

THE KITEFLIER



Issue 117

October 2008

£2.00

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

The 2008 Collection

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Rising



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October 2008

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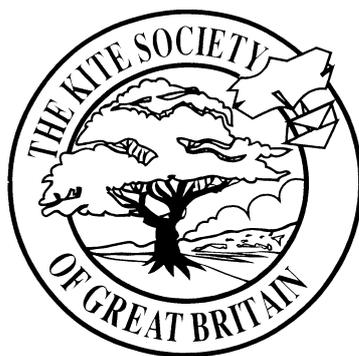
Front Cover

The Revolution Mega-Team—47 kites flying at Portsmouth.

Celebrating 20 years of the Revolution Kite.

Photo: Tara Bloom

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Editorial

Dear Reader

The year is over and it has been mixed fortunes for the festivals. It has also become noticeable that people are not travelling as much with attendance apparently down at most events. There is more emphasis on smaller, local events with camping on the edge of the flying site. Whilst this is good for kitefliers and their socialising, it does not necessarily expose kiteflying to the general public—which at the end of the day is the life blood of all clubs. It is after all where most new members will come from.

All events need the support from kitefliers, especially the new starters like Blackheath (we are already working on improvements to get better access).

We look forward to seeing you somewhere next year.

Jon and Gill

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.

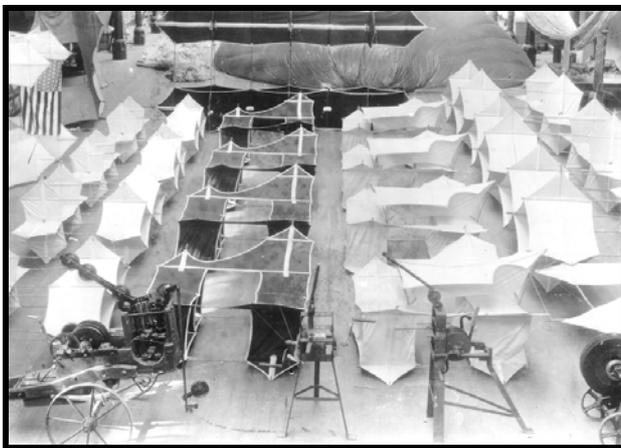
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American Showman Takes Flight—Paul Chapman

October 16th 1908



This year is the centenary of the first powered, and some say controlled, aeroplane flight in the UK. It was made by a middle-aged American who was probably better known at the time for his storytelling and theatrical skills. He also made a few kites and flew them wherever his travelling theatre pitched up for a performance. This self-styled birdman from Birdville, Texas (clearly a self-styled myth) had earlier crossed the English Channel by kite-borne boat in 1903. By 1905 he had flown in his 50ft wingspan glider. And in 1906 he finally became Chief Kiting Instructor to those British Army chaps. Along the way he had undertaken man-lifting kite trials with the Royal Navy and had dabbled in airships. This man? **Samuel Franklin Cody FRMS**. Of course he was not the first to get airborne in the UK; surely the honour for that goes to Eilmer of Malmesbury in, or around, 1008 AD. Nor was he the first airborne kiteist. That may well have been Bristol's George Pocock in the 1820s. But Sam Cody (and the British Army) succeeded where Machine Gun Maxim failed and particularly when Alliot Verdon Roe *nearly flew* (his words) from Brooklands in the summer of 1908.



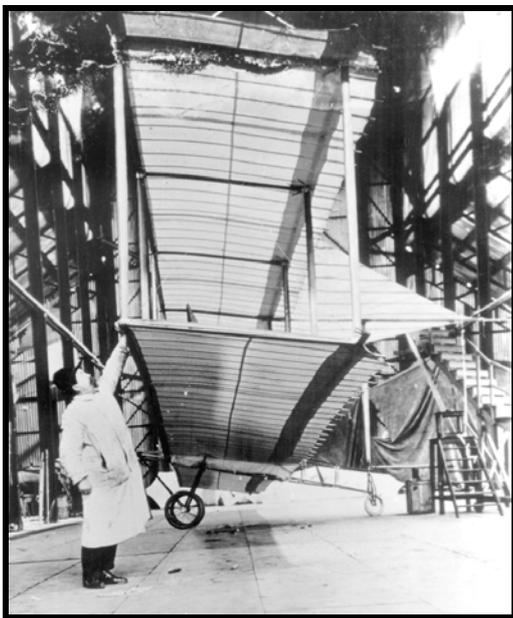
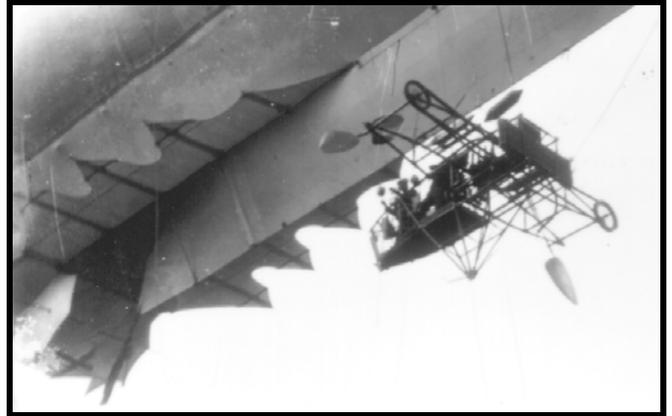
Cody's British Army Aeroplane No.1 took about a year to build, partly because it was delayed by the availability of the French Antionette engine, and then from August and September Cody was dabbling with Naval Kite Trials at Portsmouth as well as airship



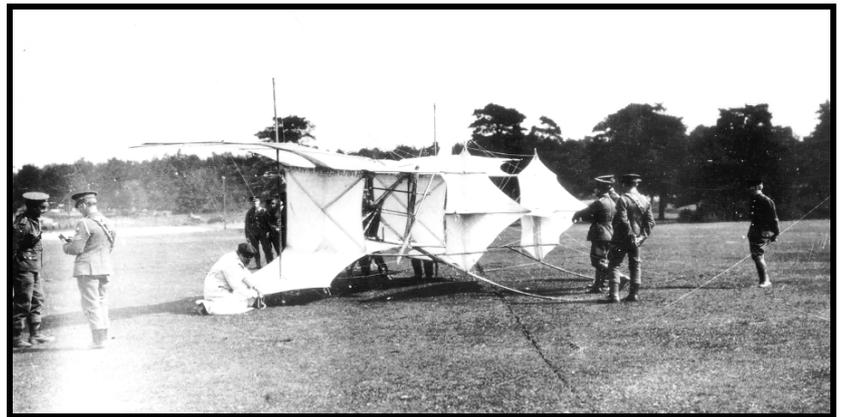
business at Farnborough. The first aeroplane flight (and crash) took place in a great fanfare of secrecy. The Army bosses didn't know although it was a well-photographed event. Within a year, and despite being sacked for unauthorised crashing, Cody and his redesigned BAA No.1 had become a

American Showman Takes Flight—Paul Chapman

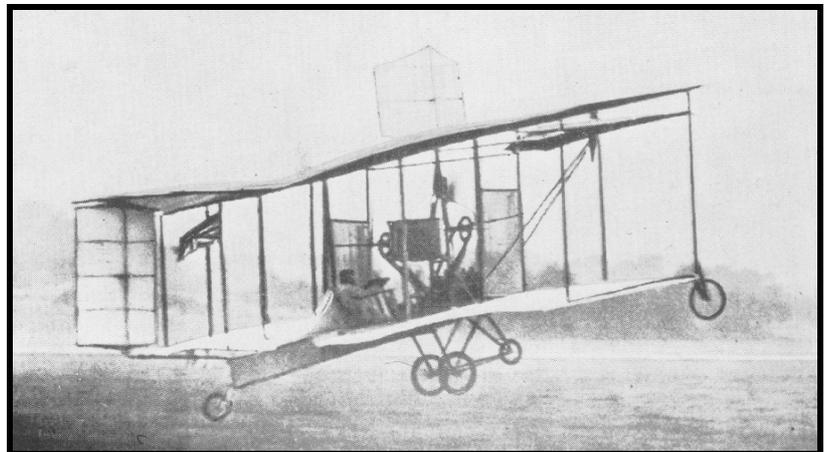
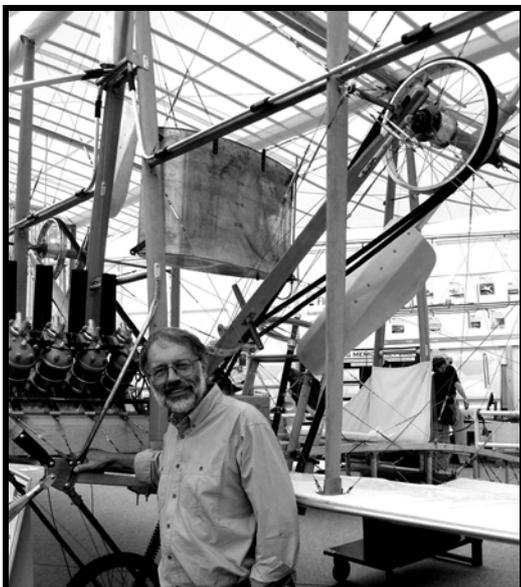
reliable flyer. Sam Cody was a larger-than-life figure in the pioneering days of aviation. He struggled against all sorts of odds; for example he survived a crash brought on by a collision with what his lawyer later described as a 'suicidal' cow, and he went on to win the 1912 Military Aeroplane Trials (the aeroplane is now in the Science Museum). Sadly this winner of the Aeronautical Society's Silver Medal was never to build his Transatlantic Flyer because he was killed in an accident to his Round Britain Waterplane in August 1913.



For the last 18 months the Farnborough Aeronautical Sciences Trust (FAST) have been rebuilding the 1908 British Army Aeroplane. It was rolled out for display at the Farnborough International Airshow in July and will soon be on display in its purpose-built shed at the FAST headquarters at Farnborough. Go and see it.



The photos here are a small selection of the many hundreds that exist of Cody and his activities. All the books published about Cody contain errors and many introduce unnecessary fiction to further confuse his own mythmaking. Perhaps the least objectionable, and despite its flaws, is *The Flying Cowboy* by Peter Reese; it does have a good selection of photos.



Paul will be giving a talk on Cody on Wednesday 22nd October at Lecture Room 1, BAWA, 589 South Mead Road, Filton, Bristol. From 6:30—all welcome.

Kites I've never seen—George Webster

A follow up to Issue 116.

Based on conversations at kite festivals rather than correspondence, progress so far is:

- 1 Old English Archtop. Still no claimants for the oldest English kite.
- 2 The LeCornu Ladder. Paul Chapman made one years ago which doesn't fly well and he claims that LeCornu's didn't either.
- 3 Paul Garber Target Kite. No information.
- 4 Alternate Hargrave Design. Paul Chapman is making one similar to that illustrate last issue. The balsa wood spar and cardboard rings version has the spar attached to the outer surface of the rings.
- 5 Lamson Aerocurve. Andy King remembers the Blackheath example [*there was also one in Dieppe which George missed!*]
- 6 Bob Ingraham patriotic delta. It turns out that there is one less than 150 yards from where we live. Malcolm Goodman has one given to him in 1989.

Any other oddities or rarities?

N.B. The Finbat of 1910 so beautifully drawn by Paul Chapman in the last issue is one of mine—it flies.

Book Review—George Webster

A review of 'The Balloon Factory' by Alexander Frater, Picador 2008. ISBN 978-0-030-43310-6

The book is subtitled 'The story of the man who built Britain's first flying machines' and refers to the balloon factory at Farnborough. Given that we are celebrating Cody's first flight this year and his importance as a kite maker, this book looked as though it might be a new angle on early flight in Britain. I was disappointed.

Mr Frater is a journalist and writer who has been Chief Travel Correspondent of The Observer (which is where I read a very favourable review). He refers to years writing the book but parts seem to have been written very quickly. I decided I was being overcritical and crabby to notice things such as:

- He doesn't know what a tonsure is
- He can't spell Rioja
- He doesn't acknowledge the artist who produced the famous Cody figure on the front jacket cover and the silhouette on the back.

While I like a bit of useless information as much as anyone a footnote tells me that Frederick Sykes (later Governor of Bombay) once walked 3500 from Beijing to Simlas?

The form of the book is basically after a rather odd prologue and some early history to deal with each of the fliers who at one time worked at the Balloon Factory. His strength is that he is a good journalist in that he tells a good story and usually manages to find someone who can give a personal insight or angle to the pioneer. His chapter on Cayley, the family home at Brompton and Richard Branson is good. He is interesting on Percy Pilcher who was killed demonstration his glider at a fund raising for his pre-Wright engine driven aeroplane. It seems that in 2003 Cranfield University students made a replica which flew for 1 minute 25 seconds in dead calm—longer than the Wrights 1903 which were into 20+ mph winds.

The section on Cody is worryingly unreliable. Paul Chapman actually jumped up and down to emphasise how bad it is. Frater has met Jean Roberts who is a great source of knowledge arising from her living in Cody's old house. Frater debunks some of the old stories of Cody's life mentioning old sources. But he doesn't acknowledge Garry Jenkins 1999 'Colonel Cody' which does a more complete job. He refers to 'Sam' Cody when I think it is generally known that family and friends always called him 'Frank' and other fliers used 'Daddy' because of the age gap.

For us the biggest handicap is that Frater knows on the low side of nothing about kites. It would seem that what we know as a train of kites is just a kite to him - p161 has a picture 'Cody with man carrying kite' - there are three. He does have a good phrase about 'the world's first successful man-lifting kite, its black tiers resembling a line of baby bats in pursuit of their mother'. Good, but then we have the bucket seat 'went whizzing up and down the cable like a fairground ride' - how isn't explained and I suspect he does not know.

Treated as a read about characters (Maxim, De Havilland) who are new to the reader it is an entertaining work. But I am concerned that even someone with relatively little knowledge like me can find so many inaccuracies.

Some Reports—Hugh and Lyn Blowers

Sunderland or Washington?

The Sunderland International festival, now in its 23rd year, underwent a change in name and management last year but still suffered from the torrential rain that had caused three previous cancellations or abandonment. At one stage it seemed that this year's festival was headed the same route, but good fortune smiled on the Northern Area playing fields for one day at least, although the lead up to the event gave no indication of what was waiting round the corner.

Pauline Taylor had assembled artists, kitemakers and flyers from around the world with a view to putting together a varied and visually spectacular event. On the Friday preceding the festival several of the guests were transported to the spectacular Marsden Bay to create a mini festival of kites and installation art. Others remained on the site to enjoy the sun and fly. Notable were Jock and Peter Walker who kept an ever-changing variety of kites flying throughout the day, seemingly impervious to the heat.

Saturday started dull with a reasonable breeze that allowed a decent fly before the traditional briefing and opening the festival to the public. The arrival of the public coincided with the arrival of the first shower, but this did nothing to discourage flyers from putting on a fine display, both in the main arena and free flying areas. The far arena was given over to a Rev 'master class', where Steven Hoath, Ian Webb and Mike Mossman, amongst others, were imparting the finer art of four-line flying to members of the NEKF. A new departure is the 'gallery tent', which this year featured kites made from natural materials. Daniella Zitman, Claude Comallonga, Elisenda Saumench and our own Frances Anderson provided an amazing selection and variety of delicate and asymmetric shapes. As a diversion from kite building, Frances was in strict training, with a view to swimming the English Channel at the end of July. Anke Sauer's creations are a fusion of art, mathematics and origami defying any accurate description but are nonetheless, spectacular.

Something a little more sturdy was required on the field and by lunchtime we were all starting to get a bit soggy round the edges so retired to the food tent to be spoiled by the variety of choice on offer. It was while contemplating a bratwurst that it became apparent that those now coming into the tent were drenched and the drumming noise was not an oriental group, but rain on the marquee. To put not to fine a point on it, it was hammering down. Although used as playing fields, this site becomes waterlogged very quickly and soon visions of another abandoned festival were on the horizon. What was certain was that flying for the day was over and soon the flyers marquee was full of makeshift washing lines and dripping ripstop. By the time everyone reconvened for the evening reception and party, things looked more hopeful and the sun even put in an appearance.

With the overall theme of friendship, the party started with banner making where different countries were encouraged to contribute to each group's efforts. Kite Team Holland was the first to present their tulip inspired design and then it was on to an amazing buffet that had been created 'in house'. Sunderland still has its auction,



but now it is entirely silent, which has its advantages as well as drawbacks, but there were still several choice items including a most fascinating mobile, donated by Robert Brassington.

With the evening being free of further rain the festival was set to continue on the Sunday, but the forecast was not hopeful, so a programme was produced that packed everything and everybody into the predicted 3 hour weather window. Hectic it certainly was as the sports kites and Revs occupied the first segment to be closely followed by a stunning array of four line figure kites from Robert Trepanier, Kisa and Anke Sauer. With dogs, horses, humans, clowns, faces, heads and more, some 15 of these beautiful creations danced around the sky being flown by the creators and other four line exponents. The principle of mass flying continued and it was great to see so many people joining in with Kelvin's butterflies, Nick James' angels, Robert Brassington's stunning creations and Karl Longbottom's underwear. Chinese dragons have been an integral part of the Sunderland Festival for a while, usually with lots of people bringing one dragon each. This year Peter Taylor and Val brought a carload and then waited for a weather window before handing out a lovely selection to be flown by the guests. The clouds cleared over the site and for 15 minutes the crowd were treated to the dragon display in bright sunshine. Team Vulandra from Italy filled their slot with an arrival of their 'flying saucer' that proceeded to disembark a live 'alien', which caused a degree of consternation amongst the younger members of the



audience. Another tradition is the launch of the friendship kite and this is the second incarnation of Nishi Biashi's

Some Reports—Hugh and Lyn Blowers

original. The Karl Longbottom built monster has a tail that goes on forever and this year by way of bravado this was launched Sports 'kite style' to audible gasps from all concerned. The Deputy Mayor had his hands full but carried on flying the kite for far longer than the usual token 'hand on the line'.

With the weather dominating the event there were so many guests and kites that were unable to be featured in the arena or mentioned and this included, with just one exception, the 'Air Gallery'. Apart from Claudio Capelli there is seldom any connection between the kites and the artists that painted them, but this year Joel Thieze, along with Martine Chatel attended, after a marathon drive from Angers in France. It was Joel who had painted a beautiful interpretation of the legend of Leda And The Swan and this was the sole representative of the gallery to be flown. Amazingly, it was still dry as the festival was officially brought to a close and you were unlikely to get odds on that happening at the start of the day.

There is so much that goes on and so many guest flyers and artists at the Sunderland festival that no report can do more than give a flavour of the event. What is clear though is that with a bit of cooperation from the weather, this festival is still one of the principle events in the calendar and an object lesson in providing hospitality to guest flyers. Well worth the drag up the A1.

A detached look at Blackheath.

With its core of resident kite flying enthusiasts and a delightful location, the Blackheath festivals would be the highlight of every season. No, it is not an error; it was plural as there would be two such gatherings every season. The open spaces would attract flyers of all ages and disciplines from Henry of Round Pond fame to Axel Ferraro making his first public appearance. was more a



kite garden party than festival and they were gloriously relaxed affairs, that is until the Rok fights started of course. Blackheath and Old Warden would bring very disparate groups of flyers together that often would not be seen at other venues, and in some ways was part of the charm. Many of those attending had a rich history in kite

flying and had witnessed the birth of the 'kite festival' as we know it. Sadly, politics, local government, not kite related I hasten to add, brought it all to an end some years ago. However, a wind of change has occurred, (the only wind of the weekend one has to say) and Blackheath is back, although allied to bicycles, presumably to accentuate the green credentials of both.

Elf and safety being what it is now, orange barrier netting divided off much of the heath and a plethora of officials in fluorescent orange and yellow hi vis jackets ensured the 'elf and safety' of all concerned and adherence to the many rules, by those involved. The

sadness was that so many of those long associated with Blackheath are either no longer with us, or not active in flying anymore, but on a more happy note there were still a good sprinkling of the 'old stagers' who could tell you a thing or two about Blackheath's gone by.

Why then is this a 'detached' look at the festival. The main display arena with bus, VIP toilets, commentary position and most of the participating flyers was some way removed from the area designated for single line and inflatable kites. So far removed in fact, that we could only guess what was happening further down the heath. With no loudspeakers to relay events, Team Atomic from Belgium, The Holland Kite Team, and Hugh and Lynn from the Beccles Bunch were in splendid isolation.

Blackheath presented a good example of how festivals have changed over the years. What was most obvious was that almost all the flyers in action were contracted 'turns' and the event was dependent of a continuous arena display. It has to be said, that those assembled represented the very pinnacle of sports kite flying, yet the bulk of the kites flown elsewhere were down to the public and children, not committed kiteflyers. Everyone worked very hard, but I do question what has become of the enthusiasts that used to fill the sky at festivals gone by.

Having got that off my chest, more 'detached' observations. The bulk of the arena programme was down to the sports kite fraternity, and life was never easy for them at the best of times. The breeze mucked about all day on the Saturday until very late in the afternoon. Sometimes a bit, sometimes nothing, a flurry



Some Reports—Hugh and Lyn Blowers



to taunt you and occasionally a few minutes of steady wind to get everything into the air. The impression was that between them, Spectrum, Airheads and Flying Squad were putting on a festival of their own, with suitable interludes. Well done to all of you, you certainly earned your tea. Flying a five-man team, with very long tails in those conditions showed a leap of faith and a considerable degree of skill. Up in our 'neck of the woods', John and Herman from Holland filled much of the top arena with inflatable cats, large and small, while a Manta and Trilobite went up and down like a Bluewater lift. The Belgian contingent revisited the concept of the continuous 'flag line' with the material at its widest near the ground, tapering to the thickness of the line just below the kite. A series of these in different colours were very eye catching.

Sunday was much of the same in terms of a programme, with the wind playing silly devils even more. 45-degree shifts were the norm, nigh on 90 degrees not unusual, and one cracker of around 120 degrees in a matter of seconds before everything dropped out of the sky in a flat calm. Up in the single line arena John Verheij abandoned the idea of inflatables and put up one of his many trains, which entertained one and all with its antics. For the others up there it was launch the pilot day. At least on Saturday the pilots had stayed up most of the time, but this was a fickle wind, which saw a Rolf Zimmerman Lobster and Seahorse fly happily for a few minutes, only to drop out of the sky like a brick, pilot included. Michel Dupuijdt and colleagues from Belgium faired a little better with their parasleds, but even, so a considerable portion of the day was spent retrieving them. It was good to see these young kite makers with

their refreshing ideas.

One kite that did seem to relish the conditions belonged to a member of the public and was resembled a Bermudan three-stick kite. He had built it just prior to the festival from bamboo and polythene with a fluffy tail from supermarket carrier bags. The line was a thick green polypropylene garden string that he let out until the kite was way up, and totally stable. What with dozens of George's favourite IKEA deltas bobbing about in the sky and this simple home built kite flying happily you sometimes wonder 'why we bother'?

Airheads and Flying Squad seem to have an affinity for Chinese Dragons and after a lot of running and pumping on Saturday gave a magnificent display the following day. One exceedingly long version looked like a series of gossamer steps into the air as we could see much of it clearly against the trees with the top seeming to dissolve against the sky, quite poetic. Whilst on the artistic route, it must be gratifying for a kite maker to see a number of kites they have built flying together, and a mass launch of Carl Robertshaw Serpent deltas demonstrated this most effectively.

A feature of many festivals this year will be events to mark 20 years since the introduction of the Neos Omega, now better know as the Revolution, or colloquially, the Rev. One of the first teams to explore the fantastic potential of this kite was the Decorators, whose displays around the World amazed audiences and flyers alike. Although the team had its roots in the vicinity of Blackheath flying sports kites, it pioneered the concept of the 'fluid display team', co-opting members along the way if they were good enough. It seemed fitting in a way that The Decorators should gather together for the rebirth of Blackheath, and with three original members I believe. Of course, what they started others have taken up, so that Rev Mega Teams are now regular events, but with a grace, precision and deliberateness that contrasts so radically with the frantic danger of the two line version.

I could wax lyrical about the festivals of yore and wallow in nostalgia for the 'way they used to be', but things move on. Blackheath is a lovely venue and thanks must go to Gill and Jon Bloom for reintroducing this festival to the calendar, and ignoring the fact that we were all supposed to arrive by bicycle!!!!!!



Jolly Up—August 2008

Friday August 1st arrived, and the day was spent putting up the Marquee and setting up the Beer Tent in preparation for the weekend's fun. With the beer tapped and the tables & chairs in place, we were ready for two days of relaxation and kite flying.

We did an impromptu BBQ on the Friday evening, and the beer was sampled in large quantities!

Saturday arrived to the smell on bacon rolls being cooked, always a good start to the day. It was a bit damp and overcast to begin with, but the sun made an appearance and stayed for the rest of the day. That helped to fill the sky with an array of kites and made for happy kite fliers!

We had a visit from the couple (Hongye and Gordon) who won a competition to design a kite to be flown at the opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympics. Roy made the design up for them, using our printing process. It was a very well photographed kite!

The evening BBQ was a success, and that was followed by the Auction. That was fun, and our thanks to all who donated to it. A chilli plant proved to be an expensive purchase for Damon, but I'm sure the fruits will be enjoyed for a long time to come!

Sunday was a damp day, but it didn't stop the kite flying, which went all for most of the day.

We had some Rev flying put on by Force 3, and Fractured Axel arrived in the afternoon to do trick flying, so plenty of room for all.

We'd like to thank all of you who supported the Weekend, it only works with you.

We'll be doing it all again next year, the first one will be on the last weekend in April (so the weekend before Weymouth Kite Festival)

Hayley Gillingham and Roy Broadley, Kites Up.



Bali Kite Festival

On a recent holiday on the island of Bali our eyes were naturally attracted skywards and to kites. The first ones we saw however were Kite Surfers and Wake Boarders, but soon other things appeared in the sky.

Having found where these kites were being flown from we were amazed at their size and construction. They were very large and fairly crudely made. The frame was bamboo and the sail appeared to be polyester.

The lines were rope, or on smaller kites, fishing line. No gloves were being worn by the flyers! One thing leads to another and it became apparent that there was a Kite Festival taking place at the weekend.

After some research and assistance from a pleasant young lady in the hotel, we located the site and took a taxi to it. You can travel many miles for £2 in Bali using local benzene which is sold in bottles at the side of the road along with other local produce. Our last taxi ride cost 68p.

The first thing we noticed as we approached the venue was groups of people of all ages carrying their kites above their heads along the road and completely oblivious to the traffic jam behind them.

The more affluent carried their kite on the back of a lorry with the flyers inside a bamboo support structure underneath holding it down. This took up three quarters of the road, so traffic jams both ways. The whole procession was accompanied by people playing drums and tambourines.

Once we arrived at the beach it was very confusing.

The site was black sand and broken coral; there were people, kites, tents, motor cycles and food traders everywhere. The dubious foods were being cooked on makeshift BBQ's and the smells added to the scene. At the same time three very large earth moving machines were building sea defenses.

All this in 30 degrees plus!

The whole area was alive but it was difficult for the uninitiated to work out exactly what was going on. How did the judges decide who had won? The competition seemed to entail a team of about 20 people running towards the sea over the sand dunes pulling their kite into the air to the beat of local music and a lot of enthusiastic shouting. The kite took off, the stretchy bands at the front created a humming sound and it came down again. Very confusing.

We were the only pale faces in evidence until we met an Australian invited flyer from Newcastle near Sydney who was flying a self made poster kite. Stupidly we failed to get his name but he had heard of WHKFA and has connections with MKFA.

The whole scene was one of great noise and excitement, everyone was smiling and it was an absolute delight to see so many happy smiling faces.

We will not forget it but it is true to say that our festivals and get togethers are better managed and we couldn't do it their way even if we wanted to. The Health and Safety guru would have a field day there

Brian and Nola Smith

More Reports

Hunstanton 17th August—Bryan Cattle

After last years deluge at Hunstanton I thought it could not get any worse this year but arriving at the festival at 9am it was pouring with rain so hard we could not even get the tents and gazebos up .Luckily by 9 30 the storm had passed over and the sun started to appear for the start of the events.

The Great Ouse filled the sky after the official opening with a mass fly of single liners.

We were please to see Team Adrenalize again this year supporting us they were joined by Adrenalin Head in the arena; a new power kite shop in the Hunstanton area .

Bryan and Carl from Team Spectrum followed with their ever popular displays with Carl finishing their session with multi kite flying to the latest James bond tune.

Stafford Wallace let loose some Indian kite and recaptured them bringing the last one in from behind the cars in the park always popular with the crowds here.

Bruno the French Connection as he is known flew his stack of twenty five kites and tails with three helpers holding them on the ground waiting for Bruno word to launch them Leo followed deciding to fly his kite normally without his dog stakes as he usually flys his kite in reverse, a really remarkable display one flyer to watch in the future!

At one pm we had the lunch break; first in the arena were the Harley Davidson riders club of GB followed by the classic cars. The awards were given for best bike & car and a special award for Carl of Team Spectrum for best display of the day.

Arena display continued until 3 45 when Paul on the PA asked all the Kiteflyers to ground their kites for a special flypast by the Red Arrows.They were due at 3:56pm and right on time we saw the headlights of the formation heading straight for our festival.

As they approached the field on went the smoke as the flew over in v formation then veering left over the sea parting to go to there next display.

The Hunstanton Rotary would like to thank all the Kiteflyers and Teams who supported the event this year which has been one of the best ever.

My thanks to Paul & Kay who runs the festival with the help of Team Spectrum , The GOKF ,Team Adrenalize Stafford Wallace The French Connection , Aolius and the Thorpe flyers

For pictures of this event go to www.Teamspectrum.org.uk

Barmouth Kite Festival

It rained all the week before the festival, we got wet

loading the car, we got wet running across the "Little Chief" car park for early morning breakfast. It rained all the way to Barmouth. Looking down into the town from the hill top the weather changed, the rain stopped.

Friday afternoon conditions OK, a bit overcast, wind a bit high. Flyers appeared in various modes of dress walking the beach and prom; friends kept calling from pubs and cafes. Friday evening a large group of flyers ate together at "The Royal."

Saturdays festival day dawned, set out the arena, weather overcast, wind a bit high, flowforms kites the order of the day. Wind and conditions improved throughout the afternoon and other kites started to take to the sky. Festival organiser David Montague-Smith although unwell makes the long trip from Kidderminster. A pleasing day.

Sunday's festival day dawned, Arena again set. Weather bright, wind perfect. Flyers appeared and kites decked the sky. Seven large circoflex of many colours danced together, Eight Desperado club kites hovered high.

Sunday was the day for kite games, attempted one game every hour. About eight /ten Indian fighters lifted off and after much running and panting the winner was Fiona Lewis (NKF)

Elaine Shakespeare (NKF) won both the open and the ladies altitude sprints.

Down the line sprint race was won by Terry Walker (A&W/MKF).

Small 15 in. Rokkakus Kites made and supplied each year by Fiona & Aled Lewis (NKF) was handed to anyone including the interested public, who wished to attempt the roc fight. The winning Roc was flown by Iris Summerfield (A&W/MKF).

Best banner was a rather splendid Welsh red dragon made by Biddy & Dennis Roberts (A&W/MKF).

Best kite of the weekend was, "The star ship Enterprise" owned by Sheila & Ray Smith (NKF).

All winners received Barmouth Winner Lapel Badges at the end of each event.

About forty/fifty flyers from as far a field as Lincoln, Scunthorpe, North Yorkshire and the Midlands enjoyed the weekend together. Longest Distance travelled, "Mike from Mars" (See photo)

Organisers wish to thank the five Beach Stewards who saw that everything ran so smoothly and all who took part.

Dorothy Campbell (NKF/MKG) presented Gold Medals to all the winners at the end of the event. All other kite flyers received a loser's prize - a sweet as suggested by Malcolm Print (Sec. A&W)

Monday Morning. Rained all the way home.

John Southerton. (A&W/MKF) (Beach Organiser)

A Review of 2008—George Webster

There were two casualties this year:-

Cleethorpes—which had its difficult moments organisationally but had some great fliers. I can get nostalgic about the mud as I don't have to dip my kites in it. I hear there are attempts to get it going again.

Penallta—I really enjoyed the 1 day I spent last years and hope that it might come back.

In what follows I don't want to replicate the excellent reports by Hugh Blowers and hope that he will cover Portsmouth, Bristol and Dieppe.

Weymouth. Much has been written (by themselves) about the absence of the Brighton Kite Fliers and generally attendance does seem to be down on a few years ago. No Pete Dolphin—Andy and I had several enquiries (from ladies) about his absence. But I think it was a better flying wind and kite show than 2007 even though curtailed by rain. We commentators were on a balcony projecting from the promenade with a modesty sheet protecting us from beach (therefore we couldn't see some kites) but not from the rain. There was an unhelpful mixture of rain water and the PA system—which was so arranged that you had to run to the bus to arrange music etc.

Swindon. Ludicrous financial demands from the museum meant that the White Horse Kite Fliers had to relocate to Lydiard Park. No chance of putting up an exhibition was a disappointment for me but it was a good site. There wasn't much wind and the hot sun wasn't greatly appreciated—if only we had known.

Bedford. Since this was now the previous weekend to the Wirral it was easier to attract overseas kite fliers—they were numerous, illustrious and industrious. Lack of wind and damp conditions led to some interesting sights (see Hugh Blowers articles earlier this year). I remember Peter Lynn having the only kite up doing 360s with a large 4 line soft kite. The Balinese Team of Elby and Bagus cheered everyone up with their dress, conch shell blowing, dancing and quite remarkable kites. I was disappointed by the small entry for the Eddie McGrath cup—won by Karl Longbottom.

The Wirral. While the wind was only slightly better, crucially it allowed the inflatables to fly and by providing a separate arena this festival had one of the best displays of large inflatables accessible to the public which I've seen this year viz: Peter Lynn, The Beatties, Wigsley Wings and Ralf Zimmerman. Robert Brasington joined this festival—he now seems able with very little help to have 12 kites of 3 or 4 types up at the same time. In addition to keeping Hugh fit the 'rolling mass launches' do allow spectators to concentrate on one persons or teams kites even in dodgy wind.

Blackheath was a real trip down memory lane for Andy, self, Jon and Gill, Earnest Barton and a few spectators. We had memories of how things were but in the years since the last festival much local knowledge of how to set up had been lost. However, together with the usual southern festival teams (Spectrum, Close Encounters,

Airheads and Flying Squad), the Blowers and the Holland Kite Team we had a great weekend with the nearest to good summer weather that I can remember. There were a couple of local fliers from the old days on the best urban site in Britain.

Bungay Kite Day came along after a 4 week gap in festivals. June and I had great hospitality from the Kings—Becky being one of the organisers. All the Beccles Bunch were there, also the Blooms and reps from the Flying Squad and Suffolk Fliers. But there was hardly a breath of wind and just the first stirrings of local interest. The photo (by Jackie Penney and Tara) is interesting, not because of the elephant, but because the kite is a Sean Rawnsley Paraflate from about 1979 (thank you Andy and Ernest). And it is the right way up and it flew.



Whitley Bay. This now seems to be a well established local festival with visitors Wigsley Wings, the Beatties, half the Beccles Bunch, the Swifts, Earnest, Dave Holt and Dazz from the North West and a good turnout from the North Est Kite Fliers led by Pete Sturrs. This was a weekend for inflatables with too much wind on a narrow site. But with sea, a lighthouse, rocks, a sandy beach, smooth grass and the demolition of Spanish City—what else could you want?

Dieppe, Margate and Allendale are still to come.

Finally. Undoubtedly the two biggest international interests of 2008 were:

The launch of 3 giant flag kites at the Kuwait Kite Festival. The AKA magazine has photos revealing that the most terrifying feature of Andrew Beattie's unscheduled launch and fall (he still limps) was that he was wearing a kilt. I still hope that he completes his recovery.

With much greater impact here were the attempts at Portsmouth and Bristol on the world record for Revolution kites flying together. I'll leave others to give you the details but I was mightily impressed by the ability of all concerned to get controlled movement in such a relatively small airspace. A great tribute to a great kite now 20 years old.

Then I started thinking—why don't we celebrate the Flexifoil? Alright I know it is not American but it was first flown in 1976 (I think).

What is STACK—Keith Griffiths

Another season has come and gone and I thought it was about time I reached out beyond the usual audience for STACK into the wider world of kite fliers, so here I am, be kind.

STACK, for those of you that don't know, stands for Sport, Team, And Competitive Kiting. Note the AND, it's not an ONLY (that would make us STOCK!). Yes, I spend a lot of time organising sport kite competitions in the UK, but with my team of regional representatives STACK also organises and supports training and coaching in sport kite flying, at all levels and for both precision (straight lines and the like) and trick flying.

At the one end of this is the 'Better Flying Day', almost a fly-in for like minded fliers, but with the offer of some informal training from your peers on how to nail the latest trick, or perhaps how to achieve your first axel.

The other extreme was the 'Boot Camp' which I have diluted to 'Bootie Camp'. This residential weekend course is designed to teach the basics of competition flying and prepare participants to step into the arena. The difference between Boot and Bootie is primarily in the level of financial commitment required, Boot camp was expensive, everyone going to a hotel in Weston, Bootie camp comes to you. You find food and accommodation for the coaches and we will give you a real workout for the weekend, there are no half measures on the teaching.

If you are interested in participating in competitions the best way to start is to get yourself along to one or more of our Winter Leagues. These are informal competitions comprising of only the figures from a full STACK competition and are a great way of dipping a toe into the water.

great names from the past, Wind Magic, Carl and James Robertshaw, and also the emergence of a new generation of junior fliers, Cameron Blair and Daniel Beasley, who will I'm sure dominate in the years to come.

For this year though, the results have been dominated by the experienced fliers:

Scores are based on the best two scores, normalised for each competition.

Keith Griffiths
STACK UK National Director

<i>Dual Line Individual</i>	Position	Total
Carl Robertshaw	1	100.0%
Chris Goff	2	98.6%
Robin Smith	3	89.7%
Steve Brill	4	85.7%
John Williams	5	77.2%
Bryan Beasley	6	76.3%
Cameron Blair	7	68.3%
Vee Griffiths	8	61.2%
Daniel Beasley	9	54.2%

<i>Dual Line Pair</i>	Position	Total
Wind Magic	1	100.0%
ExGrads	2	96.0%
2-Can	3	92.7%
Dark Gem	4	51.9%
Diesel	5	49.9%

<i>Dual Line Team</i>	Position	Total
Flame	1	100.0%
Scratch Bunnies	2	97.0%

<i>Multi Line Individual</i>	Position	Total
Chris Goff	1	100.0%
James Robertshaw	2	50.0%
Steve Beasley	3	25.0%

EuroCup 2008
 This year's Eurocup took place on the beaches at Scheveningen in The Netherlands, 19th and 20th September. The UK was well represented,

- James Robertshaw in Multi Line Individual,
- Carl Robertshaw and Chris Goff in Dual Line Individual,
- Wind Magic and Diesel in Dual Line Pair and



**Cameron Blair,
 STACK Novice
 UK Champion
 2008**

So please, if you have any passing interest in those two and four line creations in the bottom of your bag, get in touch, we can surely help you get more from them. Contact me at

**S T A C K
 Competition
 results 2008**

2008 has been an exciting season, we have seen the return to competition of some

What is STACK—Keith Griffiths

- Flame and Scratch Bunnies in Dual Line Team.

I wasn't be there due to a prior engagement in Margate though from the sound of it ExGrads would have been completely outclassed, so no great loss for our lack of presence.

In the end the UK didn't end up with lots of silverware, with the French dominating, but looking at the results we certainly didn't disgrace ourselves.

Dual line Individual

1	DEBRAY Richard	FR	79,84
2	ROBERTSHAW Carl	UK	77,13
3	GOFF Chris	UK	75,60
4	FERME Steff	FR	72,80
5	VERSTEEGH Stephen	NL	66,48
6	MASTROMAURO Laura	IT	62,45
7	ZYGAR Thomas	DE	62,17
8	SCHAPER Bernard	DE	61,89
9	DUHAMEL Arnoud	FR	61,04
10.	ON Rini	NL	60,50
11	MUSSMANN Michael	DE	60,36
12	LOSKOV Mikael	R	47,94

Dual Line Pair

1	COURANTD'AIR	FR	74,08
2	NUFF UND UNDER	DE	68,70
3	IN ET OUT	FR	66,54

4	DIESEL	UK	64,70
5	PAIRFORMANCE	DE	61,56
6	AXEL'R	IT	57,26
7	TNT	DE	54,00
8	WIND MAGIC	UK	51,49

Dual line Team

1	START'AIR	FR	74,10
2	O4	FR	72,22
3	SCRATCH BUNNIES	UK	71,48
4	FLAME	UK	60,18

Multi line Individual

1	FERME Steff	FR	77,52
2	ROBERTSHAW James	UK	77,03
3	MAIOCCHI Guido	IT	75,31
4	BERTHEBAUD Bruno	FR	74,11
5	COSTA Marco	IT	69,60
6	SECCHI Werther	IT	64,00
7	DE HAAS Ruud	NL	62,34
8	BRENKMAN Hans	NL	61,10
9	VAN DER GRAAF Marc	NL	58,81
10	SOWADE Steffen	DE	50,50
11	PETZ Jurgen	DE	48,29

Multi line Pair

1	QUADASTROPHE	FR	70,50
2	DISAPAIR	IT	65,51

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Blue Peter and the Cast of Thousands—Sara Longbottom

Bristol International Kite Festival, August 2008

About five weeks before the festival an enquiry came in from the BBC through an introduction by Andrew Beattie, Blue Peter wanted to celebrate their 50th Anniversary at the Bristol International Kite Festival. Karl was asked to design a shield shaped kite that could fly individually and be made up into a train of 50 during the day, after children had decorated them. He was also asked to produce 3 team rokkaku kites for the three Blue Peter presenters to fly in the rokkaku fight on the Sunday.

Sunday 31st August 2008 dawned as a grey day closely followed by heavy rain. This did not bode well for the festival or the BBC. The producer and cameraman arrived on the field at about 8:30am to see the rain pouring off our 'sun shelter' into the dog's drinking bowl. (We were holding a race with Derek Kuhn at the time to see whose dog bowl filled the quickest....)

We all ignored the weather and started to prepare for the job in hand; taking the materials into the marquee ready for the children to paint and decorate the Tyvek shields which we had stencilled in advance. The children began to arrive, Simon Hennessey's girls, Jason Mark's twins, Kelvin Wood's two children, a few multiline offspring plus some others and on went their aprons; we could recognise the kitefliers' children, they were dressed ready to paint! We did warn the parents that we were using acrylic paints that would not wash out of clothing; a good job really when one very smartly dressed offspring managed to get blue paint on their nice pair of new white leggings.

The children worked in twos or threes for the most part and soon the first kite was complete, at which point out came the kite line and the clothes pegs I'd thrown in at the last minute; we had to get these kites dry, only 49 to go! The children were fantastic, they worked together to produce some real masterpieces whilst I was rushing round trying to make sure every kite had the artists name(s) on the back. In



no time at all, the announcement was made 'they're here'. After a brief introduction the presenters were in there, happily painting away and chatting to the children, it was a lovely relaxed atmosphere. Every now and then some filming took place but it was so low key that the children remained calm and cool. We had to clear the marquee for some of the longer shots but food and drink was provided and a break was enjoyed by everyone.

Once the presenters and crew had disappeared and the children were all given a treasured Blue Peter badge, the painting continued, well by a couple anyway; possibly the more star struck needed a quiet lie down! Amy Baker, Clara Kuhn, Thomas and George Bindon and Rhiannon Hollingworth all stepped in at this point to help and in no time at all it seemed we had come to the end of the blank kites; a few had been taken away for some other shots. Thank the children, make sure they to had badges, send them off and sit down for a couple of peaceful minutes before clearing up. One of the crew helped as we emptied the paint pots and got rid of most of the mess; I'd kept mostly paint free until then, still it had to be done. Now let's just check how many we've got.... 42, 43, 44..... s*** there's not enough.

Panic? No. Where are those kites they took away? OK, get them back and count again. Oh dear, still not enough were painted. Now I know we had made 55 kites, I knew 4 were not stencilled and the producer had painted one on Saturday evening that Karl had been flying as an individual shield earlier for the film. Right get that one back and paint the prototype just in case. There we were the two of us quietly painting away when in comes Sam Collins, with his

Blue Peter and the Cast of Thousands—Sara Longbottom

sister, the timing could not have been better.

Painting over, 51 decorated kites, 51 kites with wet paint. Where is Karl in all this? Not only had he been flying the single shield kite, he had also been giving some rokkaku flying lessons to the presenters ready for the first battle of the day but he did manage to creep back to base camp for a bit of peace and quiet. Bob Cruikshanks, Stuart Lafferty and Dave Johnson all had the (un)enviable task of working with a presenter each in the rokkaku battle and from what I could see those Blue Peter rokkakus flew a long time, well done you three.

Quick lunch, start to assemble the stack with the first few dry kites and back to filming; playing on the question as to whether the kites would be dry in time. Karl had to show the presenters how to assemble the kites, a few rehearsals, a few takes and a few kites to reassemble once the film crew had gone. Some people just have perfect timing, Michael Goddard appeared from nowhere and helped with the final assembly of the train and disappeared just as quietly, thank you Michael.

Into the main arena ready for the launch, Karl was getting nervous and the wind was getting up. In came the film crew, the children, the presenters, the extra cameramen, the parents with cameras, oh, and me. A final shot of the children with the presenters and then the time had come, the launch began. Well, not quite, the first five were launched a second time and then one by one they came out of the bag. The crowd was quiet, as was the PA (because of the filming) and as the last one flew there was a huge round of applause from the Great Ouse Kite Fliers and a few others too I'm sure. Another thank you here for Dave Nicholl who happened to be there at the right/wrong time and became anchorman for the train. There were a few anxious moments and not every kite was perfectly aligned at all times but the train flew and flew well, much to everyone's relief. There was a camera mounted under the manta ray sending back aerial footage of all this but they hadn't quite got the right shot and the arena slot was over. Let's get this train back in the bag then we'll do a re-launch in the other arena to get the right shot; minor job. Anyone who thought that, ask Nick Moss, yet another person who helped at just the right time, great stuff.

A few of the kites needed new spars but considering the immense pressure the sails were under in that wind, the shields stood up to the conditions very well. Karl's reputation was intact, well except for the small lifter kite that totally refused to fly straight on the second launch, let's hope Nick did throw it away and not put it on ebay as a Karl Longbottom failure.

As a bit of a challenge to Karl, he had been presented with a pair of men's cotton briefs, late on the Saturday afternoon, to make into a kite that would

fly. The two male Blue Peter presenters had been 'discreetly' displaying their underwear in the fashionable way during the day whilst filming, especially during the rokkaku fights. Whichever of the two of them lost, had to fly their pants. Funnily enough there were three identical pairs that day, two were worn by the presenters and the third flew at about 20ft with a long blue tail so I hear. They must have heard about Karl's flying underwear.

The weather had been kind to us all and totally defied the forecast. The rain must have stopped by 9:00am and the skies slowly cleared to a bright and moderately sunny afternoon. It had been a long day, we just needed to hand the train and rokkakus over to the BBC and enjoy a peaceful, pleasant evening hoping we had managed to express our thanks to all the fantastic flyers who did whatever we asked, whenever we asked.

The cast of thousands?

They were our bed fellows on the Friday night at that nice hotel around the corner from the festival, Green-tree Ledge or something. Luckily we spotted them before they began their feast and we changed rooms; I believe another kite flier was not quite so lucky.

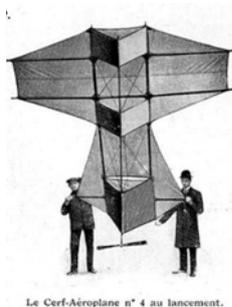


The 'Kintaplane' is so named because it has this name marked in pencil along one of its longeron sticks. From the feel of the kite it would appear to date closer to the 1950s rather than the early 1900s, although the original design must be around the latter date.



Designs for aeroplane kites of this sort can be found in *14 Aeroplanes et Cerfs-Volants* published by Librarie Aeronautique

circa 1912. It does not seem to be a Brookite although they had a *Plane Kite* which was similar and made in a number of sizes. The illustrations below come from the 1912 Gomes catalogue *Cerfs-Volants Militaires Scientifiques et Sportifs*. The Kintaplane looks suspiciously like *Le Cerf-Aeroplan*.



"Kintaplane"



"Kintaplane"



Notes: All dimensions in inches.

Front spar 32 1/4 x 3/8 x 1/4". Outer spar goes through buttonholes and fixes to rings

Aft spar 32 x 3/16 x 3/16". Flexible spar connects across back to rings.

Tail spar 17 x 3/8 x 3/8". As front spar.

All spars have slot to connect to rings. The spar ends are bound with thread to prevent splitting.

Note: ring tapes are shown on 'wrong' side of wing for clarity. These are actually sewn to 'ground' facing side.

White tape edging is indicated only.

The longerons are not pocketed between cells.

Bridle is approx. 1/16" dia

3 ply cord. It is stitched through cell and tied around stick at front. It is double tied and knotted around stick at rear. Allow double 3" loop with overhand knot at flying point.

Cells are tacked to bottom stick.

Bottom stick 33 x 3/8 x 3/16"

Top sticks 32 5/8 x 3/8 x 3/16"

Front wing spar passes through front wing to connect with rings on wing underside. Aft wing spar does not go through wing so connects to topside.

Tail spar is same as aft wing spar

Cell edges are hemmed 1/4"

Front of front cell and aft of aft cell are each taped with 3/8" white on outside face of cell.

Stick at bottom of V is nailed in place with tacks through hems.

All material is lightweight 'kite muslin'. Weave is fore/aft.

Allow extra 1/4" hem on all edges.

Join left/right hand skins first

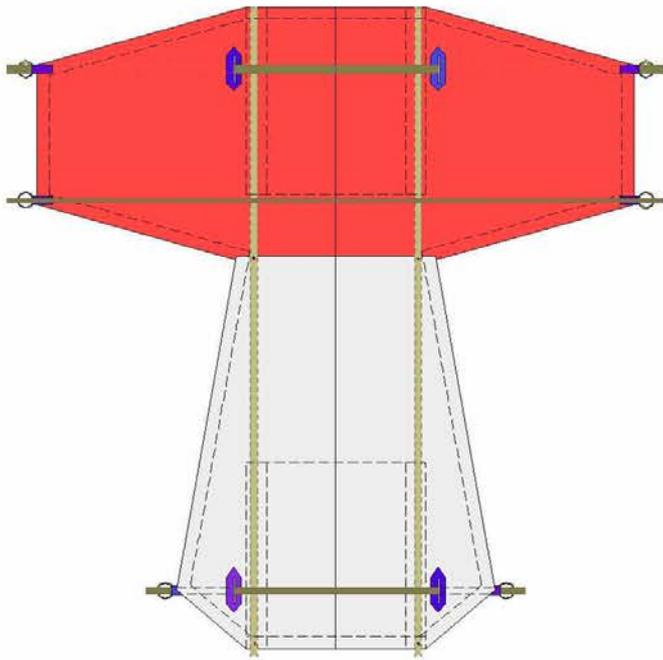
Lap join Top and Bottom skins with 3/8" overlap. Tail on sky side.

Edge tape all around with 5/8" tape (Use sail material for tape)

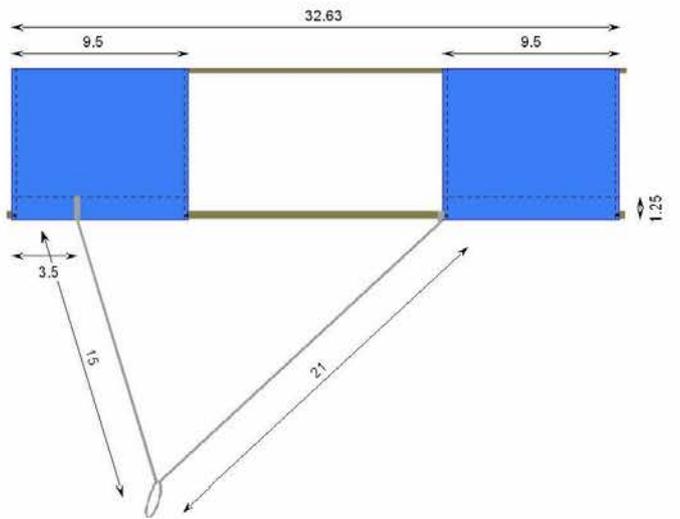
Add 1 1/2" spar 'buttonholes' on sky side. These are 1/4" tape (blue) stitched on inner and outside edges.

Add 5/8" dia ring spar connectors using tape (blue) on ground side.

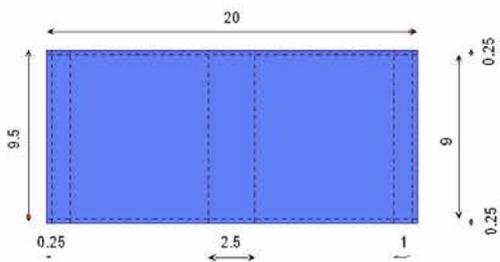
Add cells, noting that top skin/cell pocket is closed off to contain longerons. Other longeron connections are tacked.



Side View

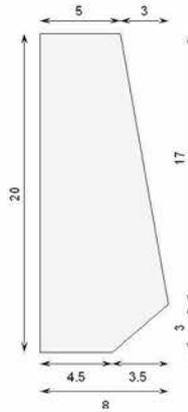


Front View

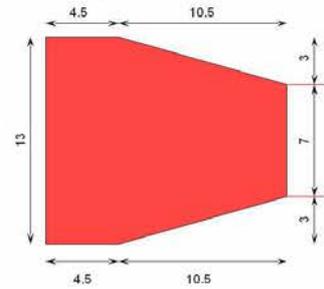


Cells (2 off)

Tail Skins
(white 2 off)



Wing Skins
(red 2 off)



Drawn: Paul Chapman 29th July 2008

"Kintaplane"



Detail of wing/cell junction, showing longeron and spar



'Antionette'
by Nico van den Berg
Nordwijk 2008
ref: 14 Aeroplanes et Cerfs-Volants



Bits & Pieces

From the Northwest Indiana and Illinois Times (August 4th)

Children's games can help you get in shape, give you balance, flexibility and burn calories. Remember when you were a kid and you spent the entire weekend outside simply playing? Well, those childhood games can actually help get and keep you in shape.

These are fun, engaging activities that fall under the title "play," which is very important for participation and adherence. People need to play and not think of it as exercise, says Fabio Comana, M.A., M.S., an exercise physiologist for the American Council on Exercise. "Plus, many of these are performed in a group-like setting, integrating a social aspect to the activity (a concept I like to call 'relational fitness'). This, too, is very important to older adults, who generally become more isolated and withdraw as they age," he said.

Amongst the activities is Flying a Kite

Benefits: "It's not much of a cardio workout, but it does get the body moving around, so I like it for a little challenge to overall body flexibility," Comana says. Additionally, flying kites offers "scapular stability on the side you are flying. It also builds core strength and balance to stabilize the kite in strong wind," Scripps says. But keep in mind that the "constant upward gaze might aggravate neck problems for some people," adds H. James Phillips, P.T., Ph.D., School of Graduate Medical Education, Seton Hall University.

What You Need: A kite, wind, a wide open space.

How You Play: According to David Gomberg of Gomberg Kites (www.Gombergkites.com) in Oregon, "Before you can fly your kite, you need wind. The amount of wind you need depends on the kind of kite you have. Some kites are heavier and need more wind. Others are especially made to fly in light wind. But most kites are made to fly in average winds of between 4 and 10 miles per hour.

How do you get the kite off the ground? "Stand with your back to the wind and hold your kite up as high as you can. Make sure the nose is pointing straight up, and then gently let it go. If the breeze is strong enough, the kite will start to rise. Slowly let out a little flying line, and the kite will fly back. Then, before it reaches the ground, tighten your grip on the line and the kite will start to rise again. All you need to do is repeat this process until the kite gets up into steady winds," Gomberg says.

In lighter winds, have a friend hold your kite about 50 feet away and release it into the wind as you pull in on the flying line. The kite should shoot up into the sky. When you get a little height, let out more line, then pull in again to gain altitude.

Buying a kite? There are many types. Each has been designed to do something different in the sky. Gomberg recommends that beginners go with a simple design like a Delta Kite. "Look for a kite 5 to 7 feet wide and made of durable, lightweight materials. Expect to spend \$20 to \$30," he adds.

How Many Calories You Burn: About 3.5 calories per minute and 105.5 calories per half-hour.

Kite Energy

GRONINGEN, The Netherlands -- Dutch astronaut Dr Wubbo Ockels has successfully demonstrated his new energy concept in a field near the university city of Groningen today. He has flown a high-flying energy kite, creating kinetic energy from huge radio-controlled highflying kites. He has designed 'ladder-mills' to store the kinetic energy and convert it into electricity.

Three such ladder-mills provide enough electricity to power the entire city of Groningen. The experiment was carried out along the northern coastline of The Netherlands where there's usually more than enough wind to raise the gigantic kites into the sky. The radio-controlled, high-flying kites can create some 10,5kw electricity each, Dr Ockels told a local radio station.

"At the moment we are the only developers who have managed to succeed in this concept, although other groups are also testing it in Italy and Australia," he said. The kites can fly like aeroplanes, so you don't need energy to get it back down again. I want people to stop burning coal and gas for energy and start using these ladder-mills as alternative energy sources," he said.

Olympic Mascots portend disaster

The Olympic mascots, five cartoon figures representing four animals and the Olympic torch, are also being linked to disasters that some chatroom visitors believe should have been foreseen. The antelope mascot Yingying foretold the Tibet riots, the South China Morning Post said, referring to a viral



Bits & Pieces

circulating on the Internet.

Huanhuan, the torch mascot, foretold the trouble that plagued the torch's controversial journey around the world, the paper said, adding that Nini the kite was a portent of an April train disaster in Shandong province, home of Chinese kite-flying, and Jingjing the panda, which is found mostly in Sichuan, pointed to the earthquake.

On the BBC Web Site

As part of their Olympic coverage there was a short video on the site about Han Fushan who makes kites from scrap plastic he finds on the streets of Beijing.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/sport1/hi/olympics/7537644.stm>

More Olympic News

Whilst on the Olympic the following was published in the Guardian August 5th .

Beijing grounds kites, pigeons, as Games near
BEIJING, Aug 5 (Reuters) - Homing pigeons and kites are the latest victims of Beijing's drive to hold a trouble-free Olympics after authorities announced they will be banned in parts of the city. Elaborate kites in the shape of dragons and other creatures are a common sight in the skies above Beijing parks, where enthusiasts fly them to giddy heights.

Raising homing pigeons is also a hobby popular among long time residents, especially old people, who sometimes attach whistles to birds' feet so they whirl through the air. But for some pigeon-fanciers, at least, no longer.

The Beijing government announced pigeons and kites must disappear from the skies over 40 neighbourhoods. "Both flying pigeons and kites have been a severe threat to the safety of planes coming out of the airport. In order to strengthen the sky clearance, certain areas have banned kite flying to avoid potential danger," the eight-page regulation issued by the local government stated. China has gone to extraordinary lengths to avoid attacks, protests and mishaps marring the Games from Friday, when the government wants to show an image of national stability and contentment.

The kite and pigeon ban covers seven central, southern and western districts in the city, and includes kite-flying havens such as the Temple of Heaven park and the western-lying Fragrant Hills. Kite-maker Liu Xuejin, 61, who flies the swallow-shaped kites his store specialises in every night, said the rule was puzzling. "There's not much potential danger in flying kites, so long as you don't play along the roads where there are high electricity wires," said Liu, who has crafted kites out of silk and bamboo for decades. "They must be joking."

Der Drachendesigner Richard Stieff

Walter Diem of Germany has finished a great project to resurrect some designs by Richard Stieff. Walter says:

Some years ago I've got copies of an old Photograph album of the Steiff family with lot of photos Richard Steiff had made of his "Roloplan" and aerial photographs with this kite. Some pictures shows unknown ot forgotten kites, designed by Richard Steiff, but never been produced. I thought we should try to reproduce these kites an asked therefore the wellknown german Roloplan specialists Werner Ahlgrim and Wolfram Wannrich to assist me by planning and sewing the kites.

We had only the b/w photographs of the album, nearly 100 years old, darkened, unsharp, with no scale how big the kites were.

But I think we did a real good job. Alle the chararacteristic details of a "Roloplan" can be found in these new kites. They are replica with great authenticity.

With permission of the Steiff familiy I could write this book containing 17 kites with exact plans and instructions for the reader to build his own Steiff-kites. Your can see for every kite a reproduction of the original photo - and on the other page the new kite on flight."

The paperback book contains 192 pages, 18 in colour in format 17 x 22 cm. In Germany it costs € 20,- plus postal costs € 3,50 ground worldwide or € 5,- by air in Europe resp. € 6,50 world. It cn be found on Amazon.de.

Youtube

Amongst the many kite re4lated videos on this site we found one titled "French Kite Aerial Photography Unit, WW1". It shows huge kites lifting a giant wooden camera for aerial photography over German lines. Running to 6.5 minutes.

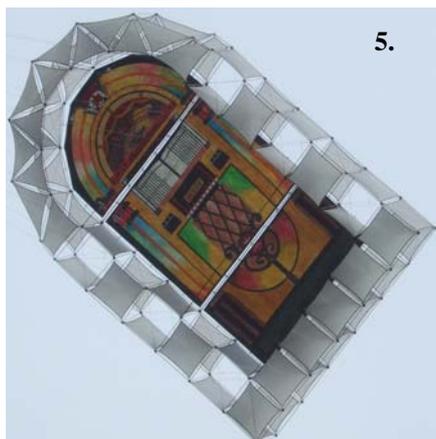
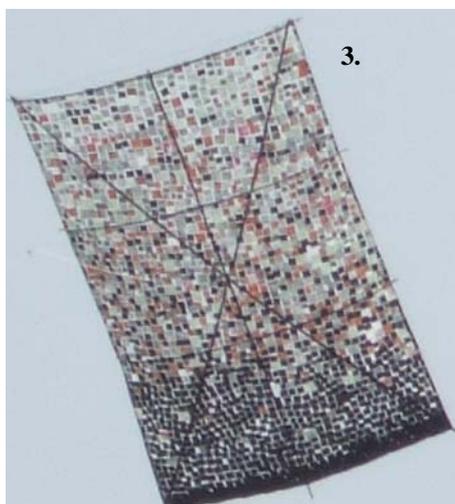


Competition Winners at Dieppe 2008

The theme for this years Dieppe Kite Festival competition was "On Air to a Kite String". According to the commentator they had the most entries ever for the competitions—but it must be remembered that the delegations are 'obliged' to create a new kite for the competition.

The competition is in two sections—Novice, those who have not entered before and Professional—those who have. In the novice category: 3rd—Ralf Dietrich (2), 2nd—Anna Rubin (3), 1st—Bas Vreeswijk (4). Professional Category: 3rd—Gerard Clement (5), 2nd—Bill Farber (1), 1st—Olivier Reymond (6). The junior category winning kite is number 7.

There was also a competition for "Wind Gardens". This was won by Robert Valkenburg.





Just occasionally in the kite world, we are in the privileged situation of seeing something quite magical, unique, or a first that stirs the imagination. I can think of the world record 'Flexi' stack at LeTouquet, being amazed by the 'Ronnie Weave', watching Aircraft perform 'Valkyrie' for the first time, the World Cup with Tsunami, Aircraft and Crazy Diamonds taking team flying to a new level, the Peter Lynn 'Megabite' and the first flight of the 'flag'. If you were lucky enough to be at the Portsmouth Festival on Saturday would have been witness to such an historic and memorable moment with the first truly choreographed Rev 'Mega Team'.

The term 'Mega Team' has been somewhat abused of late, especially at festivals, where getting the maximum number of participants boating about is the order of the day, rather than any routine that could infer that there was a predetermined plan. The 'Mega Teams of a few years ago when 12 to 16 kites would fly a precision routine are now sadly just a memory and anyway, how many constitutes 'Mega'. Stephen Hoath

has been at the forefront of the Rev version that has returned to this principle with some exceptional performances at festivals, as those at Dunstable will readily concur. However, Portsmouth was quite different and while the spectacle will be seen again, Southsea Common witnessed the first true Rev 'mega team' and it was all down to the vision of one man, Felix Mottram.

Back in 1993, Felix worked out that the only way to create a routine with the number of flyers he envisaged was to use a 'grid' principle like a giant chessboard in the sky. He proposed this idea to Jim Hadziki, co designer of the Rev, but there it was left, as success required a quite precise series of circumstances. Firstly, every flyer involved must be capable of 'owning their hover', able to keep the kite in precisely the space and orientation required and then move or change orientation on demand with equal precision. Next, sufficient number of these skilled flyers had to be gathered together in one place all with kites to cope with whatever wind conditions manifested themselves, and finally, someone to organise, choreograph and control it all.

With this year being the 20th anniversary of the Rev, the time was right, enough flyers with the level of skill required were available, Gill and Jon Bloom were able to gather them all together and Steve and Felix had worked out the logistics. Late on Saturday 23rd August, 42 Revolution kites comprising Crazy Drivers, FLIC, Flying Squad, I Quad, The Decorators and Too Much Fun, took to the sky to hover in their allotted space on the imaginary grid. With Steve Hoath bellowing the moves through a loudhailer, the flyers presented the huge crowd to a spectacular display of absolute kite control. After a series of complex manoeuvres, 22 Revs moved out to create a rectangular frame, while the remaining 20 created the figure 20 in the centre, quite amazing, as anyone who has ever tried to fly a Rev will agree.

Now this was not the largest ever number of Revs flown at once as 48 had taken to the sky in Japan, but these did not fly a routine. 47 were assembled for the Sunday when the '20 logo' was flown facing the flyers and reversed for the benefit of the crowd at the back of the arena. This was however the very first 'Mega Rev' show and the realisation of a 15-year vision for Felix Mottram. Thanks must go to everyone who enabled this moment of 'kite history' to take place at Portsmouth 08.

All this was pretty impressive, but there was lots more going on besides and I Quad from the States put on an incredible display of team flying. It is difficult to categorise exactly what they did as the whole routine was dynamic and used many sports kite moves, but allied to the capabilities of the Rev, produced something that was quite stupendous. The French have been flying Revs in this way for a while, but I Quad have moved it on several notches and it is very definitely team flying of the very best quality, and a pleasure to watch. Proving that he can fly them, just as well as he can make them, was none other than our own 'Bazzar', now part of this superb team.



There were many that considered that this was one of the best Portsmouth festivals ever, and with the combination of sun for most of the time, wind off the sea and arenas full of kites it would be difficult to fault this judgement. The programme was arranged to showcase the International guests, even if the Drachen Club Schaffhausen did keep getting 'bumped from the running order. They created a lovely backdrop to the Revs with a sky full of 'Mazzochi' stars that they continued to fly well

into the evening. Robert Brassington made it from Tasmania, despite the best efforts of QUANTAS, and with the help of his many British 'fans' put 15 very varied and colourful kites into the sky during the artistic kite slot to win him the display of the festival award.



Once again we were all indebted to Linda Howard and her army of helpers for the superb spread they produced on Saturday evening. A balmy evening it certainly was not as the cold and threat of rain encouraged a move inside the marquee, but at least all were assembled for the arrival of Mr Christie and Mr Sotheby in the guise of George and Andy. The auction had a certain 'Rev' feel about it, with an original Neos Omega from Andy King amongst the lots and an ultra modern printed version from Roy Broadley. Interesting to reflect on which made the most money.

Sunday did not look promising as we woke to wind and rain battering on the hotel windows, but by the time we had walked to the site it was dry and soon we had the sun as well and another sky full of colour. Jos and Kaatje Valcke had the Jester and their new Squaw on a single line making a very bold colour statement with the Squaw also winning one of the major awards. Robert van Weers was using a sizeable proportion of the available wind to inflate his shoal of fish, and it was a shoal, not a line as is normally seen. For something different though, his sea anemone is just an amazing piece of design with clown fish lurking amongst the constantly moving fronds.

The display arena under the control of 'field marshal' Cartwright provided a constantly changing range of experiences both for flyers and audience with the incredible variety of kites on display, all being eloquently described by our 'speaking kite encyclopaedias' George and Andy. Apart from 'Rolly' who does need isolation, the concept of mass arena displays does seem to work, and it gives maximum opportunity for invited guests and assembled flyers to participate. That there was far too much to comment on individually goes without saying, and yes it was a fantastic festival, so thanks to all those that organised, flew, fed and watered or otherwise contributed to the success of the weekend, and apologies to Tony for doing such terrible damage to his 'birthday present', but it was lovely, every last drop.

Least it should be thought that everything was 'hunky dory' there needs to be a footnote of caution. With the size and power of some of the pieces now being flown, a ton of sand in a bag is not enough. If a car can drag it up wind, then a kite will certainly take it in the

other direction, as we became well aware when the wind freshened. Having experienced concrete anchors skating across Southsea Common in the past and humungous bags of sand progressing more sedately recently, it is something that does need to be born in mind.



Pothecary Corner

Xelon – By Rainer Hoffmann

I've always had a problem with words that begin with the letter "X" – but I didn't let that put me off the Xelon by HQ Invento before I'd had the chance to try it out. At least I don't have to pronounce it here – I just hope I spelt it right? There are three kites in this range and pictured here is Roger from Solent Kite Flyers with 2 and 1 (2 is on the left of the picture). As you can see you get quite a lot of kite for your money (sorry ladies Roger's not included). There are only small differences in these two, in fact I was almost tempted to do a spot the difference competition.



In their sales blurb HQ emphasize how quickly and easily this kite can be assembled which is good because, as I may have said before – I don't do fiddly! There's a fair amount of bending to do with the spine so please make sure that all the rods are pushed firmly in to the ferrules and have stayed there. You might want to take just a bit more time and put a bit of electrical tape round each one as you put it together. After all, the kite costs nearly a hundred quid and you don't want repair jobs taking precedence over flying time. I liked the striking colours of mine (on the right) and would have like to have used the kit that came with it which gives easy stacking – but I only have the one.

If anyone else has got one the same perhaps we can get together at a festival or you could bring it along to one of our "Better Flying Day" events usually held at Stokes Bay. Once fully assembled the Xelon is quite a sturdy kite and flies easily and very steady in a wind above 5 or 6 mph. Even before you affix the tail (in a little more wind) the kite has great presence in the sky and is a bit of an attention grabber. I think I prefer this to the other kite both of which Roger and I have from the Hoffmann collection – the Bow.

The Tattoo 2

This is definitely a sport kite for the beginner to the

mildly experienced in my opinion. It's one of those kites that make you look good no matter how good you really are.

I don't mean it's a poseur's kite but the uninitiated, just passing by, might well be tempted in to the sport merely by seeing some one flying this around late one summer's evening when only the faintest of breeze exists. You can float this kite around on the supplied lines and handles enjoying just the flying of it. It's not for complicated tricks – you will need to be experienced plus to be able to push this kite to its limits. Axles are there but roll-ups are a long way off for the beginner. I wouldn't give this kite to someone much under 14 to fly and I certainly wouldn't recommend the top end of 18mph given out by the manufacturer if you wanted to fly it next weekend too – I'm not sure that it has the strength of the HQ Bolero that I have been trying to break in the arena for the past 2 years.

The sail is Icarex (light winds) is also available in blue and white and is stretched out by four and five mm carbon rods. The 72 inch frame folds away in to a sturdy bag and retails at just under £70.00.



Canard Wing

A simple thing, this one, that looks like it won't fly. But when you see it up in the sky you can just why it does with all the intrications (I just invented that word!) of tethered flight there for all to see – and agree with!

It's the sort of kite that you'd think was so simple, it wouldn't take long to knock one up yourself. Be careful here the very simplicity of it means that you have to get it just right or it will fly like pants. It's weird when you think about it just like Polo mints you have to have all the bits that aren't there to make it work – Go figure!

The one I have flies beautifully. We had it flying at a charity gig we did for young carers and only the most rolling of turbulent,



Pothecary Corner

stopping and starting, gusty winds that rattled through the surrounding trees, (you know just the sort that I mean don't you?) took it out of the sky.

From an idea by Ralf Beutnagel the 'Wing' is actually a square. If you measure the overall height by the width – they both come in at 78 inches (The mm doesn't always work on my tape measure). That's not including the drogue which comes with it of course. You need about 4mph (or the equivalent in litres) and just under forty quid to get this little gem of the ground. Well worth it in my humble opinion.

Win a Kite

The competition trundles on – If you don't know already – you can win a Fury 85 in a colour scheme of your own choosing. Sponsored by Legendary kite maker and flyer – Carl Robertshaw and assisted by Kiteworld.co.uk - the competition allows you the chance to own a top of the range kite just by entering a kite related photo (with a theme of colour in mind) to our web-site found at www.kiteworld.co.uk or by sending a print to Kiteworld – get their address from their advert in this magazine. None of the afore mentioned will have any influence on the judge's decision so bribery won't work. We decided to put the closing date back to the middle of October so that any new comers to the later festivals will still have the chance to enter – You never know, it might even spark some new interest. We have had entries from far and wide including the eastern block and even Las Vegas – we have had some pretty good ones and a couple of – well at least they entered! All will be shown on our site when it's all over. How are you guys getting on with the photo gallery? The secret is to click on the first photo then hover the cursor over the buttons until you see the one that says "End slide show" – Yes that's the one that actually starts it!!! – Typical of computers - eh?

A Quick Flight

.....through the season so far. We've had a few private and the usual mix of charity gigs this year. Weymouth provided a damp start to the season. A better hotel this year did an earlier breakfast giving us time to get down on the beach and set up whilst no-one was around and we could make sure that us and Team Spectrum could get set up on the edge of the arena. It is still beyond me why year after year they still have the main arena right by the old Aquarium where none of the public can stand and watch. As far as the wind is concerned it's probably the worst spot on the whole coastline and this year another attraction (which was closed) had to be fenced off so that people could walk around it thus making it impossible to fly on 40 meter lines without hitting something when the tide was in. Then it rained – then it thundered! It seemed as if we were all going to wait around for better to come – and then I thought about all the people who had come here to see something. Marilyn spotted someone she new from our home town of Andover and I thought –

Blow it – the thunder has gone - we have waterproofs - I had my microphone working, lets get on and do something - we can give a bit of a show all on our own! The two girls (Marilyn and Mags) thought I was mad but soon entered in to the spirit of things and we were all chuffed to bits when we saw all those people lined up along the prom under their umbrellas and some, stood on the seats in the shelters straining to see. After that others followed



on and the festival was under way.

The usual Weymouth mini climate didn't happen and at one point I was enlisting the help of the Airheads getting them in turn to try and fly a kite, blindfolded, in no wind and trying to hit a target in the middle of the arena. I think the public were mildly entertained – I feel obligated to try to put something on. It must cost them, a fair bit to get there and then another six quid to park. At least we get a bit of help with expenses but I heard Bryan from Team Spectrum say that his fuel bill from Ipswich was nearly £80.00. Despite all that we had a good time, a great curry at Zaffran's and it was really nice to see every one again.

I heard whispers that things may be happening to liven up Weymouth - having observed a bit of a decline over the years I have to agree that it is beginning to need it. Perhaps a change of site would be a start?

Basingstoke – What a difference in the weather, had summer arrived? This was the best Basingstoke festival I can remember for a long time. A star studded line up of some of the best flyers and single line kite makers in the world treated us all to some stunning displays, both in and out of the arena.

Pothecary Corner

We were so pleased that what we do is different to everyone else as we always try to look at it from the inexperienced flyer's point of view and with my bits added in on the commentary of what is actually happening from the pilot's point of view – I think we added a different dimension – well we got some great feedback from this one anyway! A visit to our website will give a much better idea of what was going on that weekend and thanks to Roger Backhouse for his contribution of photos sent in.

Blackheath – Was, we hope, a learning experience for Lewisham council. They seemed a great bunch and the potential to make Blackheath greater than it ever was there in bucket loads.

There were so many things that were nearly right I am not going to go in to here for risk of sounding negative. Lots of notes were taken and I am positive that this is going to be THE kiting event of the year. Us invited flyers were very pleased with our accommodation right on the site and we found a curry house 200 meters away with food that rated as our all time second best - and we have sampled a few! The two days went well and Marilyn and I had a great time both in and out of the arena.

We look forward to being invited back next year – if you missed it this time be sure you don't in 2009.

Southampton - was hard work but very enjoyable and a fantastic learning experience. As a club member I was quickly given the job of running the arena for the day. That meant doing the commentary, organizing who went on when and then tearing around to make sure it all happened. Some of the other club members – Neil and Tony to name just two helped out when they could but they were involved with the rest of the members doing things like teddy bear drops, manning the gate, kite workshop and goodness knows all the other jobs vital to making the day a success. STACK held their competitions in the mornings and we were grateful to them for the brilliant displays they did for us in the afternoons. I had bought Mags a bottle of Champagne to celebrate her retirement from work and somehow that made it my fault she couldn't fly because she had fallen down the stairs and bruised herself after she had drunk it!!? The wind was good at Southampton and I managed to persuade her to fly in the team after doctoring the kites so they wouldn't pull too much. The BBC were there and wanted to film Team Flame and us for a documentary called Britain from the Air. I wonder if they will use the bit where I lost it completely and crashed in to Marilyn. We sorted out the tangle though, started over and all made that landing at the end all at the same time, right on the very last beat of the music.

The Southampton open cup was won by Chris Goff –

only just in front of some nice efforts from a couple of the younger flyers and a great display from a lady flying a Skydancer but Chris's routine with a rev performed mostly in amongst the crowd, had to be seen to be believed.

Kite magnet.

We went along with the rest of the Solent Flyers to a private event for a local IT company held at their headquarters in the midst of massive parklands and loads of trees which did an excellent job of churning up a wind that changing through 180 degrees in direction.

Whilst we were setting up we floated out a lifter kite with a bit of laundry on it. Having taken our eye off it for some time we wondered why the other guys and girls were staring up in to one of the taller trees and having a bit of a discussion when we noticed our kite right at the very top. Now this is something I had not seen done before and my photos turned out rubbish, so I rigged up a photo to help explain what happened. The kite couldn't be pulled back out of the tree - pulling would only make things more stuck – but the kite was too high to be reached with poles and tree climbing was something I used to be good at when I was young. The only way now was to use a second kite to lift the first from above.



A simple idea but with the inherent risk of having two kites stuck up the same tree. By fixing a clip on the line of a rescue kite and letting the line of the stuck kite (on the left in the photo) pass through the clip it was just a matter of some skilful flying and a bit of line jiggling – well done lads!

Dover A long way for most British flyers situated down in the bottom corner of the country the Dutch and Belgian flyers probably had less distance than we did to travel. I can remember discussing travel and accommodation with main organized, Gerty, months before – just as car fuel prices were starting to leap up and I remember my words exactly! "The way things are going diesel could reach £1.20 a liter by the time of the festival" In fact it was £1.33! With the cost of travelling these days festivals could start to lose out as those who normally show up at nearly all of the events are forced to pick and choose. Kite festivals are going to have to concentrate more on local publicity to swell the numbers of people through the gate or squeezing through the hedge.

Dover is probably one of the strangest layout you will find at a kite festival. The main, fenced off arena was in an area all of its own some 150 feet above

Pothecary Corner

everything else going on. They had 3000ft height clearance from the CAA on this one so it didn't make any difference but I did wonder that if they didn't have clearance would the standard 200 feet have started from the bottom field or the top one?



We had lots of encouraging comments from this one. Like Southampton, I ended up doing most of the commentary – quite a few compliments on this too – Look out Andy and George (If I only had their knowledge).

At one point I was commentating on "The Crow man", helping him launch and taking a photo for the web-site – then he asked me if I could get the castle in the background as well – if I could – I would have whistled 'Dixie' too - who says us blokes can't multi task? We were asking if anyone wanted to fly team with us at Dover and we got a taker on the Sunday. Lee from new, Masters pairs champions "Wind Magic" flew our Conte Partiro routine with us after only two stick practices without music and a quick go in the arena with no tails or music. We would not normally attempt anything anywhere near as difficult as this with most any other flier but we knew Lee to be experienced and the way he picked it up was amazing!

The wind was low – and getting lower and I got took out by a single liner dropping down over the arena just after we got started but Marilyn took over the calling and they flew pairs until I got myself untangled. A hasty re-launch worked and we all got back in and finished on cue. Not exactly the prettiest of routines but those watching new what was happening, showed their appreciation - and shared in a sense of real achievement at the end.

You can find all the pictures printed here and many more on our web-site. We try to take a few good pictures at every event we attend but are often reliant on people sending us the ones they have taken. All photos gratefully received - please send to

us. I ended out taking loads of these works of art from Belgium – someone else took one of these as well with Dover Castle through the middle – It's been entered for the kite competition!

We are having another better flying day at Stokes Bay on Sunday October 19th 2008. 10.00am start till late in association with the Solent Kite Flyers.

There will be help offered for individual or pairs or team flying. Also the figures will be announced for the upcoming Southampton Winter league (Proposed date Sunday 9th November). Help with these given too. The Southampton Winter League is THE place to get you started - it is very low key - based on having some fun and beginners and novices are very welcome - as are the more experienced flyers who want to get some serious practice. Keep an eye on www.closeencounterskites.co.uk 'News' or 'Diary' for updates

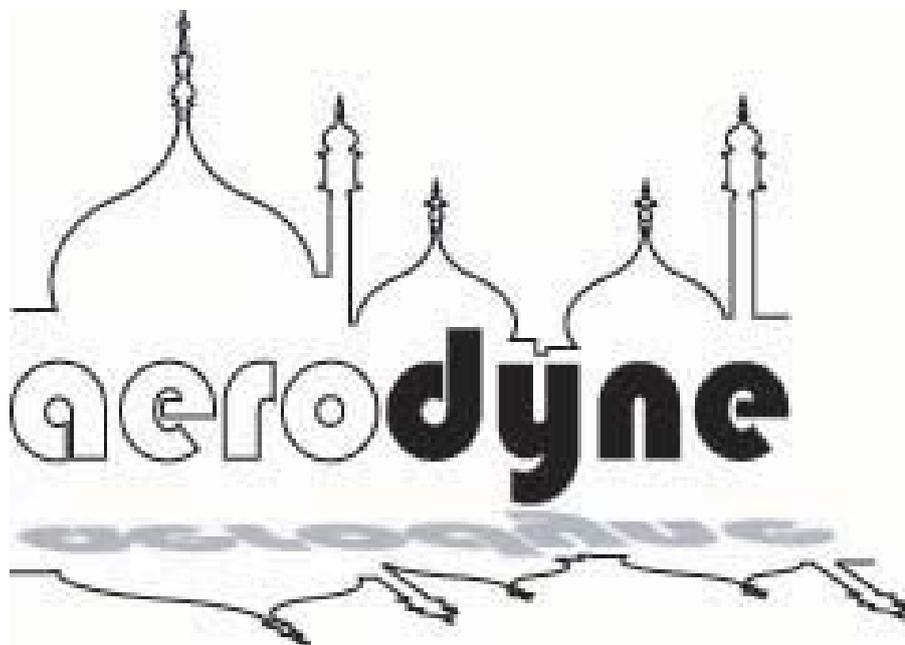
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One of our members enjoying a quick snack while other threw themselves of a cliff top. Any other caption is up to you I am not brave enough to print some I can think off.

THE NEWS LETTER FOR THE BRIGHTON KITE FLYERS

THE BRASSINGTON EFFECT

One of the things we had to do at Portsmouth was meet up with Robert Brassington & pay him for Tracie's Angels Long Powers kite that Robert had so kindly posted over to us earlier in the year.

For any of you that have never met or have never heard of Robert Brassington, he is a quiet, approachable kite maker from



Tasmania who makes a variety of kites from flat panel to geometrically complicated boxes, but all are very pleasing to the eye.

At the flyers meeting at 10am we found out that he had only just got down from Heathrow at the last minute. So Tracie decided to give Robert some time to settle in to the festival before talking about money with him.

Around lunchtime Tracie went and found Robert who by this time had his Macro Kinetic spinners set up on the other side of the arena & was also flying a couple of his delta stained glass windows.

When she told him that she owed him for a kite he said "no you're all paid up, you don't owe me anything" She assured Robert that this was not the case and paid him for the kite.

She had only just paid for one kite when she started talking about buying some more from him.

A while later I got called over from the other side of the arena to take a look at a kite Tracie was interested in.

By this time it seemed that most of BKF were trying to relieve themselves of some hard earned cash, & at the same time relieving Robert of his collection that he had brought over with him.

We chatted for a while about his new Sode kite, using silk inlays on ripstop. Then it was time for Robert to show off his rapidly diminishing collection in the arena.

And what a collection it was. Flowing tails of organza from the flat panels of the stacks were flying under some of his amazing Gothic cell structures, with his deltas complementing the display.

At this point I realized that I too was starting to suffer from the Robert Brassington Effect and started to draw my plans together for my next kite.

Over the weekend I spoke to many of our members who were also sufferers.

They had either bought kites from him there & then, or had commissioned

Robert to make something for them when he got home, or were saving up for that special kite.

Me, well you will have to wait until next year to see how I was affected. It was in my mind & now it's in Robert's & it should be with me by Christmas (fingers crossed).

What is so special about these kites? The wonderful use of colours? Or is it the little bit of Tasmanian sand in the bottom of the bag that tells you that he has tested each and every one? Probably a bit of everything.

All I know is that I will remember this Portsmouth 2008 for a long time, because when BKF fly together in future we will be able to fly so many more of his beautiful creations.

Thanks Robert for bringing your collection over to the UK & thanks for letting us relieve you of some wonderful kites. See you soon mate.

Cheers
Dave H



B A G S O F F U N

You can never have too many kite bags, and they so quick and easy to run up that there is no excuse for not making your own (well maybe the lack of a sewing machine). In this article, I describe a quick and easy eight step method that works for both long thin bags for sparred kites and short dumpy stuff bags for soft kites and inflatables.

To make your bag you are going to need:

- Fabric: I always think using good quality Ripstop Nylon or Icarex is a waste so I tend to use cheap fabric oddments.
- Draw String: 500lb polyester kite line works for me.
- Thread: Just your standard sewing thread is fine.

If you are feeling extravagant, you could add a spring loaded toggle for the draw string, some webbing for a handle (useful for carrying dumpy bags) and for dumpy bags a toggle



button is a useful addition for securing the ends of the bridles for kites with lots of bridle line.

Step 1: Prepare your kite for packing; in the case of a sparred kite simply roll it up, whilst for the soft kite use a plastic carrier bag which you have taped down to roughly the right dimensions. Now measure the length and the circumference of the kite. For the circumference of the sparred kite make a loop in your measuring tape and make sure it passes easily over the whole length of the kite; there is nothing worse than having a bag that is too tight for the kite. Now measure it all again just to confirm your dimensions. Measuring costs you nothing, but once you start cutting fabric there is no going back.

Step 2: Now the maths: To the circumference, add 3 cm to give the cutting width of the fabric. To the length, add the circumference plus

6.5cm to give the cutting length of the fabric

Step 3: Mark out your cutting dimensions on the fabric and double check them before cutting.

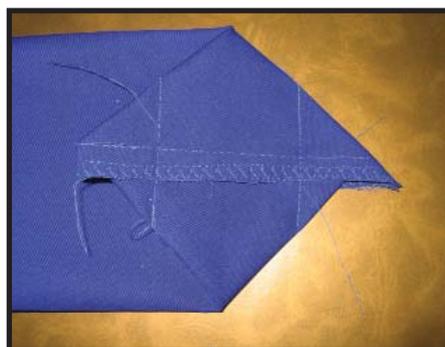
Step 4: On the wrong side of the fabric fold in the two top corners fabric at 45 degrees, 5cm in from the top and sides. Pin and sew down the raw edges using a 3mm zigzag stitch.

Step 5: Cut your draw string, twice the



circumference is a good length, and lay it on the wrong side of the fabric parallel to and 2.5 cm in from the top edge. Fold over the top edge of the fabric by 2.5 cm, pin and sew along the raw edge using a 5mm triple step zigzag/zigzag stitch. Now with the draw string eased up to the fold sew with a 3mm straight stitch across the width of the fabric 1cm up from the sewn edge, back tacking the ends for strength.

Step 5a: If you are making a dumpy bag and want to add a handle, now is the time to do it. Cut a piece of webbing the same length as the circumference and position the ends on the right side of the fabric half the circumference in from the top edge and a quarter of the circumference plus 1.5 cm in from the sides. Now



sew using a 3mm wide bar tack (short stitch length zigzag) in three equally spaced bands: at the end of the webbing, half the width of the webbing in from the end and the

width of the webbing in from the end.

Step 6: Fold the fabric in half length-wise right sides together, and using a 1.5 cm seam allowance sew down the side and across the bottom using a 3mm straight stitch. Bar tack the top of the side seam to strengthen it at the opening, now over-lock the raw edges using a 5mm triple step zigzag/zigzag stitch or an over-lock stitch if your sewing has one. You could use an over-locking machine to do this but I find I can make several bags using a standard machine in the time that it takes me to setup my over-locker.

Step 7: Now roll/twist the fabric so that the side seam is running down the centre of the top face. The bottom should now form two points rather than being square, ease the fabric as necessary in order to shape them. Using a 3mm straight stitch seam across each point in turn halfway between the tip of the point and the fold across the bags. Back tack the ends of the seam for strength.

Step 7a: If you are adding a toggle



button, attach it to the top of the seam allowance near the opening.

Step 8: Tie off the ends of the drawstring adding your optional spring toggle before doing so and turn the finished bag the right way out. Your bag is now ready for use.

Batchoy



THE KITE FLYERS SMILE

Those that don't fly kites often ask what do you see in kite flying, as kite flyers may well ask what do train spotters see in trains or joggers in jogging. The answer for me has often been the "kite flyers smile":- So what is a kite flying smile, remember that first time you pick up a kite out of the bag and launch it in the air the smile that comes on you face whether you want it to or not, it's just spontaneous, and the biggest of these is when that you have just brought, made or borrowed and have always wanted and you launch it is one of those things I like to call the "kite flyers smile". That look of sheer joy and wonder as your kites float upwards in to, what we hope is, a clear blue sky. The smile does not have to last for long,

Go on when you are next on the kite flying field watch people as they first launch there is always that quick smile as the kite goes up it can't be helped.

The other type of "Kite Flyers Smile" is more a "Kite Flying Smile" it is the smile that appears on both children and adults faces alike when they watch others flying your kites. It's just as amazing to see and again never fails to appear spontaneously when ever and what ever you fly.

As an idea for 2009 why don't we see if we can run a photo competition in 2009 to see who can get the best "Kite Flyers" smile onto film (OK it can be digital as well). So who will up for it as a bit of fun send your entries to aerodyne@bkf.org.uk or post the to

the Brighton Kite Flyers. There may always be prizes to help put that "Kite Flyers Smile" on your face again

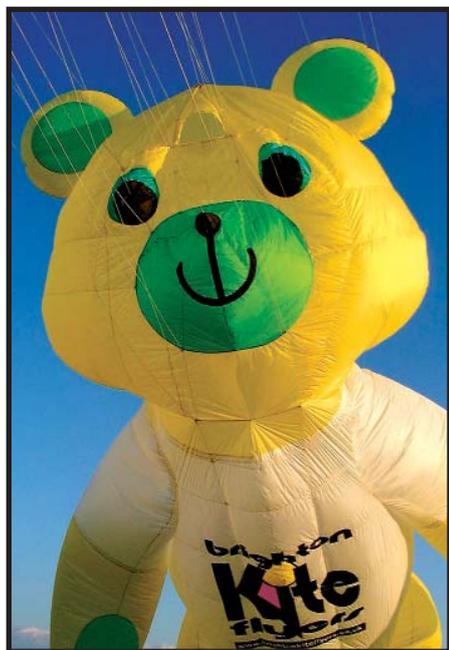
Simon Hennessey



PROFILE CORNER PROFILE CORNER PROFILE CORNER

Over the coming issues of Aerodyne we will adding a short profile of all the club kites and hopefully some of the interesting kites or kite related products you have seen, used or flown on your travels.

TEDDY FLIES AGAIN



The specially commissioned Peter Lynn Teddy is the oldest and arguable the most popular of the Brighton Kite Flyers Kites. He can be seen wearing his Brighton Kite Flyers T-shirt with pride at many a kite festival both in this country and in Europe. He is certainly a good crowd-pleaser. Whenever he is flown both young and old marvel at the site of a giant yellow and green Teddy bear, wearing a

white BKF T-shirt, and comments are made as he is seen flying high above them.

Teddy was designed and manufactured by Peter Lynn, a New Zealand Kite maker who is known throughout the kiting world for making large inflatable kites, power kites and buggies.

The club purchased Teddy back in 2002, and it was first flown by Ray Oakhill and Simon Hennessey on Telscombe Tye the day it arrived from New Zealand until it was dark. It came in a box 18 inches square, having been compressed and vacuum packed by Peter. Once it was removed from the box, to have a look at him, there was no way it was going back in the box so Ray gave up an old army kit bag he had and it was squeezed in that and so the fun began.

Teddy is approximately 20 metres long and comes with a Honey pot as a drogue for stability in high winds. Teddy has been flown a many event, and has helped support lots of both local and national charities On one such occasion the original honey pot was lost at sea many years ago while a group of members were flying it for

"Children in need" on Hove lawns and was replaced with one of a different colour but this new one is rarely used. There are so many fun stories about "Teddy" and things that the club has done with him, where he has been flown and travel to.

He has been known to attract people miles around and one such tale goes back to 2003 where in a small village in West Sussex on New Year's Day after little Johnny who had got a telescope for Christmas and was looking out when he saw a flying Teddy bear over 8 miles away. He ran in and woke his parents up saying he had seen a flying teddy through his telescope, well what would you say, but finally his Dad got up and looked, sure enough there was a flying teddy. So soon the whole family got up, dressed and in the car to go and find him.

He has even been flown in the snow on another New Year's Day fly-in on Devils Dyke. The club has even been known to fly him when there is no wind (Charlie Brown) much to the public's amusement.

I am sure that if you ask any club member they will be happy to tell you their favorite

DIEPPE CERF-VOLANT 2008

Friday

Last night saw me firmly ensconced in Peacehaven, and after a good night's kip and a super bit of brekky, Anne & Alan arrived at 7am, and it was off to the ferry – Simon only lives three miles from the ferry terminal so after an uneventful journey (how far wrong can you go in three miles? – I'll return to this theme later!) we were



soon in the queue to board the ferry. However, due to the channel tunnel burning down overnight, pretty much everyone else who wanted to go abroad was also in the same queue. The port was heaving, and we were two hours late in sailing. Mind you, all was not lost. The time was productively spent sniffing round the "fit bit in the converted horsebox TM". We then settled down to play cards – the ferry takes four hours to get to Dieppe. After an hour or so there was an announcement on the tannoy: would I report to the information office. Now that makes you sit up and take notice. After a minor panic on my part, it transpired that Simon had had a word with the crew and seeing as in my forty-odd years this was the first time I'd ever sailed over the channel, he'd arranged for me to visit the bridge. It was huge. Probably about twenty yards wide, with three separate control consoles – one in the middle, and one on each side. We watched other ships on the radar, and chatted with the officer of the watch for half an hour before going back to play cards. I say "play cards" – it's fair to say we all had a bit of a kip before the announcement to return to our cars was made. Driving off was fun. The hippymobile in front of us had broken down during the crossing, and we had to help the hippies bump-start the thing on the ramp off of the ferry before we could get going ourselves. The festival area was only half a mile from the ferry terminal so we thought we'd sign in before finding the hotel. The festival was held on the beach

and whilst anyone and everyone can fly on the beach, there were grass enclosures for "official participants". So we got our passes, and spent a few minutes having a look around. We soon found some fellow Brits and spent an entertaining ten minutes winding up the local officials by flying Indian fighting kites from the top of lamp posts. For some inexplicable reason whenever this chap found a kite tied to a lamp post he would take the thing down. So with a bit of "really skilful kite flying" an Indian fighter was soon flown from the top of a lamp post.

And then to the hotel. Fortunately we'd programmed the postcode of the place into the sat-nav. Unfortunately any given French



postcode covers a much larger area than a British one does, and the dulcet tones of Joanna Lumley claimed we'd found the hotel somewhere up a dingy French back street. Earlier in the day I wondered how far wrong one could go in three miles. Now I had the answer to my question.

After a nerve-wracking half an hour we were firmly ensconced in the Hotel Formula 1. It might be described as "basic", but so many hotels offer so many facilities that you never use. A bed for the night, brekky in the morning, and a loo & shower just down the corridor. At less than twenty quid a night you can't complain. Even if it took a while to fig-

ure out how to work the light.

And then to the supermarket for some odds and ends. I needed toothpaste. I got a tube of stuff – it was either toothpaste or haemorrhoid ointment. I took a gamble, and it tasted like toothpaste, so it probably was. However having said that, I've never eaten any Preparation H before, so you never know. By now, time was getting on. There was a dinner for kite fliers at 7.30pm, but realistically we wouldn't get there in time so we thought we'd find somewhere by the harbour for dinner. There was a minor panic when Alan missed his footing on a kerb and came down heavily. For a terrible moment I honestly thought he'd dropped dead. It was one of those schadenfreude moments – highly amusing all the time it is happening to someone else. A nasty sprain to his shoulder, but he was otherwise OK. We soon found a restaurant and settled down to "moules au curry avec frite" and chips. And found fellow kiting Brits in the same place having their tea too. It transpired that not many people had gone up to the "official" dinner. And then back to the car, and to bed. It had been a long day...

Saturday

Following a good brekky, it was back down to Dieppe. We spent at least two hours wandering round the open air market getting bread, cheese, ham, blood pudding, all sorts of stuff for dinner, before going to the festival. We spent a little while seeing the sights – not only were there shops for kites and souvenirs, there were formal delegations from some thirty countries each with their own displays. We had heard reports that due to some internal politicking and



DIEPPE CERF-VOLANT 2008 CONT

civil war, half the Chinese delegation had moved in with the Spanish lot, but this was never confirmed.



Seeing all there was to see took a while, and all too soon it was time for a picnic on the sea front. Dieppe sea front is one of the more scenic coasts, and to have the place alive with kites was wonderful.

Once stuffed with bread and various meats and cheeses, we took the spirit kites on to the field and spent an hour flying – or trying to fly. Despite the best of long launches, there was very little wind at ground level. Eventually we gave up, and spent time chatting with various celebrities of the kite work, including a world champion. I didn't know that kiting has a world champion – one lives and learns. Following another mooch around the festival and two more ice creams we drove to the chateau at the cliff top. I'd had this idea that the festival would look rather spectacular from the top of the hills. The view was good, but most of the kites were too far away. I was glad we'd driven up there and not walked and climbed, as was my original plan.

A quick trip to the supermarket, and then time for a call of nature. The French lavatories have a mind of their own. When you want to flush the things, they don't want to know. But sit down on the kharsi, and it flushes and comprehensively soaks your undercarriage. Twice. I mention this information in a spirit of helpful warning to any British lavatarian contemplating a continental excursion. All too soon it was dark, and time for dinner. This time in a restaurant specialising in "Moules au

marmite". Which is fine for those who like marmite. Me – I went for the "moules au curry avec frite" with chips again. In retrospect they weren't as good as those of the night before – even if they were more expensive. But the drinks in this place weren't bad.

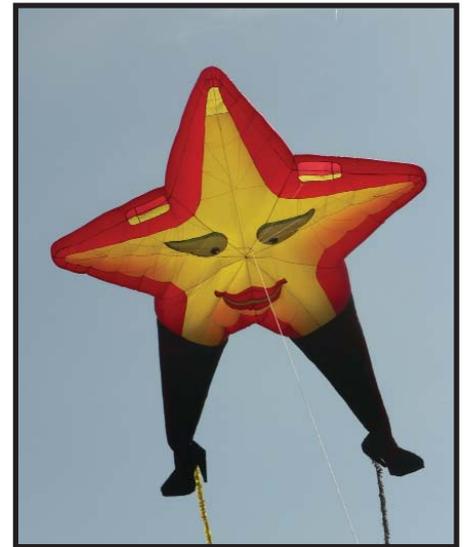
And back to the flying field for the night flight. Literally hundreds of kites being flown in the dark. I would have thought this was a never-fail recipe for a knot, but all went well, with various spotlights picking out individual kites. I joined in by high-lighting kites with my green laser, before flying a Lidl's 25p kite. After swapping a few insults with some old friends, it was time for bed.

Sunday

Up early, breakfasted, car packed and we were back at the flying area by 9.00am. Bearing in mind that this is French time, back home 'er indoors TM would have still been snoring like a thing possessed. We needed an early start because we'd been invited to take part in the carnival procession that morning. It was great fun. We



marched around the streets for over an hour. I got to carry a Brighton Kite Fliers banner. It got heavy after a while, and I did get it caught in a couple of overhead phone cables, but there was no damage done to the banner. I don't know about any damage that might have been done to the cables. I expect I'll never know. After the procession we had a quick shop for more picnic stuff, and another feast on the sea front before having a fly. I flew one half of a pair of dragon kites, and then we got out an



inflatable. "Kinky Boots" – a starfish about three metres wide wearing thigh-high boots. I was photographed so many times with this kite, and recorded for French TV too.

The plan was then to have another ice cream and a bit of a wander, but it came up in conversation that the ferry was leaving somewhat earlier than we thought. Added to which, whilst we'd been flying a French car had parked directly behind our car, effectively parking us in. After a nerve-wracking few minutes we were on our way. Have you ever tried to drive through a French crowd? – They don't get out of the way at all. All too soon we were back on the ferry, and sailing home. I slept for quite a lot of the journey back to good old Blighty, from where it was but a short hop back to Simon's. A slightly longer hop back to Kent, but this time I did it in less than two hours – the quickest I've ever done Brighton to home. I must do the journey in the middle of the night on a Sunday more often. I got to bed at half past midnight and slept like a log. It had been a long, tiring weekend. But fun. I'm looking forward to going again.

Dave Styles (Manky Badger)



THE GOGITS TOUR 2008

What a year we've had so far, it's enough to make a Grumpy Old Git Smile

February

Woodworking Exhibition

We started the year in fine style, John Browning took us all to Alexandra Palace for the Woodworking Exhibition, we had a wonderful time, looking at all the super woodworking tools and watching various woodworking demonstrations.

Maurice bestowed a new title on John, The Admirable Apprentice, for managing to get us out of North London after getting lost on the way home.

March

We did not have a full compliment of Gits for Brenzett, but Alan & I felt we constituted a Grumpy Old Git's outing, It was probably a good thing John & Maurice were not there, I have never known it to be so cold. One thing can be said for Brenzett, I found I could sleep in the Cab of the Pickup and I do think I was the warmest person that weekend, as everyone else found all the drafts in their campers & caravans.

KBSM

We had a fantastic day at the Stirling engine exhibition at Kew Bridge Steam Museum, where John was hoping to get some help with his Stirling Engine. There we met Julian and Jim and we learnt about furkling & firking and a bit about Stirling Engines.

April

Streatham Common

This is a really lovely local (for Alan & I) Festival. The day started with sunshine and a light wind, Alan & I were hoping to put some bears in the air, so we launched my very stable White Mega Sled Delta. Then the weather front started to move in, followed by rain and gusting wind, the Mega Sled Delta took a nose dive, missing the road by 2ft, luckily nobody was under it, only problem, after doing the repairs required, it leans slightly to the left. Despite the weather we had a great time and after watching the various attempts to rescue a kite from a tree, Alan, C2llin and myself felt we had to show them how it's done. This we did with the aid of a piece of rope that Alan found in his car. (He always has whatever is

required) Alan makes a good anchor man.

Houlgate

We found out about this festival from John's accountant, and what a fantastic festival it turned out to be. Houlgate is turned over to kites for 4 days, the shops, restaurants and bars are all deck out with kites and kite flyers are made very very welcome.

We even managed to change the world, as the kite flyers team from Chine, did not arrive. Angleterre replaced them, complete with our own sign; some of you may have seen this sign at various festivals.

John created quite bit of excitement after he managed to attach one of his kites to the Church Spire; it was still there when we left.

There is something very satisfying about French bread with smelly cheese washed down with 2.50€ Beaujolais at 10.00 in the morning

We had an amazing weekend in Houlgate the memories will be with us for a long time and we can't wait to get back there next year. We're hoping to be invited as the English contingent.

MACH 2008

On this outing we were joined by Alan Powell who very kindly drove us.

If you're into big machine tools this is the place to go. As suspected we did not manage to see the whole show, there is far too much to see in one day.

We did come home with a souvenir, a flame cut teddy bear very kindly donated by High Performance Machinery. Many of you may have seen this superb teddy.

Jolly Up II

What can you say, great field, great kites, great people, great beer, great BBQ, great weather, great day. Kite festivals don't get much better than this.

KBSM

And to finish off a superb April, we had to go back to the Kew Bridge Steam museum as they were going to fire up the big engines. What marvellous pieces of engineering. We were joined for the day by Margaret & Malcolm and I still don't know how they got up the 261 steps of the standpipe tower so fast.

May

Horton Farm

I thought this was a new venue for us, until I drove into the farm, I can't remember when, but I had been there before, for a kite festival.

The weather was brilliant and it was great to meet up with friends we had not seen since last year. A big thank you to Big John for organising this event, if it carries on as it has started, it will become a real favourite.

Swindon

Thanks to the lottery funds lack of forethought, WHKF's have had to move their festival back to Lydiard Park, although there is not as much room as at Wroughton, the festival took on a more cosy feel, if moving to Lydiard Park means it's not going to rain, then that's OK with me.

Saturday was a real struggle virtually no wind, but we did manage to do a bit of TAP (tree aerial photography) John catapulted a line up into the only tree tall enough, we then managed to pull Alan's Teddy rig up into the tree and the photography could begin.

Rougham

Due to the fact that we had had 7 weekends out on the trot, it was felt that we should only make a day of it at Rougham, but we did manage to pack a lot into it, we did fly most of the day, but the wind and the rain was definitely not on our side. As evening fell The Shatterer made her debut. Thanks to Moz of SKFC for the brilliant photo.

Tewkesbury

You can only feel sorry for GVKF's although Friday night was good, including the Bottle of Jack Daniels, courtesy of my brother in-law Stan, the weather took a turn for the worse, wind & rain, which was showing no sign of abating and by Sunday morning most kites were making a move for home, we left about Lunch time. Thanks to Dick Abbs for the shelter on Friday Night & Saturday morning. What was such a shame about leaving early, we didn't manage to meet up with Jim, whom we had met at KBSM.

June

Teston

This was my first camp at Teston and to tell the truth I was not looking forward to it, as the weather forecast looked dire, but whatever Ron did to put it right, it worked, we had a glorious weekend. John even

THE GOGITS TOUR 2008

managed a bit of TAP. We even picked up a new sign, we think courtesy of C2llin. See it at a festival near you soon. Thanks Louise and John for letting us keep it.

Southampton

Alan & John were the Grump Old Git Contingent for Southampton Dingy on Saturday. Sunny & warm with very strong & blustery wind on Sunday. There was one highlight, Alan took Possession of his very fine Yellow Git Coat ready for the Cultural event, check out the website.

July

Sneaky Teston

Our first rehearsal for the 1812 Overture, we had hoped to do an International Kite Rescue, but someone beat us to it. We had a very sunny afternoon with a nice wind, did a bit of KAP before finishing off the wiring of our firing board and running through our first firing, before a very appreciative local audience, many saying they would be coming back on the big night. Just picture the scene three Grumpy Old Gits sitting at a picnic table surrounded by various cables, relays and batteries, you would have to find out what they were up to. We did get side tracked several times that afternoon. After our test firing, one of the spectators, a primary school teacher, said she would have to go and pick up her daughter so she could see what we were up to. The said daughter took great delight in exploding another test balloon. The teacher commented that it was such a shame, that this sort of experiment would not be allowed in schools.

Brighton's 30th Kite Festival

Yet another Super Duper weekend, we did lots of kite flying and beer drinking; it is so lovely to see the public enjoying themselves, even though some of them need a little help with bridling and sparring of their new kites. We didn't do many Teddies, but the children who did have a go, looked as if they enjoyed themselves. I know this child did. I even managed to launch my KAP rig, so now have some great shots of Stanmer Park from the air. My highlight was flying Sara's Knickers in the main arena.

Tewkesbury

Due to a mix up over booking GVKF's

moved their Festival to Newlands Park near Cheltenham race course. What a fantastic site, flat with just a few trees down one edge and the view of the surrounding hills quite superb. The wind was very very light, so it was only no-wind kites that we still struggled to fly. Having said that we all managed to get our KAP rigs launched, with varying degrees of success. This time we did manage to meet up with Jim, he brought along a lot of very interesting toys, including an RC helicopter, and he got to see first hand what a Grumpy Old Git does at kite festivals.

First Dress Rehearsal

After getting permission from Roy & Hayley, we had our first full dress rehearsal with Music and cannon in Roy's field. After our initial success, we were quietly confident this was going to be a walk in the park (or field). We could not have been more wrong, the sound system was just not up to the required standard and many of our balloons went off prematurely, we had major problems, we even thought we would have to cancel the performance, worst of all the posters had been printed & laminated.

August

Jolly Up III

Alan held up the end for the Grumpy Old Gits, I was hoping to get there for Sunday, but what with the cost of diesel and the weather looking grim, I decided to earn some brownie points at home.

Dress rehearsal two

After some major changes to the firing board and with Teston only days away, we were back in Roy's field again. This time the sound system, after a shaky start did the business and really gave us the sound we were looking for, would the firing board do it's stuff?.....YES! Teston here we come. Would John be able to hit his marks?

Teston

(the Cultural Event of the season)

If only we could have had Friday's weather all weekend, but it was not to be. What a great weekend, Friday wind was perfect we even launched the camera rig to see if we could find Big John's Rocket which went missing near the Medway. We didn't find it.

Saturday we had to make the most of

the morning as we knew the rain was moving in fast, but even once it had arrived we still managed to amuse ourselves. Anne, Joyce and Margaret had prepared a fantastic curry, as the rain was still persisting we decided to eat our meal in the Kent County Council Tent, which John was also using as his bedroom. Thanks ladies, as ever you put on a magnificent spread. My only disappointment with this fantastic meal, was we were not able to savour it, because (I'm still not sure how we came up with the idea) we were to put on the Cultural Event of the season, The last part of the 1812 Overture complete with cannon accompaniment.

Right on time the rain stopped and our well planned and secret event slowly started to take shape. All in all, we were ready within an hour, considering there were a few problems with some of our high tech equipment, which being the professionals we are, were soon overcome. Just as the music started rain gently sounded on the roof of the gazebo, under which was our control centre, but it was just in the wind and very soon the cannons were resounding around Teston. Even though I do say so myself, I think the 1812 went very well and was well received by the hardy audience who appeared despite the weather.

Thank you to everyone for your congratulations and encouragement. Finally I must say a GREAT BIG THANK YOU to all those people who have organized and arranged all the festivals and events that we are privileged to be involved with. Without your splendid efforts we would not be able to have so much fun and enjoyment. You are all very special.

To keep track of our exploits please log on to www.grumpyoldgits.org Many thanks to Anne, Alan and John for proof reading.

Keith Boxall (aka Toad of Toad Hall)

PROVISIONAL DATE

Brighton Kite Festival
11th - 12th July 2009
Stanmer Park

A fun packed weekend for
all who attend.

SAMUEL F. CODY

While Dave White was trawling the net his interest in kite brought him across an article on Samuel Cody which he felt was worth sharing with other like minded kite flyers. So with permission from the Author, Andy Davies here is the article on Samuel Cody lifted from Andy's website <http://www.design-technology.org/cody.htm>

As well as being one of the early pioneers of aviation Cody is also remembered as being a flamboyant wild west showman.



There is even a high street shop named after him called S.F.Cody. Appropriately this chain of stores sells novel gadgets, toys, gifts and ingenious electrical products. Perhaps this is one of the best ways of honoring such an important figure of the last century.

There is even a Cody Society. "It actively promotes the education of young people in the topic of aerospace and learning about this first man to fly a powered aeroplane in the UK. This objective aims to foster the interest of young people in the aerospace industry and encourage their entry and future careers in this important area of business". Quote taken from the cody Society.

Cody was born in the state of Iowa in the United States of America in 1867. Throughout his youth he lived the typical life of a cowboy. He learnt how to ride and train horses, hunt buffalo, shoot and use a lasso. Cody lived until 1913 when he died in an air crash.

Cody was born with the surname, Cowdery. He changed the name to Cody in order to follow his hero 'Buffalo Bill Cody'. Throughout his entire life this caused confusion and many people thought that he was the original wild west hero Buffalo Bill.

Cody experienced real hardship throughout his youth during which time he prospected for gold in an area which later became Dawson City. This was the centre of the historically famous Alaskan Gold Rush.

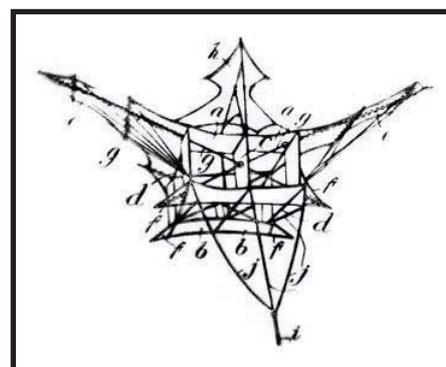
Unfortunately like so many others Cody made no strike but instead toured America with a Wild West show. He starred in the show and was billed as 'Captain Cody, King of the Cowboys'. Cody decided to take the show to England and settled there in 1890.

Whilst in England Cody and his company toured the music halls, which were very popular at the time. He gave demonstrations of his horse riding, shooting and lassoing skills.

Many people believed that they were actually watching the great William Fredrick Cody alias 'Buffalo Bill'. Samuel Cody dressed in a very similar way to his hero, he wore a stetson, buckskins and cowboy boots. He even grew a beard, moustache and shoulder length hair.

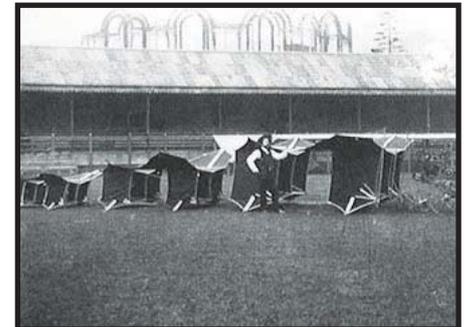
In 1898 Cody's latest show called 'The Klondyke Nugget' became very successful. It was around this time that Cody's son Leon became very interested in kites. Cody also began to share his son's fascination with kites and the two of them competed to make the largest kites capable of flying at ever increasing heights.

After a great deal of experimentation, financed by his popular show Cody patented his first kite in 1901. It was a winged variation of Lawrence Hargrave's double-cell



box kite below.

The kite was quite a complicated system. It consisted of a steadying kite or pilot kite. Connected to this



were a series of lifting kites, which were responsible for actually lifting its human pay load. The number of lifting kites depended upon the wind conditions.

These lifting kites were attached to the main kite cable by towing rings. One of these rings was placed at the head of the kite and the other at the point at which the kite was towed, called the towing point. This towing point consisted of four-legged bridle.

As soon as the kites were released they would be blown, by the wind up the kite cable. The cable has a series of stops running up it. These stops were cone like in shape and they progressively became larger as they reached the top of the cable. The size of the cones corresponded to the size of the towing rings on the kites.

As the first lifter kite travelled up the cable, its larger towing ring would pass over the smaller cones until it reached its intended mooring point. At this point the cone was larger in diameter than the towing ring. The kite's travel would stop at this cone.

The next kite with a smaller towing ring would travel up the cable, passing over the smaller towing rings until it reached its mooring point. This continued until eventually the carrier kite which was attached to a trolley travelled up the cable. The trolley contained wheels which ran against the top of the cable.

Suspended from the trolley was the passenger carrying basket-car. The basket-car and its passenger were carried up the cable until they reached the lowest lifting kite where it would stop.

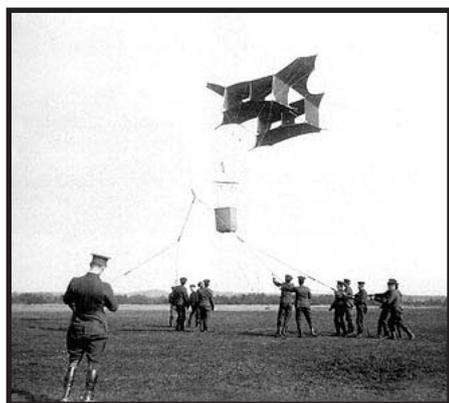
The passenger inside the car was able to control the rate of ascent and

S. F. CODY CONTIUNED 2008 KITE

descent by operating a complex system of lines and brakes. The adjustment of these lines also allowed the basket to be aligned with the horizon, keeping the car and passenger in a horizontal position.

Cody proposed to the War Office that in a military situation the passenger be equipped with a telescope, telephone, camera and gun. If the telephone did not function correctly messages could be blown up the cable and returned by the passenger in weighted bags. These would simply slide down the cable.

Unfortunately the War Office did not take Cody's proposal seriously at the



time and they did not use his man-carrying kite. They were however so impressed by his marksmanship that they offered him the post of Shooting Instructor at Aldershot. Cody did not take up the position.

Cody was a showman at heart and he understood how to grab the attention of the public. In an attempt to demonstrate the traction or pulling potential of his kite he successfully crossed the English Channel in November 1903 in a small,



collapsible boat, drawn by kites.

An anchor was dragged along behind the boat providing resistance to the pull of the kites in order to keep the kite cable taut. Cody made the

crossing from Calais to Dover.

The publicity that Cody gained from the crossing seemed to have the desired affect. The War office expressed interest in Cody's kite. Tests were carried out from 1904 to 1905. The Admiralty even even allowed Cody to use their warships in his experiments.

Cody successfully lifted a passenger to a record height of 2,600 ft on the end of a cable 4,000ft long. In 1906 the War Office agreed to use Cody's kites for the purpose of observation. Cody was not only given the position of Chief Kite Instructor at Farnborough but became responsible for designing and manufacturing war kites.

Cody's War Kites continued to be used for some years until they were replaced by the aeroplane. Cody began to experiment with aeroplanes and in 1908 he became the first man to build and fly an aeroplane in Britain..

Cody's kites were not only intended to be used in warfare. In 1907 Cody demonstrated how a kite could be used to carry meteorological instruments.

The meteorograph developed by the Meteorological office was capable of measuring height, temperature, humidity and wind velocity. A Cody kite once lifted instruments to a record altitude of 14,000 ft.

On 7th of August 1913 Cody and his passenger were killed while flying his latest creation, the Waterplane. It broke up in the air over Laffan's Plain, Aldershot.



2008 KITE M A K I N G W O R K S H O P

29th - 30th November 2008 could be seeing a kite making workshop by Karl Longbottom. Where you will have the choice of making One, Two of even 3 of his designs (if you are very quick at sewing) The Brighton Kite Flyers have arranged for Karl to come down to make his Swan, but as quite a few of our members have already made the Swan Karl has agreed to run a more open workshop and will include a pair of his pants and his bee in designs that can be made.

The plan is that as each kite when precut-out should be possible to sew together in one day (for the average ability and sewing) so if you would like to make two then that is possible or if you want to have a more relaxing workshop make just one (one it is for me then). If you really want to put yourself under pressure you could go for all three at a push.

What Karl says about his designs

SWAN:-

New for 2008. The prototype was seen at One Sky One World in October 2007, a larger version was designed initially to be made at a White Horse Kite Flyers kite workshop. A very attractive white kite with orange/yellow and black detailing. It is a steady flier in low winds. Available in Whooper or Mute varieties. 2.08m span by 1.22m high,

BEES:-

This kite is a tribute to the kite making skills of the Japanese. As a fan of the Abu-dako style of kite, but being unable to get hold of one Karl decided to make his own version in carbon fibre and ripstop nylon. This kite is the result. It flies well in light to medium winds and looks particularly spectacular when several are flown as a swarm. 0.62 m,

PANTS:-

These fighting pants first made their appearance in 2006 in France, but soon became a hit at UK Festivals. So much so that Karl was asked to produce a female version, featuring seductive lace decorations. Available in a variety of tasteful colours, also other desired styles can be

A MULTIFACETED CLUB

After a long lazy snooze the brightonkiteflyers.co.uk forum had breath of life kicked into it and is now a regular place to communicate with members with up to date news, gossip, and the odd debate! Most users look but don't comment and use it for solely for obtaining



information on upcoming events, luckily a few members do actually add information so that the voyeurs have something to look at! One such topic, posted in June caught my eye. "Sponsored abseil at Peacehaven, in aid of the Anthony Nolan Trust, September 7th. Anyone fancy this, its also the first Sunday of the month and a Club fly-in day?"

Not really, descending down a Cliff face from 80feet up is not my idea of fun! For the sake of saying something in reply to the post, I calculatedly said I would do it if I thought I could raise the £120 sponsorship required. A safe bet, even if every single club members sponsored me £2 each it wouldn't be enough, at least I made the token gesture of offering, in a public domain. I'm not so much scared of heights it just makes me extremely queasy, apprehensive, and draws me in to get closer and closer to the edge, to the point I want to jump off! Ok then, this means I am scared of heights!

Within a couple of days I was shocked to see offers of £10 sponsorship come trickling in, nothing to worry about, until they started flooding in, £20, £25... £120 was pledged in no time!! Oh pants, (clean but for how long?) how do I get out of this one now? Heck, go with the flow, September is a long time away and having foolhardily rippled the surface I decided to dive in, and gave it my all. Most kites will know of my persistence in getting them to sponsor me as I filled my spare time at most kite festivals since June

walking around with a pen and paper and very little official literature to confirm I was collecting for the Anthony Nolan Fund! I was impressed with how many generous kites there were out there, 98% of people I asked made a donation....Kite fliers from around the country, kite traders and Club members, bet the 2% feel a bit guilty, but to be fair they didn't really know me. The Trust labels itself with "Taking back lives from leukaemia" and specialises in helping Leukaemia patients and compiles a worldwide data base for bone marrow, matching donors with recipients. A lot of people I spoke to knew of their good work, and I was surprised just how many knew of someone close who had used the services the Trust provides. Never having raised money this way, and new to everything, including what happens on the day, we headed off with trepidation to the Club fly-in at Telscome Tye on Sunday September 7th. Due to light rain the fly-in was short and quickly abandoned, which meant more time in the pub, being only a quarter mile from the Peacehaven cliff abseil site. As my daughter Sabrina had helped in collecting sponsorship she was given the opportunity to do the Abseil at the last minute by the fundraising organiser of the trust! Several club members turned up to encourage us, add their support and I say it in the best possible taste, gloat at the stupidity of deliberately putting myself under pressure in such a public way! The sponsorship was for me to 'Challenge' myself to do something I would not ordinarily do, not for me to have fun. I can honestly say it was not fun at all, I was as reluctant as a man putting his head on a chopping block to step towards the edge of the cliff! Sabrina admitted later she was

scared but put on a brave face and went over first....I felt sick just watching her. With a big gathering of Brighton Kite Flyers cheering her on she overcame her fears, and having done it once confidently said "Come on Dad, I'll do it again and come down with you!" Isn't it supposed to be the other way round, me encouraging her? Leaning backwards over a sheer drop and fear of the unknown has to be experienced first hand to be appreciated, my kite lines and carbinas looked in better condition than the well used items I was trusting my life to! Someone decided



to hold open the BKF playsail at the bottom of the cliff and shout "Jump we'll catch you"....I couldn't look down but it looked like a handkerchief in the photographs! There was even a members KAP rig flying from the bottom to above the cliff, struggling in turbulent winds up the cliff face to get a unique picture. Slowly and with all the camouflage of outward confidence I could summon I leant back and descended, against my better judgement and natural instincts, forgetting my pathetic little



A MULTIFACETED CLUB CONTINUED

apprehensive steps and false smile gave away how I was really feeling inside!! I did do it twice too, the second abseil down was only marginally less scary...it sure wasn't as easy I thought!

A bit of a rant but there was so much more to this episode than just Abseiling down an 80ft cliff. The Anthony Nolan trust received publicity and £550 from your sponsorship, thank you all, I learnt about people and myself and the attending Club members had their

laugh at my expense. The event was brought to light by members of team ELF from Ashford in Kent, three of their members also took the challenge....two girls who made little fuss and one big fella, who like me found it challenged your rational survival instincts to the absolute limit!! Looking back now, yes it was fun as well as challenging, DO IT AGAIN...no thanks, it's YOUR turn now!

C2LLN



TALES FROM THE TEAPOT

For all you readers' who wonder what kite widows' do when their beloveds are flying kites, please read on.....

Arriving on a previously agreed flying site and greeting everyone we saw only 7 days ago as if we hadn't met for years, one female will always offer to make coffee or tea while leaving the hunter gatherer to provide sustainable shelter for their stay. A small group of like minded men will appear, as if from nowhere, and offer advice on the positioning of caravan, tent, motor-home or groundsheet. On agreeing a suitable solution to this non existing problem, the drone workers set about to erect tents, awnings or porches until they are all satisfied with the finished job and stand back in admiration of their work. I have to add that all this is naturally thirsty work, so refreshments flow freely during erection time.

At the onset of this ritual the newly arrived female of the species will join the other females at a respectable distance and sit and watch her man providing her with shelter in the way that her ancestors would have done in bygone days. (However we have chairs and a cup of tea or coffee provided by an earlier arrivals.) Although no advice is offered to the male group, we, the kite widows exchange small glances and rye comments about the spectacle before us. But as always we know our place in this male dominated sport and we watch in amazement as our new homes unfold before our eyes. We chat about our men folks' latest

acquisitions which are chosen to impress other fellow flyers. These purchases can include radio controlled cars, boats, helicopters and even on the odd occasion a new kite. Very few ever master the complicated art of the instruction booklet and on due course some new toys have been known to become entangled in trees. This spawning another phenomena of kite flying...the often asked question, "how many kite flyers does it take to climb a tree?"

When the home is set up to the satisfaction of all we take our farewell from each other while the new arrival retreats to make restoration of the devastation made by the hunter gatherers who now go off to play. They can be overheard discussing weather forecasts as heard on radio, seen on television or have been read in the tea-leaves and on some rare occasions by water divining! This is hotly followed by discussions as to who has or hasn't got the requisite kite to match the expected conditions. All these events take place at regular intervals throughout the day until all the expected arrivals are safe and secure within the fold for the weekend.

Seriously though – what we do spend our time doing at festivals and meets is supporting, feeding and providing succour for our families and anyone who drops in at "nose bag time". We have more than one member of our ladies circle who always arrives laden with cake, (they are both welcome sights to us all.) On the whole we

have a wonderful time enjoying the fun and mayhem that is kite flying, and we can thoroughly recommend the sport to all. It is good family fun, a way to keep fit and meet some of the friendliest people you are likely to come across in a field. We spend time sunning ourselves if the weather permits and occasionally we help launch a kite or two, but mostly we do as little as possible because we are there to enjoy ourselves as well. Our children disappear when they arrive only returning to be refuelled, fall into bed to be up again with the larks the following day and start all over again. This is the ideal scenario for war worn mothers during those long summer breaks from the rigours of school.

Although I have said earlier that part of the female role at kite meets is to provide succour for her family, do not be alarmed. We do very little food preparation as women the world over will understand when I quote the old adage that "a group of men together will always want to out do each other at the ancient art of Barbequing." With very careful shopping and planning a whole weekend can pass and some of us can get by with nothing more strenuous than pouring cereal into a bowl at breakfast-time.

I do hope that this goes some way to dispel any myths that may have grown up around the mysterious clique of ladies who periodically appear at festival time and through out the year, or maybe there are other ladies out there who have their own interpretation of what we do?

Sue Scot

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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, Batchoy, Dave Hollingworth, Dave White, Dave Styles Keith Boxall. and Sue & Amy Scott. who have helped to make this edition possible. I must also say a very big thank you to those who have edited parts of Aerodyne this month in one form or another.

Simon Hennessey



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THINGS FOR YOU TO THINK ABOUT

With the 2008 kite flying season fast coming to an end, not only is it time to look back over the year, which I think has been fun packed and enjoyable, but to also look forward to the the winter of 2008 and what is coming up in 2009.

Still being planned for 2008:-

Karl Longbottom Kite making workshop:-

Swans, Pants and or Bee's.

Club Rok workshop:-

A get together where we make roks ready to fly in next years Rok fights.

Club Christmas party:-

A fun packed evening for club members to relax and join in.

2009:-

Provisional dates for the clubs very own Brighton Kite Festival are 11th - 12th July 2009

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

RECIPE CORNER

For the Brighton Festival I made Spinach and Cheese loaf to serve with the main course many people came up to me after the BBQ and asked for the recipe. Here it is.

Amy Scott

Spinach and Cheese Rolls

Makes 12 rolls Ready in 2 hours

Ingredients

½ tsp cayenne pepper
½ tsp dry mustard powder
495g pack white bread mix
25g butter, chilled
125g mature Cheddar, grated
50g Pumpkin Seeds
50g Sunflower Seeds
160g pack Baby Spinach
flour, for kneading
oil, for greasing
1 medium free-range egg

Method

1 Stir the cayenne pepper and mustard powder into the bread mix in a large bowl. Cut the butter into small pieces, add to the bread mix and rub in with your fingertips until it resembles breadcrumbs, Add the cheese, seeds and spinach, and mix well. Add 300ml tepid water and mix well in your hands to make a dough.
2 Put on a lightly floured surface and knead for 18 minutes. Shape into 12 rolls and put on a greased baking tray. Lightly oil some cling film and use to loosely cover the rolls, Leave in a warm place until doubled in size (about 1 hour),
3 Preheat the oven to 220C/200C Fan/ Gas 7, Remove the cling film, brush the rolls with beaten egg and bake for 20 minutes until golden brown. You could bake this as a large loaf, which will take 35 minutes to cook

Amy Scott

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.



ROMAN CANDLE 90.



The Journal of the Bearly Made It Skydive Squad. The International brother and Sisterhood of Parachuting Fauna and the U.K. Ted Devils. Mindless Drivel content exceeds all known Yurobollux Safety Elf guidelines, and boy have them safety Elves got the 'ump, bigtime. Do we give a Toss? Did we ever.....

Steiff bears abandon China

STEIFF TEDDYBEARS IN THE ROUGH AND TUMBLE OF PARACHUTING FROM KITES ARE AS RARE AS HENS

TEETH, THOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN ACOUPLE THAT WE KNOW OF. HUMES BUY STEIFF FOR THEIR QUALITY, EVEN IF THAT COMES AT AN EYEWATERING PRICE. ITS A CASE OF, WANT THE BEST? PAY FOR IT.

However just recently it all went a bit pearshaped when Steiff announced that they were abandoning manufacture of their Bears in China due to a fall in quality of their products. Funny how they never gave as much publicity some four years ago to the fact that they in common with lots of other Western companies were switching production to China on the principle that cost cutting increases profits so everyone is happy, unless that is you were one of the mugs paying the aforesaid eyewatering Top Dollar prices and ending with a product that isnt quite as it seems.

From now on admitted a rather red faced Steiff Managing Director Martin Frechen, all our Bears will once again be made in Germany, where we have both the craftsmanship and quality standards our customers expect. Mr Frechen went on to say that Chinese production had worked wonders for the companys balance sheet but at a price . The price was altogether too high, in fact what price can you put on a reputation. Arguably one of the oldest Teddybear Manufacturers, Steiff had, never before in its history ever had such a Barrage of customer complaints, so if your Hume is one of those who are less than impressed, now they know why.

Its sad when you think more about it. Will Teddybear collections worldwide come under close srutiny from now on as owners awake to the fact that their suspicions were not bordering on paranoia that something was not quite right, which is a pity 'cos lots of Teddybear afficionados go for the instant visual appeal no matter where the Bear is made. Be that as it may of course as with otherthings there are label collectors who are intrsted in little else.

It may sound smug but theres a certain satisfaction in knowing that your, pack, herd, gathering or whatever of furry wotsits are mainly the denisons of market stalls, charity shops and of previous ownership than worrying wether or not they were born with a bullet through the lughole, an 'ump and a cut glass accent. But yoo pays yer money and takes yer choice. Eh, who shouted out that that what happens when the suits and bean counters take over the running of a good old company.

£43,000 teddy

OH, DASH IT ALL PEREGRINE
WHAT IS THIS THING CALLED A CREDIT CRUNCH?
IS A DOWNTURN SIMILAR TO A RECESSION OLD BEAN?

Obviously crunches, downturns and recessions wont apply tosome out there as Selfridges have just put on sale a Teddybear made by Steiff, and we can assume that its not made in China, with wait for it Eyes of emerald and diamonds and a nose of solid 24 carat gold and a warning that it must not be parachuted from a kite and faceplanting into a wet juicy Cow Pat up on the hill.

Yours for just £43,000. Yep fortyfree fahsand squids. Their coming to take me away ha, ha, to the funny farm.....

SO ITS VORSPRUNG
DURCH TECHNIK
MIT FAHRTING
IN DER LEDERHOSEN
FROM NOW ON
KAMERAD

DUNNO, BUT OFTEN
I COULD MURDER
A CHICKEN CHOW
MEIN AND SOME
FORTUNE COOKIES
WITH CRISPY FRIED
RICE



In the picture

EAGLE EYED READERS WILL HAVE QUICKLY IDENTIFIED THE FAMOUS TWOSOME IN THIS PHOTO. OF COURSE ITS THE ONE AND ONLY LEGENDARY KARL LAGERFELD AND HIS MATE KARL LAGER-BEARFELD, THE FASHION DESIGNING DYNAMIC DUO.

As you know, Herr Lagerfeld specialises in exclusive fashion wear for A list celebs and wealthy women about the world, whilst his shortarse mate thinks he does the same for A list celeb bears with the addition of designer parachutes for wealthy parachuting bears about the world.

There are problems however. Whilst Herr Lagerfelds products simply fly off the shelves, Karl Lagerbearfeld has yet to see any of his designs fly anywhere. Not surprising really as Lagerbearfeld has lost the plot somewhat. Has nobody got the heart to tell him that there is no such thing as a wealthy A list celeb parachuting furry wotsit.

Parachuting furry wotsits by their very nature are a bunch of cheeseparing, binge boozing scrotes who would never waste good drinking money on poncy fashion parachutes when they have mug humes who will make them for nothing. So there you go Kark Lagerbearfeld you are not a fashion designer, you are a Steiff bear made to honour the real Karl Lagerfeld, and you come in a dark suit with trademark high collar, a trendy pair of shades and as you are not made in China you are on sale at an eyewatering price of wait for it, £750 a pop.....cor you'd git a wagon load of beer



Bearing the brunt

OF THE TED BERETS ASSAULT ON THE AKA'S 31st CONVENTION AT GETTYSBURG, ELECTRIC ARFA SAID, THAT HE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO THE DO EVEN WITH THE TB'S IN TOW, THOUGH HE WAS A BIT WORRIED.

Arfa is worrying that the U,S, immigration service might kick up a stink over a bunch of wild hanimules with attitude and parachutes trying to gain entry to the U.S. Hopefully there will be no probs, cos they're friendly and they aint rabid are they? Thing is theres already been a few ructions amongst them Ted Berets. Due to the fact that the convention is being held at Boyds Bears (yeah, right) near Gettyburg, half of the little sods want to be Meades Army of the Potomac, half want to be Lee's Army of Virginia and half want to be there for the beer. The BOF suggested that Arfa should drag them all up to Little Round Top and bash their heads together, that might sort 'em out.

Diss Express

ARTHUR ALSO RECENTLY GAVE SOME ADVICE AND IDEAS AS WELL AS A PATTERN FOR A BRAVERY CERTIFICATE TO THE ORGANISERS OF A CHARITY BEAR DROP IN SUFFOLK.

Bears take to the air

They had heard of parachuting Teds but didn't have a clue as to how to go about it. With Arthurs help the event at Wattisfield in Suffolk went off quite well though there was a touch of the weird about it. The do was in aid of funds towards a childrens play area, and talk about covering any eventuality there was even an accident and emergency tent staffed by Teddy Medics from the Red Cross. So what was verging on the weird well the Bears were launched not from Kites or even a Fire engine ladder, but from a 12m Teleporter courtesy of a local plant hire firm. The organisers bear declined to jump claiming that he was suffering from hypertension and the local rag, the Diss Express reported the do as a competition and the winner did a jump of 11.4 metres, thats about 38'6", much lower, theyd be underground and there was a sighting of what appeared to be a polythene parachute, devils own job trying to get a decent pic of that, but hey that could be a worlds first, never seen one of those before. Weird or what, who cares as the event raised £385 towards the play area, and as you know, every little helps



Tales of the unexpected

YET AGAIN!

IT SEEMS AS IF THE HUME PARACHUTISTS ARE INCREASINGLY GETTING MORE DESPERATE IN THEIR ENDEAVORS TO UPSTAGE US FURRY WOTSITS.

Recently at the Bad Lippspringe Centre in Germany, Six British soldiers were up in an Islander preparing to do a jump which, as it happened for five of them went off O.K. However when the sixth Hume exited the aircraft it all went a bit pear-shaped, as it does, and no one is really sure what happened, his chute prematurely deployed and wrapped itself around the landing gear, leaving said Hume dangling in the slipstream, and literally up the creek without a paddle.

So there you have it, a plane flying strangely according to the pilot. A bod dangling from the undercarriage, thinking its goodnight vienna, what happened next? A brave decision was taken by the pilot who had quickly twigged what the problem with his aircraft was. He took a chance and left his controls at some 3,000ft, went back to the exit hatch and cut the parachutist free, who was able to deploy his reserve and descend safely. The pilot regained control of the aircraft and also landed safely whereupon being congratulated on his action he requested upon his identity being kept secret saying he had done what any pilot would have done in the circumstances.....

AND THE NEXT ONE RIGHT IN HERE.... JUST AS YOU'RE GETTING YOUR BREATH BACK AFTER THE ABOVE IT GETS EVEN WEIRDER... THE MAN WHO FELL TO EARTH OUT FOR THE COUNT....

Can you make a parachute jump and not remember a thing about it? You sure can and if you are really lucky and survive a successful jump, albeit with just a few cuts and bruises, you could almost be on the way to becoming something of a legend. So there you are 4,500ft above Netheravon Wiltshire, you jump, hit the tailplane a mighty wallop, knocking you senseless, but luckily enough for you the impact deploys your reserve and the first you know about it is when you regain consciousness in the ambulance on the way to hospital. Talk about a jammy sod, not only did he survive the bash into the tailplane, which could have killed him, he also was lucky that the reserve deployed and wait for it although he did not know it at the time, he also landed smack bang in the middle of the drop zone.

IT SEEMS AS IF NEITHER OF THE ABOVE HUMES HAS BEEN PUT OFF PARACHUTING IN FUTURE, SO WATCH OUT, THE LOONY HUMES MAY GET EVEN MORE DESPERATE.

TED SAVES FALL TOT

OF COURSE ANYTHING HUMES CAN DO TEDS CAN DO BETTER.....

A Three year old girl who plummeted from a fifth floor window was able to toddle off unhurt after her landing was cushioned by her Teddybear.

Anna Alekseyeva has climbed onto a window ledge whilst clutching her 2ft Ted. She slipped and plunged more than 50ft but was unhurt.

A police spokesman in UFA Western Russia said that the kiddy had been given the Ted for her birthday a few months back. Her mother said that little Anna had not stopped holding it ever since.

The Teddybear certainly saved her life.

Its amazing over the years just how many times a more or less strategically placed furry wotsit of indeterminate gender has been involved in some hair raising situation where the outcome has depended on the aforesaid F.W. being there when it is required. Makes you think that there is more than an element of Magic involved than just pure happenstance.

ANOTHER PINT OF
THAMES MUD
BARMAN,
MY GHAST IS
FLABBERED.

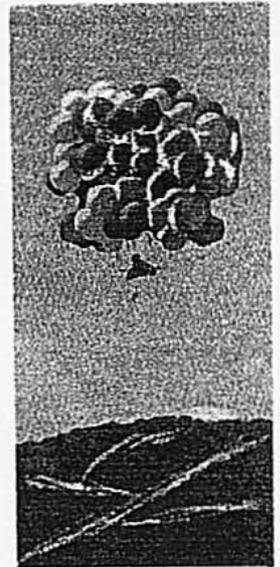


Would you Adam and Eve it?

Balloons, a garden chair, flight of fancy.

OLDER READERS MAY ALREADY BE SHOOTING, BORING, BEEN THERE, SEEN IT DONE IT, WORN THE OLD HAT AND THE TEE SHIRT AND THEY WOULD BE RIGHT....

It was way back in 82 that the first balloonchair loony hume tried to remove himself from the gene pool by blundering into controlled air space over Los Angeles and now we have another copyat and its only taken 26 years, wot are these humes likeboy? Kent Couch took of from Bend, Oregon and flew about 235 miles into Idaho. It took about nie hours and the flight finished with the customary BB. gun assisted descent. Why mention of this caper in a parachuting furry wotsits journal? well the hume loony was equipped with a chute, just in case and no, its probably a thing thats never been attempted by any self respecting furry. It could be one up to the humes



OLD BEAR IN THE OLD BILL...

Police in Garfield county, Utah, say that a large Black Bear raided an illegal marijuana farm so often that the naughty person running it did a runner themselves. Sherrif Danny Perkins said that if he could find the bear, he would deputise him. Has it occurred to the Sherrif that the bear was after supplies for his own stash.....

GREEN POLAR BEARS... ENVIROMENTALISTS SAY ITS GLOBAL WARMING..

Three Polar Bear at Higashiyama Zoo in Japan have turned green after swimming in their algae ridden pool, and although everyone says that they look most attractive, Zoo keepers would like any suggestions as to how they can turn them white again. everything they've tried so far has met with failure.

BEAR THUG.. NEEDS AN ASBO...

A Black Bear in Victoria, Canada, swam a river, boarded a boat and set about a man who is now recovering in hospital. No mention as to wether or not the bloke in the boat was fishing, and thats what attracted the bear, but it seems as if the bear will be served with the usual anti social behavior order, which is about as much use as a chocolate teapot.

OH NO! BEARS ON THE BIRTH PILL..

We are not sure if this comes under the heading of you could'nt make it up. In Romania they are planning to tranquilise bears and feed them birth pills due to an explosion in bear numbers and a subsequent rise in attacks on humes. Dare we crack that ancient joke about if they use birth pills on male bears, they'll have to stick them to their paws to make them limp. Yeah, crack it, bound to upset some silly sod.

Parachuting can be DANGEROUS..

Especially when you go base jumping. A British base jumper died after leaping off a 7,000 ft mountain in switzerland. He apparently failed to deploy his canopy in time and was killed on impact. Take care yoo humes, we have pops at you but we dont like to lose you.

AND AS THE SUN SINKS SLOWLY IN THE WEST ITS THE USUAL TO THE WHATNOT AT THE TEDDYTORIAL,,,,,

C/O The Boring Old Fart. 48. Laurel Lane, West Drayton, Middx, UB7.7TY. in what will always be ENGLAND no matter what the traitors have planned. By the way Millie and her Band reckon that we are losing our enthusiasm for Yoorup, Gordon Bennett what planet is he on, talk about out of touch. Worse than that supplies of English Honey are so low this year due to tough going in the Bee World, that we could run out before Chrimbo, then yo'll see stroppey Bears



Events List

February 2009		
22	Sale Moor Kite Festival, Moor Nook Park, Sale Moor, Manchester	Catherine Perkin, VCAT, 359 Norris Road, Sale Moor M33 2UP
April 2009		
25-26	Jolly Up4, Cliddesden, Basingstoke.	Kites Up
May 2009		
3-4	Weymouth International Beach Kite Festival, Weymouth Beach, Dorset	The Kite Society
16-17	Suffolk International Kite Festival, Rougham Airfield, Bury St Edmunds (Provisional)	Martin Corrie
29-31	Exmouth Rotary Kite Festival, Imperial Recreation Ground, Exmouth, East Devon	www.exmouthrotaryclub.co.uk
June 2009		
6-7	Basingstoke Kite Festival	Alan Cosgrove
13-14	Blackheath Kite Festival, Blackheath, London	The Kite Society
July 2009		
11-12	Brighton kite Festival, Stanmer Park, Brighton	Brighton Kite Fliers
18-19	Leominster Kite Festival, Berrington Hall, Herefordshire HR6 0DW	Karl Longbottom www.kitefestival.org.uk
August 2009		
1-2	Jolly Up5, Cliddesden, Basingstoke	Kites Up
23	Hunstanton Kite Festival, Smithdon High School, Hunstanton, Norfolk PE36 5HY	Bryan Cattle
29-31	Portsmouth International Kite Festival, Southsea Common, Hampshire	The Kite Society
September 2009		
12-13	Bristol International Festival of Kites and Air Creations, Ashton Court, Bristol (TBC)	Avril Baker
19-20	Margate International Kite Festival, Main Sands, Margate.	The Kite Society of Great Britain

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
Martin Corrie	3 White Horse Road, East Bergholt, Colchester, Essex CO7 6TU	01206 299560	martin@skfc.co.uk
Brighton Kite Fliers	11 The Sheepfold, Peacehaven, East Sussex BN10 8EG	01273 582309	info@bkf.org.uk
Richard Nourse	85 Bells Orchard Lane, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 4HP	01929 554690	richard.nourse @ virgin.net
Exmouth Rotary	86 Halsdon Avenue, Exmouth, Devon EX8 3DH	01395 274271	mshp@dsl.pipex.com www.exmouthrotarykitefestival.co.uk
Michael Lowe	44 Bellemoor Road, Shirley, Southampton, Hants SO15 7QU	023 8077 0788	
Bryan Cattle	21 Shepherds Close, Cherry Hinton, Cambridge CB1 4HP.		
White Horse Kite Fliers	P O Box 585, Swindon, Wiltshire SN3 4YR	01793 824208	Cowpat.ed@whkf.org.uk
Al Cosgrove			Alan.cosgrove@ntlworld.com
Andrew Pidgen	Events and Marketing Section, Bedford Corn Exchange, St Paul's Square, Bedford, MK40 1SL	01234 344813	river.festival@bedford.btinternet.com
Avril Baker	5 Lilymead Avenue, Wells Road, Totterdown, Bristol BS4 2BY	0117 977 2002	info@abc-pr.co.uk
Karl Longbottom	School House, Dorstone, Hereford HR3 6AN		karl@longbottom.org.uk