

THE KITEFLIER

www.thekitesociety.org.uk



Issue 125

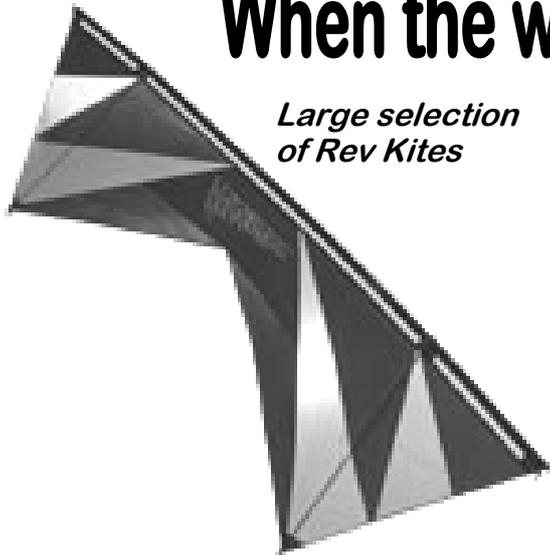
October 2010

£2.00

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

KITEWORLD

When the wind blows think of us !

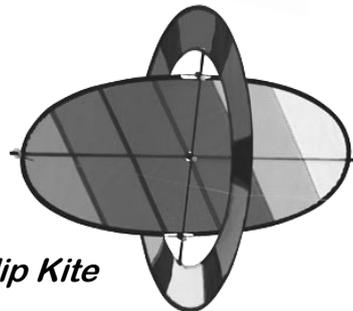


*Large selection
of Rev Kites*



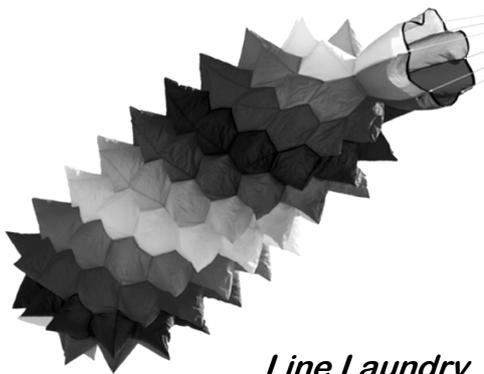
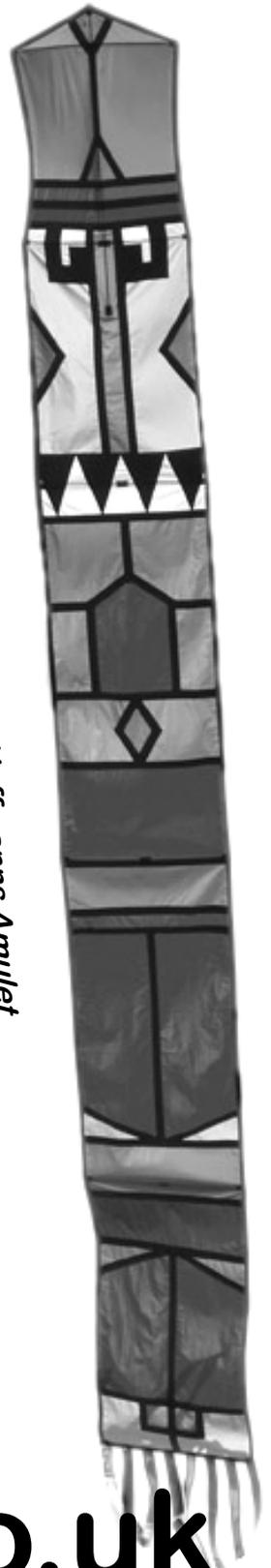
Skyper

***New Year New Kite!
Check out our range of
kites, windsocks,
and many more flying
goodies***

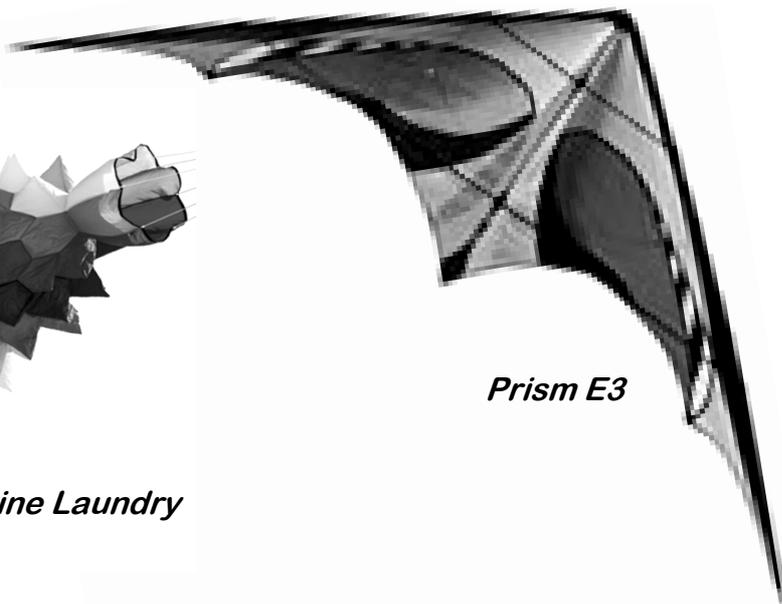


Prism Flip Kite

HQ Hoffmanns Amulet



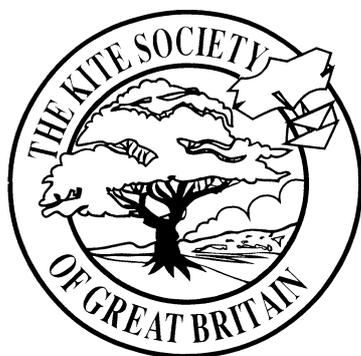
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Dear Reader

The end of another season has come and it has been a season of varying weather. Hopefully all of the events will take place next year—but as many are supported by the local councils the to be announced budget cuts may have an effect—we will see.

The Hall of Fame we announced earlier in the year has resulted in a number of nominations, the full details will be in the January issue where details of how to vote will be included.

See you next year

Gill and Jon

Editorial

Front Cover

The Flying Squad playing with the Dinosaur at Portsmouth. Sadly the Dinosaur has been burnt down in an arson attack!

Photo: Tara Bloom

	April 2011
16-17	Jolly Up 8, The Buggy Field, Cliddesden
	May 2011
7-8	Swindon Kite Festival, Lydiard Park, Swindon
	June 2011
11-12	Teston Kite Weekend, Teston Bridge Country Park, Maidstone
	July 2011
16-17	Leominster Kite Festival, The National Trust, Berrington Hall
16-17	Dunstable Downs Kite Festival, Whipnade Road, Dunstable
31	Monmouth Kite Festival, Monmouth Show Ground
	August 2011
6-7	Jolly Up 9, The Buggy Field, Cliddesden
6-7	Teston Kite "Big" Weekend, Teston Bridge Country Park, Maidstone

Membership Type	Fee
Individual	£12.00
Family - all members in the same household.	£13.00
Over 60 - Individual or Family	£11.00
Overseas - Europe and Surface Mail	£14.00
Overseas - Airmail	£18.00
Electronic Subscription (Individual or Family)	£5.00

Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

Strong Winds

There we went, taking things for granted, thinking that a lot of what we do was obvious to everyone, just because we have always done it that way. On the second day at Portsmouth this year we found that wind was quite strong and blustery, in fact a little too strong in our first slot - I misjudged the strength and we managed to break two kites (one in each of the music ballets).

By the time we got to the second arena demonstration the wind was even stronger and, as team leader, it is my responsibility to decide on which kites to fly and how to set them up.

We like to fly as a team of three as much as we can and Dougie was there to take over in the middle position.

We don't have that big a choice of kite to fly as a team and I usually worry about Marilyn getting pulled over when it really blows but then I noticed that Dougie was struggling as much, if not more!

Leaning In

We didn't have a set of three vented kites at Portsmouth so we had to adapt what we had. There are a couple of things that we can do. The first is to adjust the bridle so that the top of the kite is leaning more forward and 'in' to the wind thus presenting less of its-self full face. This will make the kite react differently, it will increase the speed slightly and we have to be more attentive with landings. Other flyers might also make this adjustment to enable certain tricks.

I was surprised at the number of people who asked us what we had attached to our kites - which is why I am writing this.

Nappy Brakes

Nappies - a device slung between the lines of the kite which collects the wind in the same way as a nappyno, perhaps I won't go there.

A strong wind obviously makes a kite pull harder away from the flier and, with a two line sport kite, it also increases the speed.

It is going to take a better educated person than me to explain the actual dynamics of why the faster the kite goes the more the pull increases but the way I see it is that the more wind there is flowing under the kite the more the speed increases and the more that the speed increases more wind flows under the kite therefore increasing the pull. Because the nappy drags against the wind slowing the forward momentum, less pull is generated - How's that for an attempt?

Nappies are quite simple to make from gauze and Velcro fastenings. They should be about twice the distance of the measurement between the kite's tow-

ing points. I have to say we bought ours from Kite Related Designs (because I don't do fiddly) - They are one of the few places that actually advertise that they make them.

Different widths will have more (or less) effect - we use either 5cm or 15cm. When the wind is particularly troublesome we will use a 5cm strip attached to the stand-offs and flying out the back of the kite as well as a 15cm length at the front between the lines. You may have to make extensions to the lines to avoid the brakes touching the kite when it is on the ground - it can be pretty annoying when a launch is attempted and the brake is caught under the spine of the kite.

There is another type of brake called a Wah Pad. This is a triangular, usually gauze, brake attached with Velcro at the wide end on the bottom spreader and bungee cord to the top spreader. The use of bungee allows the pad to flex as the wind blusters, increasing and decreasing its effect and making the flight smoother. I credit that idea to Peter Taylor of Air Dynamic Kites.

This photo (*taken by Marilyn*) shows an Air Dynamic T4 fitted with colour coded Wah Pads, a 15cm wide nappy between the lines and a 5cm wide nappy connected to the inner standoffs and trailing from the back of the kite.

A major problem of using brakes - particularly this many - would mean that it reduces the size of the wind window drastically.

There are other versions of brakes and you will probably notice more as you go.

Leaning Out

We had another conversation with some of the other fliers at Portsmouth after about technique. The way you stand and the way you hold the kite will also make a huge difference. I am not the best person to be looking at in this respect because I rely on my weight and strength. The lighter ones however can get more from the kite by keeping arms out straight in front and leaning back. I remember the old days before we had the designs of today seeing Jeanette from the then British world team champions also having to use studded football boots to gain extra purchase.



When we give lessons I often find that people hold their hands up in front of their face and point their index finger at the kite so I try having them pull me like that and then with their hands out front with arms straight - imagine like you had a piece of rope and you were trying to pull a car out of a ditch or, you were being pulled along on water skis!

There is, of course, no right way to fly a kite, it depends on what you want to do - we just try to show you what works best for us - the easy way to do the simple things and then go on from there.

I am pleased to say that we now have a vented HQ Infinity and you will see us flying team with those now when the winds are strong!

Better Flying Days

We are always telling people that we give free kite flying lessons. We often get people from all over asking us when we can help them. The fact that we are so busy throughout the summer makes it seem as though we are not sincere. The best way that we can help people is through our "Better Flying Days" - if you want us to come to you then we will need something to cover our expenses.

So what is a Better Flying Day (BFD)? Well we announce the date and venue on our web-site and people just turn up (Just type "Kite Display" into your search engine and you will find us and some of the other teams too!). We ask people to bring long lines (40 meters is best if they already have kites and can fly a bit already because we like to fly pairs alongside them. We have found that this gives the thrill of pairs flying but also shows where the trainee is doing those odd little bits wrong. We let pupils use our lines when we are coaching one to one but after that we only have shorter, cheaper lines with more stretch - the one that come with kites when you buy them - lending out our low stretch, low wind resistant Climax lines has proved too costly for us! Everyone gets on with their own flying during the day whilst we spend time individually with each of the flyers - no-one is asked to fly with everyone else watching!

Most people who come along have a kite of some description but if they don't then we will lend them one. If the kite they have is not suitable for learning new techniques then once we are sure that they are competent we let them fly with one of the team kites that we use that have the ease and versatility to be able to improve skills on. We don't sell kites but often people go away wanting to buy one of the ones they have tried from our bag - we also take lots of other kites that people may want to see or try out - always best to contact us first If you have something in mind.

When we do demonstrations at kite festivals we include the basics of flying - how to launch, turns, infinities and basic shapes in the sky - it's a lot different trying to do it than just watching! We get lots of

Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

people come to us who can keep a kite in the air but just need a little bit of guidance in doing a little bit more. We have never had anyone who has not improved after spending time with us - that gives us great pleasure, but the biggest thrill is when someone who could not fly at all goes away being able to do circles, figure eights, boxes etc - and we had two of those at the last BFD - fantastic!!! - that made the trip to Stokes Bay well worth it!

Naming it

In the last edition I reviewed the HQ Sky Photon. I really liked that one! After a short while I did a short piece on our web-site saying about how I had managed to lose it somewhere. You know the sort of thing - put it on the roof of the car and forgot it was there when I drove off or left it by the car when I was lo unloading. I knew that if a Kiter was to have found it they would have let me know but I was afraid that if a passerby had picked it up they would have taken it out and flown it not really appreciating what a nice little flyer /collector's item it is.

When I remember I like to put our name on our equipment - it's not so much an ownership thing - worried that someone might nick it - Kites just don't do that but when you do find something laying around it is so much easier to return it directly to the owner instead of wandering all around the field asking everyone.

At festivals we are eternally grateful for the constant procession of people returning our pegs - the photo shows our home made



pegs at the start of the season and this year we only seem to be a couple down - we usually say that team member Dougie has a huge collection of them at home that he has forgotten to put back in the box - just joking Dougie - but one session he turned up and we asked him if he wanted a peg but he already had three in his pocket - he has never been let off the hook since - if you see him ask him if he has a peg in his pocket!

The lost Photon? Oh it had managed to attach itself under the lip of a storage box in the garage after it had fallen down the back. I found it the other day when I was looking for something else!

I am very pleased to have it back - must remember to write our name on it now!

Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

The Over

I did a review of the Over by Eolo Gayla a couple of years back. We were then lucky enough to have been given help with sponsorship with these kites because we use them in demonstration and they are a great kite for use in coaching for newcomers to pairs and team flying.

Accidents Happen

Of course, letting inexperienced flyers loose in the sky in a team has resulted in a few mashed kites so some of them now have a goodly amount of repair tape holding them together.

Eolo started to replace some of the damaged stock for us but this meant that we were flying with a mismatch of kites because they had been listening to their customers, looking at some of the latest changes in design and technology and now sent us the improved upgraded Over.

The new model probably needs about one mph more wind at the lower end of the scale but now that the bottom bridle lines have been moved from the centre T to a point on the spine a few centimeters below, the kite feels much more solid than before. The sail cloth has been changed, the Mylar feels thicker and there is more attention to the trailing edge than before.

Bigger Range

The kite retains its low pull in higher winds which is why we like it for training and it is easy to keep on flying when other flyers have changed up to vented kites by the addition of nappy brakes either across the lines in front of the kite or attached to the stand-offs and dragging off the back - or both!

Perhaps we weren't fully convinced with the old model as it seemed to have a sort of 'toy' feel about it but the new version is definitely a classier, 'proper' kite and gives that emotion of excitement mixed with anticipation each time it comes out of the bag.

The kite comes in a range of four colours which are tagged on the end of the bag in which it comes. We quite liked the bag which has separate compartments



for handles and rods to help protect the sail in packing away and carriage - we just have to try to maintain the discipline to use them!

The Over has been around for a long time now showing that Eolo have not found the need to find a better model. My friend Alex (the vice president of Eolo) once told me that it is not their intention to be the Rolls Royce type high end of the market – they are quite happy to be a solid, middle of the road provider of kites. Take the Mondeo, for instance, what a difference from when that one first arrived and look at it after all the upgrades and modifications!

Time Costs

There is one negative that has been unavoidable however, and that is how the pound has suffered against the euro, meaning that the Over price could almost be over-priced - It just depends what you want to get out of a kite - this is a pretty good all-rounder but not, in my mind, a specific trick kite nor team but quite good at both!

By comparison the HQ Infinity is a bigger kite for a little less money. The flying characteristics are very different this is a very solid kite built for team and has more pull but is quite trick-able too – see previous reviews and videos on our website.

If you are interested and want to compare – we have both so you can decide for yourself.

The Triangulation

We liked this new kite. It folds down quite small, is easy (even for me) to erect and looks is quite complicated and interesting in its design, add to that the fact that it flies well and very stable in a wind above 5mph and I wonder why at a price of only around £35.00 I have not seen many more of them decorating the skies.

The Triangulation shape is away from the norm, if most of what you have are the more familiar delta, diamond or sled formations and should appeal to those who are constantly looking for something a little different. Oddly, it seems to be the norm is that most lower priced kites always come with line and this one is no exception.



Jam Session

HQ have brought out a welcome range of retro kites - see the last edition for my review on The Breeze and

our photo competition where everyone, it seems, wants to want to win The Silent Dart.

I'm guessing but probably the best selling kite of its day was the Dodd Gross designed and promoted Jam Session. Just about all of the senior fliers of today had one of these in their bag and many of us had wondered at the marvelous things that Dodd could do with this kite in the instructional video he had made.

Holiday Purchase

We were visiting Las Vegas when we went to the kite shop owned and run by Scot Dyer out back of his dentistry business when we bought, and still have somewhere, a vented Jam Session but the stronger winds it needed to make it fly usually managed to break either one of the bottom spreaders.

We didn't have the rod technology we have now - though I don't expect that I will ever get around to re-sparring ours. The shop was then known as BFK - it's where we first met the present owner Cory Jensen.

The kite flies like - well a Jam session really. As new kites succeeded this one comparisons were often made in that you could do this with the new one more easily than the JS or perhaps it wouldn't etc. You could get one of these and start to think after a while that it might need this or that modification to make it do certain things but, of course the flaws and the good points of design are still there. The materials have been updated. though and Connoisseurs will tell you that slightly less flex in the rods or slightly more stiffness in the sail gives it a different 'feel' but then they already have one!

I like the new version - it still looks great, it's easy to fly and is a pretty good kite for someone to learn the basics of trick flying with.



Photo by Roger Backhouse

The Session is not really a precision kite - as its name implies, it's a musical term used by its designer who plays in a rock band and it's about making it up as you go along and enjoying yourself, but on longer lines it doesn't do too bad a job and would be OK to learn some of the more disciplined stuff.

I am not a fan of flying this one in high winds but if I

Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

had a few hours to myself and I wanted to go out and just have fun flying in low to medium winds with only two or three kites in my bag, the Jam Session would definitely be one that I would take with me.

See me flying this on video on our web-site www.closecounterskites.co.uk

Prism 4D

Kiteworld are the main UK agent for Prism kites and they gave us one of the latest from the American manufacturers. I had one of the original 3d kites once and didn't much like it as I recall - so I was a little skeptical about this one - Wrong again Allan!



I had the kite for weeks waiting for the right conditions before putting it in the bag to take to Crete where we were to do some flying at a place called Analipsi. Several evenings presented perfect conditions - zero to about three mph. It took me a while to get used to only the extremely gentle movements required but I found that this edition didn't fall out of the sky too readily and was not as fast or twitchy as I was expecting for a kite of this size.

Designers, Prism, claim that you can fly the 4D in a range from 0 to 15mph. I'm not sure about trying to do axels at the top end but I really liked that if a sudden gust did blow through, then the kite did not suddenly pull like crazy and feel that it was about to disintegrate. A lot of thought has obviously gone in to the design and manufacture of the 4D - it looks and even feels at first sight, flimsy, but after the first flights confidence flows - you have to feel it to believe it. Remember though that it is a small, lightweight piece of equipment because, after I went back to flying a full size team light weight kite it felt like driving a lorry after riding a bike! It is a great experience to fly this kite and it will definitely be with us on fun days out. The kite comes beautifully presented with its own, lightweight lines in a magnificent semi rigid carry case - as does the Prism Zephyr and fits easily in to a suit case although it is a pretty smart piece of kit to carry around on its own for those who like to feel good about the kite they own.



Ron Moulton – Total Aviation Person

A note from Gill Bloom told me that Ron Moulton had died. It was Friday 8th October and he was 86.

Ron Moulton? Probably, and to most kitefliers, Ron distant memory; something to do with Old Warden whoever they were? Well, Ron was a lot more than to me he was. I first came across him when I was at 1960s. Every month I would buy the *Aeromodeller* editorial tutelage, would start designing something wood, tissue and dope in the hope that it might Whether it flew or not, Ron had started a lifelong went on to college and an aircraft engineering at BAC at Weybridge. Again there was a Ron influence since Dumbo, the man-powered aircraft, built and test flown; really it was a great big model made from balsa wood, but this time covered in Ron was not only Editor of *Aeromodeller*, but also involved with the Man-Powered Aircraft Group of the Aeronautical Society. So I went to the early RAeS conferences, listened to him talk and then met him. became friends – at least I had met the great man. Ron used his time as Editor of *Aeromodeller* well; he regularly published in-depth articles on MPAs as well as unconventional forms of flying machines.



is a bit of a and the BKFA, that; at least school in the and, under his made of balsa possibly fly. passion. I apprenticeship Moulton was being aeroplane shiny mylar. closely Royal MPA This time we



And then, a few years later, there were the kites. It was the late 1970s/early 1980s and a rivalry of sorts had started between the old guard (Ron), a bunch of reactionaries (the people who started a magazine called the Kitefliers Occasional Newsletter (KON) and a failing magazine called the *European Kiteflier*). Ron had decided that kitefliers needed an organisation and set up the British Kite Fliers Association (BKFA) in 1975 along the lines of the old Society of Model Aeronautical Engineers. He produced a very nice A5 newsletter and used his worldwide contacts to get people interested in the BKFA. Unfortunately his vision did not quite match that of the kitefliers of that time. The BKFA never really caught on and, after a short time, it was dropped. But Ron had his heart in the kite scene and was able to use his full size aviation and aeromodelling influences to secure the Shuttleworth Museum airfield at Old Warden

for a series of great kite festivals. He wrote a book, *Kites*, in 1972 and another, also called *Kites* in 1992, revised and reprinted in 1992. All of these books, as well as the BKFA magazine benefited hugely from the drawings done by Pat Lloyd. They were constructed with great care and attention – I know because I made some small contributions to them – and they stand up today as a source, guide and inspiration to good kitemaking.



There are a lot of stories about Ron – possibly the funniest of these was when a rumour of his untimely decease ran around the Bristol Kite Festival. I think we all lowered our kites for a reverential minute's silence. The next day Ron turned up, and was not really that amused!

I last met Ron at a meeting of the Royal Aeronautical Society about a year ago. He was enjoying himself – networking, making arrangements and generally helping things happen. We had a chat, a cup of tea, exchanged Christmas cards.....good old Ron. He did a lot for all of us.

I asked Maurice Sawyer for his thoughts on Ron – so here are the edited highlights:

“Well. That’s buggered that – no one can follow HIM! A little man of tremendous stature; interested in everybody he met and all were treated with friendliness, respect and generosity with a ready help without any hesitation. Apart from that, and his many commitments, he found time to join up with Pat Lloyd to give us what could be argued to be the three best kite bibles of the age. He also travelled to many overseas flying festivals, both model and full size, to give them support and to keep his readers at home informed.

About 1986 I was just awakened to club kiting. How I learned of Ron and the BKFA I cannot now remember but,

without expecting any response, I wrote, like serf to king, and asked for some help with a project. He agreed to meet me and he gave four hours of his valuable time, including lunch together in The Green Man. From then we have been friends, attending many events and kite festivals together. It was about this time that the Kite Society of Great Britain grew out of The Kitefliers Occasional Newsletter and Ron's BKFA was allowed to wither. But without Ron's first and original kick start I wonder if kite flying would be anything today. Its a bit like Baden-Powell and The Boy Scouts.

Many people will remember him for his lifelong editorship of Aeromodeller and the RC&ME Magazine, for which he has received many accolades. His aeromodelling connections with The Model Engineering Exhibitions at Olympia enabled the presentation of the first ever stand devoted to kite flying. I was honoured to serve on the stand. That continued for several years and included kite flying in the hall. Later I was able to witness and assist Ron when he became the first to fly a model blimp over the exhibition. In the third year we were joined by a gentleman from the Science Museum with his blimp and saw both flying overhead. Very exciting! More recently Ron introduced me to making and flying indoor aeroplane models. Each winter for three or four years we joined Pat Lloyd and 20 or so other enthusiasts for monthly meetings - and great fun it was too.

Ron's ability to make things, to describe things, explain theories and remember things was extraordinary, and anyone who knew him will miss his company as well as his tutoring where tips and knowledge were passed on unselfishly. His knowledge of full-size aeroplanes and their history was also breathtaking. He could converse and inform on aeroplanes and kites with a knowledge of their history from the beginnings to the latest creation.

He also gave his services to various committees at the Shuttleworth Collection at Old Warden and on some show days he organised and served in a most sumptuous Hospitality Tent. Indeed, his last attendance at Old Warden was only a few weeks before his death and, such was his sense of duty to Old Warden that he turned down an invitation to a free day out and slap up lunch with The Grumpy Old Gits in order, as he put it, to do his duty.

Some other things: there was also a spell of motor cycling history which I have insufficient knowledge, only knowing that he praised his wife for her expertise as a pillion passenger! He was also in the RAF and spent some time flying in Africa. He also worked in a model shop. More recently he used his professional writing abilities by helping write other people's obituaries, as well as clearing and auctioning their aeromodelling gear on behalf of their widows.

His wife seemed to be a rarer part of his life but she was big in her own life too. Until a few months before her death last year, she was a keen horsewoman and also crewed and instructed on The Tall Ships; being asked to continue there even after the official 'kick-'em-out' age."

Paul Chapman – with the more interesting stuff provided by Maurice Sawyer.



In February this year, the Grumpy Old Gits were very pleased that Ron could join them in a Grand Day Out at the RAF museum at Hendon. We had a lovely time. (left to right: Maurice Sawyer, Keith Boxall, Ron Moulton, Alan Outram and John Browning)

Bits & Pieces

From The Daily Telegraph

Headed 'Kite Sight: India's jewels from sky' it has a number of aerial photographs taken by KAP. It says "Nicholas Chorier, 47, who lives in Pondicherry, mounts a camera in the kites he makes using siliconised nylon and carbon sticks".

According to the article he uses a air-to-ground video link to send the images to a portable TV strapped around his neck.

One of the pictures is the photographer with the kite—it looks like a 12-15ft Rakkaku.

From the Hindu (www.thehindu.com).

Soaring imagination—Trisha Mahajan 'Kite' became the theme of an art exhibition hosted to celebrate Independence Day.

Independence Day is an inspiring day when one can really see different people from various cultures, work fields and religions coming together to celebrate. An artistic effort has been made by artists like Sudip Roy, Kanchan Chandra, Krishna Dutta, Lokesh Verma, Laxman Aekey and Manoj Dutta, to name a few, who have exhibited their paintings and worked on a single theme, 'Kites'. The exhibition has been conceptualised by Manish Malhan and Neena Gulati.

"A kite is symbolic in so many ways. The kite is related to independence; it floats in the air and gives us a feeling of freedom. A kite, like an independent country, is free," says Chandra. "The kite has been made the theme of the exhibition with the idea of celebrating Independence and the coming of the monsoon."

Chandra has produced one painting for the exhibition, which is semi-abstract. She has done a playful painting remembering her son as a young child flying a kite, using red, yellow and other bright colours. "I have done the painting in a very playful mood. When I think of this season, I remember my son's and my own childhood days, flying kites on the terrace. Those were playful and independent days."



Sudip Roy, a renowned painter, has painted Radha-Krishna on a kite. Sharing his idea, he says, "Radha-Krishna are a symbol of love and peace. It has become very important to depict peace in today's world." Roy has displayed two of his works. One of the paintings

shows the increasing population and pollution in

Delhi. "Like a kite flies past another, a car overtakes another on the road. And like there are many kites in the sky, there are cars on the road," explains Roy.

Physorg.com

Toy Makes Gathering Wind Data A Breeze By Christine Blackman

Meteorologists have developed a portable new tool for measuring atmospheric wind speeds by tethering kites to ground-based metering systems.

The meter, attached to the kite's tether at the ground, is an improvement from the traditional method of mounting wind sensors on a mast. It senses wind in the lower atmosphere, up to 60 meters above the surface of the earth.

"The kite wind sensing system is designed to be both practical and temperature-stable," said Giles Harrison, professor of atmospheric physics at the University of Reading in the U.K who designed the meter with graduate student Kieran Walesby.

Meteorologists have used kites to study the atmosphere for more than 250 years. The most legendary may be Benjamin Franklin, who used a kite to measure the properties of electricity in the atmosphere in 1752. Since then, scientists have flown kites with instruments attached, but in recent decades they have used the kites themselves to sense wind.

Harrison and Walesby's instrument retrieves wind speed by sensing tension in the kite's tether on the ground. They anchor the tether to an aluminum ring, which is also a base for four strain gauges. As the wind blows the kite and the tether pulls, the gauges sense even the slightest strain to the aluminum ring.

"The gauges measure how the metal ring physically distorts under the tension of the tether," Harrison said. "There's a small variation in each of the string gauges and we put that together electronically to get a signal that we can measure."

To perfect their system, the scientists tested the meter for thermal drift, which is when temperature changes affect the electronics. Due to its symmetrical design, drift in their system was so small that it had only a trivial effect on measurements, unlike older systems that needed calibrating before and after every run.

A light-weight, portable meter that operates remotely from the ground is useful for studying air flow in the wake of a wind turbine, Walesby said. Traditionally, scientists used multiple sensors mounted on masts near the turbine to gather a spatial average.

"A kite, which naturally wanders as it flies and thus samples an area rather than a single point, may provide a simpler method," Walesby wrote.

Bits & Pieces

However, the meter may have little use in other atmospheric research, according to Gary Jedlovec, an atmospheric scientist with NASA.

"This advancement improves on the technology to make it more accurate and less dependent on the atmosphere temperature, but its application to broader meteorological measurements is limited," Jedlovec said.

Jedlovec said that the relationship between the tension ring and wind speed is based on a formula that, according to Harrison, breaks down at wind speeds greater than 15 meters per second.

"The other thing that meteorologists want to know is not just the wind speed, but the direction and how that direction may change with height and time. This instrument doesn't tell you anything about the direction," Jedlovec said.

Though it's limited to slow, low altitude winds, the system may find its niche in forecasting wind energy.

"This application may be looking at ... how effectively wind turbine systems can operate in lighter winds and how gusts of wind and turbulence affect their performance in lighter wind conditions," Jedlovec said.

Childrens Reading

"Windblowne" by Stephen Messer, Random House, 2010, 289 pages

In the town of Windblowne, kite-flying skills are crucial. Unfortunately for Oliver, he has never been able to fly any kite. Humiliated by his peers, Oliver seeks the help and advice of his kite-flying champion and master kite builder Great-Uncle Gilbert.

Great-Uncle Gilbert seems less than pleased to see Oliver and soon sends Oliver away. Oliver, however, is determined, and upon returning to his great-uncle's tree house, finds him in grave danger, fending off attack kites. Suddenly, Great-Uncle Gilbert is kidnapped and vanishes into thin air, and the only thing that remains is a simple-looking crimson kite.

When the kite approaches Oliver, his life is irreversibly changed as it carries Oliver off to another, parallel world, where Great-Uncle Gilbert's evil twin lives, the self-named Lord Gilbert, who is concocting a dreadful plan to kill all of the oak trees in this and the countless other worlds and become the ruthless ruler of it all.

Oliver must learn to tap into his own special skills to find Great-Uncle Gilbert, defeat Lord Gilbert and save everyone, including his precious crimson kite.

Available through Amazon.co.uk

Kites4heros.

The concept was simple; 3 teams of six kites repre-

senting the Royal Navy and Royal Marines, the Army and the Royal Air Force set off from the coast of Alderney and raced each other the 70 nautical miles to an anticipated landfall at Poole. Success depended on the selection of team and equipment as well as the strategy employed throughout the crossing to make best use of the conditions. All teams needed to demonstrate physical robustness, kite surfing ability and teamwork to complete this arduous challenge.

September 2010: The teams left Alderney at 11am on Friday with 70 miles to cross, covering the busy shipping lanes. The race was a relay with all members of the teams having to kitesurf at some point. A different wind to what was forecast made the going difficult and longer than expected.

The teams had to contend with technical problems on the RIBs, kites dropping in the water, variable winds, and Channel shipping. The less than ideal wind direction meant the kites themselves travelled much further than the 70 mile straight line distance.

The winners were the Navy/Marines followed by the Army (a close second) and the RAF were third.

The Just Giving page is still open and donations will be gratefully received. visit <http://www.justgiving.com/kite4heroes> to donate.

Richard Branson

On a similar note Richard Branson planned to celebrate his 60th birthday by kite-surfing from England to France in the English Channel. Branson, the British billionaire and founder of the Virgin brand, recently turned 60 and planned to celebrate in August by becoming the oldest person to successfully kite-surf the English Channel.

The billionaire, whose previous adventures include attempts to circumnavigate the world in a hot air balloon and sailing the Atlantic Ocean, said he will be accompanied on the kite-sailing trip by his children and nephews.

Unfortunately wind and weather were against the attempts and they were unsuccessful.

And across the Irish Sea

After two years of planning the Kite Surf Irish Sea team completed the challenge on Saturday 21st August surfing from Cloghy in North Ireland to Silloth in Cumbria. A distance of 110 miles in 9 hours non stop. Everyone made it safely but in one piece is debatable!

We know these are difficult times but if you would like to sponsor us our Charities are the RNLI, NSPCC and Maryport Inshore Rescue. Follow the links below to donate. Please give as much as you can.

Not quite surfing but!

In April 2011, Robert and Heidi Clover will set off

Bits & Pieces

from Ilulissat on the west coast of Greenland on a 1000 kilometre journey across the vast Greenland ice cap. After our ascent to the ice cap pulling sledges loaded with equipment and supplies we will take advantage of the catabatic winds, launch our kites and make our way to Qaanaaq on the north coast, at 78 degrees North. They will be entirely dependent on the wind, the length of the expedition will depend on weather conditions. When there is no wind, they wait in their tents. If there is too much wind, they will have to sit out the storm. They hope to complete the journey in three weeks, but that will probably include days of no wind, so when the wind is on, they kite for as long as they possibly can: 12, 14...24 hours. Because of the start of the Arctic Summer, the constant daylight will give us 24 hour visibility.

They will be taking four to five kites for the journey, these are foil kites ranging from small 5m² to big 15m². The kites will fly on anything up to 100 metre lines, because the challenge will not be the high winds, but how to make progress in ultra light winds. They are determined to get to Qaanaaq on skis, kites and on foot, and complete the expedition.

www.kitegreenland2011.co.uk

Design Firm Turns Dinnerware Into Works of Art

To many people — especially those under 40 — “porcelain dinnerware” has a staid sound to it. That’s why Caroline Pople, a product designer, and her husband, David Harding, an M.B.A. student, created Ink Dish, a design firm dedicated to injecting excitement into dinnerware. The company’s newest collections — Kites, shown, and Poem — were produced with David Palmer and Dana Oldfather. Prices range from \$12.50 for a mug to \$72 for a four-piece place setting.



Spotted on MSN.COM

Kites, cameras helping engineers develop infrastructure

Combination of simple kites with digital cameras produce rugged, low cost aerial photography

The types of places that require Engineers Without Borders (EWB) to develop infrastructure are necessarily the types of places that have not been mapped to the level of detail needed for developing infrastructure. To give those engineers the birds-eye view they need, EWB employs a special rig that combines simple kites with digital cameras to produce rugged, low cost aerial photography.

By attaching a digital camera to the undercarriage of a kite, engineers can control the targets and zoom of the camera with a consol adapted from a toy plane remote control. During yesterday’s USAID/New York Academy of Sciences “Science For Solving Global Challenges” forum at the United Nations, Yuri Estrada, a project manager with EWB, showed how an engineer can quickly survey the proposed location for any kind of project.

Kite Aerial Photography (KAP), has been around for some time, but it wasn’t until 2002 that EWB began deploying the system. Initially used to assess the site of a water project in Cambodia, the use of KAP rigs by EWB has since spread.

Each rig only costs around \$300 (not including the cost of the camera), placing it well within the affordability range for an NGO like EWB.

The KAP system used by EWB does have one significant drawback: no real-time feed. That means the operator can’t know exactly what they photographed until the camera comes down from the sky.

From Reuters

U.S. project flies democracy message on Afghan



kites

Afghans fly kites in Kabul September 24, 2010. Hundreds of kites danced over the Afghan capital on Friday emblazoned with messages championing justice,

transparency and equal rights for women in an unusual U.S.-backed effort to boost democracy. Banned under the Taliban, kite flying is a national pastime in Afghanistan. Hundreds of men and young boys take to a bluff overlooking Kabul to fly them each Friday afternoon.

Workers for the U.S. Agency for International Development, or USAID, handed out around 1,000 gaudy orange, pink and blue kites, each bearing messages in national languages Dari and Pashto.

"On all the kites there's a rule of law message concerning anti-corruption, access to the courts and justice for all Afghan citizens," said USAID contractor Mike Sheppard. "As you can see, they love kites, and they are all up in the air."

Women rarely fly kites in deeply conservative Afghanistan, where men traditionally dominate public life. The activity is often competitive. Rivals put ground glass on the lines, and try to sever those of their opponents, often betting on the outcome. Afghans' passion for kites gained international attention in 2003 with Khaled Hosseini's best-selling novel, "The Kite Runner," which followed the friendship of two boys from Kabul through decades of war and upheaval.

Times of India

'India best place to fly a kite'

India figures 78 in the list of 100 best countries in the world with a score of 55.70 out of 100. The rank was based on five categories of national well-being, education, health, quality of life, economic competitiveness, and political environment.

Besides, India is described as the 'Best Place to Fly a Kite'.

"Flying a kite from the roof is part of everyday life in India. But each year, on January 14, an international kite festival, Makar Sankranti, draws more than 1 million enthusiasts from 36 countries," the magazine said.



A bit of E-Bay

Lawrence Beall Smith 1909 1995 ~ The Kite 1969 signed acrylic painting 18 x 24 inches ~ rare published work by this highly collectable artist ~ just fabulous; great quality piece

Starting price \$5,000

WW2 era Air Ministry marked Kite Balloon Manometer, It is in overall good used condition made by R.W. Munro Ltd London stores ref no. 44/92.

(Atmospheric pressure meter). Sold for £21.00



Also seen a folded card programme for the London Pavilion, Piccadilly for 30th November 1903. Featuring Cody Kite Navigation.

Inside it says "Mr S F Cody FRMS will give a short lecture on kite navigation and relate the experiences of his night trip across Channel on November 6th last. Mr Cody will appear with boat, kite, costume and appliances used in his daring experiment".

New Zealand Kite Stamps

These stamps come from Post New Zealand to commemorate Matariki. (Maori New Year). If you would like to buy a sheet of these stamps, please get in touch with Post New Zealand. They will definitely be a set of stamps to add to your kite memorabilia. The New Zealand post shop has put these beautiful stamps on our letters. Seems almost a shame to postmark and hide the stamp. There are 4 different types of stamps depicting historical Maori kites.



Go to [/www.nzpost.co.nz/products-services/collectables/collectable-stamps](http://www.nzpost.co.nz/products-services/collectables/collectable-stamps) and follow the links.

Bits & Pieces

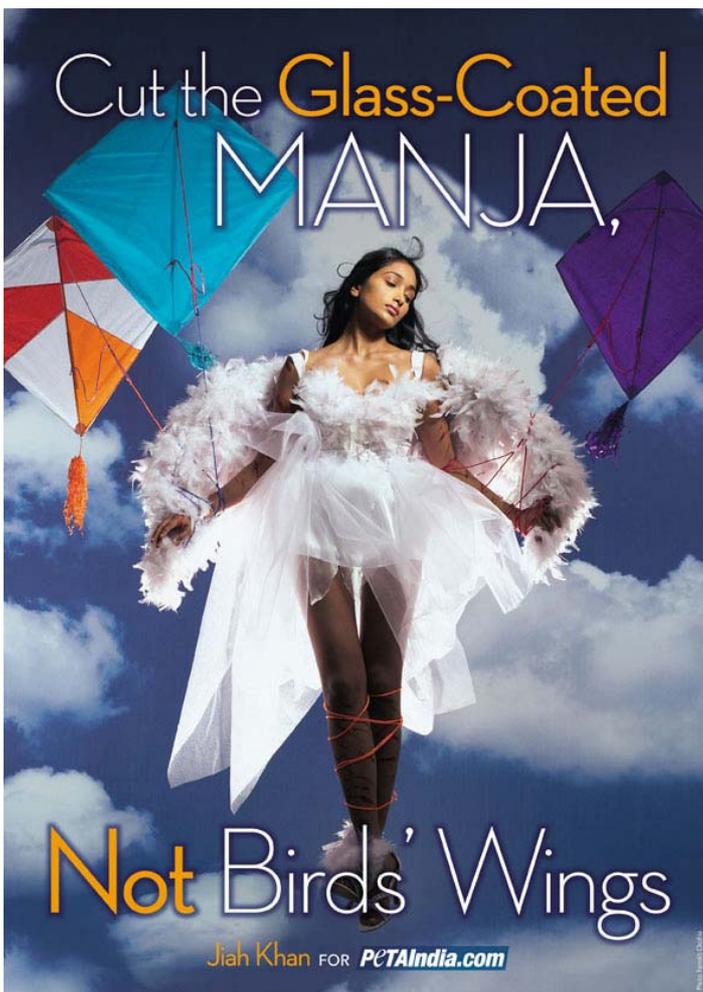
Peta India campaign

Jiah Khan Says, 'Cut Glass-Coated Manja, Not Wings'

Jiah Khan, who left everyone spellbound with her acting in Nishabd, came forward to help her winged friends by posing in a new PETA ad. Shot by ace photographer Farrokh Chothia, the ad shows Jiah Khan entangled in manja with wounds all over her body and features the tagline "Cut Glass-Coated Manja, Not Wings".

Why can't this Bollywood babe be "nishabd" this time? The manja used in kite-flying competitions is often gummed and coated with powdered and finely crushed glass. While this makes the manja extremely effective at cutting an opponent's kite line, it also makes it deadly for thousands of pigeons, crows, owls and other birds who get slashed, wounded and killed when they become entangled in the strings. Animal organisations across the country try their best to save birds entangled in manja, but often the birds don't survive.

More information at www.petaindia.com/feat/f-jiah-khan.asp and your opportunity to sign the petition.



Kites fill skies over Gaza as children reach for record from theprovince.com

GAZA CITY, Palestinian Territories — Thousands of

kites filled the sky over Gaza as children gathered to break their own Guinness World Record in an event organized by the UN agency for Palestinian refugees. More than 7,200 children flew colourful kites at a sprawling sandy beach, unofficially doubling the previous record, according to officials from the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

The attempt comes one week after the same number of Gaza children bounced basketballs simultaneously for five minutes, unofficially breaking another Guinness record and drawing international attention to the impoverished Hamas-run enclave.

"Surely two world records in a week would be another world record," UNRWA's Gaza director John Ging said. "Children here must have a sense of normality, despite the abnormality they face in their daily lives. Today's achievement has lifted the spirits of the entire population here in Gaza," he added.

The previous record was set last summer when 3,710 Gaza children flew kites in a similar event organized by UNRWA. UN officials said Guinness did not send an adjudicator because of general government travel warnings on Gaza and that the new record still has to be confirmed by the organization.

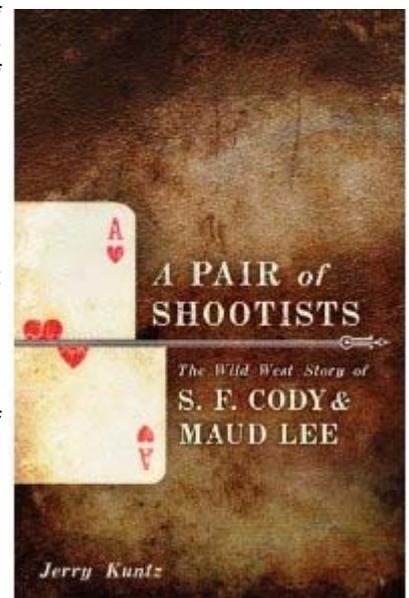
Amsiyat Awaja's house was destroyed during the war and her brother Ibrahim was killed, but on Thursday the 13-year-old had a smile on her face as she watched her kite swoop and dive high above the crashing waves.

"We still want to live and we still want to be joyful," she said.

Rima Zayed, 14, said the event helped her forget the "tough days" of the war, when her family was homeless for several months. "At least today we can enjoy our freedom," she said.

A Pair of Shootists, The Wild West Story of S F Cody and Maud Lee.

Description from the publisher: In 1888, Samuel F. Cody, a twenty-one-year-old horse wrangler, met Maud Lee, a sixteen-year-old aspiring circus performer, while touring with the Wild West show cast of Adam Forepaugh's Circus. A quick rapport developed between the girl from Norristown, Pennsylvania, and the cow-



boy who dazzled audiences with his good looks and fancy pistol shooting.

A Pair of Shootists is the exuberant and sometimes heartbreaking story of the elusive S. F. Cody and his first wife, Maud Lee. Recounting their many dramatic exploits, this biography also overturns the frequently romanticized view of Wild West shows.

Living the erratic lives of touring performers, S. F. Cody who changed his name to capitalize on his resemblance to William F. Buffalo Bill Cody and Maud Lee first appeared together in vaudeville halls and dime museums. Setbacks in the United States made Cody and Lee eager to try their luck abroad, so they traveled to Great Britain, where they played music halls and acted in burlesques on roller-skates and in extravagant arena exhibitions. When the two performers eventually parted ways, author Jerry Kuntz masterfully splits their stories into two. From there, he follows their individual ups and downs, including Cody's soaring career in pioneer aeronautics and Lee's decline into mental illness and addiction. In an ironic twist, Maud's professional life ended amidst a vast misunderstanding that brought her into conflict with the woman she had been emulating her entire career: Annie Oakley.

While other biographies focus mainly on Cody's contribution to aviation, Kuntz uses sources previously unavailable to scholars to paint a more complete picture of Cody's early years and to recover the forgotten and ultimately tragic story of Maud Lee.

Available via Amazon at around £24.00

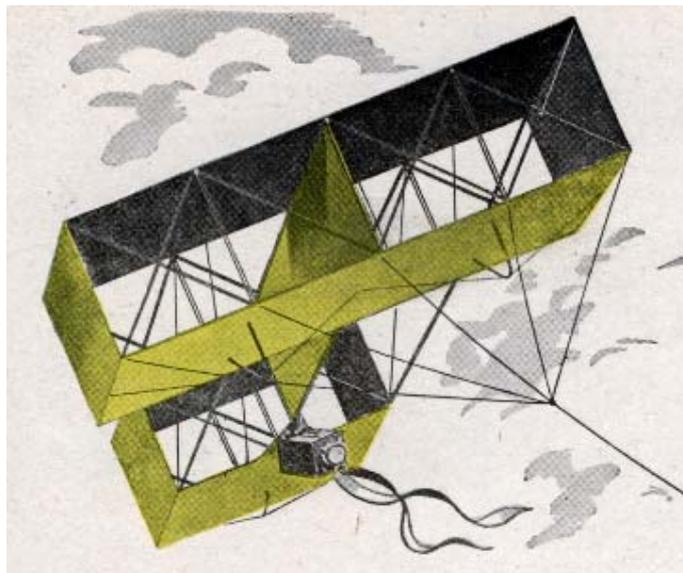
Popular Science 1946

He Takes Aerial Photos from His Back Yard

The old stunt of using a kite to fly a camera aloft has been developed to a fine art by Frank S. Crowell, of St. Albans, N. Y. His homemade aluminium cameras, fitted with fuse-operated shutters, have flown to a height of 2,000', and Crowell explains that only the hazard of collision with planes has kept him from going higher on days when conditions were favourable for flying kites.

His 13-oz. cameras take 4" by 5" or 2-1/4" by 3-1/4" cut film, and the exposure is usually 1/300 or 1/400 sec. at f/16. A camera may be mounted either on the kite or on two aluminium struts 200' below, an arrangement that allows the camera to be reset without landing the kite.

An ingenious signaling system tell Crowell what is happening aloft. A fuse, made by soaking plumber's cord in saltpeter and water, is cut to burn for a fixed length of time, and the camera sent up. One minute before the fuse trips the shutter, a green crepe-paper streamer is released to trail behind the camera, warning Crowell to hold the kite string for maximum steadiness. The moment the shutter has clicked, a



red streamer tells Crowell that he may reel in.

The Scotsman

Fun, easy and free - why we must rediscover the joy of life outdoors

City dwellers are being encouraged to make daisy chains, skim stones and fly kites in a new campaign aimed at getting people to spend more time outdoors. Research shows more than half of Scottish households get out less than once a week to spend time enjoying the great outdoors.

Scottish Natural Heritage has launched a new £105,000 campaign called "Simple Pleasures, Easily Found". It aims to remind people, especially those living in cities, that there are simple ways to have fun without spending lots of money or needing specialist equipment or planning.

New leaflets and a website encourage people to hunt for four-leaf clovers, play Pooh sticks, fly kites, or simply watch a sunset. They suggest people in cities should try exploring green spaces close to home, such as parks, allotments, and even window boxes.

Historic Kites

www.firstkite.nl has some interesting information about historic kites including snippets of reproduction kites flying. The blog is particularly interesting as it details the various stages of a recent project comparing the methods used and the problems overcome.

There are also links to some kite patents, paper kites and historic kite articles. Whilst in Dutch the paper kite items are nice with the detail of the constructions for each one.

Well worth a look.

Sports Kite Flying in Dieppe—Vee Griffiths

It was amazing, so I offer you my 21,000 word article on the joys of the left hand side of Dieppe kite festival. (You mean a picture isn't worth a thousand words? Perhaps I'd better just call it brief then.)

Ephemere. Why, oh why don't we see more of this pair? Not just skill-full, but they have an original style.

Jean Lemire, a French-Canadian multi-kite flyer, can fly these wonderfully in any weather

Richard Debray. Highly placed in the Fractured Axel "nominate your all time kite gods" thread.

Beeline. A little known British pair.

Lam Hoac. Virtuoso of Quad and Trick kites and kite-maker with an amazing reputation.



Jean Lemire

Steff Fermé. Flyer extraordinaire and right-ful winner of Multi-line individual in Eurocup.

Greg Rains. Yet another placed in the Fractured Axel "nominate your all time kite gods" thread

Crazy Drivers. They have grown from a team of three and always have beautiful kite placement, every time



Steff Fermé

Ray Bethell. Wonderful to see him out and about this year. Were the commentators really saying he is 88 or is my French just very poor?

Man in Black and son. A novelty kite act.

Dipt'r. A French Canadian pair, who could knock the socks off many Europeans.

Scratch Bunnies. Current World Champions. A stunning show of precision

Tatour de Ciel. Very nice.

Kopferschmidt. Flying a pairs routine, one normally, the other at 180 degrees through a dog stake

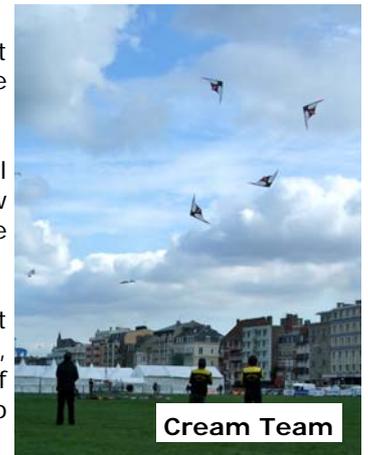


Crazy Drivers

Cream Team. They get better each time I see them.

Mael Chevalier. A local flyer flying the new Drole d'oiseau kite: the Phénix

Jean Lamoureux. Not only flew his trains, (here joined by a part of Pair Eface) but also compered



Cream Team



Jean Lamoureux and Pair Eface

Pair Eface. A local pair who worked hard throughout the festival

Somehow I've failed to photograph Stephen Versteegh, Stephane Brihan and Raoul; possibly because I was too busy watching their most excellent flying.

The majority of all these lovely people flew to entertain the stands at the night fly as well. They had a mixed week, it started nicely enough and only ever rained at night, but the wind was very strong mid-week, so those flying trains and multiple kites had a rough time of it, nevertheless, the flying standard was brilliant all week.



Pair Eface

I saw the best of the best flying with the intent to spread joy. It was a delightful festival.

Oh yes, the Ex-grads flew too.

Festival Reports—Hugh & Lin Blowers

Where's The Big Cat? Blackheath 2010

It seems to take 3 years before a festival really establishes its identity, although Blackheath did have a 20+ years head start in this respect. The wind, or lack thereof, had been the dominating factor at the previous two Blackheath's in its new incarnation as a Kite and Bike Festival. As kite flyers do, we peruse every available weather forecast leading up to a festival and none of them gave us a great deal of hope that this year would be any different. What do the forecasters know? Although it was a bit up and down at times, there was more than enough for a full weekend of thoroughly enjoyable flying and displays.

The 'new' organiser had changed the site layout somewhat and produced a much tighter and contained event that seemed to work to everyone's advantage. Certainly from the flying point of view the two arenas were adjacent so that public and flyers could see everything that was going on and be part of the event. Despite the competing festivals Gill and Jon Bloom had managed to bring together a first class group of teams and flyers. Blackheath, like so many other events now rely almost entirely on invited guests to provide a 'show' and it would be difficult for anyone to complain about the quality of flying provided this year.

Something odd is the PA blackout until mid-day imposed by the organiser. It was slightly surreal to have two arenas full of kites for a couple of hours with total silence from the speakers. On the south side of the site the sky was filled with sports kites and Revs in varying combinations of colours and numbers. To the north, a fine selection of large inflatables provided a colourful backdrop. Half of the arena was the province of Belgium with the showpiece Jester and Squaw kites of Jos and Kaatje Valcke making a second visit. Also making a welcome return were Michel Depuijdt and Jerome Colpaert and his remarkable 'air guitar'. New to the festival were 'Jazzy' Tanghe and 'Ivo' van Olmen and a car packed to the roof with soft kites. From Derby came Bryn and Lesley Bagaley with a huge collection of impressive ripstop, large and small. One lone representative of Brighton forsook Teston to join us on the Saturday while half of the Beccles Bunch made up the rest of the single line display.

During the 'quiet period' a piece of inflatable

kite history was flying, which was a Peter Lynn Centipede courtesy of Lynn and Hugh Blowers. Not only was this one of the earliest designs of inflatable show kite it was a very early example having been built in 1987. Despite this, it was still



new when discovered in a warehouse just a few years ago. Trilobes, bears, jesters and the rest were not enough though as the first press photographer to appear asked, "Where is the big cat?" It was something of a surprise to hear how much attention this impressive maxi cat had attracted last year. One family arrived with two young children wanting to see the 'big pussycat' having been told about it by neighbours. As luck would have it, George and Jackie Penney kindly loaned it to us again so the Trilobite had come out of the car and the cat went in. This was also to make room for one Andy King, but that is an entirely different story. As soon as it was in the air, the kids and cameras were very much in evidence, as it does seem to be one of the more popular Peter Lynn designs. As a footnote, a photographer from Reuters appeared and thought that the cat might be an appropriate alternative item to what was happening in South Africa. That was, of course, before Mr Green's dexterity as a goalkeeper came to light!

Once Andy and his microphone were unleashed the formal programme could get underway and what a programme it was. Conditions were not the easiest yet one after the other the teams and individual sports kite flyers came into the arena to put on routines of the very best quality. The sky is an awfully big place for a pairs routine, yet Spectrum and Close Encounters use this to their advantage with long tails that fill all the gaps. Brian Wright has to spend a considerable amount of his time placing kites for Carl's two and three kite demos. Gill had done some research and as far as she can trace, only eight people can do a three-kite routine and it

Festival Reports—Hugh & Lin Blowers

would be difficult to beat what Carl produced on Sunday, although the 'refuel' still seems to be missing. I do like Carl's choice of tracks though.

Alan and Marilyn Potheary maintain a degree of normality with a series of handy hints and tips for the public on how to fly a sports kite, although I would defy even them to get some of the two line kites we see into the air. Shops selling kites, and unfortunately, some traders do nothing for the sport as many of the models at the cheap end of the market resolutely refuse to fly unless it is an expert on the handles and a gale is blowing. Usually they are not handles either as halos are not the easiest of things for the uninitiated to use. There is nothing quite so frustrating as the sight of a potential kite flyer stood with arms apart at shoulder level having a kite of indeterminate parentage thrown into the air by a willing father, brother, sister, wife or girlfriend, only to see it flop about ineffectively with no sign of flying. Their kite flying experience is not a happy one, and it is not their fault in most cases. I still like Alan's power dives into the ground to show that the kite does not fall apart. I could show him a few that would go home in a bin bag after that treatment.

Peter, Keith, Vee and Doug of the Airheads have a unique way of choreographing their ballets, which is not always best appreciated from the upwind side of the arena, but this weekend, we were able to witness the tails routine from directly downwind and that gives an entirely different perspective. Because of the closeness of the kites to the public, the kite was soon gone from the immediate field of vision, yet those beautiful striped tails kept coming, first one, then two then three and finally all four, somehow rendering the kites towing them irrelevant. Peter and Val had also brought along a selection of dragons, which are always a crowd pleaser. Two flew really well, but Sid was playing up, pumping and oscillating as if he was objecting to Andy talking about the benign nature of Chinese dragons.

Blackheath always manage to spring a few surprises outside the arenas with what the general public have brought along. As with the group of Afghan flyers at Bedford so we are seeing more and more people flying kites from the own countries or cultures. Often these will be reconstructions using available materials, but this year there were a selection of original kites,

most being flown at incredible altitude. Closer to the ground was a train of small Malays being flown by a young couple, all brought in a plastic bag and then fed up into the sky as if it was the most natural thing to do. The one thing we do not get at Blackheath now are the established club kiteflyers or those whose flying experience goes back to the days of the BKFA, or even earlier, and just arrive to join in.

It was at a Blackheath festival in the very early 90s that I had my first go at Rev flying. It was not successful as a much younger Simon Dann pointed out in a very short and pithy exchange, that I had got the sticks on the wrong ***** side of the kite. My Rev flying has not advanced too much since then, but everyone else's has, by an exponential function. It is difficult to compare the routines of The Decorators and Flying Squad display teams who rely on calling the manoeuvres and the likes of I Quad and Flic with their sports kite style choreographed and drilled ballets. Certainly, the public experienced some superb flying from both British teams, and isn't it remarkable that we have two groups that can put these displays. It is also refreshing to see that 'sons of' are now joining the teams. By way of a change, Gary, Steve, Simon and Geoff of the Flying squad produced a very dynamic routine that contrasted dramatically with the slower 'grid' displays.



On the other side of the path, the single line display changed continually throughout the two days as new pieces were put up at regular intervals. More bears, big and small, along with a very large dog, Kaatje Valcke's 'mister men' and two lines of assorted animals from Ivo and

Festival Reports—Hugh & Lin Blowers

Jazzy. The British were in an aquatic mood with a manta ray, exceedingly large octopus, lobster, crab, mermaid and turtle to add to the theme.

After last year's attempt to encourage everyone to come to the festival by public transport of bike, it was back to some degree of normality in the transport and parking stakes. Considering it was a bike festival, it was slightly odd to see people struggling down the path with their bikes packed in bags and dangling from their shoulders. I know we have kite bags, but surely it is easier to ride the bike than carry it, or am I missing something?

The 'mega team' used to be a staple of every festival, and it still is, but the focus has moved from two lines to four. It is another example of how Rev flying has advanced that Blackheath put together a team of sixteen, comprising Decorators, Flying Squad, 'sons of' and two innocent bystanders who were more than up to the challenge. Grid routines are impressive, especially the synchronized 'leaders benefit', but there was an added element that I had not seen before, probably made more spectacular as it happened very close to the audience. The four stacks of kites suddenly compressed vertically until there were four solid blocks of Revs, quite remarkable.

Carl Robertshaw spent many an happy hour teasing members of the public with his impeccable Rev control, yet it was a mass ascent of his 'Serpent' kites each day that provided the camera clicking moment for many. In case it is thought that it is an exclusive event there were other 'serpent' style kites involved, but Carl had been the originator of most of them. Having won the World Championship in April, the arrival of Scratch Bunnies for an arena spot on Sunday was eagerly awaited. In the event, the six were now a four, with Carl and James Robertshaw, Chris Goff and Sascha Redding, but what a routine they produced. Having commented on what I felt to be an excessive amount of ground work in their winning routine the only landings came at the end to an ecstatic round of applause and calls for an encore. It is a long while since I have heard this from the public, yet an encore they produced. Just to show what an incredible group of flyers they are, the encore was different yet again and probably even more impressive with perfectly executed team double axels.

There is no doubt that the future of many festivals will be in doubt given the squeeze that is going to be put on finances by the time this is read, but let's hope that Blackheath avoids the axe as it has now established itself as a small but perfectly formed kite festival.

No Rain at a Sunny Sunderland

The pessimists might have begun to wonder if someone in Sunderland had offended the rain gods after the torrential downpours of the last few years. Seeing the TV broadcasts from the race meeting at Knockhill that weekend, reminded us what we have had to contend with in the past. With the exception of some drizzle during the press call the main risk to health was sunburn, not trench foot meaning that everybody involved had a thoroughly enjoyable festival.

It is inevitable that the press and TV never seem to want kites that are flying but like to have 'human interaction', which always means we end up doing the oddest things to satisfy the cameras. At one stage Sara Longbottom was heard to ask, "do you want me on the ground, or in the air?" This presented all manner of images to the mind, none of which made it on to the Look North feature that evening. Following the item on Country File the previous Sunday, this was nothing but good publicity for kite flying even if Jim Day did get renamed in the process.

A great feature of the Sunderland Friendship Festival is the hospitality extended to guest kite flyers, which really exemplifies the spirit of the event. Even the best efforts of Keith Mould from South Africa with his vuvuzela could not disrupt the enjoyment. Thanks to Ged and Pauline for entertaining everyone so royally. Mind you, there is still a language barrier for those who find the local accent almost impenetrable. After 20 years of trips to Washington, we are getting the hang of it though, and could translate, most of the time.

Lest anyone should think everything in the garden was lovely in the weather stakes, while we did not get wet, dealing with the very variable wind throughout the weekend showed just what an incredibly talented group of flyers, Pauline had gathered together. Members of the NEKF have really taken to Rev flying after joining in the clinics and were 'volunteered' into opening

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the programme each day. Pete Nelson, Chris Beel, Pete Sturrs and Vince Wilson flying as 'Fusion' were enthusiastically supported by their own WAGs as they assembled for their first ever-public display. One track later they were hooked on the whole concept having produced a very proficient routine in far from perfect conditions.



Attention quickly changed to the most traditional of events, the altitude sprint. As is increasingly common, a number of Karl Longbottom kites were presented for the competition, including one flown by the designer. Not seen for a while was a Cross-Deck with a long tail that could have introduced additional spice to the contest. The wind was fairly boisterous by now and just 30 seconds later; Richard De-Sadeleer was declared the winner.

The Airheads display team have been great supporters of this festival and they were more than a match for the very difficult wind conditions throughout the weekend. Peter, Keith, Vee and Doug put on their usual series of superb displays with Val and apprentice ground crew Mick doing all the running about. Keith provides a very informed commentary on how to fly a sports kite with Vee doing the work and then with the assistance of Doug, provides an introduction to competitive flying. An addition to the repertoire this year was Peter Taylor throwing

in numerous tricks under Keith's direction. By way of an experiment, the introduction to flying was extended to four line kites as well with Keith directing a willing group of Rev flyers, aka the Decorators.

There is no doubt that as a Revolution display team, The Decorators are without peer. Not content with their already precise and complicated routines, they have been scratching their combined heads to come up with something even more spectacular. I have already rated FLIC's 7 person 'gearwheel' as one of the best manoeuvres I have seen, yet the Dec's have come up with something even more amazing, which they call the 'sprocket'. It starts off as two four-kite 'gearwheels' rotating in unison as if connected, but then it becomes a crossed 'chainwheel' or infinity weave. As each pair of kites meet, so they join the opposing wheel like the 'White Helmets' on their motorcycles. This continues with the kites weaving until the lines resemble something like French knitting when everything has to stop to be unwound. Is there no end to the ingenuity of these four line flyers? I certainly hope not, as the Decorators kept both the public and the fliers enthralled throughout the weekend.

The friendship festival deliberately puts in two slots per day for all the invited flyers to come into the main arena and show off their kites in a mass presentation. These varied in size from the tiny art kites of Daniela Zitman built from natural materials to the huge Italian quilts of Antonio and Stella Ferraiuolo and Guiseppe Cacoza. Just how big they were was brought home on the Sunday when they launched them into some serious wind. I always admire people that try and do something a little different, and stars in this respect are Les Paragon, comprising Francis Pariset and Claudie Ragon from Nice. Their lady in the shower and Little Red Riding Hood, both based on edos are so effective on many levels, although their Red Riding Hood didn't look anything like the one in my story book!!!!

Robert Brassington is still very seriously into his gossamer tailed trains at present, using a variety of shapes as the basic element to such great effect. Some kitemakers just have that wonderful ability to work with colours and Robert is amongst the best in this respect. His 'Rose Window' deltas were much in evidence again exploring some more very subtle colour

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variations. Gerard Clement, relieved of organisation and commentary duties, kept producing all sorts of unusual and intriguing items. Many people have tried putting up small Cody trains, yet his flew perfectly, despite the conditions.

When organisers invite guests to festivals the superb kite artists we have in this country often get overlooked. Kelvin's 'Blondie' and 'Man in Black' Edos are as good as you will see anywhere while Michael Goddard has visited festivals all over the world, yet has only recently received the recognition in the UK that he so richly deserves. Michael along with Fran has an almost inexhaustible selection of striking shapes and bold colours to choose from, even if I don't always understand the artistic derivations of his work. As Gill and Jon Bloom are so frequently organising festivals or running the Kite Society stall we do not get to see as much of Gill's work as we should, which always strikes me as a great pity. Her kites and banners really are art in the best sense of the word with stunning images created on relatively simple shapes. It was lovely to see them both able to join in the programme without being at anyone's beck and call. Apologies for the commentary brain fade when describing how Gill creates these masterpieces.

The site does not really lend itself to large inflatables but still the crowd were treated to a whole variety of inflated ripstop in various guises from Dave Holt, Brynn and Lesley Bag-galey, Jim Potts and the Bindons. Taking up his usual place right by the thickest thorn hedge known to mankind was Martin Lester. Martin reckoned that he has been to every Sunderland festival since its inception in 1986 and how things have changed from the days of Icarus to the exceedingly large Spirit he flew throughout the day. It was also great to have Bella Goff and Oscar up from the South West along with Alan Holden of the AKF. Making their first visit were Ivo Van Olmen and Jazzy Tanghe from Belgium who added several very colourful items to the free flying area. Frederique and Bertrand usually manage to bring several very well stuffed bags to select from, and this year was no exception.

Firmly established now are mass flies of Karl's kites, Kelvin's butterflies and Nick James' angels, with flyers drawn from the clubs and invited guests to embrace the concept of the Friendship festival. The NEKF always put up a



variety of interesting kites during their slot whether from well-known designers, commercial or home built. Notable amongst these was Fred with his beautiful South Seas Beach by John Burkhardt. John Dobson kept digging out highly desirable and unusual kites from his bag that Kate and him flew throughout the weekend. Adding a different dimension to all this was Keith Haynes from Scotland, with a train of original Brookite stunters, complete with coloured tails, what many of us aspired to, except we could not afford one, let alone eight or ten. It was touch and go as to whether the Airheads would fly their Chinese dragons, but in the end, they handled the wind well, but here I must pen an apology. In my Blackheath report I accused Sid of being in a stroppy mood, but Peter informed me that it was not Sid, but a new dragon that was proving obnoxious. Luckily Sid was not there to take offence.

After the afternoon programme of slots and displays, it was planned to have a Rev megateam with the Decorators and Fusion, along with other co-opted flyers, including again Chris Murphy from Ireland. The assembled flyers had been practising all day and were looking good for the finale, but the oddest thing happened. Halfway through the Decorators display, the previously strong wind dropped to almost nothing, leaving their vented Revs floundering. Thanks to Felix, Ashley, Jake, Martin, David, Mark, Vaughn and Romney, who all changed kites in record time, they were able to produce two super routines. Sadly, with the rest of the flyers still on vented kites they decided that the inaugural Sunderland megateam would have to be postponed until the following day.

The evening reception was a time for everyone to relax and chew over the day's events, except for those organising the silent auction, where the items were flooding in. Having got all 56 items labelled and recorded it was a chance to

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join everyone for the curry fest. Something akin to a cartoon transpired though when one of the 'early birds' contrived to eat a chilli that was lurking in the curry. Her ears went very red, followed by her face, and then the sweat. It did seem like jets of steam were issuing forth. The silent auction was closed ten items at a time to give those organising a chance to keep up with the clamour for items. It was astounding to see one lady (I use the term in its widest sense) actually rip the bidding sheet off the table, along with the item, not even allowing those running the event to close the bidding. Bet she is a bramah come sale time at Debenhams? When all the money was added up, each lot had averaged £10, making a sizeable donation to charity, so thanks to all those who donated or bid (or both).

It had been a long, sunny and hot day and with the prospect of it all happening again it was back to tents, caravans, motor homes and hotels to wind down gently with the odd shandy or three.

Sunday was a different day with the forecast less than hopeful and a very strong wind much in evidence. Gerard Clement was the first to suffer from the wind (hope that translates better than it sounds) with his beautiful printed plastic banners disintegrating bit by bit. First a large chunk vanished from one, then Dominique had to trek the length of the field to retrieve another, and so it went on until he was left with little more than the poles and sleeves. We did stay dry, unlike many to the north and west,



but the wind totally dominated the programme for the day.

After the success of the Saturday, Fusion were armed and ready for the opening display. Considering that this was their first ever public performance they did well to complete the routine. In the course of the four-minute track, I saw the fronts, sides and backs of the Revs, and I had not moved. Tricky was hardly an apt description of what they experienced, but cheered on by Kath's support team, they made it through.

The altitude sprint was another short-lived affair with Dave Nicholl the unanimous decision of judges, although the winding down contest went to Ian Jones, aided by a ball bearinged Chinese reel. Excess of wind also proved a problem for Airheads as they finished their first routine with spars in more bits than when they started.

Paul Thoday, who had wowed the public with his Flexi stack on Saturday, decided that he did not fancy being pulled to Newcastle so wisely withdrew. Graham Lockwood with 'just the three kites' decided he was up for the challenge and seemed to relish the strength of the wind as he put on an absolutely masterful display of synchronized kite flying. He declined the chance of an encore as he was absolutely cream cracked, and who could blame him!

From an organisational point of view, the guest flyers really showed their class, doing everything they could to keep something in the air and fill their slots in the programme. With a bit of additional muscle and avoirdupois, most of them were able to fly, including the Italian contingent with their quilts.

It did seem at one stage as if Guisepppe was on his way north, but willing hands arrested his progress. Karl's pants (you know what I mean by now) relished the conditions and a very spirited engagement occupied many of the guests for a considerable while. What followed though was one of the most remarkable pieces of individual flying I have witnessed for a very long while.

The wind was now into the 20+ mph region and far too strong for Kelvin's butterfly swarm, but what did Kelvin do? Yes, he came into the arena, and to our total amazement managed a

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virtuoso display of 3D flying with his butterfly that stayed in one piece, no matter what he did with it. I would not have believed it possible, but he did it, so that joins the long list of memorable flights and characters that make up the history of the Sunderland festival. Another star turn was Karen Gamble. Godfrey came over to the commentary position and intimated that Karen was prepared to do a display with stacked sports kites and 150-foot long tails. It transpired that she had been a champion flyer in the east, which she proved with a super routine in the still increasing wind.

Nick James was another of the guests who was not put off by the conditions. He assembled his team of angel operators for a second time and off they went as if flying in this level of wind was perfectly normal. They seemed oblivious to the debris, kites and small children being blown past. The Decorators and Airheads also seemed unfazed by what was happening and reprised their superb displays and flying introductions from the previous day, although the dragons were kept firmly shut away. Except, we did have another dragon, and this one revelled in the wind.

It was exceptionally long, inflatable and steerable and owned by Jim Potts. The Chinese have been producing a range of small inflatable versions of their traditional kites for a while, but this one was on a different scale entirely. It stretched the whole width of the arena and looked amazing as Jim steered it around the sky. Jim also kindly volunteered to bring in a series of equally large inflatable snakes into the area, which, like the dragon were entirely new to most and made a very colourful and unexpected addition to the programme, so thanks to Jim and his helpers for stepping in. Hope to see more of these spectacular creations.

Part of the tradition of the Sunderland Festival is the launch of the Friendship Kite in the presence of the Mayor or other civic dignitary. This kite is a beast at the best of times and in this wind it was thought prudent not to launch it---except, Karl Longbottom who had made the replacement friendship Kite said, no problem, the wind was perfect, so why not? The kite and immense tail were laid out down at the bottom of the arena and the line reeled out towards to Mayoral party. With Colin providing the 'anchor' and Karl and assorted NEKF members on launching duties, up it went in spectacular fash-

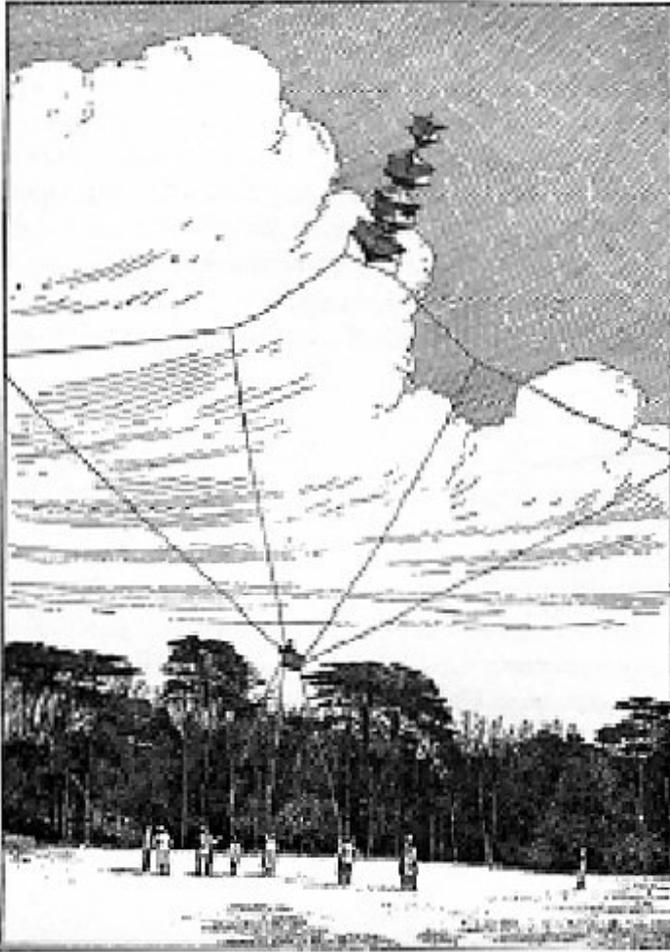
ion, making up for last year's faltering flight. Game that he was, the Mayor hooked his arm through the halo and took the strain. Manfully he held on for a while until he too looked as if he was headed downwind whereupon quick action ensured that there were no unfortunate photos in the next day's paper.

The Decorators experienced an element of de-javu during their final display, when the wind that had caused so much chaos during the day, deserted them completely as it had done on Saturday. Rather than change kites, they waited until the wind returned and gave us all a couple of storming routines, including another superb rendition of the 'sprocket'. With the wind holding, it was decided to go for the Rev megateam, which took a few minutes to organise on the field. For those that have not seen what happens with one of these 'grid megateams', the way the flyers are set out is fascinating. Rather than establish a long line, each defined group of flyers, and this time with the Decorators and co-opted flyers it was five groups of three, each group lining up one behind the other so that the flyers have the same relative position on the ground as do the kites in the air. With all this set up, the music rolled and Sunderland has its first true grid flown megateam, and what a wonderful job they did of it, even if there were some nervous moments for those having a first ever experience of this showpiece.

This was a fitting finale to a remarkable day of kite flying skills, but it was not the end of the flying. The wind was now on the edge of ballistic, but that does not deter the Decorators. Ashley, Martin, Mark and Vaughn flew on until the strain of holding the kites demanded that they had a rest, not stop flying mind! The four of them reversed until they were in the public stand and then continued to fly sitting down. They are a bit good these guys!

So ended the most successful of the modern Friendship Festivals, showing that the concept was well founded. We would like to think that we could all do it again next year, but there is that horrible thought at the back of the mind as to just what the immediate future is for council sponsored festivals such as this. Let us all hope that they are considered to be sufficiently well supported and beneficial to the locality that they can continue. Even, I suppose, if we have to experience a bit of 'salami slicing'.

Man Lifting Kite



"Evolution of a Kite That Will Lift a Man" By
Captain B.F.S. Baden-Powell

It is very remarkable how people pass by good inventions and good ideas and won't take to them. Kites, for instance, have been known for hundreds of years. Everyone knows of them the world over, yet till a few years ago no one thought of putting them to any use. When I say no one, I do not mean that exactly, for Franklin and others, of course, used kites for meteorological experiments; Pocock drew a little carriage along with them, and several others suggested their use for life-saving at sea. But it has been only during the last three or four years that inventors have taken up this long neglected contrivance, and now we hear of remarkable kite experiments in many different countries. It is, however, of my own particular improvements that I write.

My first object was to get an idea of the capabilities of a kite for lifting weights. Naturally the lift depends on the strength of the wind; and I soon found that the wind varies so greatly in strength, that it is very difficult to get accurate

working figures. One day I had a kite of some 20 feet up, and found that I could put stone after stone into the little bag hanging beneath, up to a total weight of six pounds, and not overweight the kite. I felt quite triumphant. On this basis, three-tenths pound per square foot, a kite of 500 square feet should lift a man. Thus encouraged, I worked all the harder. But I soon found that the kite is an awkward customer to deal with when you get on the wrong side of him. He can be very bad tempered, and often refuses to do what he is told. I had to devise new methods of construction in order to keep portable so huge an apparatus as I required. First, the tail required consideration (for I had been brought up to believe that a kite must have a long appendage of string with bits of paper tied along it at intervals). This tail was the bother of my life. The papers got wet and tore off. I substituted bits of stick. Then I thought it was not heavy enough, and added weights. Next, I imagined it did not have enough resistance to the wind, and I put on canvas cones. And, then, oh dear! The bother when that tail became entangled. Well, one day it was blowing very hard, and the kite would not fly steadily. I added more and more to the tail, till finally I put a great bush on the end of it. The kite went up, then dived over, and then circled round and round, the bush alternately sweeping the ground and the sky, until it nearly swept me off the face of the earth. At last I got the kite down, and sorrowfully took the whole tail off, determined to add still more length and weight. But a sudden gust came, and took the kite right out of my hands. Up it went, indecently tailless, and flitted about like a bat, though on the whole much steadier than it had been with the ponderous string of brushwood hanging from it. From that day I have rarely put a tail on a kite.

That was one great result. I went on improving details, but made no important step until March 1893, when, after trying a great many unsatisfactory arrangements for steering the kite out of the wind course, I hit upon the plan of having two flying lines, one on each side of the center. In this way, I found, I could not only steer my kite to a remarkable extent on either side of the wind course; but in a gusty, variable wind, I could, by fastening the two lines at a distance apart, keep the kite floating perfectly steady. I then returned to weight-lifting. After many trials, I was one day delighted to get a kite of about 100 square feet to lift a weight of 56 pounds clear of the ground. I now made the kites bigger and bigger until, in May 1894, I had

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a huge contrivance of bamboo and canvas, 36 feet high, with an area of about 500 square feet. To get a sailmaker to piece together the lightest canvas for the cover was easy enough, but how to make the frame was the difficulty. To calculate the strain would be the way to begin, but what wind was I to allow for? If I made provision for a gale, my apparatus would weigh so much that no light breeze could lift it. So I began the other way. I got some light bamboos, lashed them together, and stretched the canvas on the framework. It rose majestically, quietly doubled up and collapsed, and sank to the ground a wreck. So I made a stronger framework, and sent the kite up by two cords, with a basket suspended between them.

The result was satisfactory as far as it went, but that wasn't far. I smashed dollars and dollars worth of bamboo. Again and again, when I thought I had made a really good piece of apparatus, some little detail would go wrong; the kite would rise up in the wind, turn sideways, and come plump down against the ground, smashing every bone in its body. To me it was heart-rending to see, but to mere spectators it proved most entertaining. They roared with laughter.

However we progressed; and so satisfactory did our work at last become that one day—it was June 27, 1894—we decided on putting it to the crucial test. The question, not so much with me, for I was very confident, but with assistants and lookers, was, "Will it lift a man?" The weather was not favorable. The wind came and went: a strong puff, and then a lull. As he seemed so light, I was kind enough to allow my youngest and lightest brother officer to take the seat of honor in the basket, and see if he could be lifted. The kite was meanwhile flying perhaps 50 feet overhead.

Suddenly the wind freshened. There was a creak of the basket, and up it went, man and all, while we retained hold of the cords to prevent his being carried too high. My machine had really lifted a man. I then got into the basket. It lifted me, too!

Again we persevered, and gradually the kite improved and grew more tractable. I now found that numerous difficulties arose from having so big an apparatus, not the least being that it proved much too powerful in a strong wind. So I returned to smaller kites, and fixed several together, their number depending on the wind force.

I had come to the conclusion that the best shape, considering lightness, convenience of folding up, power to lift, and ease of making was one in which the frame consisted of three poles of equal length, one placed upright and called the "backbone," the other two put across the "backbone" at right angles, at a distance from either end of it equal to about one-sixth of its length. The shape was thus nearly hexagonal. This form, for want of a better name, I christened "Levitor." The most convenient size was that in which poles not more than 12 feet long were used. This made the area of the kite about 120 square feet.

From just lifting a man, I got to lifting him easily. Once a kite takes hold a man, it may lift him to any height. If it was capable of lifting a man during the puffs 10 or 12 feet (in the intervals letting him down with a bump), why not 300 or 400 feet? But what about that bump? At first I took care that no one should ascend to a greater height than he could safely fall, however much the kite might want to take him higher. I tried to arrange that the lowest kite should act as a parachute in the event of the wind dropping or the rope breaking. This I tested while a good fat sandbag was the occupant of the car. All I can say is that I am glad it was a sandbag and not a man. I thenceforward adopted a regular parachute, but the objection to this was that it wouldn't open until it had fallen about 50 feet; so if my man chanced to be up no more than that height, and an accident occurred, the parachute was not of much use, and even such a detail as a drop of 50 feet I didn't care to leave unprovided for. I next arranged a framework to the parachute to keep it permanently distended.

Things were now going so well I decided on a public exhibition, and I took the apparatus down to Ipswich to show to the savants of the British Association. There were many delays at starting. I had no experienced assistants. But when we got to the business, the five kites did their work well. With the parachute spread above my head and balloon-like car to stand in, I went up to the end of the tether, 100 feet. Numerous trips to this height were also made by others.

Anybody can understand a kite's lifting in a strong wind, but to be really useful it ought to lift also in a calm. You may say that the whole principle of a kite depends upon wind; but does not the smallest schoolboy know otherwise? If he wants his kite to go up, what does he do?

Man Lifting Kite

Why, he runs with it. So I got about 20 men, one very calm day, and set them to run, but the difficulty was that the men got out of breath and couldn't go for more than a few seconds—though in this time a man was actually lifted off the ground. Then I tied the rope to the back of a cab, and set that going, but the old horse was too lazy to get up speed. Next I fixed a kite directly to a horse. This did very well for one kite, but one was not enough to lift a man; so one day we arranged a number of kites in tandem, laid them on the ground, fixed the car in place, and laid out a rope about 1,000 feet long, and attached it to the horse. In order to get the desired space, this rope was carried over an oak fence.

When all was ready, the signal was given, and off went the horse. Just as the kites were going to lift, I noticed something wrong with them. I shouted to stop the horse, but the groom did not hear. I ran forward to set the kite right if possible, but I only pulled it over so it turned turtle and scraped along the ground. The other kites followed. I yelled out to stop the horse, but he became frightened and went tearing across the field, the car dragging and bumping along, and the kites continually catching in the ground and breaking. Soon the car came to the fence. There was a crash and a bang, some yards of fencing were hurled to the ground, and the horse, thus suddenly checked, turned a somersault and threw his rider like an arrow from a bow.

Another day I very nearly experienced a new sensation. There was a set of kites flying low. A long light line was suspended from the cable, and the greater part of this lay entangled on the ground. I was busy trying to get it disentangled when, for some reason, up went the kites, and down I fell on my back. I had been dragged along thus for some yards, and was just about to be lifted a few hundred feet by my ankle, when a bystander rushed out and cut the cord.

To sum up, we have, as a result of our experiments thus far, an apparatus that can lift a man several hundred feet. This can be safely and surely, so as not to risk life or limb, and even without wind. As compared with a balloon equipment, this apparatus presents important advantages. My entire "kiteage," with ropes and all, weighs only a little over 100 pounds, and can be carried by two men. When the order is given to ascend, I can unpack, set up, and send up the kites in about five minutes. I now require no

manual labor to haul down, as the kites can be lowered by a gentle pull on the "regulating line," which determines the angle they present to the wind. If the apparatus catches in a tree and gets torn, it makes but little difference, and the injury is easily remedied. If it were a balloon to which the mishap befell, the gas would be lost, three wagon loads more would be required to refill it, and it would need very careful patching before it could be used again. The same advantage would be held by the kite if a hostile bullet had penetrated either apparatus. And then, finally, the kite would involve, originally, probably not the 20th part of the cost of the balloon; perhaps not a 100th part.

From: McClure's Magazine, April 1899. McClure's Magazine was a popular American literary and political magazine. It published the work of leading writers such as Arthur Conan Doyle and Rudyard Kipling. At the turn of the century, the magazine published articles by and about pioneers of aviation, including Samuel Langley ("On the Flying Machine," June, 1897), Otto Lillienthal, Octave Chanute ("Experiments in Flying," June, 1900), Simon Newcomb ("Is the Airship Coming?" September, 1901).

"The Kite Zone" (www.tonyshome.f9.co.uk/kites/projects/baden/baden.htm) features photos of a reconstruction of the "Baden-Powell Man-Lifter" kite.

Major Baden F. S. Baden-Powell was B-P's youngest brother. (www.pinetreeweb.com/bp-brother-baden.htm) He was a pioneer of military aviation, an officer in the Scot's Guards and a Fellow of both the Royal Aeronautical Society and Royal Geographical Society. He was author of *In Savage Isles* and *Settled Lands* published in 1892.

Baden-Powell Family History. ([/www.pinetreeweb.com/bp-family-index.htm](http://www.pinetreeweb.com/bp-family-index.htm)) A series of links based on the research of Robin Baden Clay, a grandson of Baden-Powell. They are focused on the genealogy of the Powell family. The author is extremely grateful to Mr. Clay for sharing the results of his labors with the Scouting community. Links are provided to pages for three of B-P's brothers: Baden, Warrington and Sir George Baden-Powell as well as to the genealogy of the Smyth and Warrington families.

Notes from Kite Events—George Webster

Here are notes on two displays and three kite festivals this summer. Summer is a southern term—in Co. Durham where I spend most of my time we have had about 3 days on which we could sit out and sunbathe since 4th July. Mind you the sheep like it that way.

I've written 'notes' because I cannot manage a 'report' of the length and quality which we now expect from Hugh Blowers.

June Kite Display at Harewood House

This was organised by Sky Arts in the grounds of a superb stately home and attended by the Northern Kite Group and the North East Kite Fliers. I only went for one day, hoping to fly for a change. The problem was no wind—even my Karl Longbottom Red Kite kite would barely stay up but it was interesting to see how it was largely ignored by the resident group of no-line kites,

The main reason for writing about the day (apart from it being a good day out and a kite club card gives free entry and convenient parking to a pricey attraction) was the consequence of Harewood's successful publicity featuring volunteer bear dropping by Jerry and Carolyn Swift. As a result there were numerous family groups accompanying a bear asking questions such as 'Where are you dropping the bears, it says here that you should have started 20 minutes ago?' This in a clear blue cloudless sky where you could hold a match and the flame wouldn't flicker. To the rescue came Jim Potts and Jerry who talked to 'the house' and got agreement to go up onto the flattish roof (being careful not to disturb his lordship who was in residence), attach a line to a chimney and take it out at an angle to the flying field, passing above the route to the car park. Surely this could become a test question on the Risk Assessment Section of the 'Elf 'n' Safety Officers final exam? That is after the question where you have to assess the risk of you failing the exam?

Result—400 bears dropped. Only problem—when the first line had to be replaced as it wore through by friction on the parapet.

Wirral International Kite Festival 12/13 June

This is a full-blown festival sponsored by the Local Authority on an open grassy area by the sea at New Brighton. Most of the overseas fliers were also invited by Malcolm and Jeanette Goodman to Bedford but benefited from more space, no trees, some wind and with just a touch of rain.

Last year there had been a H&S incident when a break-away kite had wrapped itself around a child in a buggy on the prom. No harm done but the sponsor appointed a kiteflier as safety officer for each flying area. Andrew Beattie was so appointed for the inflatable kite field. Initial reactions involved 'inmates and the asylum' versus 'poachers and gamekeepers'. Actually the latter was true and Andrew kept things under control.

The festival was filmed by Country File (BBC). As 4 minutes of TV time is an unheard of plug for the Wirral this was given every support and looked good on the box. The director had also done a Weymouth about 3

years ago and knew about kites. But a camera man asked me where they put the gas into the inflatables. Which prompts the thought: How many people over the years have gone away thinking that they have seen balloons lifted by a pilot kite.

We carried on with the tradition started at Bedford last year of getting fliers to fly another's kites to get 5 or 6 flying at the same time. It helps the public to identify a particular flier's style. Hugh will be pleased to know that we did not have to run this time.

The system doesn't work for Robert Brasington who often had 12 lines of kites (some were trains) in the air at the same time.

Space and wind meant that the Chinese group could, for example, have one standard and two white tigers flying at the same time. I don't think any of them got back to China and both the kinetic kites found English homes.

The crowd enjoyed almost two days of good fliers and good kites but the show was brought to an abrupt end an hour early on Sunday by a sudden rainstorm. The crowd scattered leaving Jon Caton and some wet bears,

Malmesbury Kite Festival 31st July/1st August.

This festival was organised by Jon and Francesca Caton as part of Malmesbury's celebration to mark the 1000th anniversary of Eilmer, the monk's glide for 220 yards from the church tower.

We were a small select group including Team Skyflyers (Holland), Sky Symphony Stafford Wallace, Kelvin Woods, the Swifts, Michel Chantreau and several Avon Kite Fliers.



The site is superb; a flat, raised, giant grassy field. Malmesbury is one of those places which you see in travel features (or perhaps Midsomer Murders). As fliers were in accommodation scattered through the town the reception on Friday evening and the buffet on Sat-

Notes from Kite Events—George Webster

urday were particularly welcome. The latter was followed by an entertaining talk by Paul Chapman on whether and how it was done. Eilmer is an historically known person. Partly he reported the views of a recent meeting of the experts. My impression is that it certainly happened but I have not heard a good explanation of how. There didn't seem to have been a discussion on why Eilmer jumped—Kelvin's question 'Was it a leap of faith?' seemed a good one.

On the field Sky Symphony gave great demos which included the now obligatory 'how to fly a two line kite' (I blame Allan P), pairs and team demos flying to a music programme with their compere Alan Poxon.

The Dutch team produced several matching sets of kites including lexenbastes (strange multiple deltas) - they were another example of how many good groups there are in the rest of Europe. We have some good Caton kites including their Bell/Cassagne circular box. We also had two even more unusual kites—Bermuda Headsticks, one of the couple flying them lines in Malmesbury. Bermuda kites were a big deal in the 70's—see Pelham for a picture as one held the duration record of 49 hours and 40 minutes.

The attendance was moderate on the Sunday—the weather forecast was not good—but as usual the locals you met were enthusiastic.

My congratulations to the Catons for an interesting festival—worth thinking about if it is repeated.

Kelvin Woods lost his rok into a field of cows, who of course all wandered over to it since eating grass is boring work. The trampling wasn't too bad—what he hadn't expected is they licked it—thick and gooey.

Whitley Bay Kite Festival—14/15 August

Despite Malcolm Goodman having real budget problems with the Local Authority this turned out to be a festival where the fliers were satisfied and good crowds enjoyed the show—and bought kites.



The Richardsons and the Beatties with George and Jackie Penny flew inflatables, the Swifts dropped bears, Graham Lockwood flew 3 two line kites and the embryonic N.E. Kitefliers Rok team did it's stuff. John Dobson and Kate Hinton flew as did the Bindons and the DeSadaleers. Jock Walkers unique trains (sky Divers, Sailors, Footballers) had a good outing. Earnest Barton flew his own version of the 1906 prize winning Barton Box.

On Sunday we had the 7th running of the Headland Rok fight (fought with Chinese Rainbow deltas). Jerry is the current champion.

I found myself commentating on a line of Beatties inflatables. They included Roger the Tiger, so called because of the way that he looks down on a very pretty pink pussy-cat flying below him.

The Blackwood Kite Display at Caerphilly—20 August.

This was a display of the Friday night before the Bedwelly Agricultural show. We arrived in the afternoon for a briefing, flew between 6pm and 10pm, then left for a hot meal and a nights accommodation. It was made very clear that this was not a festival—there was no provision for someone just turning up—but a show where each invitee was asked to bring kites which would fly in a range of wind conditions and each had some particular part of the programme which was their specialism e.g Michael Goddard and Ralf Maserski for artistic kites. The programme included a sprint and a rok battle in which virtually everyone was asked to take part.

However, a major feature of the event from the fliers point of view was—it rained. It was raining steadily when we arrived and then changed up to torrential. And we flew right through it.

Poor winds low down plus rain meant that the Beatties had a tough time to get the crocodile airborne but the rain running off it looked great in the lights.

The spray patterns off delta wings were aerodynamically fascinating.

The background to the arena was provided by the inflatables, AWITA's lines of deltas and Dazz's white arches. The daylight programme included Airheads two line demos and part of Flying Squads four line demo. John Browning and Keith Boxall flew fighters. Dave Holt snooped. Bob Cruickshank's white spirit collected pints. Dave Nicholl flew everything from an angel downwards. Steve Palmer ran the excellent PA. The Longbottoms also provided towels.

We got umbrellas 2 deep at one side of the flying area as it rained. Speaking to other fliers no other kite show had quite such a communal spirit to run the programme, put on a show and beat the conditions. The organisation was excellent.

And to be fair it was only raining slightly the next morning.

Random Bits

The Southampton Winter League

Will be held on Sunday 14th November at Lordshill – the kite festival site. Full details – including figures - can be found on our website www.closeencounterskites.co.uk

Two weeks prior to the league we will be having a Better Flying Day at Stokes Bay, dedicated to the figures to be flown. Everyone is welcome at the BFD but it will be focused entirely on the league event. There is no obligation to take part in the league if you attend the BFD

As usual we would like to hear if you are coming to one or both events but it's not mandatory.

Allan and Marilyn Potheary

Swindon Kite Festival News Flash

White horse kite flyers are taking their festival back to Lydiard Park in 2011. The dates will be May 7/8th with set-up on the Friday. Camping will be available on site from mid-day on the Friday but will be by pre-paid pass only. This is because of site restrictions and they will require details of people and vehicles. There are a very limited number of spaces and these will be allocated on a first come first served basis. We will be providing porta-loos and water is available on site.

Details will be posted at www.whkf.org.uk as they become available and we can be contacted at info@whkf.org.uk

Portsmouth Kite Festival.

Many thanks for another superb 'Portsmouth' - it really is the No.1 UK Festival.

Just in case you have not been made aware, but as in 2009 there was again blatant abuse of The Kite Society's 'terms of camping' at the Festival. Arriving at 10:10 on the Friday morning (ie 10 minutes after camping was officially allowed), there were already some 20~25 units set-up. We understand that some had arrived on Thursday afternoon! Whilst having tried to enforce the terms of camping, the requests and instructions of the on-site Security Officers had clearly been ignored. This behaviour reflects badly on our Kite Society and all of it's members, even those who comply with the rules.

To camp on Southsea Common (and yes we appreciate it is 'common' land) is a privilege and it helps make the Festival what it is. To lose that privilege would be devastating for the genuine (and Festival-contributing!) Kitefliers. The Bristol KF, despite what some may say, has been affected by the loss of on-site camping facilities for

kitefliers - it would be a tragedy for Portsmouth to be similarly affected due to the irresponsible behaviour (or maybe arrogance) of the few.

We trust you will appreciate the sincerity behind this.

Chris and Pat Mabon

We can only agree with the above sentiments. Camping at the event is not a right and the fact that people are allowed to do so is hard won. If it is abused then the council are in their right to refuse to allow any camping in the future. We are aware of those who broke the rules and we may be left with no choice but to enforce a ban on these people to ensure continuation of the privilege for others.

Lanterns in the Sky (from The Telegraph)

The National Farmers' Union has made an urgent appeal to ITV to stop using pictures of Chinese lanterns floating over the countryside. Pictures of the lanterns, which float into the air after being lit, are used in an ITV1 video to identify the channel before programs start.

Farmers say the lanterns, which have been banned in Australia, Malta and parts of Germany, pose a fire risk and have launched a campaign to persuade people not to use them.

A spokesman said: "The lanterns are dangerous because they can set fields of corn alight when they land. Also a metal part inside the lantern is dangerous to animals if it lands in a field and gets mixed up with animal feed. We are contacting ITV with a plea for the station to stop using the lanterns, especially at this time of year - harvest – when many parts of the country are tinder dry."

In the latest incident earlier this week, firemen tackled a blaze at Woodstock, Oxon, which destroyed a barley field. West Sussex Fire Service and Devon and Somerset Fire & Rescue Service have also issued warnings about lanterns.

Peter Kendall, the president of the NFU said: "We don't want to be killjoys, but with the very dry summer and the reports that we are getting of injuries to cattle, we would urge partygoers and venues to resist the temptation to release lanterns into the countryside."

Kitefliers please note. At a number of events these are set loose to drift where they will. Recognition of the possible side effects should be noted with care.

View From The Top

I realised recently that I hadn't actually sent out a proper newsletter for ages, so I've finally forced myself to sit down and write one. So much has been happening in my life, especially the last 6 months, I've just never got around to it. As most of you know I finally found a job (no, organising EC09 was not a job, it was a calling!) but it has meant moving to Northamptonshire. And alone for the time being, Vee is still working in Cardiff. So STACK paperwork has been the least important thing frankly. Still, you pay your subs, and expect something, so lets get you back up to speed with the news.

UK Championship

We had a false start with the original first round at the British Leisure Show, which we had to pull out of at short notice due to difficulties with terms and conditions. Nevertheless, three rounds did happen, Rougham, Southampton and Berrington, and we have some winners:

Dual-line Individual

1	Chris Goff	80.28
2	Bryan Beasley	66.10
3	Cameron Blair (junior)	62.19
4	Dawn Green (novice)	51.41
5	Katie Brill (novice)	35.14
6	John Williams	32.84

Dual-line Pair

1	Phoenix	66.64
2	Echo	60.84
3	ExGrads	58.57

Dual-line Team

1	Flame	69.68
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Multi-line Individual

1	Chris Goff	79.17
2	Steven Beasley	56.98

A big thanks to all those who participated this year, and congratulations as always. I hope the brief appearance by Sanja and Les at Southampton in the multi-line disciplines is a sign of things to come.

Family Cup

We held the third Family Cup competition at Berrington again this year and it proved to be a bit of a grudge match! The inaugural winners Fran and Michael were determined to beat last year's champions Matt and Joe, leaving Bryan and his mum Carol stunned by the (friendly) rivalry. Both of the father / son pairings had been practising, and Fran and Michael had even choreographed their routine. In the end it



was a deserved win for Fran and Michael.

Novice / Junior Event

The wind was not kind to us at Shrewsbury in August so the competition element of the weekend was quickly abandoned in favour of a simple coaching event. There was a fair turnout, especially as the coaching staff were limited, and I think everyone got something out of the weekend. Thanks to all that participated.

EuroCup 2010, Calais

This has just taken place, 1st, 2nd and 3rd of October, on the beach in Calais. during some difficult weather. This was the time that the Ryder Cup had a day's play postponed, EC10 only had to postpone half a day's competition, and that was for no wind. The UK was without it's big hitters, no Chris, no Carl, no James, so we knew it would be difficult to challenge the French on their own soil. In the end it was a French grand slam, not even Guido Maicchio in multi-line and Stephen Versteegh in dual-line could stem the tide.

Dual-line Individual

1	Richard Debray
2	Steff Ferme
3	Stephen Versteegh

Dual-line Pair

1	Courant d'Air
2	In et Out
3	Axel'R

Dual-line Team

1	Start Air
2	Kisicol
3	Cream Team

Multi-line Individual

1	Steff Ferme
2	Guido Maicchio
3	Richard Debray

To be fair, all of those first places were thoroughly deserved, particularly Steff Ferme's multi-line ballet. I had seen him flying in Dieppe a couple of weeks before and when it came to the competition he just flew it perfectly, including the catch at the end.

Big congratulation also go to Frank Duhamel, not only was he one of the two organisers of the event but he was part of the second place pair and team. I don't know how he found the time to do it.

Rokkaku Challenge

Another competition, and this year it looks like Mick Burls managed to improve on his runner up place from 2009. Here are the top ten places, in all we had 44 competitors this year:

1	Mick Burls
2	Sarah Lyth
3	Kelvin Woods
4	Dave Johnson
5	Dave Hollingworth
6=	David Lyth & Antony Pugh
8=	John Pugh & Alan Pinnock
10	Bob Cruikshanks

Well done to Mick, nice to see a STACK member as the winner again.

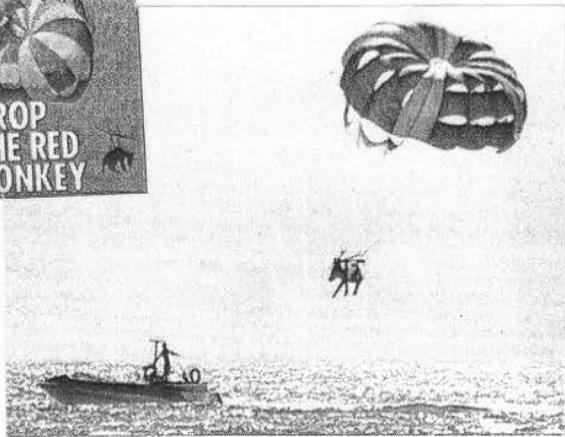
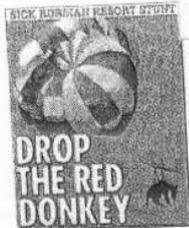
42 ROMAN SANDLE 98.

IF YOU WANT YOUR CHUTE TO OPEN, FIRST YOU GOTTA WEAR ONE

The Journal of the Bearly Made It Skydive Squad. The International Brother and Sisterhood of Parachuting Fauna and the U.K. Ted Devils. As per usual mindless drivel content exceeds 100%, BUT DID YOU NEED TELLING THAT? Nope, you mostly that what you see is what you get, and thats as clear as mud!



RUSSIAN SICK BOAST



SENDING DONKEY 150FT UP WAS FUN

WE'LL BE FIRST TO ADMIT THAT WHEN WE SAW THIS, OUR IMMEDIATE REACTION WAS TO BURST OUT LAUGHING. BUT AFTER WRACKING OUR GRAPE SIZED WOTSITS FOR A BIT, WE NOW WONDER IF THIS IS FOR REAL OR JUST A PUT UP JOB?

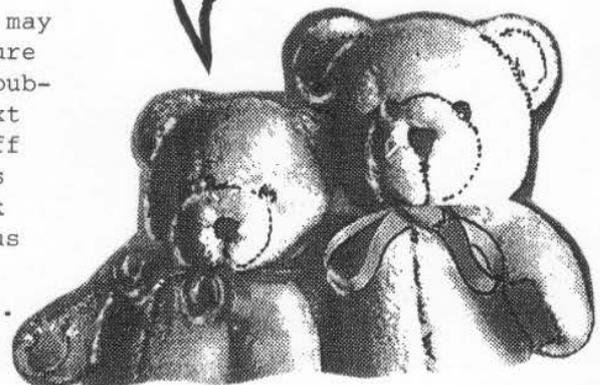
It used to be said that a photo was worth a thousand words, but in these days of digital mularky, one does wonder if there was even a

genuine beduwine photo in the first place. We have it on good authority that with the current state of play with certain programs for computers, the seemingly impossible is now achievable with just a few keystrokes on most home p.c's. The end results of all this mularky is usually uploaded onto the internut onto current flavour of the month sites such as back of a bus, phizog and totter which can easily be gurgled if you so wish.

Be that as it may, there does remain the fact that this photo could be perfectly genuine and if that is the case then the Barsteward who thought that this was a good way to obtain publicity for his ramshackle business, deserves the curse of the small furry objects to the power of ten. Funny it aint, far from it as using a dumb animal in this way is way beyond the plale. And before all the wiseacres chip in with thier two pennorths about using poor defenceless furries of a soft toy persuasion in thier nefarious capers with parachutes from Kites, we'd just like to say that we the soft furries control the humes, they really have no sayin the matter and that is how it has been since time immemorial and no, we dont have to be coerced, forced, kicking and screaming or braying for that matter into doing our thing, as between you me and the gatepost we actually like what we get up to and everybody is happy. The hume dripniks cos they think they are in charge, us? because we know we are and are devoted to putting as much egg as possible on the humes faces and generally showing them up rotten in public, which we do enjoy.

So there you have it, thats our take on what may be true or not, of that we're not entirely sure but for all that using poor dumb animals to publicise a dubious endeavors is not on, why next thing you know they'll be chucking donkeys off of church towers and the poor bleeding things wont even have a parascending canopy to break thier fall. But there again, better not get us started on that.

DROP THE RED DONKEY? NOT AT ALL FUNNY....



Follow the bear's.



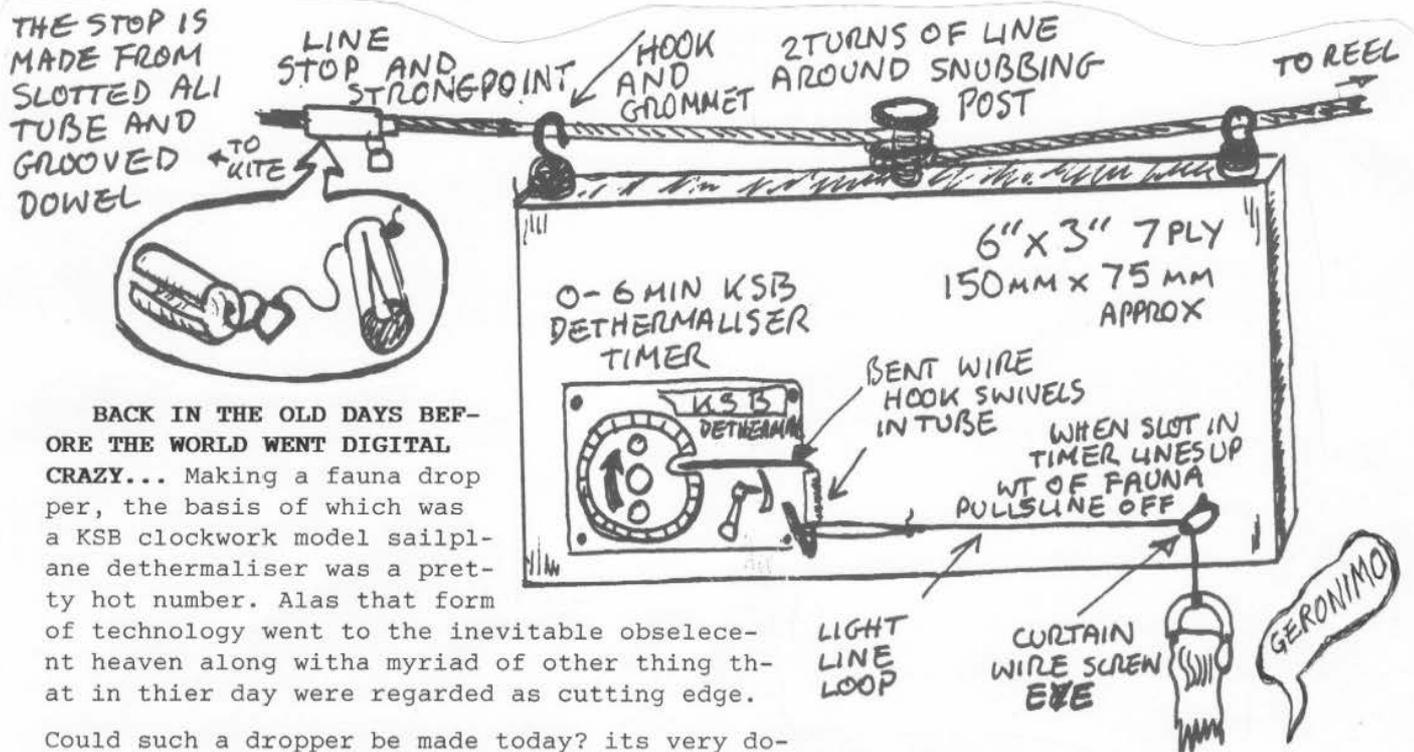
OF COURSE EVERYBODY HAS HEARD OF THE PIDLEY MOUNTAIN RESCUE TEAM. YOU HAD'NT, NEITHER HAD WE FOR THAT MATTER, BUT THERE YOU GO.

Pat Lloyd writes to inform us of the ongoing parafauna capers in the village of Pidley co-ordinated by the PMRT, a charity mob, who it appears can be gurgled on the nut for more in depth info Pidley...Pat does'nt think there is a urinary problem cluster, unlike perhaps all those Piddles along the River Piddle in Dorset, or perhaps Peover in Cheshire, but what those valiant lady members of the PMRT were going to dowas to attempt to keep up with the antics of would you believe. The Pidley Mountain Rescue Professional Parachuting Teddy Bear squad by doing thier own fund raising sposed Parachute

Jump. Hows about that then? Professional Parachuting Teddy Bears, wow, the mind boggles.

Talk about not knowing how the other half live, along with these bears they also have the Pidley International Teddy Bear Freefall Competition where 10 daredevil Teds are chucked out of a Cessna and the winner is closest to the target cross, First, second and third prize and the totalled are carted off on stretchers by the local Brownies, and live to flight another day. Each Bear is sponsered by local firms, and they dont have packed chutes (very pro) and they must have good contacts at the C.A.A. as we thought it was illegal to throw objects from aircraft, still not to worry eh. Oh, just in case you wondered Pidley Mountain Rescue? Pidley is in perhaps the flattest part of the fens and the highest peak in the locality is Ely Cathedral. Hmm.. wonder what the bears pay rates are.

Lines from a lost world



BACK IN THE OLD DAYS BEFORE THE WORLD WENT DIGITAL CRAZY... Making a fauna dropper, the basis of which was a KSB clockwork model sailplane dethermaliser was a pretty hot number. Alas that form of technology went to the inevitable obselecent heaven along with a myriad of other thing that in thier day were regarded as cutting edge.

Could such a dropper be made today? its very doubtful seeing as how the KSB thingy must be now virtually unobtainable.

But who knows, maybe someone is sitting on a pile of them, ready to knock them out on Ye Olde E. Bay at fancy prices, and lets face it funnier things have happened at sea.

So, if you are an inveterate rummager, who knows what you may find in your travels,

Take cover It just grew and grew

YOU CANNOT BE ANYTHING OTHER THAN SYMPATHETIC TO POOR ERNIE FOSSELIUS, THE MUCH PUT UPON CHIEF COOK AND BOTTLE WASHER FOR THE BEAR DEVILS AERIAL CIRCUS.

Well at first it was the BDAC, but just like topsy it grew into the Water Ratz Aquapalooza Water Carnival, and now he has the Sock Monkeys Extreme Airshow.

Gordon Bennet! you may ask what the hell are home made Sock monkeys.

We are not entirely sure what they are ourselves and Ernie says he would have liked to send a few picture of his sock monkeys, but his printer went on the Fritz and so at this time thats impossible. We guess they are made from old socks and feature, hopefully the odd airflow ventilation hole, who knows? Ernie apologises for them not being Bears, they dont have to be, all are welcome and he has been dropping them because they are less cute and more annoying to yuppie joggers and cyber bloggers in the park because with thier long dangley legs and tails they look frighteningly alive up there and these days it takes more to pull a kids attention away from thier i-phone, you just cannot get anybody to look up anymore unless its for something extreme. However, we are assured that ugly buggers they may be, they'd keep thier end up at the good old Gun&Ferret.



Tales of the unexpected

HOWS ABOUT THAT FOR SOMETHING ORIGINAL? BET THERE AINT MANY OF THE RECYCLING FANATICS WHO'D HAVE COME UP WITH SUCH AN ORIGINAL RE-USE OF DISCARDED SOCKS.

Mind you, there are discarded socks and there are discarded SOCKS which around this neck of the woods usually results in a DEF-CON 5 situation when disposing of them, when the BOF dumps his old cheese wrappers, way past thier sell by date we demand advance warning so we can get into our protective suits and no we dont like seeing our re-cycling bags being subjected to such ghastly items, so who knows maybe in future when we possess the method thereof and the full hows yer farva of converting old socks into fully paid up members of arguably the worlds numero uno parachuting fraternity, we will have yet another mob who will be intent on world domination.

WHATS THIS ABOUT FULLY PAID UP MEMBERS OF THE IBSPF ?

Most members know what being fully paid up means as they've all been there, stuffed, stiffed, totalled, treed, faceplanted into every known field muck and yes some of us have even been soaked by a gallon of cow slobber...yuk



RIGHT BANK, LEFT FIELD

MARIJUANA GROWERS USED A TEAM OF WILD ANIMALS TO GUARD THEIR OPERATIONS, INCLUDING FOURTEEN BLACK BEARS A POLICE SPOKESMAN SAID.

When police raided the cannabis farm on the U.S.Canadian border sawfourteen surprisingly tame black bears amongst other wild animals who appeared to be guarding the crop. Police confiscated cannabis plants worth an estimated one million canadian dollars and the propertys owners have been arrested on drugs production and cruelty to animals, though the police did not say if the bears were out of it pot heads.....

BEAR BIT EAR

A CAMPER AWOKE TO FIND A BEAR HAD RIPPED A HOLE IN HIS TENT AND HAD BITTEN OFF ONE OF HIS EARS.

Rob Holmes had felt a tug on his face but fell back asleep alongside pal Brandon Hurst. Brandon awoke, shone a torch and was amazed to find his pal covered in blood with his lug hanging on by a thread. Medics at a St Regis, Montana hospital sewed the ear back on and hopefully it will heal. Experts blamed a black bear which probably mistook Rob for food, its either that or maybe the bear needs new glasses.

Bear kills its keeper

YET ANOTHER PITCHER TO THE WELL SITUATION

A Wildlife park keeper was mauled to death by a bear whilst play fighting with it. Brent Kandra let his favourite bear Iroquois out

for a routine feed. They began wrestling but when Brent tried to leave the bears enclosure it grabbed him and the end was inevitable. There was no indication as to what type of bear it was, but it was later put down. The Owner of the park, world Animals Studio in Cleveland, Ohio, one Sam Mazzola later said they were just playing, its what he wanted, really?

Come on humes, its bad enough losing one of you in a parachuting accident, but this on going thing where you think you can out wrestle a bear, is surely asking for trouble.

IT COULD BE SAID THAT R.C. IS A BIT MORBIDOSA AS REGARDS HUME FATALITIES CONCERNED WITH PARACHUTING, ITS NOT THAT, ITS JUST THAT WE DONT LIKE LOSING ANY HUMES EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE DOING SOMETHING INHERANTLY DANGEROUS.

A skydiver died recently at a music festival where he was part of a display. Ryan Brown an experienced skydiver from Goole had what appeared to be a perfect jump. His chute deployed nicely, but it seemed to go all wrong as he landed very badly at the music festival at Bridlington. A British Parachuting Association official said that the jump was o.k. but that Mr Brown had sustained very serious multiple injuries in his landing, Please Humes, be careful, you unlike us parafauna are very vulnerable.

In your own words

SO, AS EVER ITS THE USUAL TO THE TEDDYTORIAL C/O THE BORING OLD FART, OR FACSIMILE THEREOF, AT TAH, DAH.....

48. Laurel Lane, West Drayton, Middx, UB7 7TY. In at what was once thought to be good old ENGLAND, But is now increasingly looking like a nice bolt hole for these "Wotcha mean amillion quid bonus is far too much" bankers who are carrying on the Dick Turpin tradition, but not with a pistol, but by sleight of hand. Are we mugs or what?





One of the clubs newest members find Portsmouth a little too much and takes a long earned rest and get caught on camera.

THE NEWS LETTER FOR THE BRIGHTON KITE FLYERS

PORTSMOUTH INSPIRED

Leaving Portsmouth last year Sandra and I felt we did not want to camp at kite festivals any more. Our tent was not 100% suitable for our needs, and the cold and windy conditions had drained us to the extent that we were not keen to continue camping.

But come spring we were willing to give it another go and invested in a new tent - with integral groundsheet - and extra camping equipment. Ok, we thought, we are going to practice this camping lark, and enjoy our kite flying and festivals.

Unfortunately, we started our year with a couple of very cold camping weekends - so much so that Sandra became quite unwell with the cold. Later weekends became increasingly more enjoyable as the weather improved and the temperature rose. Despite missing one weekend through ill health we found ourselves having a very busy and enjoyable season. But Portsmouth was still to come with the possibility of four days and maybe even four nights of camping and kite flying.

We arrived at Southsea Common on Friday afternoon giving us just enough time to pitch the tent and head off to Ken's for whale and

chips. We noticed that although skies were clear, the temperature for the bank holiday weekend had dropped. But we had a warm and comfortable night, and the following morning we were up bright and early(ish) and headed out to the flying field to find out what we would be able to help with.

This year seemed to have fewer slots in the main arena for us to



fly single line kites. Or at least, there didn't seem to be so much toing and froing between arenas. But maybe it was just me! Anyway there was no lack in quality of displays and lots of fantastic kites. Saturday was a great day and we finished it off with a night fly of one of our kites with some LEDs clipped on. It looked ok but needs a bit more work.

Sunday was much windier. It was

impossible to fly the larger display kites and some of the arena events were cancelled. I sat in my wheelchair by the club trailer watching people race about the field and wishing I could help, when one of the foreign fliers made a daft comment about my having the best job. We had a laugh about my being the busiest flier when, to my surprise, he then invited me over to help him.

He turned out to be Martin Blais, the creator of a stunning sea-themed display of a clown fish-covered lifter and bowl. He asked me to hold the line down while he adjusted his kites. I was soon whizzing up and down, propelling myself backwards at a great rate of knots. He turned out to be the designer of the air



OCT 2010 BRIGHTON KITE FLYERS AERODYNE

PORTSMOUTH INSPIRED

CONTINUED

guitar and at one point we were flying seven guitars, although the wind speed forced us to remove a couple.

After a while, we were joined by



Sandra. Martin decided to take a break, leaving Sandra and me in charge. All was going well until suddenly there was a loud twang as the line snapped and four

guitars and their lifter went sailing off over the festival ground in a matter of moments. Sandra shot off like a wee rabbit startled by a fox, speeding across the kite field. I have never seen her move so fast. Luckily the guitars were intercepted and soon Sarah (who had also raced after them) and Sandra were carrying back a large, tangled bundle of yellow ripstop. Despite this set back, Martin allowed me to fly a unique version of this kite - one decorated with flames and glittering frets.

We rounded off Sunday with kite friends at an all-you-can-eat Chinese, followed by a few drinks at an impromptu party in Roy and Hayley's "green room" marquee where we shared our (in)famous bramble brandy.

On Monday I was able to try a set

of tails on the mega delta which I had made earlier in the year - still a work in progress. We also mixed flying personal stuff and chatting with kite fliers. In the end, we decided to pack up later that evening rather than stay an extra night.

We reflected, as we drove home that, unlike last year, we were enthused and inspired by the weekend and the fliers and didn't want the season to end.

Andrew Scott



CEARPHILLY (CEARFFILE)

Back in May, Karl Longbottom asked The Grumpy Old Gits if we would like to help him with a kite event that he had been asked to organise in Wales. Always up to a challenge, Alan and I agreed to help. I for one, felt very honoured to be asked. But as more details emerged, Alan realised he would not be able to manage, as we had to fly constantly for 4 hours, Alan was very disappointed.

Now we had a problem, would The Apprentice be up to it?

We checked with Karl whether we could play our substitute. Though nervous about the situation, he felt it would be good experience for The Apprentice.

As we all know, the Kite Calendar is very full nowadays and time just flashed by, and before we realised it Aug 20th was fast approaching. Karl had sent the itinerary. We did not have to be at Blackwood Show Ground until 15.00 to get set up for the show at 18.00 and go through to 22.00 with a night fly.

Gits being Gits, we hate to waste a perfectly good journey. As the

Show Ground is only 10 miles from Caerphilly (Caerffili), we decided, the Castle had to be visited and if possible, to be photographed from the air.



To avoid the traffic, we decide to leave early and so arrived in Caerphilly by 9.30am. After negotiating the one way system, we eventually found a car park. We decided to explore the castle to get the lie of the land before attempting our Kite Aerial Photography. (KAP)

Caerphilly Castle is one of the largest castles in the UK, built in 1268-1271 by the Anglo-Norman Lord Gilbert de Clare. One of the first things of interest to the Gits was the fine collection of working examples of Siege Engines,

including a trebuchet (which the Gits have wanted to make for a long while).

The leaning south-east tower has always been a fascination of mine and finally I have seen it. We were reliably informed that the prognosis is not good for the tower. It is expected to fall down within the next seven years. Better get there quick!

We heard stories of three ghosts, but we saw only one.

Eventually the sun came out and we decided it was time for some KAP but sadly by the time we had got to the van to get the KAP gear, it had started to rain. This was some sort of omen; apparently it always rain in Wales.

As it was too early to go to the Show Ground, we thought it would be a good idea to have some lunch and a quick wander round Caerphilly. It looked as if the rain was here to stay.

While eating our lunch and discussing the buttressing of the Castle, we spotted a statue that required investigating.

CAERPHILLY (CAERFFILE)

I didn't know, but Tommy Cooper was born in Caerphilly. It's quite a scary statue.

About 14.00 we headed for the Hotel to check in. Several of the kite flyers had already arrived and had gone up to the Show Ground, so we decided to join them.

On the way, we saw several big signs advertising the Big Kite Event. Would we be up to this billing?

It was still raining.

On arrival at the Show Ground we were directed to the kiting arena



where we met Sara and Karl and lots of new kiting friends. If it did not stop raining, this was going to be a very challenging afternoon and evening.

We spotted Andrew & Kathleen Beattie and the team AWITA from France doing their utmost to keep their kites flying under the most horrendous conditions. They were all very, very wet and still they kept trying.

We were reliably informed by Karl that the rain would stop at 16.00 and that the sun would shine. Daft thing, I actually believed him.

Karl and Sara had drawn up a packed program of kite flying, including an Altitude Sprint, Rok and Indian fighting, Artistic Kites, Dragons and then the night fly with search lights. I have to hand it to everyone involved, considering the rain did not let up and the wind was ranging from pulling arms out off sockets to almost nothing, I think we put on a pretty good show. The people who did turn up, (well wrapped up

and under umbrellas) appeared to appreciate our efforts. As John said towards the end of the evening, just think what we could have done, if we'd been given the chance.

I think the organiser took pity on us, as they bought the firework finale forward to 21.30. No one complained. I'm not sure how many people watched the fireworks; most had either not come or had already left.

You can't but feel sorry for the organisers of events like this. All the work through the year and then only a handful of hardy people turn up. The amazing thing is that they will do it all again next year. I must say it was great to be flying with such a wonderful group of kite flyers. No matter how wet they were, they kept flying. Well done everyone.

Then started the folding and packing of very wet kites, I did feel for Awita and Andrew & Kathleen. Huge wet kites must weigh an awful lot and how do you dry something like that?

Back to the Hotel to dry off and a very well-earned beer and curry in the Pub next door. I didn't realise just how hungry I was. All too soon it was last orders and we were asked to leave. It was still raining as we made our way to the hotel. It rained all night and was still raining in the morning!

After a Full English (or Full Welsh) we said our good-byes and started for the border. Do you know it cost £5.50 to get into Wales, but it's free to go home?

John finally got himself organised and took some pictures of the Bridge. As we crossed the Bristol Channel, the sun came out and shone the whole way home!

As I said earlier, the Gits hate to waste a good journey; so on the way home, we visited the Hungry Horse, (the Uffington white Horse - the Logo of the WHKF). Again we were hoping to do some KAP. Once in the car park we collected

all the KAP gear and headed up the hill. It's quite a climb, but the views are well worth the walk; even nicer when the sun shines - and it did. We wondered if it was still raining in Wales.

It was far too windy for Kap, but having dragged all the gear up the hill, we had to give it a go, so kite assembled, we launched. It didn't take me long to realise that I was not going to be able to hold the kite. John says "I'll walk it down" to which I replied that I would not be able to hold the line with any more force on it! Luckily there was a stout man willing to give us a hand and so while he and I held the reel, John walked it down, not something I want to do again. A big thank you to that very kind gentleman.

Not wanting to be defeated, we thought we might just get a shot of the White Horse - from "just over there". We were disappointed because there is nowhere near the horse from where you can see that whole thing. Never mind. We'll get back there another time and get the shot from the kite.

Thank you, Sara & Karl for invitation. It certainly was a great experience and another big thank-you to all the other kite flyers for your assistance and encouragement. This will be an event that will never be forgotten. I wonder if it's still raining in Wales?

Keith (because John wouldn't do it) with correction and Photo insertion by John, proof read by

Anne & Alan



THE REAL LAST MINUTE KITE FESTIVAL

A tale of nerves, tenacity and roadworks.

5 Months: I first spoke with Abdulla Maliyekkal at the Ahmedabad Kite Festival in India in January. He was gathering information to organise a new Kite Festival in Southern India.



3 weeks: Abdullah calls me at the Berck Festival in France - would I like to go to Calicut in Kerala? Yes, of course, but wait until I get home and look at my diary.

2 weeks: The preliminary negotiations, are done, I decide to go. Then there is space for one more person. Time is short, have to arrange time off work, get the essential Indian visa.

So, who do I know who is self-employed or can get time off at short notice, got a decent kite bag, up for anything, and GOT AN INDIAN VISA?



9 days: "Hi Collin, we're off to India." "OK, when?" said Collin. Notice he did not say things like "What you on about?" or "Just been there. You mean next January" or "Who you kidding?" Then we try to negotiate dates and flights with India. Not a problem, they do all that at their

end, what a relief.

7 days: They offer the dates we suggested, and then they book completely different ones. "No," we say, "No 28 hour stopover at Dubai, thank you!"

6 days: Next attempt at dates mean we arrive on the Saturday morning, go straight to the beach to fly. "No," we say, "Too tight. We must recover from the flight." At that point we start looking for the flights ourselves.

4 days: How about this day, this flight, gets us there the day before? (to acclimatise) and one day extra at end to recover and shopping. "OK" they say, then Nothing.



3 days: After some more Nothing, another proposal arrives. "Here is your reservation," meaning we go from the wrong airport, arrive late, leave during the last day of festival. "No thanks," we reply. "No stopping, and we don't like Heathrow."

24 hours: "How about this - it's what you wanted." and offer us the times and dates we asked for in the first place. "Great," we say, "Send us the eTicket" (Which proves it is really booked; we just have to turn up at the airport and fly away.

Then silence.

12 hours: "Hey guys, we on or not?" "Yes, yes, just making final arrangements." Collin is getting nervous. I passed that ages ago.

11 hours: The eTicket arrives by eMail. "Hey Collin, it's on." He is sceptical - "Are you sure?" "Yes, got the ticket, checked the reservation online". "OK," he

says, "I'll pack." I get ready to drive to Colin's house; he is only 5 minutes from Gatwick airport.

5 hours: I am on the road with a big problem: the motorway is closed ahead - how to get to Colin's and to the airport in time to check-in? Aaaaarghhhhh!

2 ½ hours: Arrive at Collins house. "Hi!" Dash to airport (thanks Sonia!) and check in - phew, just made it. Now there is a long pause while they try to find a way to make 59 ½ kilos of kite luggage a bit bigger so they can charge us.

20 minutes: By this time, of course, we are hungry. Cheesy Chips - why did I never experience this before? - specially made for us. Delicious. Halfway through, what time do we have to be at the gate? "Ages," I say, "we still got 5 minutes." "Yes, says Collin, "but it's at the other end, takes at least 15 minutes to get there." So off we stroll, then walk, then march briskly, then run. And arrive at the departure lounge - no waiting, straight on the plane. Caught my hind foot as they shut the door behind us.

So we are finally settled and



wondering if it is all real. Are we actually going? "Yup, guess so," said Collin as we roll out.

And he was right, we got there. We had the most fantastic, unusual, spectacular, outrageously hot festival ever. But we never cut it so fine. Was it worth the effort, the stress, the 3am phone calls, the brinkmanship?

You bet.
Derek Kuhn

OCT 2010 BRIGHTON KITE FLYERS AERODYNE WE ENDED UP CHOOSING JOLLY-UP

Jolly up or Lingfield? This was the hotly-debated question in the run up to these two equally appealing events which were due to take place on the same weekend at the beginning of August.

For Andrew and me, Jolly up has become an eagerly anticipated favourite. The friendliness of this kites-only event, its relaxed atmosphere, great flying field, the auction fun, Linda's bar, the breakfast rolls and barbecue all made it hard to pass up.

On the other hand, there was Lingfield. We didn't know much about this one. We understood that it was a steam rally at which there would be kite flying. It would be open to the public. It would be closer to home. And it seemed as though most other kite friends we asked were choosing it over Jolly up.

We dithered for weeks. In the end, we decided on Jolly up. This was partly through apathy - we didn't get round to asking for a pass. It was also partly because we needed kite-making supplies and Jolly up would be a great place to get them. But it was mainly because we became increasingly concerned that Jolly up wouldn't receive support.

Jolly up is a fundraiser for the North Hants Buggy Club. It allows the club to continue to rent - and so have exclusive use of - the marvellous 20-acre field in which

the Jolly up is held. If the club had to let the field go, a wonderful resource for the kiting community would be lost.

As it turns out we needn't have worried. Numbers may have been down a bit but there were still plenty of people there, including lots of familiar faces.

I had one of the most relaxing weekends of the season. It started before we'd even arrived with a phone call from Simon (who wasn't even at Jolly up) asking if we wanted to put in an order for fish and chips. Typically, we were running late and were still en route. But thanks to Dave, phone calls were whizzing across the south of England to ensure we got our supper!

One of the biggest laughs of the weekend was provided by a beer lift. This was something new to Andrew and me. Not knowing what was involved, we weren't sure whether to join in. But, as is typical of Jolly up, we found ourselves involved before we knew it.

Andrew's homemade mega delta acquitted itself reasonably well in the competition, keeping the bag of beer off the ground and within the marked area for about 30 seconds. But sadly the wind dropped and so did the beer.

Roy Broadly tried to steal the show - and the beer - with a train of three Cody kites. These had a powerful pull and it took



considerable effort before Colin could attach the beer. But the train proved too difficult to control and in the end the competition was won by Martin Croxton, a White Horse member, who very generously shared the beer with the rest of the contestants.

There was more fun at the auction, with Roy modelling several items and flamboyant telephone bidding from an anonymous source (who was busy setting something up in the middle of the field).

The something in the middle of the field - the Grumpy Old Gits tribute to the 1812 - followed the auction. It was one of the best performances we'd seen (although I understand this may have been surpassed at Teston). Although I don't know what we missed at Lingfield, I'm glad we went to Jolly up. And we look forward, with eager anticipation, to Jolly up 8.

Sandra Fletcher



We are still planning to hold

BRIGHTON KITE FESTIVAL

in 2011 at Stanmer Park, Brighton but with changes in the parks usage the date cannot be the normal weekend we have in July. As soon and we have an idea of a date we will let you know and publish it on.

www.brightonkiteflyers.co.uk

OCT 2010 BRIGHTON KITE FLYERS AERODYNE

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Thank you

I would like to say thank you to all those who made this issue of Aerodyne possible Derek Khun Keith Boxall Andrew Scott and Sandra Fletcher for articles. I know we keep going on, but Aerodyne is only possible with your help, Come the club AGM the members are offered the choice of not continuing and supplying articles for publication in the club magazine and each year it is voted to be kept and that articles will come in. So please do write an article as we can not keep the publication going without them.

So thank you again to those who help and keep the articles coming and those that haven't if you want to keep aerodyne going put into action the good words said at the AGM each year

Editor

fly - in reminders

Our Monthly fly-in is where we try and get as many of the club members to fly together. These are held on the 1st Sunday at Saltdean Vale, East Sussex, 2nd Thursday at Stanmer Park 6pm. Remember that during the summer members may well be attending kites festivals, but the fly-ins are still on.

See you there



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

NEW CLUB MEMBERS WITH EDDY AND CO

For some time now members of the club and committee have admired Robert Van Weers Eddy kites and this year the club commissioned a progressive set of 3 eddy's from Robert, but rather than being all being male Eddy's we asked if he would come up with a family the largest being Dad the middle one Mum and the small one a child. Robert jumped at the idea and between us we soon had designs colours and Robert was starting to make them ready for their official launch at Brighton Kite Festival the year. A little close to the wire and a lot of nerve racking days leading up to the festival we finally got the large kite on the Friday before our festival, Not Roberts fault he sent them in good time but UK customs let one package through and the other one got stopped and no one knew but that another story.



Next Issue

What ever you want as long as you write it up for others to see. Dieppe could be there as could South of England Show or even the BKF Christmas party.

We have a range of sizes in all club t-shirts and hooded tops for sale T-shirts £10 hooded tops £25.00

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

