year.

We hope for even more support for the Exhibition at Swindon. Details in the next issue when we know its running.

The Mcgarth Cup at Cleethorpes is a good one to win and hold for a year.

And finally I’ve still got two kite Festivals - Margate and Penallta to look forward to !



Photo: T Scott—taken at Margate

Bits and Pieces

From www.airsciences.org.uk

FAST LAUNCHES CODY FLYER PROJECT

Farnborough Air Sciences Trust (FAST), the local conservation and heritage group dedicated to safeguarding Farnborough's aviation history, has launched a project to build a full-size replica of British Army Aeroplane No1A, the aircraft in which Samuel Franklin Cody made the first successful powered flight in Great Britain, at Farnborough on 16th October 1908.

The project is aimed at becoming the focus for centenary celebrations of this important historical event in 2008, and will also include a unique educational aspect bringing together organisations which will be offered the opportunity to participate. The project has already received enthusiastic support from Rushmoor Borough Council and local MP, Gerald Howarth, and a major partnering and fund-raising effort will be launched.

The non-flying replica will be built full size, and with a 52ft wingspan will be impressively large. Designed to look as authentic as possible in appearance, using representative materials, including some original Cody bamboo, it will be unique as after the first flight, the actual aircraft crashed and its design was subsequently modified. The design chosen by FAST will be based on detailed plans researched by local historian and Cody expert, Jean Roberts, and drawn by John Roberts, depicting the configuration as flown on 16th October 1908. It is intended to allow the public to see progress on the replica in the FAST Museum, on Farnborough Road, when the components begin to take shape. It is hoped that a public preview might be possible in time for the 2008 Farnborough International Airshow.

The project team is led by FAST member David Wilson, who before retirement was responsible in MOD for Eurofighter. He is one of many team members who are also members of the Farnborough Branch of the Royal Aeronautical Society. Members of the project team have extensive aeronautical knowledge and skills, many being ex-RAE specialists, and some are employed at QinetiQ and other aerospace organisations. Work has already started on the preparation of lists of materials and components needed, and detailed drawings and patterns. All work is on an unpaid voluntary basis though

some components are expected to be bought in or donated by partner companies.

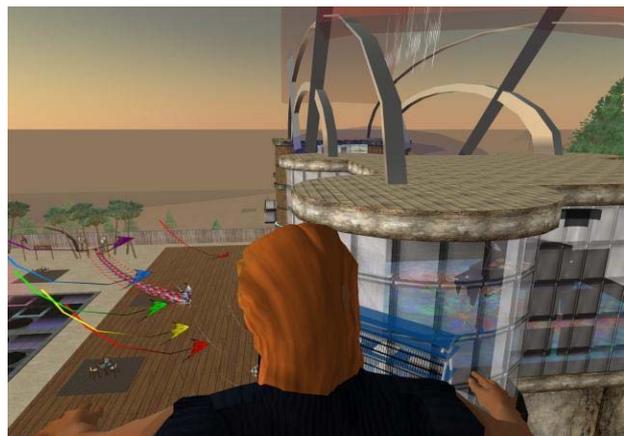
Over the coming months, FAST will be appealing to companies and organisations willing to join the project as a successful outcome will require sponsorship and assistance, both financial and practical. There will be an opportunity for schools and colleges to participate and for anyone willing to offer specialist skills and some time. Aeroplane Magazine is to help publicise the project, and FAST is confident that the programme will achieve its aim of creating a worthy centrepiece for the centenary celebrations.

FAST's Chairman, Richard Gardner, said, " This will become a high-profile national project, and will generate not only increased knowledge of Cody's success, and Farnborough's place in aviation history, but should attract active involvement by young people and we hope that this will continue well beyond 2008."

FAST Media contact: Richard Gardner Tel 01252 515562 <http://www.airsciences.org.uk>
Information on Cody: Jean Roberts Tel 01252 543740 <http://www.sfcody.org.uk>

Second Life

Many of you would have heard about this Virtual world. Yes there are kites there as well.



New Kite

Pedro and Estaban Gonzalez have come up with a new kite design—some of you may have seen this flying at Margate.

Their description goes: "After more than a year of intense development, we can finally tell you about our latest creation, The 'Bai Se Hue Die' (pronounced by dsir who dyeah), or as we call it, 'The Bai' or the white butterfly (which is

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the meaning in Chinese).

It is a team work between our good friend Stephen Hoath (multi World and European team Champion with Skydance and now leader of 'The Flying Squad' show team) and ourselves, 'The Brothers González'. From Stephen came the original idea and we put our building and flying skills to the project.

We feel especially proud and privileged to be part of this project. Because the Bai ... it's simply amazing. From our point of view (and please somebody correct us if we are wrong) we have in our hands the first real single line freestyle kite.



You will ask, single line freestyle? What is that? Literally a kite able to do axel, turtle, flapjack, 180°, 540°, ground-work and an endless range of manoeuvres that can only be described as freestyle. And it makes it with total pilot control. And also many manoeuvres

which are exclusive to it such as the 'Brazilian rolls' which are rolls over the vertical axis, spinning take off from the hands, rev style catches and throws and hundreds of manoeuvres of which every day we fly it (and we have hundreds of flying hours with it) we discover some.

But there is more, it flies indoor, outdoor in very low winds, outdoor on any wind, perfectly static if you want as it is or (even more beautiful) with tails attached.

Anything else? Well.. yes. It never gets stuck on the ground, we don't know of any other kite that is always recoverable from the ground, and moreover, so easily (just pull the line, even indoors). And it is also virtually indestructible. The original prototype has been flown by more than two hundred pilots of all kinds and is still in perfect condition with ORIGINAL spars.

It is a very easy to fly kite, very intuitive, that gives fun from the very first moment with no previous experience. Even our mom (who has no flying experience) flies it and enjoys it like a ten year old girl. It's been flown by all kinds of pilots, including some of the most renowned 1, 2 and 4 line pilots in the world, and all of them like it. It hooks experts pilots from the very first moment, they recognize in it a new form of fun and, why not, a new show.

Down side ... there must be something. It is virtually impossible to fly it for more than ten minutes, there is always somebody that wants to try it and take it off your hands !

Some technical data:

Made in Icarex PC31, printed with our sublimation technique (no extra weight, no loss of properties).

The artwork is from Sabine Chancel, one of the team FLIC girls (or a Fliquette as they call themselves). We are deeply thankful to her for her collaboration.

Framed on Exel 2mm carbon.

Nylon binding on all the perimeter folded in 4. The manufacturing is simply perfect.

Comes in a full colour printed bag with instruction book.

First production is finished ... and it's gone. Next kites will be available in September, we will tell you exactly when. If you are wondering about the price, the standard version will be £40, 60€ or 80\$ (US) plus shipping (if you do not find us in one of the many kite festivals we attend).

Is there any more? Well... yes. There is going to be more sizes and limited series. The limited series are going to be Bai painted by some of the more renowned artists of the kiting world (and probably from outside). Actually we have several friends collaborating with us and soon we will show you some of the beautiful things they are doing for the Bai. These kites will be limited to 25-40 units, numbered and deluxe.

Last but not least, we are getting ready the webpage <http://bai.esste.com> with all the infor-

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mation about the kite, including forum, blog, download area, novelties

From the pages of EBAY.

"Cool Kite Shoe Charm for Crocs" These small charms are designed to fit in the holes of the Crocs (and other similar types). Price 99p plus 99p postage.



Curtis JERE Tabletop TANGLED KITE Sculpture. This is a scene from middle-America seen through the eyes of "Curtis (C.) Jere" from Artisan House Studios of Los Angeles. It is a vintage piece, dated 1971, depicting a child and their dog, flying a kite that has become tangled on a telephone pole. The scene elements are likely made of primarily brass, and are mounted on a piece of raw marble or perhaps alabaster. To give you an idea of its size, the telephone pole stands 13" above the stone base. The base is about 2" thick and 7" by 11". The dog and the pole can rotate their positions, but the child is fixed. There are a couple of bends in the wire that could be smoothed out with some patience. The stone base is signed on its side "(c) C. Jere '71".



First World War Boxwood Trench Signalling Kite WWI

1st World War Boxwood Trench Signalling Kite - brass mounted and stamped G.R. - very good condition - measures approx 50" long. No cover—just the frame. Sold for £34.99.



From The Scotsman 1st September.

Japanese kite battle is set to breeze into the Capital

A SPECTACULAR battle between giant Japanese kites will take place in the skies above Calton Hill tomorrow.

The kite 'dogfight' is the city's answer to Japan's Hamamatsu Festival, which is attended by millions of people every year, and is being staged to

celebrate the Capital's links with Japan.

The three-metre square patterned kites have been brought over by the Sode-Cho Kite Fliers, who have created designs specially for the event, including one featuring the city council's logo.

Expert ten-men teams controlling the kites will stage aerial tussles, with each team trying to use its kite to cut the string of their opponents.

The event is part of programme celebrating the tenth anniversary of the Friendship Link between Edinburgh and the Kyoto Prefecture in Japan, and the fifth anniversary of the Japanese Friendship Garden at Lauriston Castle, one of the largest Japanese gardens in Scotland.

The Hamamatsu Festival originated about 430 years ago, when the lord of Hamamatsu Castle celebrated the birth of his first son by flying kites. In the Meiji era, marking the birth of a first son by flying Hatsu Dako - which means

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'the first kite' - became a popular tradition which has survived in the form of the festival.

The Takoage Gassen, or kite fight, is the most spectacular part of the festival, and the most dangerous. Although the teams use thick cotton gloves to protect their hands while handling the thick strings which control the kites, there are still many injuries, and in the past spectators have also been hurt by falling kites.

Kyoko Agsumi, 48, a translator from Innerleithen, will be helping out at tomorrow's event. She grew up in Hamamatsu, and she said she was thrilled to see the festival brought to the Capital.

"It has been about 14 years since I last saw it, so I'm really looking forward to it," she said. "It is such a spectacular occasion, and it's something I grew up with. Everyone gets involved in Hamamatsu, and every year an area of the beach is set aside for the kite fighting, which can be quite chaotic.

"Each of the large kites requires ten men to fly it, and in order to make the kite swoop and dive they have to move quite fast, so it can be pretty dangerous. Calton Hill should be an ideal location, as these kites do need a strong wind. They are made of paper, so heavy rain would be a problem, but anything else will be fine."

As well as the four large kites that will be used in the fight demonstration, there will be a number of smaller Japanese kites on display and lessons on how to fly them will be on offer.

Edinburgh Lord Provost George Grubb hoped the festival would prove a popular attraction with youngsters.

"The Hamamatsu Festival is a celebration of life and community spirit," he said. "It is a great honour to host a smaller version in the Capital to celebrate our friendship with the Kyoto Prefecture. "In Japan, it is customary for young people to be at the centre of the celebrations, so I hope lots of people turn out on Sunday to join in the fun."

The Sode-Cho Kite Fliers will be demonstrating the fighting kites at Calton Hill tomorrow between 2pm and 4.30pm.

Computers Learn to Fly Kites

New Scientist published an item on 8th September. A new way to harness wind energy may take off now that computers have learned to kite surf.

Experienced kite surfers know that on a calm day they can maximise the power they draw from the breeze by flying their aerofoil-shaped kites through the air in a figure of eight.

"The amount of energy you get from the figure of eight is massive, easily 10 times what you get from just parking the kite downwind," says Allister Furey, a roboticist and avid kite surfer at the University of Sussex in the UK.

Researchers have been trying to use high-flying kites tethered to turbines to generate electricity: when the kites tug on the lines this turns the turbine. While the idea works well when the wind blows consistently, the computers controlling the kites run into trouble when there are gusts of wind or lulls, often leading to crashes.

They seeded some useless flying algorithms and let the neural net refine them, one of the researchers is quoted as saying "At first they were like blindfolded idiots - they would crash the kite in a quarter-second".

Kites and Terror

International Herald Tribune, 17th September.

Al-Qaida-linked militants and their sympathizers may be using an unlikely weapon to strike at attack helicopters and cut the risk of aerial raids on their jungle strongholds: kites.

A Huey helicopter encountered difficulty while flying back at night from a recent combat mission on the southern island of Jolo after a kite's thick nylon cord became dangerously entwined in its rotor, Philippine air force chief Lt. Gen. Horacio Tolentino said Monday. The pilots had noticed unusual vibrations, and managed to land safely in a Jolo military camp, he said.

An air force officer familiar with the incident told The Associated Press that the kite's cord most probably struck the Vietnam War-era Huey over a sparsely populated mountainous region, from which the aircraft evacuated soldiers wounded during a clash with suspected Abu Sayyaf militants.

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It was unlikely the kite had been flown by ordinary civilians, the officer said on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the media.

Several kites may have been flown, then tied to trees surrounding a rebel encampment as an extra buffer against nighttime air attacks, the officer said. "They really have an intention to bring down our helicopters," Tolentino told the AP.

After the incident, Tolentino said he instructed air force pilots to undertake "evasive maneuvers" aimed to protect choppers from kites during landing and takeoff in Jolo, especially at night. Inspectors were deployed to ensure no kites were being flown near air force areas, he said. Kite-flying is a popular pastime on Jolo, a predominantly Muslim island where U.S. forces have been providing non-combat assistance to Filipino troops to wipe out Abu Sayyaf militants and a handful of Indonesian militants.

But residents rarely fly kites at night. Kites have been used as a combat tool elsewhere. Insurgents in Iraq's volatile Ramadi region have flown kites over U.S. troops to align mortar fire, U.S. forces there have said.

Kites' potentially lethal power caught the country's attention last May, when a Huey helicopter crashed on a busy street near an air base in central Cebu province, killing nine people, seven of them on the ground.

Investigators said the nylon kite cord, which accidentally got coiled in the assembly connecting the main rotor to the aircraft's body, may have caused the crash.

Tolentino said the air force endorsed a bill to Congress that would penalize people who fly kites near airports and air bases nationwide following that deadly accident.

Kelly Holmes Flies a Kite.

Seen on the BBC web site—The Olympic Gold medallist tested out her kite-flying skills when she called in at an Ipswich school. It is a short video—search for kites on their web site.

World kite flying record at Glenelg

Sunday, August 19, 2007. 8:43am ACST

Scouts in South Australia have taken the old

expression of "go fly a kite" to new heights by setting a world record for the number of kites in the air at one time. Thousands of people converged on Glenelg beach on a perfect day for kite flying with clear blue skies and just a slight sea breeze.

Known as "WindJam07", the aim was to break the previous record of 927 kites set at Bournemouth in the U.K. in April this year. The beach was turned into a sea of colour as the kites were put into the air.

The kites were on three metre strings to avoid collisions and kites becoming tangled. But how do you count more than a thousand kites and claim a world record? Scouts SA Marketing Manager, Steve Hastwell, says the beach was divided into coloured kite zones.

He says once participants were on the beach with their kites, marshalls handed out kite rods, to allow them to fly. A count was taken of the rods distributed then each marshall was responsible for counting the number of kites in the air within their zone.

The record attempt was overseen by a senior police official and Justice of the Peace. Fireworks were set off from the Glenelg Jetty to signal the start of the world record attempt.

The first attempt saw 1014 kites in the air, a new unofficial world record. However, the second attempt saw the number rise to 1127.

Documentation of the event including photos and videos will now be sent to the Guinness Book of Records to have the record verified. Already the scouts are planning WindJam08 and breaking their own record next year.



Portsmouth 2007

"I do not believe it" Sun!

With what many of the population have had to suffer throughout the summer, it seems somewhat churlish to complain about how the weather has adversely affected kite festivals this season, yet this can dominate conversations. How gratifying then, that Portsmouth should turn out to be so wonderfully warm and sunny. Most welcome, even if it did become necessary to seek shade at times. The assembled multitude had a most enjoyable time and managed to stretch the festival to a very long weekend. The high-pressure system over England ensured the fine weather, but along with the presence of a TV film crew, did result in light and fluky winds. There we go, complaining again. The result was that big, or heavy kites were effectively grounded for much of the time, the 'turns' in the main arena really had to 'work for their money' and the power kites were anything but. Kite flyers are a resilient bunch and for most of the weekend an amazing variety of kites were in the air, both from the guests and 'home grown' talent. With the larger and heavier kites being grounded, a walk round the arena gave a chance to appreciate the amazing variation of designs and quality of sewing and construction that European kite makers demonstrate.

An interesting side effect of the light winds is the way the sky can be full of kites, yet glance away or take a sup of tea and suddenly they are all gone. Certainly not the 'whack a stake in and take the kite down 6 hours later' type of flying.

Sometimes, reflecting on a festival is difficult, as those on the inside have 'seen it all before' but Gill and Jon put together a guest list that provided a refreshing variety of kites. The Michelangelo 'Angels' as interpreted by Marco Cassadio and Claudio Capelli, having avoided Gill with her fig leaf and Blue Tack, flew naked and unadorned, causing much giggling and pointing. Sylvie Perry from France is new to kite making, yet was a winner at Dieppe last year. She did attend Weymouth, but that was hardly the place to show off her very large appliquéd designs. Bernard Dingwerth from Germany has not had a lot of luck with festivals over here lately either. He was also a victim of the wayward Weymouth winds so his vast array of unusual inflatables has not had the exposure they deserve in the UK. New to all but the confirmed travellers was the Drachenclub Schaffhausen from Switzerland. Here was a perfect example of a common trend with kite clubs abroad, yet seldom seen in this country, where many members would build kites to a theme or design and then fly them on mass. Closest we come is with butterflies, but this is very much on an indi-

vidual basis. The Swiss team produced multiple versions of a number of designs, including huge cobras, all heavily appliquéd and in the case of the stylised birds some serious engineering as well. The light winds kept these on the ground most of the time, but the lighter 'firebird' design was well suited to the conditions. During their arena slot they invited kite flyers to join with them in flying these. They have 42 in total that they can fly as a flock or indeed as a train, but they had 'only' brought 20 or so with them. Even so they made a spectacular sight, reinforcing the view that multiple versions of anything look good when flying.

George Webster might disagree violently with this theory when it applies to Oostend birds, and as they seem to be breeding exponentially it gives him a great deal of ammunition to liven up his commentary. The 'BOF' always voiced the opinion that kites with two lines were only suitable for burning and I would imagine George would revel in a similar fate befalling the aforesaid birds from Belgium. They do seem to have overtaken the IKEA delta in the degree of vitriol he aims at them. Commentating when there is a full sky and plenty of wind poses few problems, but when conditions get marginal then it requires a degree of talent that few possess. George and Andy seem to be able to keep going with wonderful blend of knowledge, anecdotes, history and reminiscences, not to mention a few caustic comments along the way.

It takes a mightily clever highways department to close the motorway access to Portsmouth each night over the bank holiday weekend, but sure enough they did. As we had no realistic method of escape from the town on the Saturday evening, we had to forego the festivities and auction this year, but judging by the comments and hangovers, a fine time was had by all. Thanks to the Kite Society, Linda Howard and all her helpers and the ever willing auctioneers for making it such a success.

By dint of a large armoury of kites, the sports kite contingent can cope with most conditions, but even they were running out of wind and arena at times. Three people flying three kites gives a little room for manoeuvre, but as Carl from Team Spectrum discovered, one person and three kites was somewhat more problematical. Allan Potheary struggled to produce that resounding thwack of a sports kite powering in nose first and disassembling itself. It was part of his act, but blunted by the lack of wind. The quad line display teams excelled themselves but it does beg the question, how many flyers make up The Flying Squad? A weekend at the seaside obviously found favour as

a veritable plethora of ‘squaddies’ demonstrated their skills throughout the weekend. Congratulations to Steve and Sue Hoath on the latest recruit! The French display team managed to do part of their display with the Revs behaving as two line kites and part as a conventional four line version, fascinating.

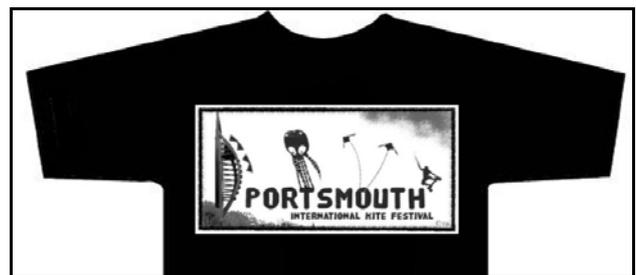
Apart from Carl Wright, most ordinary mortals can only fly one kite at a time, and therein lays a problem, evident not only at Portsmouth, but most festivals with guest flyers. How do you effectively showcase their talents and creations? If they are on their own or with a partner they can only show one or two kites in an arena slot, yet they may have bags full of the most amazing work. Janneke Groen invites people to fly her Sodes, Kelvin hands out his butterflies, and some lucky owners can fly alongside the creators of their masterpieces. It does seem a shame when someone travels a long distance, sometimes several thousand miles, yet only one of their kites is seen during their allotted time in the arena. Perhaps a ‘squad’ of experienced flyers could be on hand to help out, as with the Swiss team. It might need a bit of planning, but with the likes of Joel Theze, Martine Chatel, Sylvie Perry and Claudio Capelli amongst others attending this year, not to mention British makers, it would be nice, and rewarding for them to see their talents showcased. George and Andy do a good job, pointing kites out as they see them, but what an effect a mass ascent of Brassington, Capelli, Lester or any other maker’s kites would have.

With flying on a more relaxed and ad hoc basis

and the ‘Woofers and Waggers’ taking centre stage, the Bank holiday Monday is reminiscent of the scene from Sound of Music where the Von Trapp family gradually leave the stage one by one. The kites thin out throughout the day as flyers head for home and the delights of the traffic jams. Traders dismantle stalls, put their stock back in the vans for all of three days while reflecting on their degree of success in parting the public from their hard earned (or not) as the case may be. If a festival is to be judged by how many of the public and how many fliers are attending, then there would not seem to be a lot wrong with Portsmouth this year. Mind you, £10 to park if you were a member of the public concentrates the mind. Makes membership of the Kite Society a veritable bargain with the free pass.

Another submission from the ‘man of mystery’. Photos by Carl Wright—Team Spectrum.

We still have a few remaining—limited edition—T-Shirts created for the Portsmouth International Kite Festival. £10.00 including P&P. Available in M, L, XL. Black only. Send cheque and return address to the address on page 3.





Kite Web Hunting

Hunting the Web.

A number of kite related articles caught our eye in the last three months.

From Time Magazine's web site first published June 12th 1978.

My kite rises to celestial regions, My soul enters the abode of bliss. —Buddhist monk, 9th century A.D.

Kites have dared the heavens for thousands of years, pacifying the gods, protecting souls, relaying lovers' messages, celebrating the seasons. From the Chinese Han dynasty through the space age, kites made of leaves, paper, silk and now plastic have also been used to catch fish, spy on enemies, send signals, divine the weather, explore the atmosphere, photograph the earth, tow boats, advertise corsets, drop bombs and loft men and women into the wind. In the past decade the kite, the honorable ancestor of all aircraft, has colored American skies in vast numbers, dazzling hues, and sufficient shapes, sizes and forms to fill catalogs of bliss.

Sales of kites soar higher every year, seemingly resistant to economic downdrafts. Manhattan's Go Fly A Kite, the first kite store to open in the U.S., in 1965, grossed over \$1 million last year; today there are more than 90 such stores nationwide. Valerie Govig, 43, editor of Kite Lines, the only U.S. magazine devoted to the pastime, sees "an increased sophistication and appreciation of kites as an art, a science and an adult sport." An estimated 150 million kites will be sold this year. People turn out in ever greater profusion for such events as the Great Boston Kite Festival in mid-May and the Smithsonian Institution's March Kite Carnival in Washington, D.C. Across the U.S., kite-ins are sponsored by towns, school systems, civic groups, museums and radio stations (notably, and naturally, Chicago's WIND).

Kite flying is no childish pastime. It demands skill, ingenuity and an attention span rarely possessed by the young. Some of the great kite innovators, after all, have included such mature fellows as Leonardo da Vinci, Ben Franklin, the Wright brothers and Alexander Graham Bell, whose tetrahedral model once lifted a man 168 ft. According to Wyatt Brummitt, author of a 1971 book called—what else? —Kites, it helps a kiter to be "slightly nutty." Brummitt, 81, adds that enthusiasts must also have "a little imagination and a little sense of serenity to enjoy the sense of extension." A major attraction of kiting is that it is a

peaceful pastime in which competition evokes more ahs than urrghs. It can also be one of the least expensive of sports. The traditional two-stick diamond costs only about 500; its major maker, the 56-year-old Hi-Flier Manufacturing Co. in Decatur, Ill., sells millions of them yearly. An exotic 45-ft. dragon made of Mylar costs only about \$8, while a large tetrahedral model sells for \$20. (On the other hand, fancier, higher-flying kites can cost up to \$2,000.) A 500-ft.-long, 30-lb.-test string costs about \$1.25.

Unlike almost any other sport, kite flying involves no standardized equipment or rules; it appeals equally to the mystic and the scientist, the fresh-air buff and the do-it-yourselfer who devises and builds his own bird of balsam and plastic. The variety of kites aloft can make a city sky look like a sociocultural anthology of man's immemorial urge to fly.

There are ornate Oriental models fashioned to resemble peacocks, eagles, swallows, phoenixes, butterflies, bumblebees, grasshoppers, cobras, octopi, dinosaurs and dragons. There are Anglo-American kites, like reproductions of clipper ships and World War I Sopwiths and Fokkers, and the two-string Peter Powell, that can loop the loop, hedgehop, do dipsy doodles, roller coasters and figure eights. A skilled practitioner Like Will Yolen, 70, author of *The Complete Book of Kites and Kite Flying*, can handle 30 kites on a single string.

Some of the most spectacular kites in action are the parafoil models designed by Florida's Domina Jalbert, 73; they can ascend at least three miles. The ancient Eastern sport of kite fighting is also finding popularity in the U.S. This gentle combat, in which the string is coated with powdered glass so that it can saw an opponent's line, has enjoyed an official season in Thailand since the days of King Mongkut, of *The King and I* fame. Kite combat has had a powerful promoter in San Francisco-based Dinesh Bahadur, 32, who before opening a string of kite stores in the U.S. was national kite-fighting champion of India and holds seven world records (including lofting the smallest model ever, a postage-stamp-size dragonfly that rose 200 ft.). Bahadur, who holds degrees in political science, history and English literature, reverts to Indian mysticism when it comes to explaining the kite cult. Says he: "It's close to being in love. When you're in love, you can't explain it, but the two lovers know what's going on. The kite touches your heart and soul through your hand."

From newspostindia.com 21st August 2007

Kite Web Hunting

150 Birds Injured In 1-Day Kite Flying

Tuesday 21st of August 2007 Around 150 birds that were injured during kite flying here during Independence Day have been brought for treatment to a speciality bird hospital. But there may be many more winged victims that have received no help.

'Right from Aug 15 we have received approximately 150 birds with injuries in their wings, necks and legs,' said Vijay Kumar, a doctor at the Charity Bird Hospital located just opposite Red Fort in Delhi's old quarter.

'Many of them are in a stable condition now, while those with serious injuries will take around a month's time to recuperate fully.'

Most of the injured are pigeons and kites. All of them are being treated free of cost.

Bird lovers, however, fear that the kite-flying frenzy that gripped the capital around Independence Day must have claimed many more winged victims.

It has been a tradition in the capital to fly kites on that day. The craze is such that the old and young alike take part in it.

A 'manja' (a special thread coated with glass powder) is used to fly a kite. These threads are so sharp that they can even cut the human finger. During Independence Day, the sky in some parts of the city gets choked with colourful kites of different shapes and sizes. But birds often get caught in this web, with the manja leaving bad bruises on them.

'We started getting injured birds a few days before Independence Day, but the numbers were very few. A major chunk of them were brought here from Aug 15 onwards.

'Every day since Aug 15 we have been getting around 30-40 birds each day. But now, six days after Independence Day, we are getting fewer birds for treatment,' said the doctor.

From Newindpress.com

And now a record for kite bridling

This professor is qualified for many records; both world records and national records and ought to have a record for the number of records he has to his credit. Professor S Ramesh Babu holds not just five or ten records but 25 world records and seven national records.

News is that he is just about to make his 26th one. This one to be a world record in fastest kite bridling in one hour. A demonstration will be put up at M P L Shastri Auditorium in Gandhinagar Higher Secondary School in Kumarapark West in the City on Saturday.

Here Ramesh will attempt to bridle more than 60 standard square kites in one hour. According to the professor, the bridling which conforms to the well-known geometrical rules for determining the position of the three bridle knots and the arm lengths of the balancing thread, without adhering to which, the kite cannot be successfully flown.

The bridling procedure, he says, involves drawing the bridling thread from the reel over which it is wound, cutting it into a desired length, needling it, piercing the kite at four specific places through which the thread passes, double knotting the thread at the two anchoring points measuring the arm lengths of the bridle thread and knotting it firmly.

This professor, whose best feat so far is 78 bridlings in one hour, learnt the art from his neighbour, Ramu, when he was about seven years old. He says the record proposal has been registered with the Guinness Book of World Records.

Following the standard procedures for setting such records like log book entries using standard measuring equipment, the record will be set in the presence of a large audience on September 8. The feat will also be professionally photographed for verification by the Guinness and Limca Book of Records authorities.

Ramesh's other records span over diverse areas and can be listed as: longest non-stop rally in frisbee, table tennis, lawn tennis, shuttle badminton, fastest rallies in table tennis and shuttle badminton, marathon carroms, lightning carroms, longest tail solo kite flying, biggest solo kite flying, longest thread solo kite flying, fastest kite making, marathon cycling, marathon highway scooter driving, marathon science lecturing, oratory, cucumber cutting, fastest paper plane making and flying them, and fastest poori making in an hour.

This professor with many records is a metallurgical scientist with a doctorate from Indian Institute of Science. He is also the founder director of the 'Top of the World' centre for Excellence.

Centennial Flight of the Cygnet

The year 2007 marks the centennial of the construction and flight of Alexander Graham Bell's famous *Cygnet* kite. This 3,393 celled tetrahedral kite was the culmination of years of pioneering kite experiments that Bell undertook at his Beinn Bhreagh estate in Baddeck, Nova Scotia in his continuing curiosity in aviation and human flight. To mark this occasion, the Drachen Foundation, in conjunction with the Canadian Kite Federation and the Alexander Graham Bell National Historic Site, hosted a special private event on August 20th and 21st 2007 for a number of kite enthusiasts in Baddeck, Nova Scotia.

In 1907, Bell formed the Aerial Experiment Association (AEA) and the *Cygnet* was constructed for the expressed purpose of lifting a human in controlled flight. The first flight of the *Cygnet* was unmanned, but the subsequent historic manned flight saw the kite inadvertently destroyed after a rough water landing. The flight of the *Cygnet*, still the largest cellular kite ever constructed, was indeed the culmination of Bell's kite experiments that eventually led the AEA to successfully fly the *Silver Dart* airplane back in Baddeck, less than two years later, thus cementing Baddeck's title as the cradle of aviation history in Canada and the British Empire.

The following link shows a short report about the above event. It also shows the telephone kite below.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A4OiYNn1b_8

From the Blog of Amos Latteier

(Architect—not kiteflier who decided to mark the event by building a telephone kite).

On Monday we meet the other kite fliers who were attending the *Cygnet* Centennial. We toured the Bell Museum in Baddeck together and a couple people including Bell's grandson gave historical talks about Bell's kites, especially the amazing *Cygnet* kite that achieved manned flight a hundred years ago. I noticed that no one pointed out that Bell's kite designs, though beautiful and unique, in fact weren't very successful and that the Aerial Experimentation Association that he formed moved to flying airplanes of much more conventional design.

That evening there was a dinner at the Museum and we socialized with the kite fliers. There were lots of world-famous kite personalities there, so I felt pretty out of place. It's fun to meet people from another subculture, though I felt a little like an impostor. It also felt a little strange that I had been getting all the phone calls from the CBC to do interviews when I knew the least about kites of

anyone there.

On Tuesday morning we drove out to the Bell estate to fly the kite. The estate is a picturesque peninsula peppered with the houses of Bell descendants. They range from modest homes, to castles, to remodelled historical workshops. We were instructed to set up the kite in a field that looked lovely but turned out to be a black fly breeding swamp. Our feet were soaked and the blood was flowing from bug bites that morning as we laboured to assemble the kite in time for the short window in which we were scheduled to fly the kite.

After a while the rest of the kite fliers showed up and immediately launched their collection of beautiful kites. I was impressed at how efficient they all were, and how they could fly their kites so close to each other without tangling lines.

Once the telephone kite was finally assembled we were faced with the task of trying to bridle it. Bridling is the tricky process of attaching the kite line to the kite via a collection of intermediary lines. A kite's ability to fly depends in great measure on the soundness of its bridling. I had some vague ideas of how it might be bridled and so we attempted to get it off the ground using my makeshift bridle. The kite flew for a few seconds and I slipped in the muck and fell down while running with it.

Eileen was able to convince some of the expert kite fliers to help us improve the bridle. I should add that this was a mighty imposition, since it meant having to give up a unique chance to fly their own kites on this historic spot. To my surprise, there was considerable controversy and not a little acrimony in the matter of how to bridle my kite. However in the end, Bas Vreeswijk got it working.



Kites for Sale

A selection of rare and unusual kites for sale.

- 1) An original lattice yakko from Willy Koch's own collection. Willy has suffered ill health recently and disposed of a few of his own kites. Although he has flown this one regularly, it is in extremely good condition. Unlike most yakkos, it is sparred so that it can be taken apart and rolled in a bag. Again, an item you are unlikely to see again and is not to be confused with what is being sold in packets by certain traders. This is original and signed. Available at £225.
- 2) Several straight and angled versions of the Lecornu 'waffle kite' have been produced recently, but this one was made several years ago when the 'historic' movement was in full swing in Holland. Built by Jan Peter Kuil in heavy red polyester ripstop these kites could only be obtained by trading and so this is one of the few that has escaped captivity. The glass fibre spars from Vlieger Op are not original as these were 'recycled' by a previous owner, and the price reflects this at £85.
- 3) Two 'Listeners' from Robert Brassington in

Tasmania. Both are single cell versions, the one in blues and black having the standard extended spar with two tails and the one in shades of purple having a custom single tail. Again, these are originals made by Robert. £90 each.

- 4) A pair of original 'Californian Condors' built by Stan Swanson. It was these majestic bird kites that brought Stan to the attention of the kite world. At just under 3m span these are superb for 'soaring'. #119 signed and dated 5/89 has been flown briefly and is in 'as new condition' at £95. #202 dated 6/92 has been flown more and is in its original cardboard 'transport tube' at £85. A rarity in Britain.
- 5) Possibly unique is the 'metamorphic' Cicada/Bee by Satoshi Hashimoto. This master builds both styles of kites, but for this 'one off' made half as a cicada and half as a bee. A rare opportunity to obtain a piece of work from Hashimoto San. Priced at £75.

Plus a few items left over from the last time.

If you require more details or a photo contact Hugh Blowers on 01502 712570 or Email: H.blowers@btopenworld.com

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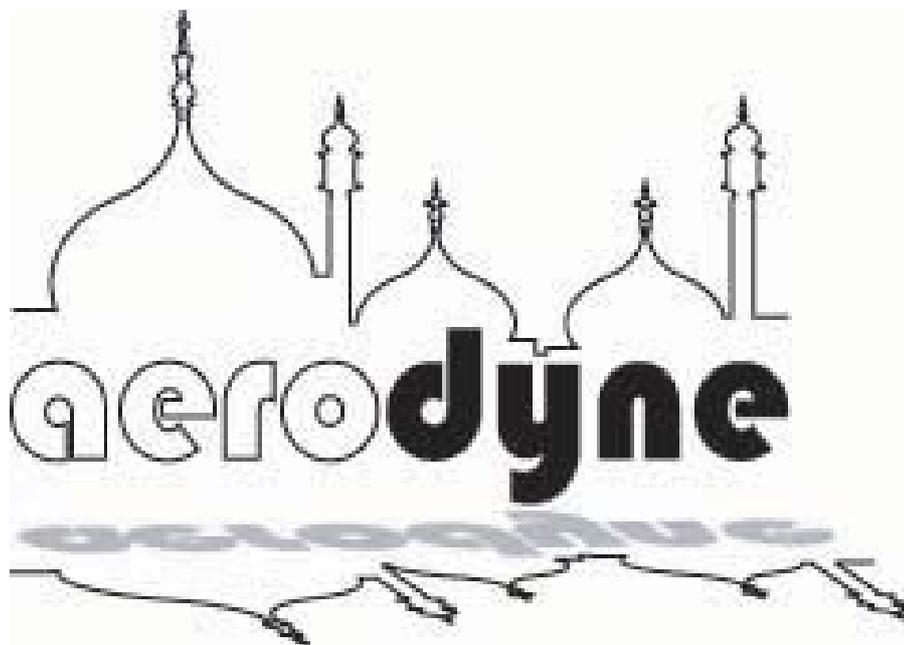
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FOUR HOT DOGS!!!

Born at the Portsmouth kite festival in Collin's camper, 2.30am on the 25th August. Cross breed, mother is Yorkshire Terrier, father is (we believe) a Jack Russell!

no animals were hurt in this photograph! So please no letter of complaint the cadac was off.

THE NEWS LETTER FOR THE BRIGHTON KITE FLYERS

DUNSTABLE DOWNS KITE FESTIVAL

With Dunstable Kites finishing trading this year (sad news) you would have thought that Dunstable Downs Kite Festival may not have happened, but you would have been wrong. The National Trust with the help of Martin Corrie and Kiteworld the event was going to take place.

As both these people have helped the club out in the past I said that we would go and support the event and help them out. As it was only a one day festival with no overnight camping and the dates clashed with another event numbers, were going to be lower than they could have been.

The Hennessey clan set off early with much grumbling from Corinne and the Kids, as we were not sure how long it would take to get there. We had a good clear run arriving at about 9.30am to a steady wind and blue skys. We found the area we were meant to fly in and soon set up a rig. We were joined by Alan & Marian Reynolds and John Elvin. With Other members popping in during the day. Being on top of the North Downs the views were fantastic over the valley. Just below the flying site there is a glider airport and these soon started to be hoisted into the air by powered aircraft which at first may seem strange in that we can fly both kites and planes in the same area but it was well planned and the glider club and kites flew in different directions and kept well away from each other.

We flew quite a range of the smaller kites through the day under Teddy, who again did the club proud and flew a dream. It was a relaxed event and although I am told there was an arena for public shows I did not get time to go and have a look. I did however managed to get some of my own kites out of a bag and in the air. It was a really relaxed festival and a joy to fly at. Would I do it again, I can't see any reason why not, even the long drive was worth while when the site was so good and the wind steady as a rock.

Simon Hennessey



IT MAKES IT ALL WORTH WHILE
Copy of e-mail recieved after flying at
Dunstable Downs

Dear Kite Flyers:

We admired and adored the sight of the big golden bear flying at Dunstable Downs recently. We were at London Gliding Club enjoying the view of the floating bear. We managed to have a few words with the kite-flyers as they packed the bear away and memorised the website from the T-shirts being worn! We live in Hertfordshire and wonder if the bear will fly again, north of the river, within the foreseeable future? We are not very computer literate ... being "senior citizens" ... so, apologies of we are asking something that we should be able to find within the website! (As ex-hotair balloonists, we welcome knowing a little more about the bear and its "technicalities" of flight - it's truly wonderful!).

Good wishes

Diane Pollard

("Bear Collector2")



BKF OUR NEW EXTENDED FAMILY

Whilst soaking up the relaxed atmosphere of a windless but sunny Teston the peace was suddenly shattered by what sounded like stampeding wildebeest followed by a rush of wind and a blur of colour, Once my senses had returned and reasoned that it was out of season for wildebeest.... It was however IN season for flying Manta Ray.

What I had just witnessed was the unbound enthusiasm of Brighton Kite Club trying and on the third attempt succeeding to inflate the Manta Ray so the local photographer could report back to his editor happy in the knowledge that despite a very hot windless day he had captured the occasion.

On watching these proceedings the wife remarked "Why aren't we members of Brighton?" "Because we already belong to a kite club", I said, "Why can't we belong to both, We do live on the Kent & Sussex border?"

I didn't have an answer for this, truth be told we had planned to join Brighton some years ago, even got as far as filling out the membership form but because the people we used to fly with were Kent we joined them instead.

Later while having a chuckle with fellow kites about Brightons earlier exploits I thought I'd give the Wife's idea an outing, "We're thinking of joining Brighton" said I "Yeah so are we" came the unexpected reply, So I tried it again with a fellow Kent

club member, "We're thinking of joining Brighton"

"Good idea I'm already a member you'll get the benefits of both clubs" was the even more surprising response.

I didn't even need to tell the Missis, she had already made her mind up and was thinking way ahead of me. I'm sure there were some alternative motives going on as our new addition of 6 months had attracted the doting attention of some of BKF's younger set, while our seven year old had found like minded cohorts of mischief to keep himself amused.

Whatever the motives I found myself being kicked out the tent Sunday evening to go and find someone with a BKF membership form.

Two months later we find ourselves back at Teston arriving very late Friday with daylight fading and the prospect of erecting a large tent in the dark, Only this time we are fully paid up members of BKF and wearing the T-shirts to prove it, not only were we greeted by those we've met before but also a very warm welcome from those who up until now had only been names on the BKF forum, we were quickly directed up to the BKF end of the field and set about unloading the tent as fast as possible as the youngest was wanting food, nappy change and.... bed!, Suddenly out of the darkness figures appeared surrounding the tent, and in one movement it was up on its poles and

a few moments later pegged down enough to start moving gear in. It was too dark to see everyone's faces but whoever you were THANK YOU.

So started a family weekend of bliss, because that's what staying over on a festival weekend has become, we're no longer just attending a 'kite festival' we now feel part of a huge extended family, from BKF Pancakes served at breakfast to a Chilled Bottle of Beer handed to me on the kite field, to BBQ in the evening, I even had the car handbrake tested by the big yellow BKF Ted!

And what of the Wife's alternative motives?, lets just say there were plenty of willing hands to cuddle & feed the youngest and even a paddle pool appeared to keep the kids cool, all I know is I didn't get any grief for not paying enough attention and was able to chat and play to my hearts content.

Belonging to two clubs has enabled us to extend our kiting calendar and attend events closer to home that were previously not open to us, with the prospect of BKF camping weekends and workshops, we have a lot to look forward to.

Now all I need to do is figure out how to wear two T-shirts at the same time to keep both camps happy, LOL.

Thank you BKF for the warm welcome. Hope to put more names to faces very soon.

Chris, Sue, Michael & Lucy

ANOTHER BASH AT BRISTOL

We departed a lovely campsite on the beach at Charmouth for a leisurely trip to Bristol, a familiar car with a Greenman, a Big Luv and a small person followed behind us.

We arrived safely (even though the Sat Nav took us down some narrow, bendy, single track roads), and after a friendly welcome from Avon members on the gate, we began setting up.

Feeling peckish I baked some scones and several BKF members joined us for afternoon tea.

Saturday (Matts Birthday) soon arrived and the Birthday Boy as well as other members of BKF set off to fly some inflatables in the arena. I meanwhile tracked down Carl Longbottom and purchased a new

kite. I then raced to an area where I wouldn't annoy any serious kite flyers to try and get my pink Knickers up. (The new kite!)

In the afternoon I joined BKF and Avon in the Arena for a Martin Lester spirit and body part fly. This was great watching my spirit float to "Come fly with me" by Frank Sinatra. Toward the end of the day "The Scratch Bunnies" were announced. I'd never seen them before and my breath was taken away with their amazing display.

Sunday dawned cloudy and very breezy. BKF flew a stack of inflatable lobsters but as the wind increased many packed away the large inflatables as it was proving too dangerous.

I settled down to watch amazing displays in the main arena. James Robertshaws Rev display proved to be my highlight of the morning and was beautifully finished by running forwards and catching his kite. Team spectrum flew later and by this time the wind had increased yet further. Carl and Brian flew their graceful kites with tails elegantly flowing behind in difficult wind conditions, halfway through I was asked to help on the ground which was good fun.

We headed off late afternoon back to Sussex content after a good weekend.

Thanks to Avril and the Avon Club for all their hard work!

Sarah Jones

GETTING EXTREME AT EASTBOURNE

Well the week after Brighton Kite festival seemed a good time to have a relaxing weekend flying kites with none of the pressure of our festival hanging over us, so to this end it was agreed by the committee to accept the invitation to fly at Eastbourne. Following on from several site visits and meetings with the council and other parties, presentations of risk assessments and insurance documentation Eastbourne council allowed us to use a field just to the East of Princess Park to fly and camp overnight. The site was used as a sports ground so we had use of the changing rooms and toilets giving us hot showers. A good few turned up on Friday night and pitched tents parked



up caravan and campers and set about getting food ready for the evening. We were soon joined by the local constabulary checking on us as they had had reports of travellers were moving in to the park. Collin was soon offering to tarmac the officer's drives with the help of Kevin, but they saw through this and left saying they would keep an eye on us in case any of the locals got hot under the collar about us camping there. A few of the locals walked passed during the evening to see what was going on but soon realised we were not travellers despite the continued attempts of Collin and Kevin to keep offering a tarmac service on the cheap in an Irish accent. We finally hit the sack close to midnight looking forward to a good days flying on Saturday.

As Saturday dawned the wind was very light and the forecast was for rain some time during the day, but in true BKF spirit we took no notice and started to fly what we could, we were soon joined by a good number of the Kent Kite Flyers who helped put on a great display for the public to see. We flew all day both club kites and our own with no rain or even sign of rain which made for a very pleasant and relaxing day... (I did hear that just 6 miles away on the other side of the

Downs it rained all day) It's events like this that make you realise why you enjoy kite flying. Amongst the kites flown, It was great to see the Jones's stack of Devil kites out, it seems a long time since I have seen all eight up in one go and it was a wonderful sight to see again. I managed to get my Don Mock flowform in the air with enough lift to show my Purple Meanie and Corinne's Panda, Martha showed the world his new pant's and Kevin had a good bash with his Rev's to name but a few. Olly made an appearance and gave great delight to people watching the events on the beach as it came into view. Saturday night soon came about but we chose not to join in the

events BBQ and hold our own impromptu BKF bash on the field. As usual we all ended up in an awning this time it was John and Janet Dimmock's (Thank you for the hospitality) watching an amazing sunset. The night drew on and we drifted off to bed and a well earned sleep.



The threatened rain finally arrived at about 4.00am on Sunday morning and brought with it high winds which woke me up. I quietly slipped out of the tent to check the guy ropes, (God forbid I woke Corinne up, my life would not be worth living as she needs her beauty sleep) and tighten them up just in case. As I thought about heading back to bed for some more shut eye, I looked over to the west and was treated to a fantastic sight of a full blown thunder and lightning storm coming over "Beachy Head" and the "Downs". Being

slightly cold and wet did not put me off watching as the storm slowly made it's way towards us and in the last moment heading out to sea. If you go by that old saying that count a seconds between the lighting and the thunder and each second is a mile then it missed us by about a mile, so not much at all, but it made me remember as a child enjoying watching the storms head down the valley near our house and how the atmosphere during the storm is so electric you can not help but be excited. As it passed I thought about going off to bed again but heard a knocking sound from Alan Outram's Van and headed over to look at what was causing the noise only to find a scantily clad Alan heading out of his van to rescue his canopy strut that had come loose in the wind. Alan mumbled quietly about getting wet in his van as it leaked, one nil too canvas as the Hennessey clan stayed dry under canvas. Alan's van leak was not a major problem it was just down to the fact that he had left his roof light open and the rain had come in giving Anne an unexpected early morning shower, Problem soon fixed and all sneaked back for a little more sleep.

When dawn finally broke there was no sign of the storm and the wind had turned 180° from Saturday and again dropped to almost nothing, typical, although I would not have like to have flown kites in the wind we had had over night.

Kites were still flown and a great display put on by both the BKF and KKF with a good range of kites of all shape, design and string numbers flown. An advantage of the low wind meant it gave us time to fix the club Manta after a mishap at Brighton where someone's line cut through a couple of it's bridle lines. This done it had a brief flight before the lack of wind got the better of it and we packed the large kites away. Soon after that the wind got the better of all of us and we cleared away and headed home after a fantastic relaxing weekend.

Looked like we had been appreciated and have had an invite back next year 3rd weekend in July.

OK so who's up for it.

Simon Hennessey

BRISTOL A GREAT WEEKEND

A few of the BKF crew took a well earned break between Portsmouth & Bristol to spend a few days chilling out on the Dorset & Devon Coast. So instead of the usual trawl down the M4 to Bristol from home. We woke up on a campsite in Charmouth packed away our packs of cards and headed up the M5 towards Bristol. I was following Matt & his family & he was following his Sat Nav, as we neared Bristol on the A38 Mat suddenly turned left down a country lane, why did I follow him? We spent the next 20 minutes weaving our way through very narrow lanes and villages, him in a camper & us with the car & caravan. At the end of the lane he pulls up and says "which way do I go, my Sat Nav told me I had arrived half a mile back". By this time the queue of drivers behind us were getting irate so we turned left and found a layby and consulted my trusty AA road map to find where we should be. A quick slap was given to the Sat Nav & we finished our journey within 5 minutes. As we were setting up Sarah put the oven on and within half an hour we were all munching on scones with jam & clotted cream brought with us from Dorset. After a couple of hours the rest of the BKF crew had arrived including Collin who had driven all the way from Sussex despite being in severe pain all week (something to do with a sharp pain in his leg after Portsmouth, probably wallet related ;-)).

Keith was jumping for joy because Kelvin Wood had turned up with a beautiful purple Cody for him & the evening was spent chatting, eating & drinking in the usual BKF manner.

We rose early on Saturday to find that Ray had got out of bed that morning and forgotten that he was sleeping in his camper and was sporting a rather large lip to prove that it was a long way down from the over cab bunk.

We were soon setting up in the static kite arena with Andy Beatie on one side of us and Damon on the other, a tight squeeze to get all our kites up but a steady breeze helped and we flew big kites for much of the day with only a few minor tangles.

As usual we sat and had an early look at the program and got ourselves sorted for all sorts of Main Arena events, Yeah Right. We actually

chilled out watching the world go by until someone came over & said "anyone up for a ROK fight in 15 minutes" this is the normal battle cry for at least half of all present to rush around trying to find ROK's, gloves, line & fools to catch the cut down kites. We made a good showing with our Chairman coming in as runner up to the festival sponsors.

We then found ourselves back in the arena again for the creatures of the sea display flying Ollie the octopus on a short line while other flew giant topless mermaids & Martin Lester's very large Diver amongst other sea dwelling flying creatures.



There had been some great displays of two & four line kite flying throughout the day by some of the worlds best flyers but we had a real treat towards the end of the day when the Scratch Bunnies put on a stunning 5 man show, I for one wanted them to do it again but that would have to wait until tomorrow as we still had two more displays to go. The first was a homage to the kite maker and designer Martin Lester who has been designing soft kites for what seems like ever & as he had so kindly joined us at Brighton for our Spirit flight we paid him back by taking as many spirits as we could find into the arena for his show This was not only spirits it was all of Martins creations from legs to tops & divers to Albert Ross. The afternoon was due to close with the "big one" (worlds largest kite) being launched down by the golf course. This had

been called off earlier in the day when the winds rose & at the last minute was quickly put back on again when the early evening wind started to drop.

We were asked to form a security barrier to keep the public back, after a quite a long wait while Andrew and his crew performed their preflight checks it was finally sent skywards but when the time came to bring it down the quick release failed & while the line was being cut the wind shifted so the kite was now flying over the crowd, a very quick exit was made by crowd & crew alike so that it had enough room to land safely the only casualty was a pushbike that got left in the scramble to get out of the way & even that was recovered unharmed.

But as with most kite festivals the day doesn't end when the public go home, oh no.

The Bristol Kite Festival Team had organized an evening chandelier lit dinner cooked by The Pie Minister all served up in a biodegradable box with biodegradable cutlery, Bravo.

Just one little disappointment that after queuing for 10 minutes I was told there was no desert without nuts



in it. No desert for me then. The day was saved by Charlotte finding me a Croissant that she seemingly produced from out of thin air.

The auction was its usual fun affair with Paul compering & the rest of us not daring to move a muscle lest he take our twitch as a bid. By the time the fireworks were ready to go there were still 20 or 30 lots left, these were put in a silent auction that finished on

BRISTOL A GREAT WEEKEND CONTINUED



Sunday.

And so to bed, or to be more precise: back to site for a quick nightcap where we find that tonight Ray has fallen out of someone else's

camper this time luckily only breaking an awning pole or two & not himself. The wind proved a bit gustier & more prone to changes in direction on Sunday & we had trouble getting a good show sorted in the arena with Andy & others close by. We decided by about 1 o'clock to take the big kites down from the arena & leave room for Andy to play with his Teddy & Gekko while we went off to start on our packing & lunch.

With the wind not being kind to big kites we spent the afternoon watching some of the arena displays. The Artistic slot was one of my highlights with Kelvin flying his Edo collection of Debbie Harry, Mohamed Ali & Johnny Cash. We once again joined Martin Lester for his Memorial Flight. And then to the show stopper, Scratch Bunnies came out this time with 6 in their team and flew not one but two

heart stopping displays. It's not often that you see a standing ovation at a kite festival but these guys got one and it was richly deserved.

So almost time to go home just time to shake a few hands, order a couple more kites & we were on our way.

We had been away from home for 9 days and the journey home was going to be long & slow. It had been gloriously dry all week but as we left Bristol it started to rain it was as if the gods were saying "you've had your fun now be off with you". Yeah, we had fun alright, loads of it & if its alright with the gods "can we have it again next year please?".

Thanks to Avril & her team without whom I wouldn't have to sit and write this.

Cheers,
Greenman

BRIGHTON HAS A TEAM SPIRIT TO BE PROUD OFF

As you read this we are heading once again towards winter and the time has come to look back on this years flying season. It seems to get longer each year, with more & more weekends spent living in our brilliant but now not so new tent. (This year's best buy was the table, ideal for the Cadac which was last years best buy). It has been an eventful year starting at Easter with a fun weekend in The Witterings and then Streatham, soon to be followed by a windy Weymouth. I must confess after several bad years there I will have to seriously consider whether to bother next year as it is also one of the most expensive for us as there is no onsite camping. Camping at kite festivals has been much talked about this year and I worry that with so many people arriving earlier & earlier for weekend festivals and not leaving until the Tuesday that we may end up losing this facility. If this were to happen it could well be the end for some festivals as the fliers will not turn up if they cannot camp, as local accommodation can be hard to find & is often expensive.

I did not go to Swindon this year, but I know that it was a washout;

however I did attend Rougham for the first time & thoroughly enjoyed it. The 2nd bank holiday weekend in May was very wet at Camber Sands and the event was cancelled at the last minute by the council, but we all had an enjoyable weekend. Both Teston's were good fun and a great time was had with friends. I find this one of the most relaxing festivals as we just go & have fun. I do not want to get bothered by Club politics all the time. I joined Brighton Kite Flyers to have fun & I joined the committee to give something back & to encourage others to have fun. It is too easy to have a go at someone if they do not do things your way but it is always better to offer your help and lighten the load of those who already do too much. Yes there will always be a hard core of members who do the majority of the work but do not take them for granted or cause mischief & unnecessary angst.

It was nice to visit Southampton kite festival for the day. It is a small site and we flew only our own kites and had a good day out. Following Brighton (our own festival) we went to Eastbourne to take part in "Eastbourne Extreme" and tried to

recover after a very hard weekend at Brighton Kite Festival. We attended several Scouting events to celebrate their centenary and hopefully we have inspired kite fliers of the future. It hard to think back there have been so many weekends but I do remember that although there was a lot of rain this summer we did not get that wet. I am sure I have missed out many events but there is not enough space to write about them all.

As I write this article the latest 2 festivals have been Portsmouth and Bristol. At Portsmouth Brighton Kite Flyers won The "Team Spirit" award. I hope that this is a good omen for the future and we will continue to work well as a club. This says something about how we are viewed by the kite flying community so come on lets be proud & live up to it!

Corinne Hennessey

**Provisional dates for
next year
Brighton Kite Festival in
it's 30th Year
12th & 13th July 2008**

MY FUN AT BRIGHTON

Friday

Despite having been asked not to arrive before midday on the Friday, many people had set up camp the previous evening. In fact by the time we arrived at about 10am, most of the bottom of the field was full of campers already. For the last five years we've always camped at the top of the slope at Stanmer Park, but it had been mentioned by several people that we were too far away from all the action at the bottom of the hill. This year we planned to set up at the bottom of the hill, and so we did. In a hurricane. I must admit that as we set up I had reservations about the location. Even once we were all set up I was still seriously considering chucking all the gear back in the Espace and driving back up the hill. But variety is the spice of life, and so I steeled myself to give this new location a go.

Before long the rest of our party had arrived and we thought we'd make the most of the wind before the normal people arrived tomorrow. Kat got dragged around the field by a Super-10 for half an hour before we went for tea. Chicken pasta went down very well, and it was at this point I found one of the benefits of our new location. The toilets had hot running water and huge sinks in which I could do the washing up. What usually takes ages was done in a few minutes. But everyone else had figured this out years ago, and one of the drawbacks of our new location was the seemingly endless stream of people through our camp to get to the loos. Our new location was certainly in the thick of it, and whilst it was good to meet new friends from France and the Isle of Wight, it was somewhat disconcerting to find that people we barely knew were sending people we didn't know into our tent because it was "the bar". At one point I had some stranger asking me where the red wine was. "Probably in your caravan" I told him and carried on with my pint. Whilst I do want to be everyone's mate, I'm stuffed if I'm going to be providing a free bar (yet again).

As the evening wore on, far too much ale was downed, and about 1am it was bed time. One of many things I dislike about camping is the lack of facilities so it was good to be able to

have a late night shower before going to kip.

Saturday

As the wind had slackened off somewhat from yesterday's hurricane it was safe to put up our banners. A simple job such as putting up five banners took half an hour before it was time for me to take up my post. Provided someone who knows what they are doing sets up the large kites, I'm very happy to look after them,



re-launch them when they crash, etc. It's a great job. I get to be at the top of the hill all day long, flying the biggest kites going. I get to see all of the festival going on around me, the organised events in the arena, the skilled kilters flying the fun kites, the general public tying it all up in knots. It's great. I even get my dinner & beers fetched up to me and have some quality time with my eldest nephew. It's the best job in the festival. And best of all, I don't actually have to do very much. The kite pretty much flies itself. Periodically I give the line a bit of a tug to make it look like I know what I'm doing, and all the normal people think I'm wonderful. At one point the nice man from the paper came up to me and asked to interview me. Before I could get a single word in edgeways he'd set up his video camera, positioned me where he wanted me and strapped me up with a microphone. So I thought I'd have a bit of a laugh with him. "OK" he said,

"tell me in your own words why you are doing this". So I stared into his camera and said in a monotone "my - name - is - david - and - on Saturdays - if - I - take - the - special - tabliks - they - let - me - out - of - the - hospickal - until - tea - time - but - I - have - to - be - back - by - tea - time - or - the - nurse - has - to - call - the - policeman - cos - of - wot - happened - last - time - ...". As the colour drained from the chap's face I grinned and asked if he'd like me to do it properly. Oh how we laughed. You can see the final result on line at http://www.theaerogus.co.uk/news/localnews/display.var.1528539.0.thousands_flock_to_kite_festival.php and I'm told it made the local papers.

After a while we took the octopus kite off and just flew the Manta Ray. It was pulling like a train, and when the normal people weren't watching we played zip-lines with it.

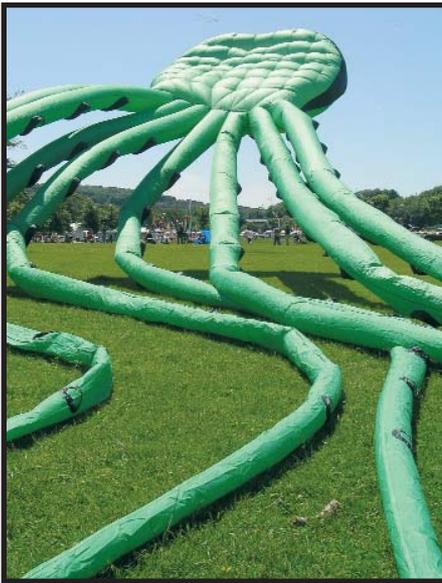
All too soon the day's kiting was over and we packed the stuff away and made our way back down the hill. Saturday night is the traditional BKF barbeque and after some pretty stunning scoff Simon formally awarded me the BKF pin for my help over the weekend. As I say, the best job at the festival, I got an award AND they paid for my tea. Can't be bad.

Sunday

Sunday was one of those days. It started badly at 1am when some brat was running around the camp site in tears and screaming fits. When it



MY FUN AT BRIGHTON CONTINUED



finally shut up, the noisy conversation right outside my tent started. When that stopped, the brat had another fit. And so the night wore on. Another drawback of being in the centre of things. It was gone 4am before I got some quiet. And to add insult to injury everyone else slept through the noise.

But I was going to be up the hill again flying the big kites, so life would be good. We put up the Manta Ray and the teddy, and before long a chap set up to our right. He put up a lifter, a shark, and a duck, and then he shoved off and left it there. As his line flew over, under and around ours I desperately heaved and hauled in order to avoid collisions, but eventually there was the crossing that needed him to haul on his line. And because he'd shoved off, he couldn't. So the whole lot knotted up and crashed. Then he appeared, all stressy about crashing his kites. I smiled a lot, we re-launched. He added a smaller inflatable teddy and shoved off again. I hauled heroically but after ten more minutes his stuff was unavoidable and so another crash ensued. And he appeared again muttering as he added yet more stuff to leave unattended. After about the twentieth crash, his kite cut off our lifter kite which we eventually retrieved from a tree. It was during this episode that our "new found friend" offered to help us pack away the Manta. I told him that it didn't need packing away and that we'd still be flying. He wandered off muttering and wound in our main line for us. Once our lifter was retrieved I

unwound our main line and re-launched. And.... Yes – you can guess. He'd shoved off again, his kites were all over the sky, it all crashed again. When he appeared this time I'd decided on no more Mr Nice Guy, and told him politely but firmly that all these crashes were entirely his fault because he kept wandering off and leaving his stuff unattended. He just looked blankly at me as though I was talking a foreign language and carried on leaving his stuff unattended. The next collision resulted in his lifter being cut off. I commented "one all" with a smile.

Eventually one of the normal people flew a 50p kite through the Manta's bridle destroying at least three of the bridle lines. I took this to be divine intervention. By the time we'd put the



wreckage of the Manta away, loads more of the normal people had set up in our way. It was past 3pm, so I took the executive decision that most of the public had seen a huge kite, and furthermore seeing that Brian had gone to the trouble of lugging a gallon of ale to the top of the hill, it wouldn't be fair to carry it back down again. So we packed all the gear back into the trailer, hitched the trailer back onto the Land Rover, and guzzled a gallon of ale whilst watching the world go by. All too soon the world had gone by, and it was back to camp. Apparently the brat which had been screaming all night long had been doing chores for everyone today as punishment for screaming all night long. That is,

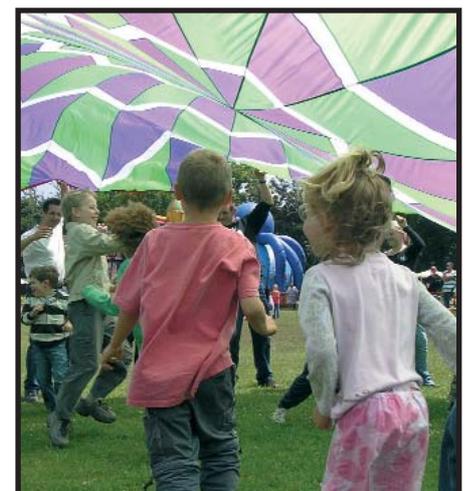
chores for everyone except those she kept awake. And then tea time !!

Monday

It would seem the noisy element went home last night as I slept well. After a good breakfast I decided it is handy having the hot water nearby for the washing up. It was on my third trip to the toilets to do washing up that the heavens opened. For the last few weeks the weather has been on the wet side, and we were so lucky to have had such glorious weather over the weekend. But, for the third kite festival in a row we put away our camp in the rain. The tents were sodden, the ground was becoming a swamp. Normally I leave Stanmer Park with a sense of sadness. This morning it was with a sense of relief that we'd got so much away dry. However we had three wet tents. As we drove home and my passenger snoozed I speculated on how I could dry the canvas. Once I'd formulated my plans I realised the rain had stopped. In fact the closer to home we got, the drier it seemed. Ashford was in glorious sunshine and I managed to dry out all three tents on the washing line that afternoon. Well, to be honest, on two washing lines as "Er Indoors" managed to snap the washing line when she tried to put towels on it as well as tent.

Same time next year? Definitely! But where? The top of the hill is just too far away from what's going on at the bottom. The bottom of the hill has the shower block, running hot water for the washing up, close to everyone else, but it's too close to everyone else, too close, too noisy and it did get swampy when it rained.... How about trying half way up the hill?

Manky Badger



A PORTSMOUTH FULL OF SPIRIT

In the past few years we have chosen to stay in the university halls while at Portsmouth, this year was going to be different, as following on from Portsmouth we had decided to take our family summer holiday camping in the West Country so with the tent already in the car it made sense to become one of the growing number of site security units and stay on the common. We arrived quite early on the Friday Evening to find the area allocated to site security well on the way to being full. It seems that people are turning up earlier and earlier for weekend festival with the first people arriving crack of sparrows on Thursday morning (I know that this is becoming a concern for some festival organisers, including Brighton Kite Flyers at Brighton Kite Festival where camping is not permitted by the council who own the land. Next year at Brighton Kite Festival, again there will be no camping allowed until the Friday night, and unlike this year units that turn up early will be moved away from the area the festival is held.) Anyway I digress.

Portsmouth is one of the festivals where Brighton Kite Flyers are down for doing some arena displays with Avon Kite Flyers, along with wanting to join in other arena displays. It was with quite a bit of apprehension that we looked out over the flying field on Saturday morning to little or no wind. Not to be deterred we were soon setting up camp at the edge of the single line arena ready for the wind to pick up and change direction as the commentators said it would when the tide changed. Each and every year we hear this and most years it makes no difference but still we hope that "just this year they may be right" well the tide changed and the wind stayed light and in the same direction, So when our first slot arrived for displaying in the main arena the wind was still light. Not to be put off we carried some of the club kites, as well as our own, across to the main arena and waited to be called. As usual Brighton pulled out all the stops to put on a good display and even managed to "Charlie Brown" one of the clubs large inflatable. This in turn got a huge cry of appreciation from the watching crowd. As our arena slot finish we quickly packed away and headed

back to the camp for some needed liquid and a short break, before our next arena display. The winds stayed light for most of the day making it possible to see some very different kites to those seen last year, including a magnificent train of small eddy kites flown by a Dutch team called "Holland Kite", Kelvin Woods with his amazing appliquéd butterfly



kites, Janneke Groen with her Sode kites and some wonderful and very different kites flown by a Swiss Team to name but a few. I must say that the Swiss team not only had some amazing looking kites, but the construction of the fittings was unique and easily as spectacular as the kites themselves. They had even made one that folded up like an umbrella with handmade stainless steel fittings. Another wonderful kite made by them was some life like butterflies with kinetic pupae in very realistic colours and shapes. I fancy having a go at making one of the kinetic kites and have found the website for the plans and maybe over the winter will have a go if I can find the time to do it. During the remainder of the day Brighton joined in the Rok fight, a sea theme fly, another slot with Avon, several members joined Kelvin Woods for his popular slot where he flies his Butterfly kites (The club has had a request from some members to look into running a workshop making the Papillion kite with Kelvin Woods.

If you are interested in taking part in this please contact, secretary@brightonkiteflyers.co.uk, If enough interest is there the club will move forward in finding someone to organise the event. If run it will be open to all kite flyers but with club members taking priority with the limited number of spaces, this could lead to a new theme fly for next years festival which we started at Brighton Kite festival the Martin Lester Spirit fly where the club was able to show off the kites made with Martin Lester at the club workshop.

Well that all done the day came to an end and the evening BBQ had to be cooked and Brighton Kite Flyers again offered to help Kiteworld with the cooking and took up their posts by two gas BBQs for the onslaught on the invited kite flyers. We seemed we cook for 2000 people but in reality cooked for about 200. This year the helpers had their food early as in previous we had waited for the end and not had time to eat before the auction. The auction this year had some amazing items from a small piece of kite flying history through to one of the Swiss snow flake box kites over 10' diameter. Action over we all drifted off to bed and a good nights sleep ready for another fun packed day tomorrow.

Sunday soon came and the wind although forecast to be slightly stronger it seemed as light as the Saturday if not lighter. We had soon moved over to the flying arena and set up some ground anchors ready for a days flying. We again had slots with Avon Kite Flyers, the sea theme and Spirit kites where we put on exceptional shows of kite flying and perseverance in the light winds. We even found out another of George Webster's pet hate kites and with this knowledge we used three of them as pilot kites for the club gecko's during our second display in the arena much to the amusement of Andy King his fellow commentator and most of the kite flyers from Brighton and Avon. Look out next year George there may be more Ostende Birds flying. The day was on the whole uneventful just fun flying. It finally finishes off with Brighton being involved in the final 3 displays in the arena and presentations. We stood around

A PORTSMOUTH FULL OF SPIRIT CONTINUED

thanking the council, organisers, KSGB, invited flyers etc. Awards were then given out for best kite, best kite display, etc. but one award that was given out was for Team Spirit an award for the team that showed most spirit when flying kites, well this was won by Brighton Kite Flyers for their effort in the arena and outside. To me



this was one of the best things that could have been said about the club, as not are we one of the most active clubs in the UK but one that flies, plays and enjoys itself as a group.

Simon Hennessey

ANOTHER LUCKY WINNER

This year at Portsmouth Brighton Kite Flyers won the "Team Spirit" On behalf of the committee I would like to take this opportunittee to thank each and every member for their part in making it possible for Brighton to win such an award. It is one of the best awards on offer for a club and with out each and every one of you it would not be possible.

Simon Hennessey
Chairman, Brighton Kite Flyers



BRIGHTON KITE FLYERS W E L C O M E D

For anyone who saw the last article 'BKF BANNED' in the last issue of The Kiteflyer, where BKF were not welcomed as we were a 'Group' on a certain campsite at West Wittering, West Sussex, it comes as a pleasant surprise to find one that has been a real pleasure to fly at and welcomes the BKF, seeing us as a benefit to their business, and pleasant distraction to holiday campers and fishermen who use their site. We have been there twice now and have been made to feel very welcome on both occasions. If there was a rating for sites we have flown on this would score 10/10 taking everything into consideration, facilities, staff, location, catering etc.

I am referring to SUMNERS PONDS CAMPSITE AND FISHERY situated at Barns Green, Horsham, West Sussex, (www.Sumnersponds.co.uk) which is also a cattle farm!

Yes I may be advertising, but if you are well treated and appreciated, and think other kite flyers will benefit why not shout loudly and tell everyone!

Our first weekend was over the 3/4/5th of August and well attended by a dozen camping family units and day flyers. We had glorious sunshine and a medium wind the whole weekend. We were flying right out of our campers, on site, most of the time, being joined by a lot of campers and kids who were drawn over to us, as this was a new location for all of us attending we thumbed through our options of where to fly, as we were allowed to fly in several locations and chose to go to the top field and have maximum space and allow the big kites to fly impressively, and impress they did! We managed to put a lifter up high and flew Manta and Teddy together....a passing aerobatic aircraft waved its wing-tip, circled the kites, and put out a perfect circular trail of smoke around the Kites! Did anyone have a Camera...of course not! When the wind died we got out our expanding collection of Radio Control planes, helicopters and

paracopters....all small battery powered models for safety reasons.

To emphasise the extent we were accommodated, the site owner had deliberately kept his Cows out of the field some weeks before our arrival and mowed the grass, no mean feat as you can see by the photograph! Everyone flew something and we created quite a spectacle that drew an appreciative audience from all age groups who had never seen anything like this before. Considering this was our 'Weekend Off' from the usual Kite Festivals we were all enjoying playing to the unsuspecting public who were pleasantly surprised by the show, reminding us that we are quite fortunate that we participate in a Hobby/Sport that actually puts a smile on other peoples faces....something that is easily forgotten when we are at Festivals as the Kites and us have been seen so regularly we are taken for granted!

The second event was on the weekend of the 7/8/9th September and less well attended as I only arranged it on the 4th September but still drew six camping units, and day flyers, but nearly all the first time attendees were at other events unfortunately, or it would have been a bigger turn out. This time the wind definitely scuppered our plans for a great fly-in...but did not stop us from having a superb weekend again. Radio Control Cars and Truck were added to our expanding collection of 'no wind' activities along with the regular planes, helicopters and paracopters. It was also kinda nice to be forced to do NOTHING too...it was our weekend OFF!!

How do you find out when the next one is? Go to the Forum at www.BrightonKiteFlyers.co.uk and click on Diary Dates. Failing that you can E-Mail me at cmarsall@brightonkiteflyers.co.uk or PM me and leave me you phone number.

C2LLN



OCTOBER 2007 BRIGHTON KITE FLYERS

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(BKF members only):
Paul Hill
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Club Kites:

(BKF members only):
If you want to use any of the clubs kites please just ask any member of the committee.

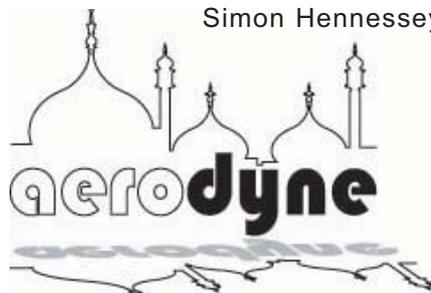
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Thank you to all that made this issue possible

I would like to say thank you to all those who made this issue of Aerodyne possible, Collin Marshal, Greenman, Sarah Jones, Mankie Badger, Corinne Hennessey and Chris Fowler who have helped to make this edition possible. I must also say a very big thank you to those who have edited Aerodyne this month in one form or another.

Simon Hennessey



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Pins/Cloth Badges:

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WHAT MAY BE IN THE NEXT ISSUE

Well that is up to club members, as always we need articles to keep aerodyne full, but a few events that will take place before the next issue Chelmsford Balloon and Kite Festival, Kingsfold Kite and Steam Rally, Margate International Kite Festival, Autumn Show at the South of England Show Ground, A fly at Alexandra Palace for the Princes Trust and if Collin gets his way another event at Sumner Ponds to name but a few so please come along and enjoy yourselves, fly kites or just have fun and then write a report to encourage others along and share information.

You don't have to wait to the end you can send articles in as we go along and then it's all fresh in your mind

Please contribute to your club newsletter - even the smallest of items is welcome. Anything sent to the 'Editor' will be considered for print unless marked otherwise.

Contributions should be sent to:

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c/o Simon Hennessey
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Peacehaven
East Sussex. BN10 8EG
aerodyne@BKF.org.uk

Deadlines dates;
January issue - 1 December
April issue - 1 March
July issue - 1 June
October issue - 1 September

SO WHAT IS THIS ABOUT A THICK LIP

Things that go bump in the night.
Should not really give one a fright.
Tis the hole in each ear that lets in the fear.
Or Ray falling from campers,
Night Night.

&

Twas a dark & windy night.
The camper light was dim.
A shout, a scream, A little cuss.
and a cry of Ray's fallen out again.

By Greenman with more than a little help from Spike Milligan
Sorry Spike.

To understand this a bit more you may need to read the write up by Greenman on Bristol Kite Festival, and even find out from the horses mouth and ask Ray.

By the way hope your lip gets better soon Ray and look forward to seeing you soon on the flying field.

ROYS FIELD FUN FLYING WEEKEND

Well this space could have had your write up about Roy's Field but either the e-mail did not make it through or it was not written. As I was unable to make the event I can not tell you much about it, but to say when I have asked people how it was to a man they said they would go again next year, so it must have been good. Well Roy please keep us informed if you are planning an event next year and hopefully I can make it and enjoy what sounded like a great relaxing weekend.

Whilst every care is taken to get the details correct in 'Aerodyne' the Brighton Kite Flyers cannot accept responsibility for any errors or omissions that may occur. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Editors or of the Brighton Kite Flyers.



42 ROMAN SANDLE 86.



The Journal of the Bearly Made It Skydive Squad. The International Brother and Sisterhood of Parachuting Fauna and the U.K. Ted Devils. Gordon Bennett, forever banging on with the same Mindless Drivel, but in the best possible taste.

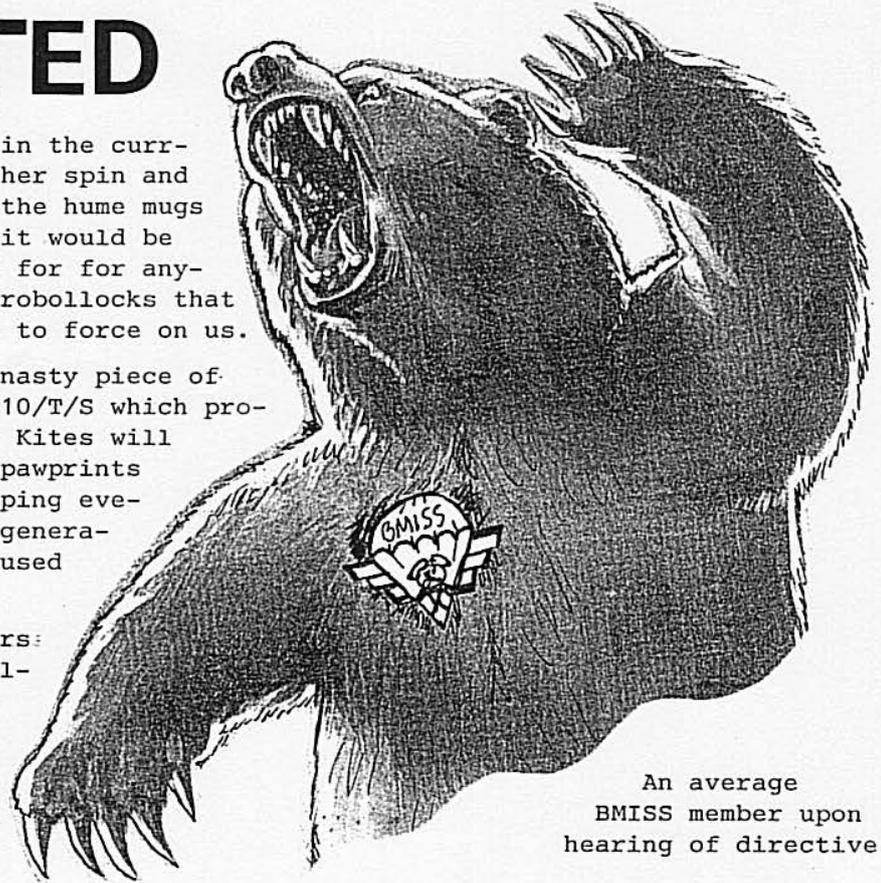
CARBONATED

Whilst we're up to our ears in the current Hoopla about Carbon, yet another spin and obfuscation exercise for priming the hume mugs up for even more tax extraction, it would be as well to keep a weather eye out for anything in the oncoming loads of yurobollocks that the Campaign Commies will attempt to force on us.

We refer in particular to a nasty piece of crap entitled directive A2008/ID/10/T/S which proposes that parachuting fauna from Kites will be forced to reduce their Carbon pawprints via the simple expedient of equipping every parafauna with a wind powered generator, the outputs of which can be used to top up the National grid.

On the face of it, this appears to be a jolly good wheeze, for, unlike the ground or sea based wind turbines which are effectively out of commish, when there is no wind. the fact that the parafauna are up there indicates that there enough. Ah, I hear you say, how do we store the parafauna generated electricrickery? Easy, peezy, lemon squeezy.

Each parafauna will hve to be equipped with a storage battery which can be discharged into the National grid, via suitable dump ports which the directive will require to be situated on every Kite site,



An average BMISS member upon hearing of directive

There are however, a couple of stings in the tail of this proposed directive. As of January the first 2008, it will be an imprisonable offence if parafauna continue to naus up the enviroment by stinking of stale beer (the jig is up for Kitters too) which, when you think about, is a direct attack on basic PARAFUNA rights, which we thought were enshrined in British law, but nowadays since we became a Banana republic, Yuro law immediately overules. The second sting in the tail does require every parafauna to be a holder of a Bio-metric ID card, obviously the ID part of 2008ID/10/T/S. The government reckons this should not cost more than 400 squid, a mere bagatelle as they need the money to pay for the vast number of safety elves and government inspectors that the directive will require. These are currently undergoing graduate study in MEEDJA STUDIES and SHELF STACKING AT SUPERMARKETS FOR FUN AND PROFIT, which we are reliably informed are well regarded degree courses, along with lots of others.

Those of you who are shall we say, somewhat long in the tooth may remember an old time getout in case of a no wind situation often employed by Kitters, we refer of course to plan B, which involved baked beans and Newcastle Brown. lets hope that the Greens and Yuro nutters dont cotton onto this as carbon pawprints will be the least of our worries.

They do say that into every life a drop of rain must fall. We'll go along with that, suffice it to say that we wish it would stop raining as when you are up to your arse in alligators, its hard to remember that your first objective was to drain the bleeding swamp.....

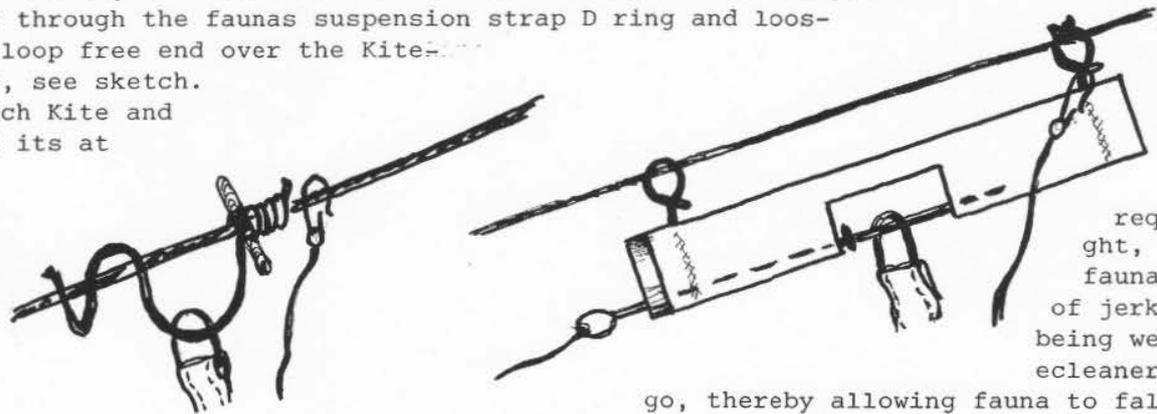
BOMBS AWAY

SO THERE YOU ARE. YOU'VE TOGGED UP A BEAR, OR WHATEVER FAUNA YOU FANCY WITH A JOLLY OLD RAG. YOU'VE SORTED OUT A KITE THAT YOU THINK WILL DO THE BIZ, AND YOU'RE READY TO ROCK AND ROLL.....



Ah, thinks you, but how do I get this here fauna up there aloft under the Kite and ready to drop when I want it too. The easiest and probably the oldest way to carry a fauna with a pretty well guaranteed release is via a pipe cleaner and for one fauna these work well and are as cheap as chips. At about 20-30 ft below the Kite larkthead a short piece of dowel to the Kite line. Just above this wind about one inch of a pipecleaner tightly around the Kiteline, the purpose of the dowel being to stop the pipecleaner from sliding down the line. thread the free end of the pipecleaner through the faunas suspension strap D ring and loosely loop free end over the Kite-

line, see sketch. Launch Kite and when its at



required height, give the fauna a couple of jerks and all being well the pipecleaner will let

go, thereby allowing fauna to fall free. Of course clever old you remembered to clip on the st-

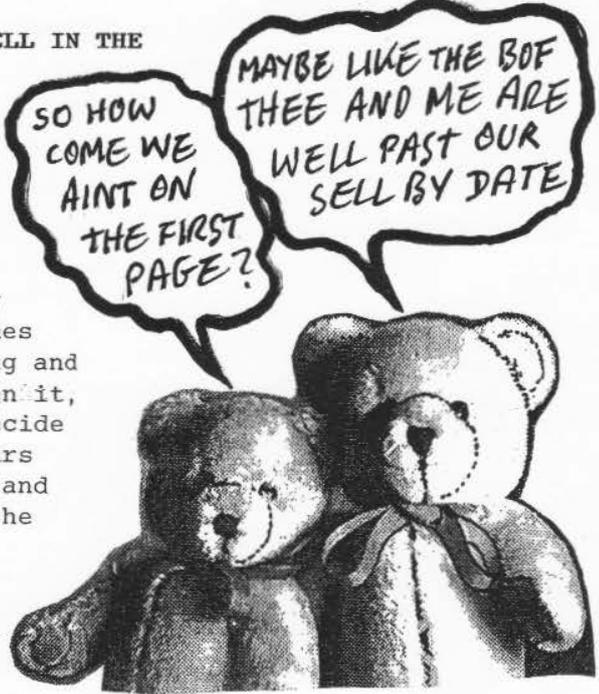
atic line just above the dowel, if not welcome to the wunnerful woild of TOTALS, and boy did'nt that Bear bonce well. Dont overdo the couple of jerks as sure as eggs is eggs the sodding fauna will barrel roll over the Kiteline and the little swine will be up there till hell freezes over. You will probably have to experiment a bit as regards the way you loop the pipecleaner over the kiteline but it all adds to the fun.

So, hows about sumfing a bit more sofistikated than a pipecleaner. Yippee, its time to hit the junk box (thats the whole of BOF towers) wotcha mean you aint got one, get outa here, every Kiter has a load of junk (even furry stinking parachute equipped junk)so firkle a length of ali tube, some oddbits ofwire(funny how wire coathangers are dissappearing) and a bit of epoxy glue and in short order you'll have a natty dropper ready for more than one fauna , and easily triggered via a seperate trip line. no dimensions given for this as whatever suits you is just the job. Droppers can be thrown together, literally in minutes & range from crude to highly engineered and sophisticated ones.

THEN OF COURSE SHORTLY AFTER THIS ITS OFF TO HELL IN THE PROVERBIAL HANDCART.....

You know how it goes, first off you firkle all the why wont its out of the pipecleaner dropper and that gets to be old hat, then before you know it, you're hacking , wiring and glueing an assortment of Ali tube and Bobs yer uncle, shoot, make it bigger and we can bomb a battalion of the furry swine (hey, the skys the limit) then the bug really does get its teeth into you and so it becomes a wind powered lifting ferry, with all hair tearing and swearing that one of those entails (bin there, seen' it, dun it) and how and its just about now that you decide that really what you need is one of Electric Arthurs all singing, all dancing electric fauna hoisters, and maybe one of the turbo versions at that, and may the Lord have mercy on your soul. Amen.

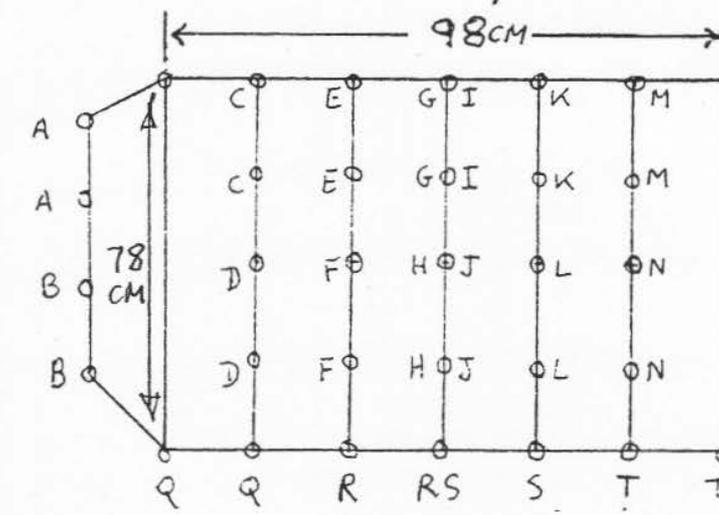
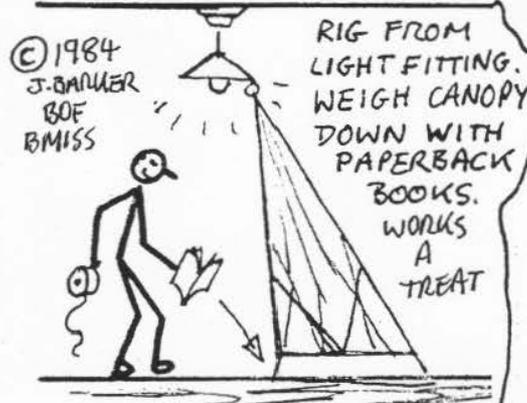
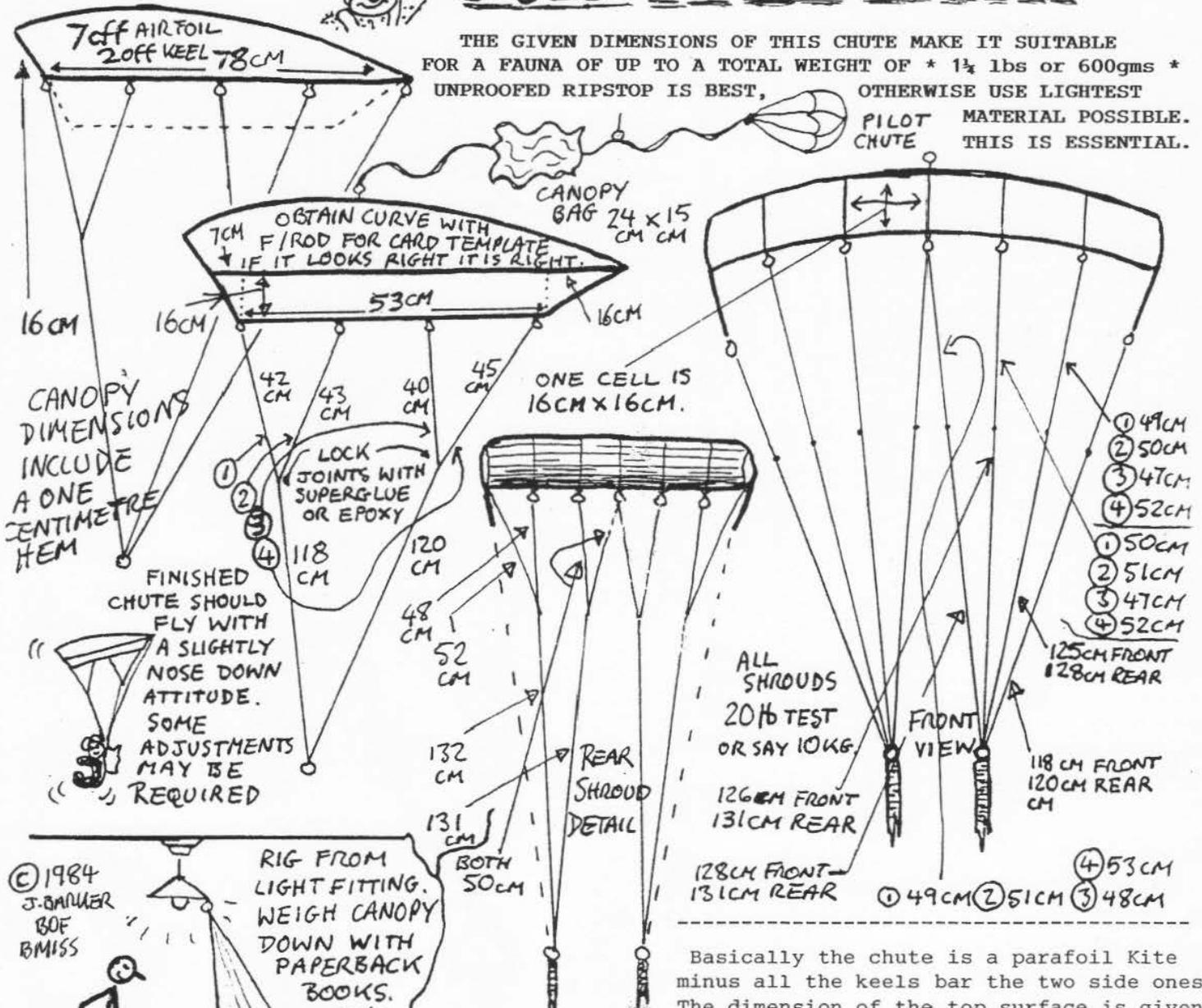
Those were the days my friend, we thought they'd never end.... well they probably never will dont say we never warned yer.....





6 CELL RAMAIR CHUTE.

THE GIVEN DIMENSIONS OF THIS CHUTE MAKE IT SUITABLE FOR A FAUNA OF UP TO A TOTAL WEIGHT OF * 1½ lbs or 600gms * UNPROOFED RIPSTOP IS BEST, OTHERWISE USE LIGHTEST MATERIAL POSSIBLE. THIS IS ESSENTIAL.



Basically the chute is a parafoil Kite minus all the keels bar the two side ones. The dimension of the top surface is given deliberately oversize, at 96cms front to back on the curve, as its better to have excess fabric to trim off, than too little.

The shroud lengths given are from the bottom surface so they include whatever tape loop length you fancy. The shorter shrouds should be connected as shown, i.e. A to A, B to B, etc, etc. If chute is rigged from light fitting as shown, the shrouds will seem to be all wrong, not worry, as lengths given should result in chute flying nose down with an Anhedral undersurface, this from studying parachute videos appears to be essential.

When doing the shrouds a personal colour code via felt tips is helpful. The canopy bag is safety pinned at about 50 cms from the canopy onto the static line, which can any lenth you fancy. Should any pukka Airfoil bods reckon that the Airfoil Shape is incorrect, eat yer heart out 'cos the thing works and works well.

The writing's on the wall

YET AGAIN, AND IF IT AINT IT SOON WILL BE AS ITS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THE DOOM AND GLOOM MERCHANTS DECIDE ITS HIGH TIME THEY STICK THE BOOT INTO PARACHUTING FAUNA AND KITING IN GENERAL.....



The more you think about it, the more amazing it is that so far, Kiting per se has escaped being lumped into the planet killers pantheon of criminals. After all, the whole of our favourite pastime relies heavily on the chemical and oil industries, therefore collectively we must be knocking five kinds of you know what out of the enviroment by proxy.

O.K., like the three yawners on the left, by now you are probably going into eyes glazing over, bored shotless mode from all the recent guff that the doom and glooms and the lying politicians have been spouting of late,

Funny how these two bobs are currently all singing from the same hymn sheet hoping to confuse, if not frighten us so they can whack us with more tax, the feeving gits.

Mind you there are some weird things going on out there. For instance we were told that Penguins had gorn extinct in the Artic and Polar Bears had been seen wearing lifejackets. We have no way of telling wether or not this is B/S, but if its true its the bleeding twilight zone, or sumfin similar.....Be alert as the world desperately needs lerts.

A fine balance

LETS FACE IT, TO THE AVERAGE JOE SOAP. ALL KITERS ARE BONKERS AND SOME HAVE MORE MONEY THAN SENSE, AND THOSE WHO BOMB FAUNA ARE COMPLETELY OFF THEIR TROLLIES & OUT TO LUNCH.

But Hey, who gives a toss what the average Joe Soap thinks. Most of them it seems have overdone the Wacky and Charlie up the Hooter going by all the larrup they come out with.

Nope, if you are bear inclined and have a couple of bob then something "must have" we saw in a recent Nauticalia catalogue could cheer you up no end. Entitled Riviera Romance by Stieff, its two bullet in the lughole, sorry that should read two button in ear bears in of all things , a bleeding speedboat, ready to pose, as you do sur le oggin. This ensemble looked very neat, even allowing for the fact that neither bear was wearing a life jacket (those bleeding safety elves again) or parachutes. chutes on a speedboat, why not? Anyway, the Boring old Barsteward was well taken with this set, that is. till he clocked the price (say it quick and it dont sound much) an eyewatering £195.00. which to some is a mere bagatelle..... checkout [www,nauticalia.com](http://www.nauticalia.com)

In your dreams

LONG TERM READERS OF THIS RAG WILL HAVE SEEN THE 6 CELL RAM AIR CHUTE PLAN BEFORE, INCLUDED HERE YET AGAIN, SIMPLY IN HOPE THAT WE MAY SEE A FEW.

Maybe its because a round chute, is on the face of it easier to make. Surely it cannot be that the BMISS is a tad stick in the mud, as unlike the Hume version of parachuting, where there was a total takeover by the Ram Air design, where parachuting from Kites is concerned the round chute seemingly rules supreme. Maybe it was optimistic to dream of hordes of Ram Airs, but if the BOF can actually make them, than why not have a go, than you can be game for a laugh (he lied)



Entente cordiale

WHO KNOWS, WHO CARES...., BUT WE DID HAVE THE ODD TITTER OR EVEN GUFFAW RECENTLY WHEN THE EUROTOSSEER ALLEDGEDLY IN CHARGE OFF SUCH THINGS (aint in charge of us pal)

Rather condescendingly said that the UK could keep its hallowed old measurements and run them alongside metric. Is'nt that nice of them. Ha, did they think we would ever give up feet and ye olde inches, pounds and ounces, bushells, rods poles and perches What never?, no never, so as ever its the usual to the fully unmetricated Boring Old Fart at 48 Laurel Lane, West Drayton. UB7.7TY. UK. watch out they'll be after our passports next.

Events List

October 2007		
20	Hamptons National Kite Festival, Alexandra Park, North London.	The Kite Society
20	Light Up The Sky for Children in Need, near Basingstoke - email for details	luts2007@northhantsbuggy.org.uk
November 2007		
3	Air Festival, Llandysul, Credigion, Wales	Julie Evans 01239 615952
2008		
March 2008		
21-24	Up, Up and Away at Leeds Castle, Maidstone, Kent	Darlene Cavill 01622 767860
April 2008		
5-13	Berck International Kite Festival, Berck-Sur-Mer, France	
26 - 5/05	Cervia International Kite Festival, Italy	
May 2008		
4-5	Weymouth International Beach Kite Festival, Weymouth Beach, Dorset	The Kite Society
10-11	Swindon Kite Festival.	White Horse Kite Fliers
17-18	Suffolk Kite Festival, Rougham, Suffolk. (Provisional).	
30-31	Exmouth Rotary Kite Festival, Imperial Recreation Ground, Exmouth	Malcolm Pressey msp@dsl.pipex.com www.exmouthrotarykitefestival.co.uk
31	Bedford International Kite Festival (Provisional).	
June 2008		
1	Exmouth Rotary Kite Festival, Imperial Recreation Ground, Exmouth	Malcolm Pressey msp@dsl.pipex.com www.exmouthrotarykitefestival.co.uk
1	Bedford International Kite Festival (Provisional).	
6-8	Margam Kite Festival, Margam Park, Port Talbot, South Wales.	margampark@npt.gov.uk
July 2008		
12-13	Brighton Kite Festival, Stanmer Park, Brighton (Provisional)	Brighton Kite Fliers
August 2008		
23-25	Portsmouth International Kite Festival, Southsea Common, Hampshire	The Kite Society
30-31	Bristol International Kite Festival, Ashton Court, Bristol	Avril Baker
September 2008		
20-21	Big Sky International Kite Festival, Margate, Kent	The Kite Society

Contact	Address	Telephone	Email
Kites Up	Roy Broadley	01256 812487	kites@kitesup.co.uk
The Kite Society	P.O. Box 2274, Gt Horkesley, Colchester CO6 4AY	01206 271489	info@thekitesociety.org.uk
Brighton Kite Fliers	11 The Sheepfold, Peacehaven, East Sussex BN10 8EG	01273 582309	info@bkf.org.uk
Great Ouse Kite Fliers	Jill Ferrer, 80 Welland Road, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire PE1 3SG	01733 563958	Gokf@btinternet.com
Michael Lowe	44 Bellemoor Road, Shirley, Southampton, Hants SO15 7QU	023 8077 0788	
Bryan Cantle	21 Shepherds Close, Cherry Hinton, Cambridge CB1 4HP.		
M.K.F.	David Buckland, 98 Thanet Street, Clay Cross, Chesterfield, Derbyshire S45 9HS	07971 177085	david.buckland@mkf.org.uk
White Horse Kite Fliers	P O Box 585, Swindon, Wiltshire SN3 4YR	01793 824208	Cowpat.ed@whkf.org.uk
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Malcolm Goodman	Bluebell House, Market Place, Middleton in Teesdale, Co Durham, DL12 0QG	01833 640584	malcolm.goodman@virgin.net