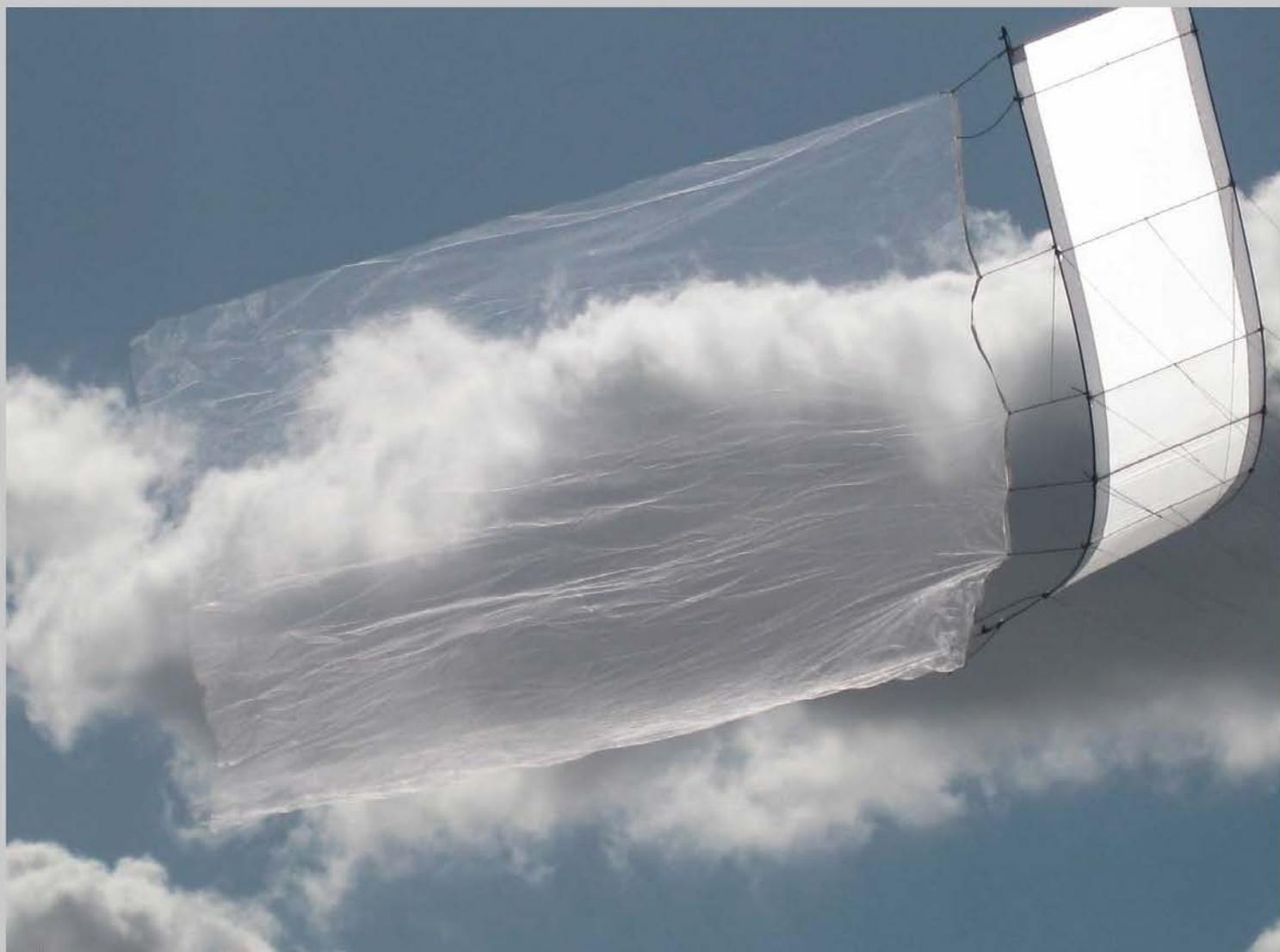


# **THE KITEFLIER**

[www.thekitesociety.org.uk](http://www.thekitesociety.org.uk)



**Issue 126**

**January 2011**

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

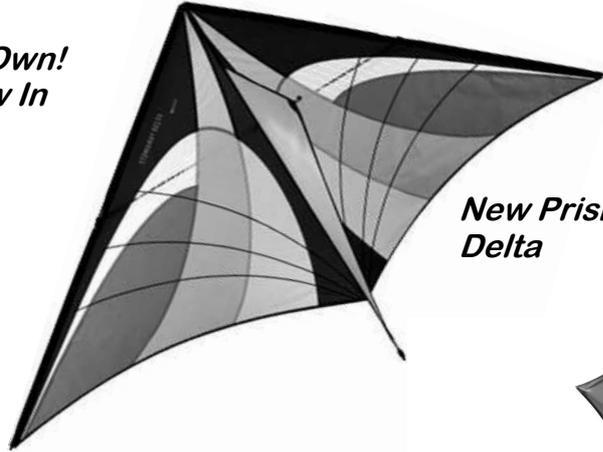
# KITEWORLD

## Happy New Year!



*Large selection  
of Rev Kites  
Available*

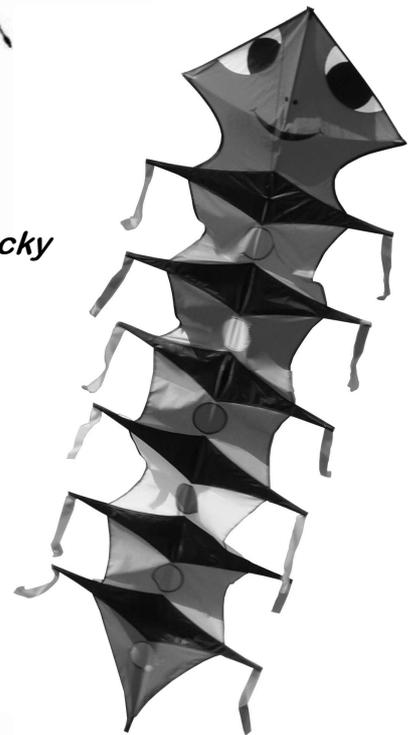
*Make Your Own!  
Ripstop Now In  
Stock*



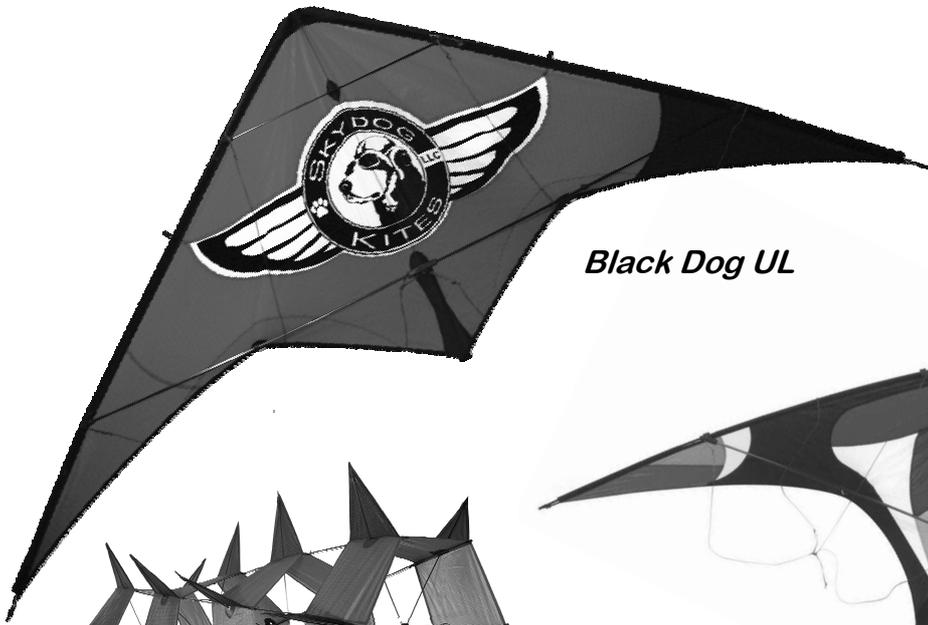
*New Prism Folding  
Delta*

*Keep checking our website  
for  
everything new in 2011*

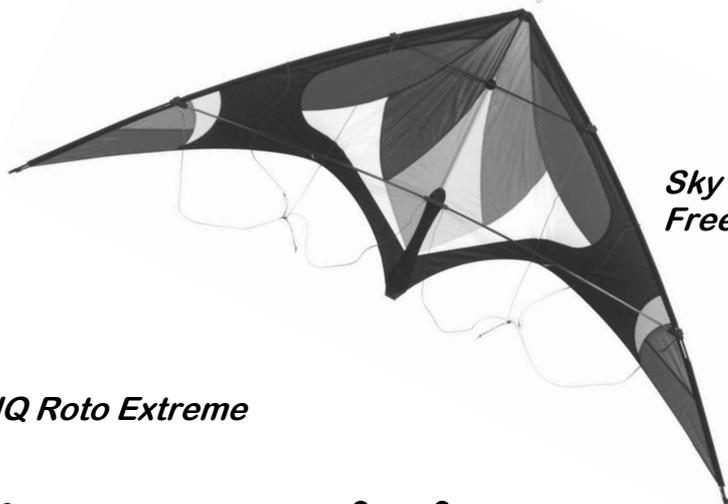
*HQ Wacky  
Worm*



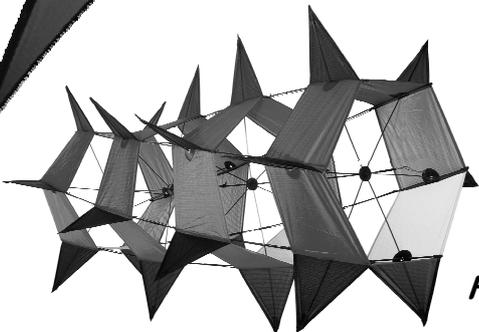
*Black Dog UL*



*Sky Dog  
Freebird*

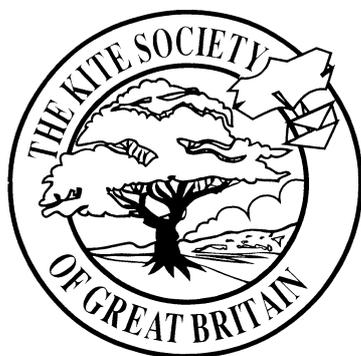


*HQ Roto Extreme*



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**Front Cover**

**One of the competition entries for Dieppe 2010.**

**Photo**

**Tara Bloom**

Dear Readers

**Editorial**

It is the start of a new year and things may well be tough on many of the kite festivals especially where there is an element of local council funding. Most of these events will not know the current state of play with budgets and information about them will more than likely be late and appear mid-magazines. So keep an eye on the Kite Society web pages which we will keep up to date as events are confirmed or cancelled.

The good news is that there is a chance of two new events this year—both of which are subject to funding and we cannot say much yet—as we do not want to raise people’s hopes!

You can help to keep events going by supporting them. This is not just turning up to watch or camp but actually take part in the event. There are often events in the arenas where all kite fliers are welcome to take part and there is normally room around the site to fly your kite. The sponsors of the event do take note.

As you may see it is the regulars—for which we send many, many thanks—such as Allan Pothecary and Hugh and Lyn Blowers who have supplied a large chunk of the magazine. Without them each issue would be much thinner. It would be nice to see contributions from other people as well. So why not put finger to keyboard (or even pen to paper) and send something to us.

See you around

Gill and Jon

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## Pothecary Corner

### Photo Competition

I know that there were loads of people that followed the kite competition we ran throughout the season but there were not as many entries as I thought there might be.

This year was the first time that we had posted the photos on our web-site as we went along and some may have been frightened off by the ones they saw. However we are extremely grateful to those who did send us photos and it was nice to receive so many favourable comments about the festivals they had attended.

They all had good comments about Close Encounters too but then, they would have wouldn't they? – We were running the competition!

As ever, the choosing of a winner was incredibly difficult – in the Whacky Worm section, I just wish that we had two prizes because that one was just so impossibly close it went on to a third judge to decide!

Of course this competition would not have been possible if it were not for HQ Invento supportively sponsoring us with four, individual, prizes of The Wacky Worm, Amulets 1 and 2 and the retro, Silent Dart which attracted the most entries.

Photos of all the entries can be found for some time to come at [www.closeencounterskites.co.uk](http://www.closeencounterskites.co.uk) and then follow the "Win a Kite" links.

You can also see what these and many other commercially available kites look like when they are actually flying.



The Wacky Worm went to Tomas Mizerevicius all the way over in Lithuania (didn't meet him when we were invited there),

The Amulet 1 was won by David Terry from Nelson in Lancashire (still waiting for the photo David)



The winner of the Amulet 2 was Trevor Heptinstall (above) from Tiverton in Devon.

And here's a great, colourful picture that shows the size and beauty of the Silent Dart as held aloft by winner Stuart Pegg from Norwich.

Also for the first time, this year the fellahs showed the way and there were no lady winners - (but only just!!!).

We are not too sure about holding a photo competition next year. It does take up quite a lot of time but it's nice to hear from people that we probably wouldn't otherwise. We will see what the mood is and if any sponsors come forward.



### Same Old Same Old

Every year we try to bring lots of new things to the demonstration arenas as we travel around and next year will be no exception as we are working on new routines throughout the cold winter months and will have new colourful kites and tails to show.

Usually, by the end of the festival year the seasoned campaigners and fellow demonstrators will have seen some of the things a few times

## Pothecary Corner

over and could probably join in with very little practice especially the things we have kept over from the previous year. What we have to remind ourselves is, however, that we are constantly hitting a new audience. Some days the crowd is made up of completely different people just two hours later in the day after the first demonstration - apart from the hard core picnickers and followers of particular teams or kites.

### ***Dodgy Traders?***

In the last edition Mr. Blowers raised a point about one of our repeated pieces and the possibility of some traders selling inferior kites and people being disappointed that their purchase doesn't perform the same as kites they see in the arena. This is why, when I am doing the attention grabbing "Crash a Kite" demo, using the same HQ Bolero as I have been using for years, and slamming said object in to the ground, I am at pains to point out that prospective buyers should ask for advice when buying or even come to us for unbiased opinions. I show that it is possible to buy a strong, virtually unbreakable, kite for around thirty pounds or sometimes less and I always emphasise the point that a sensible trader will want to keep the buyers trust. They want them to have fun flying – and they know that the customer won't be back for another if the kite breaks first time out. Unfortunately, there will always be those who know better when they think they see a bargain!

### ***Con Te Partiro***

...Italian for time to say goodbye. Is it now that we bid farewell to this beautiful ballad?

Marilyn and I first decided on using this music when we stood by the fountains outside of the Bellagio in Las Vegas more than ten years ago (just around the time when people were beginning to get a bit fed up with the Frog Song!). Having a classical feel to it, we don't think it's too sickly and having found out that other teams have started to use it too it then maybe I question that we give up what has become known as our signature tune.

It does look superb in the sky in light winds when we use our T4's with 30mtr, black and yellow colour coded tails. We get great feedback from people every time we fly it and even had people who had arrived late come over worried in case they missed it.

Well, what do you think Mr or Mrs Reader?

If you have an opinion let us know – better still if you can find us a nice piece of music with a big build up before the end, we'd be interested! (By the way we tried Nessun Dorma and it didn't really work). We have new pairs ballet music but it's something big, with a big end that we can do in twos, threes and fours with tails that we are after!

### **I Don't Believe It!**

When I was full time employed I travelled about quite a lot, often having to use pay and display car parks.

Because of this I always made sure that I had plenty of change with me so that I wasn't faffing about just before an appointment. One time I did a Victor Meldrew when a rather obnoxious character more or less insisted that I change his two pound coin. I related the above to him and then, looking him straight in the eye, explained "This is NOT a public service!!"

### ***Spare Parts***

The above is sometimes true with spare parts for kites (but never to fellow demonstrators). It is not always easy to get replacement parts – especially when you have such a diverse range as the kites we carry about! It doesn't matter if someone offered us £10.00 for a 50p connector – when we have driven out to the practice field in the middle of Salisbury Plain on a freezing cold day and something breaks we are pleased that we had a spare – money is not a lot of help at that moment if you see what I mean?



There are some packs of spares that you can buy and Kiteworld sponsored us with a rather good one from Prism. Whilst a few pieces may be unique to Prism kites most are universal -

## Pothecary Corner

but then there are a lot of Prism Kite owners out there too! Included in the pack is a booklet with some very useful tips – not the usual, obvious stuff but things you might not have thought of before. The box is labelled as a kite repair kit and, sensibly, contains repair tape as well as sail patches and a sleeving kit. Although the packet looks cumbersome it contains an easy to find/difficult to lose, bright orange bag in which to keep everything together and then stowed away in a pocket on your kite bag. All the fiddly bits you need (I don't do fiddly) like a sail grabber arrow knocks, a knife, ferrules, clips and retainers are there – just about everything, I think, except T-pieces – but there are so many variations in sizes of those it would be pointless to try and pick one or two. The best thing here is to find what you need as spares and order some up separately! Let's face it, one of these days you are going to have the perfect day with the perfect wind and you will either lose or break something that means you won't be able to fly –or has it happened already?

This handy, Prism bag of bits could have, or may yet, save that frustration...?

### Skydog Freebird

In the "Kiteflier" edition before last I wrote about a new kite from the well known American flyer and designer Dodd Gross.

The kite in question, is the Dream On, has become almost as well known for its prowess as an affordable, and excellent all-rounder as, unfortunately, its temporary, untimely unavailability. It has graphics which you either love or hate but since we began flying them in team routines early this year, they sold out almost immediately.

I decided to take a look at the next kite down from this one - the Skydog Freebird which is vaunted as the next purchase up from a beginner's kite but perfectly reasonable as one to start off with.

It is not a particularly large kite but has retained the Skydog stable's built in ability to fly more slowly than others of the same size es-



pecially in high winds.

When the winds do pick up the Freebird's loose trailing edge flaps in the wind giving resistance to shooting off at extra high speed and adding to the stability and straight line tracking, giving off a purring sound as it goes.

Framed in 6mm carbon this colourful piece is quite durable and withstood a few fairly hefty crashes during the filming of a video which can be found by following the links on the front page of our website.

### ***Trial and Error***

With a little bit of acclimatisation and remembering not to be too heavy handed I found that I could perform my limited repertoire – and that means that a more skilful trick flyer would make this thing really dance!

It was not too difficult for me to stall or to push both hands whilst stepping in to get it on its back nose away - two favourite positions from which to start tricks.

The Freebird comes with its own line set which I found a little short at only 20metres. I found that by using 90ft lines it flew more slowly, easily and was a bit more fun too! With a claimed wind range of between 5 and 20mph any owner of this kite should be able to get in lots of flying hours.

### HQ Maestro II

I was looking back through some articles I wrote to see if I had done anything on the original Maestro. I found that I was pleased to see that it was replacing the Phoenix, a kite of which, at the time, I was not a big fan and that I was going to review it in the following edition. That never happened - I will attempt to explain why.

### ***Nothing Said***

I have been asked why it is I only say good things about kites. Well that's not entirely true as you can see from other reports here. Just because I don't like something or indeed do like something it doesn't mean to say that it really is good or bad, I am just grateful for the privilege of being asked to test something and reporting back on how it fits my own individual style and preferences – sometimes though, you just have to read between the lines of what I say!

## Pothecary Corner

I suppose it would be true to say that if I *really* don't like a kite, then it won't write about it. So then, on to the Maestro II. Yes I am guilty of leaving this at home always meaning to give it a try – "next time out". I will say that I wasn't inspired by its predecessor which I found I had to work too hard at because it felt so heavy to me and pulled like a train on standard settings in a high wind.

Mind you some people like that in a kite!

### **Tails Not Included**

Then, the other day, we took it out because we have some really colourful tails that are quite heavy and we wondered if this almost full sized and equally colourful kite would perform. Well perform it did and the proof of that is on video in the HQ section of our website.



Whilst HQ have used their usual standard colours they have subtly added some greys then incorporated all of the colours into a much classier design giving a feel-good factor

about flying this model.

Maintaining the slightly lower aspect compared to other kites, the mark two has a re-designed sail which, thankfully, loses the support stays that you had to fit in towards the outer edge. This modification has taken away the pull but leaving the kite both very stable in its tracking and yet unstable so that it is trickable! We tried it for speed against its older brother/sister (whatever!) and were very surprised that there was no difference!

This was really weird because I was leaning back against the pull wondering if Marilyn would cope and she was just stood there, relaxed and enjoying the flight – or was she enjoying seeing me having to work a bit?

### **Should I/Shouldn't I?**

I have seen a few beginners tempted with this kite because of its colours and the fact that at under a hundred quid it is one of the lower priced, big kites.

It's not a bad idea if you are keen and want to improve rapidly – just go steady to start with!

If you have a smaller kite and are looking to move up but don't have the budget for one of the high priced super kites then you should have the Maestro II on your list of possibles – it's not so very far away!

The strength of this kite has been improved by the use of tapered, wrapped spars (lower spreaders) which also gives it the rigidity to perform in a very agile manner.

Although the kite feels lighter in flight I am not sure that it is lighter on the scales – I didn't check - but even a beginner will only need about 5mph to get this one going!

I spoke to HQ the other day – I didn't want to write about this kite if was about to be phased out but they assured me that this was a big seller and was going to be around for some time to come!

Hopefully you will see Close Encounters Display Team doing one of the new routines with these during 2011. With three in the air like the one above it should be very exciting and an excellent photo opportunity!

### **Stowaway Delta**

In the previous edition I took a quick look at the Prism Foldaway Diamond kite and said that I was looking forward to the "Stowaway Delta" – and, here it is!

As one who likes to take kites with me, whenever I travel I am always interested by kites that fold down really small and unfold out big.

I may have said some when that I don't do fiddly and therefore can't always be bothered with messing about with bits that should go here or there when I could have been flying at least ten minutes ago – although there are exceptions to that – Treczoc's Cody for instance (mental note



## Pothecary Corner

to get that out again soon!)

Ok this one is not in the same league (or price range) as that but it is a lot of almost instant fun and a nice size too. Like nearly all lower priced kites (this one being under £30.00) it comes with line included – Can somebody tell me - why is that?

What has become the instantly recognisable Prism design is also incorporated in to this single liner giving it a classy look but I have to say this is my least favourite of the three colour schemes available. The line is attached at the point of the keel. I would have liked to had a choice of more than one point here but knowing how fastidious designer Mark Reed is, all options would have been explored before venturing on to the market.

The Stowaway is very quick to rise in to the air (video on our site) although by Prisms own admission doesn't attain good stability until it reaches to top of the window. A weight has been added to the tail to aid in ascension and there are also loops at the wingtips where tails can be attached. I have seen a group of these flying with three tails each, then they were stable and magic!

### ***Folding away***

Just for a change I had no problems at all with the assembling of this kite. As I was fitting the spine together the leading edges assembled themselves which confused me for a moment before bringing a smile to my face! I was amazed at how it opened out to a five foot four inch wing span.

Folding the kite back down however was much more fun for onlookers than it was for me because the blooming thing kept reassembling every time I let go of one part to fold up another.

Once you do get it back under control there is a Prism Velcro band to wrap around it before popping it safely back into the bag with the supplied reel of 200ft braided line.

### **Ascension Delta**

We really liked this one and not just for the fact that it was in our team colours – see what I mean on the video! There are other colours too but once we had seen this there was no chance we would have anything else!



The open keel on the Ascension means that stability is almost a given. I liked launching this one. I let it glide away gently, holding it just a metre off the ground for a good 50metres before holding the winder tight to watch it rise swiftly and steadily.

I wondered how I might fare in an altitude sprint against some of the guys with their hand built specials.

Sprints are usually held first thing at festivals and are often plagued by low wind – ideal! – The Ascension will still fly in a 3mph wind – the kind where you can just feel a breath on your face!

This, to my mind was a higher end kite at a lower end price. At around thirty six pounds they still put in line for free – I wonder what the magic number is when things change and you don't get the line included?

I didn't think that packaging for the Ascension did it justice and you would be forgiven for walking by mistaking it for a less expensive model if you were in a traders shop or tent and it was just stood up in a bin.

This has virtually the same wing span as the Prism Stowaway at about five feet four but actually looks much bigger than that!

I know that this one will be used by us a lot through 2011.

### **Another Year**

The past year has been another great one for marvellous festivals and making lots of new friends at schools, private functions and those who came to our "Better flying" days when we give free coaching.

Weymouth was colder than usual, rain threat-

## Pothecary Corner

ened and eventually did come on the Monday but not before we had finished up and stowed the gear into the car.

Marilyn and I shared our wedding anniversary on the Sunday with all who came to watch. The following week was Swindon. The White Horse Kite Flyers invited us not just to do our demonstrations but to provide commentary. Thank goodness George Webster was there too to take over occasionally with his seemingly unlimited knowledge and anecdotes. George gave us the chance to take some breaks in what turned out to be a weekend of very hard work but enormous fun in the midst of one of the most enthusiastic kite clubs in the country. Don't miss this year's festival which moves back to Lydiard's Field - Junction 16/M4.

We always like the Basingstoke Festival and not just because it's just a few miles from where we live – they have a knack of presenting the unusual and bringing it somehow closer to the people there.

Blackheath continues to improve each year – we just can't wait for the middle of June next year and the week following, I particularly enjoy because the Solent Kite Flyers do their thing at the Southampton Kite Festival and I get to share commentary with my son. Now Grant is not a kite flyer by passion like me, he is a media person and has proved extremely capable of blending his sound equipment skills with professional presentations second to none.

Brighton had some lovely weather although the second day started badly – but as the sun came out it simply exploded in to the best festival we have ever attended there. At Portsmouth we were thrilled to be inundated with so many friends and kiting acquaintances stopping by at our tent including Aditya who brought authentic Nepalese curries to feed the many of us there and Irma who made Boterkoek a wonderful cake from a Dutch recipe.

Margate has the beach, the people and the potential to make it as one of the premier festivals. Many of the locals told us it was just what the town needed. Unfortunately the unkind gusts of wind rolling over the buildings behind meant that sport kite ballets turned in to more of a challenge just to stay airborne until the end of the music rather than much that was choreographed! We witnessed a few thousand pounds

worth of kites (and also some of the owners or over enthusiastic helpers who had waded in to the cold sea to try and help) being rescued by the local coastguard. Friend, Carl Wright from Team Spectrum was carted off to hospital after aggravating a knee injury So it was no surprise that the organisers felt that there was little alternative to playing the safety card and closing the festival earlier than planned on the second day in winds which went from zero on the ground to several speeds and different directions – including back toward the flier – up higher. There was little that could be flown anyway despite the many valiant attempts made.

Maybe next year, a little earlier in the season?

Let's hope that we can avoid the cuts and bring some more cheer to faces old and new next year!

Allan Pothecary



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## Build a D-Stix Tetrahedral Kite—Jeff Duntemann

When I was a junior in high school I became obsessed with the geometry of the fourth dimension. I later turned that obsession into an award-winning science/math fair project, but at 16 it was just a weird fun thing to be enthusiastic about. In the process of reading books like *The Fourth Dimension Simply Explained*, I learned about three-dimensional projections of four-dimensional solids, and (without taking a lot of time to tell you precisely what that means here in an article about kites) went from there to building geometrical models out of straws and balloon sticks. I made models of the more interesting regular solids, including the tetrahedron, octahedron, and dodecahedron.



Sample D-Stix parts

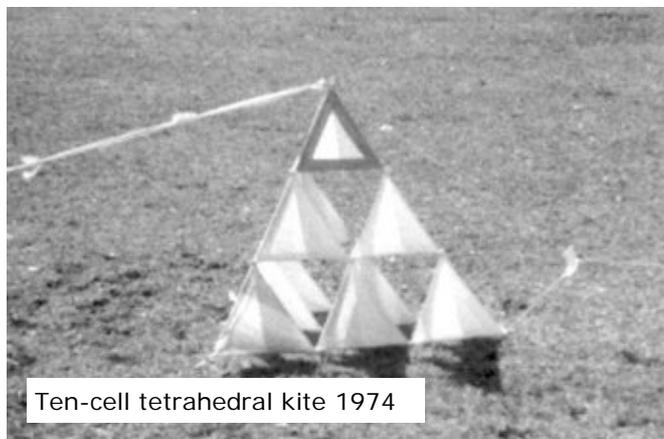
Using sticks or straws, this was a lot of work. However, I soon discovered that over at the American Science Center store at Nagle and Northwest Highway in Chicago, they sold a very neat geometry-oriented construction set called D-Stix. The set consisted of a large number of 1/8" thick wooden sticks dyed various colors, and a collection of soft plastic connectors into which you could insert the sticks. (Left.) There were connectors with five, six, and eight sockets. (The connector shown above with three sockets was originally a six-socket item, with three sockets snipped off.) It worked beautifully, and I could construct the regular solids in a matter of minutes. However, something intriguing was also included with the kit: Instructions for building an unusual sort of kite using D-Stix as a frame and tissue paper for the sails. On a folded piece of paper in the kit was a template for cutting out the sails. All you needed to do was cut sails from sheets of paper using the template, and then glue or tape the sails to the D-Stix frame.

The summer I turned 17 I built the D-Stix tetrahedral kite, and in August I asked my new girlfriend Carol to go out and fly it with me. (I had met her only two weeks before.) The kite flew reasonably well, if a little wildly. In looking back from 40 years of further experience, I'd say that the wind was a little strong that day for this kind of kite, and caused it to crash. Some of the sticks broke and others popped out of their connectors, which is why the kite in the old photo looks wrong. (Carol took the photo when we were about to throw everything in the car and head home.)

That was the summer of 1969. Almost forty years later, Carol is still with me (we have been married now for 32 years) and when my little margarine dish full of D-Stix connectors turned up recently in a box of packed oddments, it occurred to me that I could re-create the kite we had flown together during the Summer of Love. Here's what I did and how I did it.

### The Overall Design

A four-cell tetrahedral kite consists of four tetrahedrons stacked in a three-sided pyramid, which is in turn a tetrahedron. The four cells have tissue paper glued to two of their surfaces. Each cell is thus something like a bow kite with a sharp bend down the front edge rather than a gentle bow. When gluing the sails to the skeleton, make sure that the leading edges of the covered cells all face the same way. (See the photo of the kite at the top of this article, showing the finished kite in flight.)



Ten-cell tetrahedral kite 1974

You can make tetrahedral kites with more than 4 cells, and I have made the next "bigger" size, which is ten cells. It seems to me that the more cells the kite has, the better it will fly, assuming it isn't too heavy. D-Stix are not suitable for making larger kites than the one I'm presenting here. The connectors are too heavy, and the 1/8" dowels are not stiff enough. The kite shown above was made with 3/8" hardwood dowels. The dowels forming the 4 outer edges were 1/4" in diameter. The other dowels were 1/8". The kite was a little heavy, but it flew well with a tail. (The photo shows it lying on the grass upside-down.) Without the convenience of D-Stix connectors, tying and gluing all the sticks together was a huge amount of work!

It's important to note here that there have been two general "eras" of D-Stix kits. The ones dating from the 1960s used dyed wooden sticks and yellow plastic connectors. These are the sets that I had in high school. Later kits (dating to the mid-1970s) used colored plastic sticks and black rubber connectors. I bought a set of the plastic/rubber D-Stix on eBay in 2007 and found them, well, awful. The plastic sticks are quite smooth and do not grip the connector sockets like wooden sticks do. Worse, the black rubber connectors are fragile and tear easily, and do not grip even wooden sticks as well as the older yellow plastic connectors do. If all you have is one of the newer plastic/rubber D-Stix kits, I'd recommend cutting your own wooden sticks from 1/8" dowel stock, and putting a drop of plastic cement in each socket before inserting the sticks. This requires, obviously, that you know which sockets get which sticks—so assemble

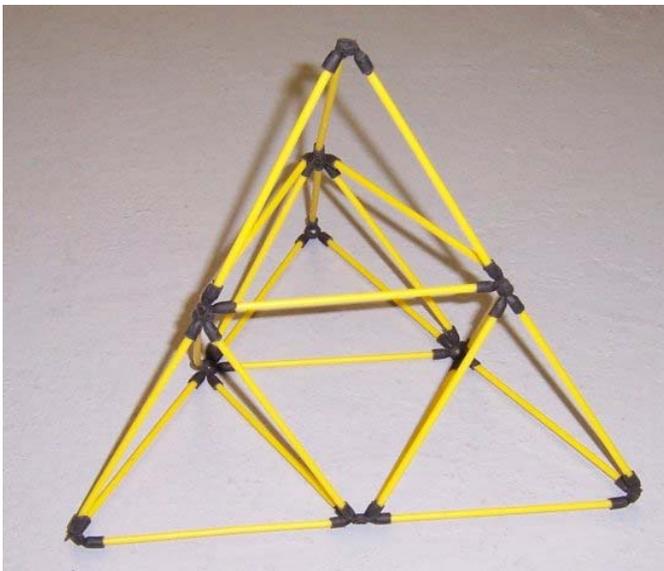
## Build a D-Stix Tetrahedral Kite—Jeff Duntemann

the skeleton without glue first to make sure you have it right!

After years of looking, I've begun to see new-build D-Stix sets available online, mostly from teacher supply stores. Google around for "D-Stix set"; many places sell them. I have not bought one of these and I'm not sure how good the connectors are. They aren't the awful black rubber that was being sold in the 1970s. The sticks look like plastic, and I still recommend that you use unfinished wooden dowels.

One thing you won't get with the new D-Stix sets is the paper template for the cells' sails. I had it easy: All I had to do was trace the outline onto sheets of colored tissue paper and cut them out. You're going to have to do a little drafting, as I'll explain shortly.

### Getting Ready to Build



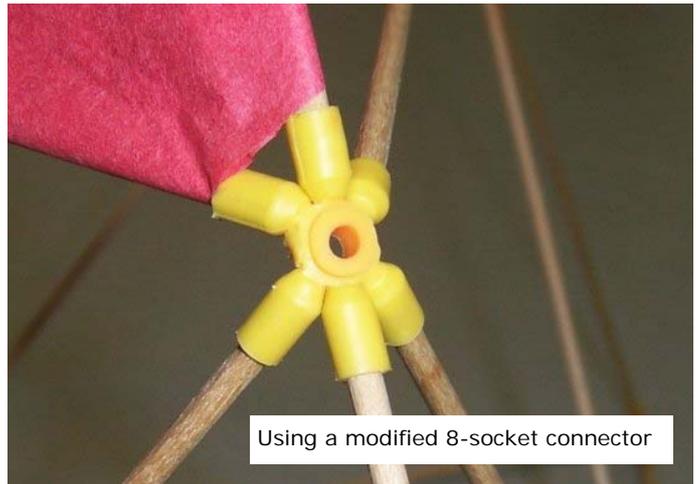
Take a look at the model shown above. This is a small version of the kite skeleton, using 4" sticks. It's far too small to be a kite, obviously, but it will show you the general way that the D-Stix connectors and sticks go together. For the real skeleton you will need 24 identical 10" sticks. The sticks should ideally be unpainted wooden dowels 1/8" in diameter. I no longer have the sticks from my original D-Stix kit, but found unpainted 1/8" dowels in 36" lengths at Home Depot. I have also seen them at craft stores like Hobby Lobby and Michael's.

In my kite I made the sticks 10" long. Why 10"? From the few fuzzy photos I have of my original 1969 kite, that seems to be the length I used. A 1970s vintage D-Stix kit I bought also has 12" sticks, but after some experiments I found that at 12", the kite is a little too flexible. Smaller than 10" makes the kite too heavy for the sail area it would have. 10" is about right.

Cutting the dowels can be done with a fine-toothed coping saw, but I had good results simply snipping them to length using a pair of diagonal pliers. Be reasonably careful to make the length the same for all sticks, but one-sixteenth inch variations or less won't hurt.

You will need ten D-Stix connectors for the kite: four

connectors with three sockets, and six connectors with six sockets. The D-Stix kit does not include a three-socket connector, but you can easily snip three ears from a six-socket connector using diagonal pliers. You can use the 6-socket D-Stix connectors for the six-stick joints, but I found that modifying an 8-socket connector by snipping off two sockets with a wire cutter works better. (Below.) The angles are a little more natural for the connector, and there's less stress tending to pull the sticks out of their sockets.



Using a modified 8-socket connector

The way the skeleton goes together is much easier to show you in photos than to explain here in the text. I'll be using the yellow model rather than the actual skeleton, but the arrangement of the sticks and the connectors is precisely the same.

### Assembling the Skeleton

Begin by building the top tetrahedron. Use a 3-socket connector for the top vertex, and 6-socket connectors for the other three vertices:



Tetra kite skeleton assembly, step 1

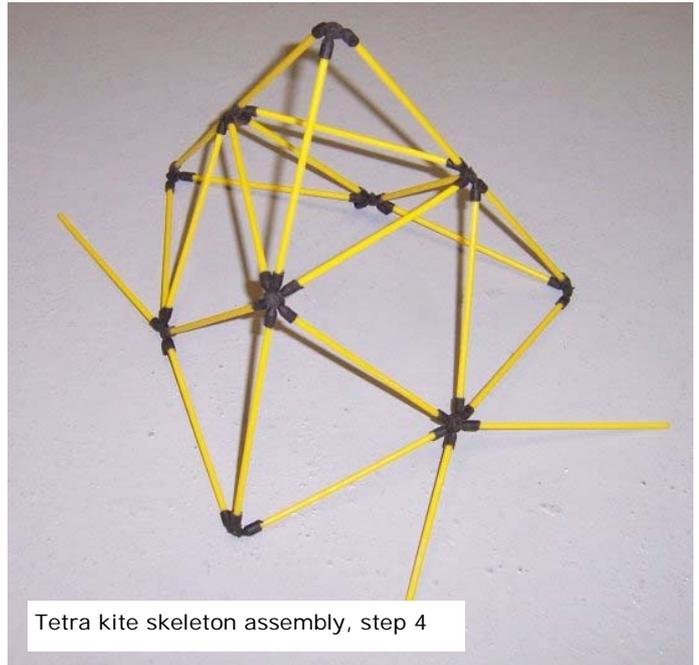
Add six more sticks to the lower three vertices of the top tetrahedron, as shown below:

## Build a D-Stix Tetrahedral Kite—Jeff Duntemann

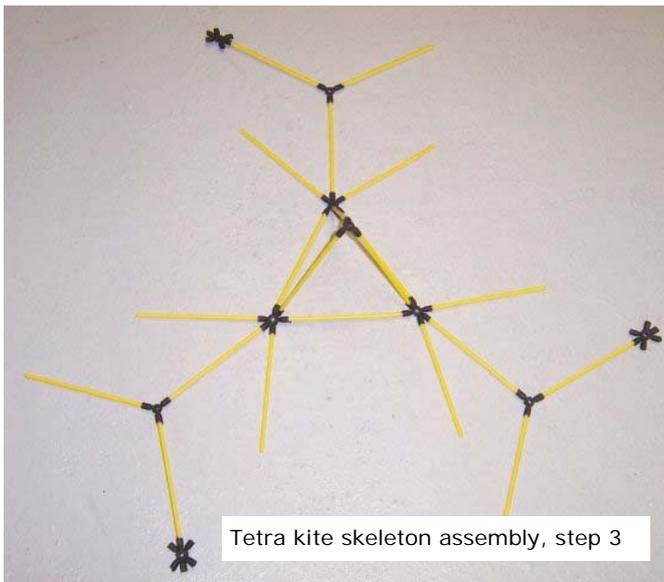


Tetra kite skeleton assembly, step 2

The next step is a little more complicated. Look carefully at the photo. We're adding the rest of the connectors to the lower vertices, plus all but three of the remaining sticks. Build this step flat on the table or floor, as shown here.



Tetra kite skeleton assembly, step 4

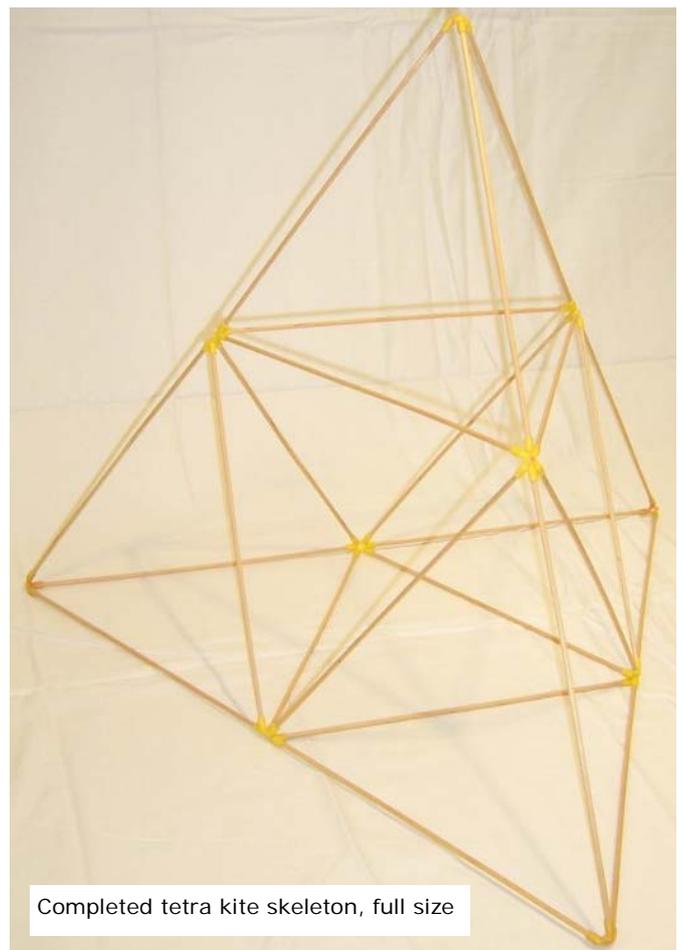


Tetra kite skeleton assembly, step 3

The next step is to "fold up" the sticks and connectors now lying flat on the table to form the lower three tetrahedrons. Three sticks will still be missing; these are the sticks that lie on the bottom of the kite. Short of taking a movie, there's no easy way to explain this. I suggest taking one of the three "dangling" 6-socket connectors and working counter clockwise, plugging in the loose ends of the sticks to form the lower tier of three tetrahedrons. (Look ahead to the next photo.) You may make a couple of mistakes, but they will very quickly be seen as mistakes, and the nice part about D-Stix is that you can yank them out again without damage to the parts.

The final step is to add the three last sticks and connect them across the bottom face of the overall tetrahedron. Look closely at the photo below and it should begin to make sense.

The photo below shows the finished skeleton of the full-sized kite:

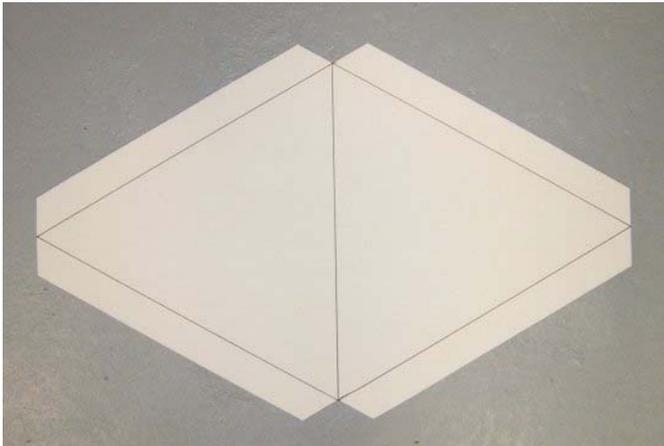


Completed tetra kite skeleton, full size

### Drawing the Sail Template

Each of the four cells has an identical sail. The sail consists of two 10" equilateral triangles joined at one edge, with 1" glue flaps extending beyond the unjoined edges. The best way to explain this (as with a lot in geometry) is simply to show you:

## Build a D-Stix Tetrahedral Kite—Jeff Duntemann



I drew the template on a sheet of thin Hobby Lobby poster board with a felt marker, a steel rule, and a quaint piece of ancient technology known as a "drafting triangle." Although I'm an old guy and that's how I learned to draw in the 1960s, I would have drawn the template in a drawing program like Visio if I had a printer that would print something that large. I don't, and you probably don't either. If you do, it might save you some time.

Art stores and craft stores (like Hobby Lobby) still carry drafting triangles, and you want one with a  $60^\circ$  angle. (The other common type has two  $45^\circ$  angles and a  $90^\circ$  angle, and that will not help you here, though it's a good thing to have in your kite making kit.) The two faces of each cell in the kite are equilateral triangles, and all the angles in an equilateral triangle are  $60^\circ$ .

Draw the joined equilateral triangles first. Then extend the edges as shown to form the flaps. The flaps are 1" wide, and are cut such that when you fold them over for gluing, they will not overlap.

After you've drawn all the lines, cut the template out of the poster board so that it looks like the one in the photo. Use a paper cutter to cut the long edges if you can. You want the edges to be straight and smooth so you can trace the sail shapes onto the paper you use to build your kite. The notches you can cut with a craft knife.

### Cutting Out the Cell Sails

Choosing a paper for any kite is tricky. Tissue wrapping paper usually comes in some very nice colours and patterns, but it's a little thin to use single-ply. Christmas wrap is often very fragile (it's for ripping, after all!) and kraft paper is a little too heavy for a kite that has a lot of sticks, as all tetras do. What I did now (and did in 1969 as well) is to use a double thickness of tissue wrapping paper that I bought in a package of several colours at Hobby Lobby.

The best way to cut the sails from a double thickness of tissue paper is with a sharp craft or mat knife. (I use an Exacto knife.) Unfold the doubled-up tissue onto a craft cutting board or a piece of scrap plywood and smooth it out flat. Tack the corners down with thumb tacks, doing your best to flatten out all creases. Lay the cardboard template over the tissue paper and carefully cut out the cell sail with a craft knife. Keep one hand on the tem-

plate so that the tissue remains flat while you're cutting. Creased tissue has a tendency to remain creased, and it's important to keep the creases "spread out" and the tissue as a whole flat on the board.

It's possible to trace the template with a pencil or marker and then cut out the cell sail with a scissors, but remember that you're working with two layers of tissue paper, and they must remain aligned while you cut! This is much trickier using a scissors with the paper in your hands than with the paper flat on a board, cutting with a craft knife.

Although I've never tried it (I like paper for kites!) it's certainly possible to use the template to cut out sails from plastic trash bags or Hobby Lobby Mylar wrapping sheets. Mylar is a good kite material and I've used it in other designs, but it doesn't glue easily, and when using Mylar you should use plastic tape to fasten the flaps.

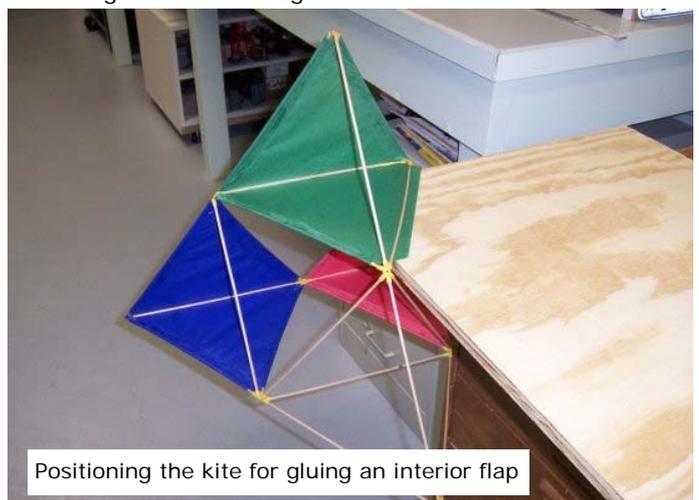
Remember that metallized Mylar is a no-no for kites, as it conducts electricity.

### Gluing the Sails to the Kite Skeleton

Remember that you're gluing two separate sheets of tissue paper that must remain completely aligned with one another. You need a liquid glue that will permeate the top sheet and bond it to the bottom sheet. Glue sticks will not do this! The two sorts of glue I have used successfully in tissue paper kite work are Elmer's Glue (or any similar liquid casein glue) and mucilage.

Ross mucilage in an applicator bottle. Mucilage was once available in any dime store but is now very uncommon. You can find it in some larger art stores or online. (Ross still makes it; Google on "Ross mucilage" to find dealers.) I like mucilage less because of the glue than because the bottles it comes in have a soft rubber "nose" with a flat face that makes it easy to spread a film of glue onto paper. It's non-toxic, has no odour, and the applicator makes it a lot less messy than spreading Elmer's Glue around with your fingers!

It's easiest to glue the flaps when the cell face you're working on is lying flat. Place the kite on a table or on the floor with the working face down, spread glue on each flap in turn, and fold it over, smoothing with your fingers. Remember that you're dealing with two layers of tissue, and make sure there's enough Elmer's glue or mucilage to soak through the tissue.



## Build a D-Stix Tetrahedral Kite—Jeff Duntemann

Gluing the flaps on the "interior" faces is a little trickier, because there's no way to make the interior sail faces lie flat against the table. I put a piece of scrap plywood on the table so that one corner stuck out a few inches, and then laid the interior face partly on the protruding corner of plywood, as shown above. Be careful handling the kite during the gluing operation, as very little of it is supported by the plywood. When all the flaps are glued, the kite proper is finished.

### Attaching the Bridle

The bridle points are the two ends of the lead edge of the kite. I tied the string through the centre holes of the connectors at those two ends. As with most kites, finding just the right point to attach the flying string to the bridle takes some cut-n-try.

Start by attaching the string about one-third of the way down the top of the bridle. Ideally, use a knot that will allow the flying string to be pulled up or down the bridle for adjustment. There's some finesse here: You have to tie the knot tight enough so that the pull of the kite will not change the attachment point, but not so tight that you break the bridle string while pulling the flying string up or down the bridle!

### To Tail or Not to Tail

The original D-Stix instructions, and most of the kite literature I have read, insist that tetrahedral kites fly well without tails. Well, that certainly hasn't been my experience. The original 1969 kite required a tail, and when I launched my new D-Stix tetra earlier this year I remembered why: It has a tendency to "lean" in one direction or another, and will eventually dive or loop if the wind gusts a little. I've had this same problem with other tetrahedral kites I've made over the years, and I can't quite explain it, but I think that the kite's weight has something to do with the problem. Tetras have a lot of stick in them and are quite heavy for their surface area, compared to simple bow kites. I think that this makes them more sensitive to small violations of balance. Or something.

Nonetheless, you should be ready with a good length of tail when you first take your kite out into the field. If you make good light "bow-tie" tail, even 8' of tail will not bog the kite down too much, and it will make for much less, er, lively flying. See my separate article on making kite tail for details and suggestions.

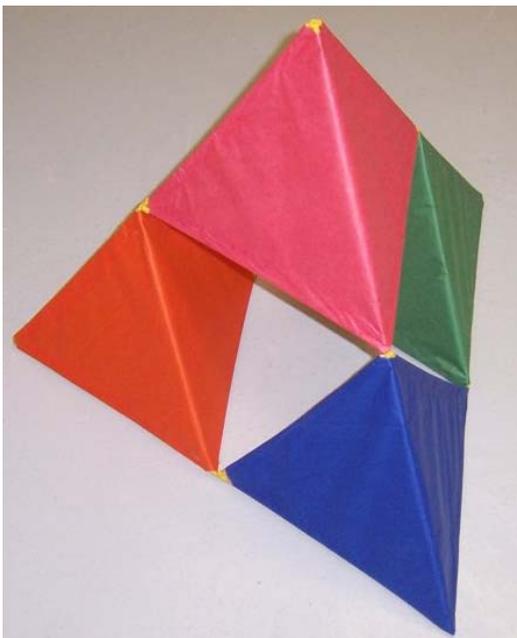
### Flying the Kite

It's good to remember that tetras have more in common with box kites than with bow kites, and I've found that they fly more like box kites too. They pull hard, they lean, and they respond aggressively to gusts. They have a tendency to dive, and that was the end of my original 1969 D-Stix tetra. At some point it turned over and headed for the ground at speed, and when it hit, it hit hard. One of the sticks broke, and there was much ripping of tissue. I intended to fix it, but, well, I had a new girlfriend, and suddenly kites were much less an obsession with me than they had been for the previous six or seven years.

It's important to get the kite above erratic ground winds as quickly as possible. This is not the sort of kite you can launch alone by simply throwing it into the air. Have an assistant, if possible. Send the kite back with your assistant at least fifty feet. Have him/her hold the kite up high, lead edge forward. Wait for a steady breeze and turn the kite loose. Walk back sharply to make it rise quickly. Once it gets above the shattered drafts near the surface it should settle down.

If it leans and looks like it may turn over, walk toward the kite until it rights itself. If it does too much of that, you may need to (carefully!) bring it down and add a little more tail, or wait for a day with a slightly lighter breeze.

So here it is, on its first flight in Colorado Springs, on a gorgeous fall day against a brilliant blue sky. It's a good kite that takes some skill to fly, and may well provide some adrenaline rush on a blustery day. It crashed on me later that day, but repairing it was no more difficult than plugging in two sticks that had popped out of their sockets and taping a small tear in one cell. That's the magic of D-Stix: The joints flex a little, and the kite can bounce pretty hard without breaking any sticks. Tissue is cheap (I cut out two spare cells from tissue when I made the kite, which is a good idea) and I will replace the torn cell before next summer.



*Reproduced with permission of Jeff Duntemann from [www.junkbox.com](http://www.junkbox.com).*

**Winter League**

These events are far less common these days but Solent Kite Flyers are still doing their bit to keep it all going.

A winter league is a one off local event usually held on a Sunday morning where sport kite flyers (two line or four line) turn up and get together and fly pre-set figures in the sky. The figures are marked by fellow flyers and at the end, everyone knows how they fared.

The marks go forward to a central keeper of all the events held around the UK and, from that, evolves a league table of how everyone did. The more events someone takes part in the better their chances as the scores are averaged across the flyer's best two attempts.

Most people, however just turn up to the one event to socialise with other flyers and have a bit of fun. The Southampton Winter League is a low key event where everyone at any level is most welcome. Solent Kite Flyers host the event as well as pre competition coaching if anyone wants a little guidance. As club members, Allan and Marilyn Potheary from Close Encounters Kite Display Team do most of the organising, training (if asked) and judging on the day usually accompanied by Doug Manners.

Fans of trick flying and associated competition are always welcome to add an event of their own on the end – just let Allan know and he will make sure there is room.

Due to the November event being cancelled through heavy rain and no wind the winter league will now be held at **Stokes Bay** nr Gosport, Portsmouth on **Sunday April 10<sup>th</sup>** – two weekends after the clocks change!

More details including the figures and how to fly them can be found at [www.closeencounterskites.co.uk](http://www.closeencounterskites.co.uk)

**In Memory of June Webster**

Barbara Cartwright (wife of TC) will be running in the Reading Half Marathon on March 20<sup>th</sup> 2011 in aid of Pancreatic Cancer Research.

Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund is a charity exclusively funding research into pancreatic cancer (which has a very low survival rate – only 3%) throughout the UK. They are a small charity with few overheads and the monies I raise through the Reading Half will go to fund research projects. The charity has received little research attention or funding in the past.

If you would like to sponsor me, my just giving page is: [www.justgiving.com/Barbara-Cartwright0](http://www.justgiving.com/Barbara-Cartwright0)

You can also contact Barbara directly at [babscartwright@googlemail.com](mailto:babscartwright@googlemail.com)

**Terracycle: Skittles Eco Kite**

When you fly this kite made from upcycled candy wrappers you can not only enjoy it, but you can enjoy the outdoors because you have helped the environment by keeping wrappers from ending up in a landfill.



Each year, millions of candy wrappers are needlessly discarded and end up in landfills. TerraCycle™ is proud to partner with Mars®/Wrigley® and Cadbury® to create a second life for used candy wrappers. Every time you enjoy a Mars®/Wrigley® or Cadbury® candy product, you can save the wrapper and

send it in to TerraCycle™, an eco-friendly innovator, and we will upcycle the pre and post-consumer waste material into cool new products.

**The Kite Car**

The Kite Car, or Wind Light Vehicle, is the latest in zero emissions concept or fantasy car created by Tsun-Ho Wang, Min-Gyu Jung & Sung-Je Do. Designed for the future, the Wind Light Vehicle allows three possible methods of propulsion. The giant wing on the hood is designed to swing upright so the vehicle can operate in a similar manner to a windsurfing board. The wing is also detachable and can be used like a kite-surfing wing in more extreme windy conditions.

When there isn't adequate wind to power the Wind Light Vehicle, there is an electric motor in each of the three tires. However, there are no technical statistics available on how the Wind Light Vehicle's electric motors will be charged. The possibilities are a charge through motion (the wheels turning), via wind power (although there doesn't seem to be room for batteries to store the energy) or through a plug-in system.

In order to function, the Wind Light Vehicle will need to be extremely lightweight in construction using composites and high strength aerospace materials. For best results, the driver would also need to be extremely light, perhaps similar in stature to a horse-jockey.



## Bits & Pieces

### Kite Aerial Photography Book

Michael Mikkelsen says "I volunteered to be the designer and publisher for the 2010 Worldwide Kite Aerial Photography Week book. There were 47 photographers that participated and submitted content for this year's book.

"This book has been my life for the past month, and have spent a few long weekends compiling the pictures and stories into a custom book. I decided to not use a template and created custom pages for each and every kiter. Special thanks to Brooks Leffler, Peter Boyton, and Ramiro Priegue for helping me proof-read the content.

"The images in this book are a showcase to Kite Aerial Photographers around the world. The KAP Discussion Board is the source of this kite family, and the book is currently in it's 3rd edition. I'll be happy to turn the torch over to the next designer in 2011!!

"A feature that was added to this year's book was a map showing where everyone around the world is located. These are not the locations of the places where the KAPers took pictures. I've also posted an interactive online version of this map for viewing at [www.kiteaerialphoto.org](http://www.kiteaerialphoto.org)."

Go to [www.blurb.com](http://www.blurb.com) and search for Kite Aerial Photography for this book and a selection of others.

### The Ripstop Shop/The Carbon Fibre Shop

These two new web sites are the creation of The Highwaymen.

The Carbon Fibre Shop does a range of carbon rod and tube (both wrapped and pultruded) plus fibreglass. Pultruded tube comes in 4mm—8mm and 1.5m lengths.

The Ripstop Shop does a variety of colours and weights. You can also find repair tape, other tapes and webbing plus telescopic poles.

[www.ripstopshop.co.uk](http://www.ripstopshop.co.uk) and [www.carbonfibreshop.co.uk](http://www.carbonfibreshop.co.uk). Or call 01455 230736.

### Soup up your Android.

There is a new User Interface in coming for the Android based phones. It's called Kite UI, and while it's still in a concept phase, it's nice enough to make us want to give it a go when it becomes available.

The Kite UI brings a refreshed look to the Android user interface. It's filled with live widgets similar to the HTC Sense UI, but offers a different sort of aesthetic. Simple, and clean. The video you'll find below should sum it up quite nicely. I really like the way the messaging system works from your home screen, making a dedicated messaging application almost irrelevant.

This has got to be one of the best looking Android



home replacements we've seen so far, but it's up to the dev community to make this possible. We're sure they will find the help they need, and we'll anxiously await to hear the progress of the project.

Other than the logo and the blue sky with clouds background there are unlikely to be any other kite related bits—unless you get involved!

### On Amazon

A **photographic print** (approximately 10" x 8") of "A general view of kites in the sky at the Portsmouth International Kite Festival on Southsea Common.!" Sold by Medio Storehouse, £10.00.

Also available is **A Different Freedom: Kite Flying in Western India : Culture and Traditions** by Mikita Desai. The description says "Kite flying is a sport native to South-East Asia and the Indian sub-continent. Symbolic of both freedom and control, the kite has been used as a metaphor in classical Indian literature, poetry, language and folklore. Uttarayan, a kite festival celebrated in the state of Gujarat, is not merely a religious observance, but also a time when young and old come together in celebration; a time when differences hold little meaning. The culture of flying and fighting kites, its history, politics, language, and the commerce that lies at the core of the Gujarati way of life provide an interesting backdrop to the celebration of Uttarayan. The buying of kites, preparations in the kitchen and the rooftop wars all form a part of this colourful festival. 'A Different Freedom' explores the world of the kite, as it travels and changes through the centuries, to its current form and the festivities associated with it in modern day Gujarat."

180 pages Price £33.24, the book has a number of interesting photos and prints.

Finally, coming out in March is **Paper Kites**—64 pages £8.99. The description says:

Paper Kites contains everything you need to make a four-cell tetrahedral kite, using 24 paper straws, a sheet of tissue paper cut into 4 sails, string and a handle. An accompanying book includes step-by-step instructions for building the basic 4-cell paper kite, along with details of how to expand it to a 16-, 32- or 64- cell version - and so on, ad infinitum. A CD-Rom provides you with printable sails designs, ranging from traditional dragons to contemporary manga cartoons. You'll soon have a high-flying handmade kite and the knowledge to build a whole lot more.

## The Highs and Lows of a Parafoil Passion—Hugh Blowers

So, by now, I was half way there. I had produced a parafoil where the artwork was as good as I was going to be able to manage, yet the performance was still not reliable enough. I have a less than happy relationship with any kite I cannot trust, especially at a festival or where it has to be anchored. The 'Painless Parafoil' was OK up to a point, but I was still searching for 'parafoil perfection'. I knew I had it in my Hagaman's, but I wanted to see the same degree of stability created by my own sewing. The 'Eagle of Paradox' graphic that Reza Ragheb used on his kites had sorely tempted me, and he did produce a foil with this design, but there were far too many noughts on the end of the price tag. What I needed was a plan.

Kite flyers are famous for copying designs by measuring or drawing round what already exists, but this does not really work with foils, as everything is flexible, a great deal is hidden and it would be impossible to measure to the degree of accuracy required. None of the published plans were anywhere near good enough, so I was stumped. But then, a stroke of luck. A dear friend, and internationally known kitemaker was selling up, and amongst his collection was a folder containing three sets of the most detailed plans and instructions it would be possible to imagine. While George Ham's was the most comprehensive and interesting, it was the drawings by Doug Hagaman that clinched it. I knew the kites, how they were built and tuned and here were the precise dimensions.

The graphic was beyond me, so I commissioned a bottom sheet, using a native Thunderbird design, which is similar to the Eagle of Paradox, but sufficiently different to avoid any accusations of plagiarism. While the appliqué work was being done I cut patterns from 1/8<sup>th</sup> card and made a series of nylon rollers for adding hem allowances, ideal for the profiles and quick elsewhere. Very simply they are a circle of sheet material, plastic, metal or even plywood, with a diameter double the size of the total hem allowance. Drill a hole in the middle for a pencil, put pencil through aforesaid hole and run round the edge of the pattern. If you make another, half size then that gives a line for turning over the first layer of the triple hem. Very quick and simple, no measuring, no errors, no bending of rods for curves.

As soon as I picked up the skin I knew I had a problem. Owing to miscommunication, the graphic had been made too big, so that it would not fit my patterns. As there was already a considerable investment, I would have to make some adjustments. I could not make the cells any wider, but I could stretch them a bit with new profile patterns, which I did. By now, stitching a parafoil to the degree of accuracy and quality I required was not dif-

ficult, just time consuming. I would aim to do something each day, either preparing a seam or stitching. Yes, I do check my bobbins so that I do not run out halfway down a seam. The really tedious bit is bridling a flat rigged foil, as every bridle length has to be calculated using Pythagoras and square roots, and the numbers are big, especially on a 120. Bridles are made in pairs with an overhand knot in the centre and the allowance for a double sheet bend marked off at each end. Having labelled each set as they are made, they can then be attached to the loops and gathered together for the secondary bridles to be put on. Again there are two ways of doing this. The most common way is to tie off each secondary bridle to the tow point so that the bottom of the kite is absolutely flat and then adjust the flying angle from there, but this involves untying and retying the knots every time an adjustment is made. I use a cathedral system where the back sets of bridles are connected by a loop, which is then connected to the front bridles by another longer loop. A tow ring is then larks headed onto this loop and you have your adjustment, by moving the ring. This does work for any kite with multiple bridles and can be made so that all bridles adjust automatically to stay in tension.

How did my fifth attempt at parafoil building fair then? Paradoxically (pun intended) I was still only half way there. I had a parafoil that performed perfectly in just about any wind I dared fly in, but the graphics did not work. The panels of colour were not bold enough and the detail was lost in the sky. Not what I had hoped for. I flew it at a local festival and a member from another club came up and intimated that he really liked it, but did not imagine that it was for sale. It was from that moment on. He went away, the happy owner of a lovely kite with slightly iffy graphics, while I had covered my costs, but was back to square one, flying the rainbow at festivals. Which is how I came to be on the roof of an amusement arcade in Weymouth, but that is another story. (If pressed I could retell it for a small fee)

Oh, all right then, I do not need too much persuasion. The story started at a paid gig the Thorpe Kite Flyers attended at a local private school. The site was magnificent apart from the mature trees bordering the site on three sides. A deciduous plantation downwind and conifers left and right. It was intimated that as kite flyers we should do just that, so a cunning plan was put into action. I ran out around 300 feet of line from my foil and then four of us set off at a determined trot, pulling the kite up. It was hard work until we cleared the tress, and then, whap, we were into some serious wind. The rainbow is ultra reliable so there it remained for several hours, salvaging some pride. We must have a slight diversion here, cos an

## The Highs and Lows of a Parafoil Passion—Hugh Blowers

amusing convention has built up that decrees that when anyone else gets a kite similar to mine, they stipulate that it must be 'bigger than Hugh's'. Another club member appeared with a similar rainbow, new, but 'bigger than Hugh's' and suggested that we could try it. I pulled mine down and we launched the new 50. Up it went to about 250 ft, turned sharp right and dived straight down into the plantation. This was odd to say the least, but then came the admission. The new owner had changed the bridling to make it flat rigged! This explained why it was in the top of the trees, but offered no suggestion as to how we might get it down. Having arrived in the rough vicinity some enthusiastic tugging got it down through the twigs to a lower level, where the climbers came into their own. Some athletic work got them into contact with the kite, but it was now stuck firm via the bridles. Judicious work with a Swiss army knife got the kite back to earth and I had the job of re bridling it, back to crown rig.

What this serves to illustrate is that a crown rigged Sky Bums Rainbow is virtually bomb proof, so it is what I used at festivals for a line of carp or anything else that need lifting. With this in mind I was using a builders bag of sand as an anchor at Weymouth with 1100lb line to the kite. Just getting the carp line out and my flying line fell to earth. Main line cut through just under the ring, but the kite was in the crowd just along the beach. I was not best pleased by this time but I tied on again and off we went. No one around that presented any danger, so start laying out the carp line. Yes, you guessed it, flying line falls to earth, but no sign of the kite. Oh \*\*\*\*\*. A little while later someone comes up and kindly points out my parafoil on top of the amusement arcade. The council were prepared to retrieve the kite for £70, which was very kind as it was them putting on the festival. Fritz Jansma reckoned we could get onto the roof of the arcade and get it back for free. We did not get arrested, although we did attract a great deal of attention, and with some judicious work with a pole and a nail, untangled the bridles from the myriad of coloured bulbs that decorated the establishment. At this point we retired to the nearest hostelry, bringing curses down on the head of whoever found it amusing to keep cutting my kite down.

This brings me to the conclusion of my parafoil building exploits. Lynn enjoys flying parafoils, but she demands one that she can launch and fly from hand, is well mannered and stable, and above all can be trusted. Could I build her one, and could I appliqué the bottom as well? One does not ignore a request like this; if one knows which side the proverbial bread is buttered on. The chosen graphic was another Nagel image, but this time,

just a pair of eyes looking straight down. Strangely, it was more difficult to produce than a fully detailed face, but I got there in the end. The kite was straight from my original patterns, stitched in record time, as it was all white so stitch lines were easy to work to and handed over with a flourish.

So, how did my sixth attempt at parafoil building fair then? Well, if truth be told, after many years, and numerous attempts, I had succeeded in my quest. The graphic worked, the kite was perfectly stable in any wind that Lynn is likely to fly it in, and I am happy with the accuracy of the stitching. It had been a long journey, I had learned a great deal and I would hate to think of the yardage of hems and seams I had sewn in the process. I could not see myself building another one though; just enjoy flying those I have.

Of course, life is never that simple and knowing my passion, another enthusiast offered me an original Jalbert, which I accepted with a degree of excitement. The excitement turned to horror when it arrived. You recall that Jalbert developed his parafoil for military use, well, what I did not explain was that he intended to use them as cargo lifters. Three parafoils to lift a shipping container, and this was one of them. Totally unmanageable, although I did give it a trial launch, just to frighten myself, which it did. My next foray was at the other end of the scale entirely. As a diversion from building full sized foils, Ed and Bonnie Wright from the US were producing miniatures at just one sq ft area, but with 18 cells and a commensurate number of ventrals and bridles and I managed to get one made for me as a piece of whimsy. Fun but not terribly practical.

Something that was very practical and provided several surprises came directly from Jody Hagaman. Many years ago, Doug had produced a design for a 5sq ft foil, which could be built in workshop sessions that he was invited to run. It was never produced commercially, but Jody and her husband Terry, decided to build a few for friends that had joined in the commemorative fly ins. Each was custom built to individual colour schemes and are delightful little kites, but what I discovered was that at just 5 sq ft they can be flown in any wind, and at Bristol I was having to use 500lb line just to hold on. Imagine, a tiny kite like this, lifting an 18ft turbine, quite bizarre.

So that is about it, but if anyone wants to know why a parafoil should be only be used as a kite and a flow form for jumping out of aeroplanes, rather than the other way round, then I have theories about that as well.

## Events News

### Roy Broadley Kite Workshop

Cliddesden Village Hall, March 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> 2011.

Please note we only have a few spaces remaining, so 1<sup>st</sup> come 1<sup>st</sup> served!! (I have the list of those already booked, so just contact me, you know who you are!!).

Roy Broadley of Kites Up will be doing a workshop on the CODY, at the Cliddesden Village Hall, on the above dates. It will be two days-stopping for lunch at the Hall, as in previous workshops, for a small donation. Tea and coffee will also be available.

Places are limited so on a first come first served basis. A deposit is required in advance to ensure we cover costs. You will be provided with a kit to work from, but will need to bring a sewing machine (plus the usual bits and pieces-scissors, pencil, stitch ripper, etc). We won't be far from the Kites Up chapel, so anything forgotten could be within reach! Given time (and weather!) we hope to fly them later in the day on the Sunday, so please bring flying line (150lb line).

The cost for the workshop is £ 80.00 per head, of which £30 will be required as a deposit.

Please note, this is not a beginners workshop. This kite has a 2m wingspan, and framed in Carbon.

Call to reserve a place.

Please make cheques payable to Kites Up, and send to The Chapel, Farleigh Road, Cliddesden, Basingstoke, Hants, RG25 2JL.

Tel: 01256 812487

Payment can be by card if preferred)

### North Hants Kiter's Jolly Up 8

April 16/17<sup>th</sup> 2011

*Please note this is NOT the weekend before Weymouth, as that will be Easter.*

Where has the time gone! Come and join us for another FUN Weekend of Kite Flying for Kite Fliers! The site is located in the village of Cliddesden, just south of Basingstoke (not far from J6 of the M3).

On site camping is available from Friday evening onwards (£7 per tent/camper for the weekend). The Saturday evening BBQ worked well again, so we will do the same format. (£6.50 and bring your plate and cutlery please!) We can do Jacket Potatoes for those interested on the Friday evening, and Bacon rolls available both mornings.

The Auction will once again be held on the Saturday evening, and any donations gratefully received before or on the week-end. We hope to run the Beer Lift again as it proved to be popular, same rules as before. We hope to add one more Competition idea, all to be revealed on the weekend!

Roy's Refreshment Tent will be open for Business, normal rules apply..

For further info, please either contact:

Roy on 07778 352825

Colin on 07770 338419

Or e-mail roy@kitesup.co.uk

You can pre-order your tee-shirt / poloshirt, just email if interested in doing so.

(The dates for this same event taking place later this year again are Aug 6 / 7<sup>th</sup> 2011)

Please Note: this is NOT a Buggy/Boarding weekend, thank-you.

### Swindon Kite Festival, Lydiard Park

May 7th & 8th 2011

As reported in the last issue, the 2011 Swindon Kite festival will be held at Lydiard Park on 7/8 May. This is the first of a three-year agreement with this site for the weekend following the first May bank holiday; so you know where the festival will be until 2013 provided nothing goes wrong. Access for flyers and traders will be available from mid-day on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> and the site must be vacated by mid-day on Monday 9<sup>th</sup>.

The format will be the same as previous occasions on this site, sadly only space for two arenas but we are increasing the time in the display arena for multi-line displays. Please let us know if you are coming and would like to do a routine. There will be the usual mix of traders and caterers and of course the club marquee with the raffle and a surprise guest to siphon the money out of your pockets. It will contain the expected "refreshments".

There will be sessions over the weekend when we have a mass fly of individual kites and currently we have decided on the "Morgan Mega-deltas" so if you have one please bring it along and even if you can't fly it yourself give someone else a chance. There will be several there that will be looking for flyers. Also if you have attended any of our workshops please bring the kites made at those as we may have a session with one of those designs.

Camping this year is on-site in the top corner beyond the single line arena but is very limited in size. It has taken protracted negotiation with the council to obtain this and they have imposed strict conditions— They must have the names of anyone staying on site and the registration numbers of vehicles. WHKF have to submit these two weeks before the event so there is a registration form available on our web site so please complete this and return it with your remittance before 16<sup>th</sup> April. Please do not turn up on Friday night and ask if you can stay.

Additionally there must be no open fires or tray bar-

## Events News

B-Qs on site. The wardens will be patrolling to check for these and extinguish any found. However on site close to the play park there are bar-B-Q stands that can be hired, suitable for parties of up to forty.

Finally any damage will have to be repaired by us so please be careful, if the ground is wet, not to leave tyre marks.

White Horse are very sorry about these restrictions but they are imposed on us by the hirers and if we want to enjoy future events here, we all have to comply.

### Suffolk Kite Festival at Rougham

As some of you may already be aware, over the last few years the Suffolk Kite Festival held at Rougham Airfield has made a loss and has been the victim of bad weather. In 2009 we lost over £6000 and this year 2010 despite adding an additional attraction of a 4 x 4 show we still made a loss.

The owners of Rougham airfield together with the Suffolk Kite Flyers have therefore decided not to hold the festival in 2011, we are however hoping to return back in 2012 with a much larger festival.

There is nobody more disappointed than myself at the cancellation of our festival. Rougham is a great site and probably the largest festival site available in the UK. One of the other main problems has been the lack of public support and this is probably down to the fact that Rougham Airfield is a private site and one has to pay to come in. Most other festivals are held on council owned land and are free to enter plus they are often sponsored by the local councils to promote tourism.

Rougham is also not near a major city or situated on the coast like many other festival sites which have the advantage of tourism. Bury/Rougham is only a small market town so it has been very difficult and expensive to attract the public from further away.

May I take this opportunity to thank all the teams, flyers, clubs, traders, STACK, members of the Suffolk Kite Flyers club and Rougham Estate Farms for supporting the festival over the last 13 years.

13 is definitely a unlucky number for us but with fingers, legs and flying lines crossed we hope to return back in 2012 with our 14<sup>th</sup> Suffolk Kite Festival with your support and help – thanks.

Martin Corrie

### Basingstoke Kite Festival

4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> June 2011 at Down Grange Sports Complex, Pack Lane, Basingstoke. From 10am to 5 pm (both days).

Come along and help us to celebrate our 19<sup>th</sup> Festival and join in the fun! Guests will be from Home and abroad and as well as things going on in the display

arena, there will be the usual array of activities, along with various Kite & Food traders. A raffle is held over the weekend with lots of donated kite related prizes, donations gratefully received!

On Saturday evening we will have our usual Social Get Together in the marquee, and all are welcome. (There is a small fee if you would like to join in with the Buffet, well worth it!)

Camping is available on the Friday and Saturday evenings @ £5 for the weekend (payable on the weekend) and there are showers and toilet facilities on site.

Contact: Alan Cosgrove (Main Organiser) 01256 421800 or Roy Broadley (Kites Up) 01256 812487

### Teston Bridge Country Park nr Maidstone

June 11 & 12 and August 13 & 14

Having inherited the mantle of Ron Dell for co-ordinating the Teston Kite week-ends, Kent Kite Flyers could not have wished for a better start, by having two week-ends which were blessed with good weather and reasonable wind. These two events over the years have become known as somewhere kiteflyers are able to relax, meet, socialise and generally chill out whilst flying kites. There has never been any competitive edge to the kite flying nor any organised demonstrations, just time to fly for enjoyment. As well as mingling with the public and hopefully introducing the fun of kite flying to them, so that they would continue either within their families or perhaps by becoming a member of a Kite club local to them. Kent Kite Flyers have continued the good working relationship with the Park Rangers which Ron had achieved. Any-one who has attended will be aware how relaxed and fun these events have been over the years.

Camping as previously will be from the Friday afternoon through to the Monday afternoon, for which there is no defined fee, but there is an expectation of a reasonable donation to the Park Rangers, normally collected on the Sunday morning. These monies go towards providing funds for the additional facilities at the Park for which there is no direct contribution from the County Council. Access to the flying field for cars on both flying days will be restricted between the hours of 10am and 5pm. There is a car park on site for which the charge is very reasonable for all day stay.

A big thank you to all kiteflyers who have supported the weekendss over the years and hope that you continue to support and encourage other kiteflyers to come and join in.

Malcolm Ford, Kent Kite Flyers. e-mail Malcolmf@kentkiteflyers.org.uk Tel 07840086770 Also Syd Bennett e-mail: syd.bennett@kentkiteflyers.org.uk

## Event Reports—Hugh and Lyn Blowers

### An 'all ticket affair' Portsmouth 2010.

What is it about the psyche of anyone in any sort of official capacity in England that requires them to make life as difficult as possible for the rest of us. As for many others present, our entire weekend was dominated by battles with the security over parking. It was not as if we were trying to do something illegal or different, but wherever the cars were parked, even though the Society passes were displayed, they were in the wrong place, should be somewhere else, can't use that pass, you will get a ticket etc, etc, etc. Bad enough for the English with their knowledge of the officious ways of security staff and parking attendants, but for the foreign visitors it must have been incomprehensible? Welcome to Southsea! Mind you, some people make us an easy target, as the camping area was already pretty full by the time the site opened officially at 10 am on Friday? All this did detract from the festival though, as there was the constant nagging doubt as to how many of us would find nasty tickets on their windscreens. In the end it was far fewer than threatened, but still soured the weekend for those unlucky enough to have received the attentions of the peaked cap brigade.

Putting together a guest list and programme for a festival such as Portsmouth is a mammoth task, yet Gill and Jon always manage to come up with a delightful mix of old and new faces, representing some of the finest makers, artists and flyers the kite world has to offer. The excess baggage and amazing quantities of ripstop that arrived from Germany Holland and Belgium gave testament to what we could expect. Sadly, Sonia Kruger and daughter Celina of Berg Adler did not arrive with as many bags as they left home with, which does seem about par for the course at present. Saturday started with a sky rapidly filling before many of us had finished our 'full English's'. This did cause something of a local difficulty as the anchors had been placed the day before, but the council did not arrive to set out the arenas until well into the morning, meaning that possession of the best parking spots and anchors was not quite the advantage it might have seemed. Worst off were Jurgen and Thorsten of the Noordhorn Flyers whose chosen anchor put them directly over the display arena for the day. The introduction of a Rev practice arena at the bottom of the site pushed all the large kites into the one single line arena, which generated a deal of muttering and puttering about lack of space to fly, but that is also par for the course!

The display arena provided the normal mix of sports kite and single line slots for George and Andy to comment on, but with a few added twists. Those in the south are used to seeing Carl Wright flying three kites, and those in t'north Graham Lockwood. Portsmouth saw them brought together, with the addition of Holger Brandt to provide a European perspective. Only needed Bryan Cattle from the east to complete the set.

A new idea was the inflatable 'toons' gathering together cartoon characters from all over, brilliantly



transposed into ripstop. Bugs Bunny gave our commentary team every possible excuse for silly voices and even sillier puns, which they embraced with a certain enthusiasm. Pedersen's cat looked relatively small at Berck, but significantly larger in the confines of Southsea Common and Pedersen ruined the tanning prospects of a large number of spectators when he was finally released from the confines of his stuff bag. Unfortunately many of the assembled 'toons' were too big to be brought into the arena, so stayed amongst the sea of inflatables further down the field. It was lovely to see Pedro Gonzales as he has not been travelling a great deal of late, and he had brought with him the first, fully printed, inflatable mask. The possibility for this technique is almost endless, although it does threaten the careers and livelihoods of the makers and artists that do it with paint, dye and appliqué.

Those that are that way inclined were to the fore with a selection of art kites. John Pollock is renowned for his images that use very dense colour that display to very good effect. Portraits of cows are the speciality of Jeltje Baas and several of these delightful faces were presented to the crowd. Michelle Gressier was represented by a quartet of Dagues flown by the Becles Bunch, all with long flowing tails that take longer to roll up than they do to fly. Christian and Petra Harms have applied some 'alternative thinking' to kite design and come up with some fascinating shapes that did not quite get the exposure they deserved. This is where guest flyers so often need a helping hand.

A most welcome departure at this year's festival was the creation by Hayley Gillingham and Roy Broadley of a 'green room' hospitality tent. This was the equal of those more commonly seen at Henley and Ascot, even to the wicket gate. The sidewall of the tent was adorned with a huge print to show just what is now achievable with this medium. Thanks to Hayley and Roy for the lubrication throughout the weekend. Another plus was the sandwiches at lunchtime that have definitely taken a turn for the better.

The Rok fight provided a few interesting moments with one well know 'lurker' actually joining in the

## Event Reports—Hugh and Lyn Blowers

fight, which in itself was unusual and a member of a newly established camping group flying a kite. This turned out to be false information as they had just bought the jacket because they liked it. In the end, Sara, not Longbottom as announced, won the fight by the simple expedient of whipping her ever-loving's legs out from underneath him. A tactic seemingly unnoticed by chief judge Keith Griffiths.

Another range of art kites was followed up with an idea tried out at Fano, a mass fly of Bols. The arrival of 4x4s and vans in the arena indicated that this was not going to be quite the affair some were used to. The bag that Jurgen dragged over should have given us a clue though. The ripstop just kept coming and coming and when finally inflated gave serious concern for the security of the anchor. Jan from Kite Passion scorned the idea of a solid anchor, draping two large bols round himself that kept him busy. The Jos Valcke version being flown by Lynn Blowers was plenty enough to hang on to but was dwarfed by the Noordhoorn monsters.

In just a couple of years, the regimented Rev mega team or grid fly has come of age with a clear understanding of the organisation of the flyers on the ground building the grid more effectively. What made it even more interesting were the calls from Steve Hoath being broadcast over the PA. No doubt as experience grows, the manoeuvres will develop, and the number of 'stacks' increase. The arrangement does mean that viewing from immediately upwind or downwind is almost essential to gain the full impact. It is fast becoming the number 1 spectacle at a festival.



The EDO in all its incarnations is a very popular kite as it is ideal as a canvas for decoration, and with the

split bridles also makes an eminently controllable kite. The only downside is the multiplicity and length of aforesaid bridles, just made to tangle. The condom can save a lot of heartache in this direction as opposed to Dutch lacing. Albert Trinks has some powerful images on his kites and John Pollock produced a remarkable self-portrait. For the first time for a while, the Beccles Bunch had assembled their matched set of Japanese maidens at their toilette. These were all stitched by Helen Howes from original prints and then sparred and bridled by yours truly. Didn't half use a lot of string, but they do look superb. Sparred kites still have a lot to offer to festivals!

The traditional barbecue and auction brought another brilliant day at Portsmouth to a close although those that have invested in lightshow kites kept the sky lit up for a while longer. Not a lot to grumble about, apart from the on going parking that threatened to get even nastier for the following day.

Sunday was to prove a different kettle of fish entirely with a very brisk breeze coming in from the west, which markedly affected the number of kites being flown and the number of flyers coming into the arena for displays. Of course, there are some kites that either through size or style are not at their best in such conditions, but there are many that will fly quite happily even in a great deal stronger wind. The sports kite demos continued unabated with Close Encounters, Spectrum, Flying Squad, the Decorators and Airheads all working extremely hard throughout the day. An experiment that still needs a bit of work was having Carl, Graham and Holger each flying two kites perform together. It may not have been the first time this has ever happened, but was yet another coup for Gill and Jon. What it did illustrate was the willingness of people to 'have a go' when conditions are not ideal. This was certainly clear by those that were prepared to put up kites in the arena slots, including something again not seen for a long while, which was a set of four Stretch Tucker big cat parafoils flown by the Beccles Bunch.



## Event Reports—Hugh and Lyn Blowers

Those that travelled to Southsea Common may be wondering why there has been no mention of the dinosaur so far? For those that did not, you might be wondering, what dinosaur? As part of a travelling exhibition, a team of Serbians had built a life size dinosaur from steel and GRP. Where it was sited it looked like a real 'kite eater', yet in the end it proved a suitable target for every Rev flyer present. They plastered it from head to tail creating all sorts of alternative prehistoric monsters. Probably the most effective kite or kite display was not just one animal but a veritable shoal by courtesy of Martin Blais from Canada. He has taken the clown fish theme to an extreme with a line of these leading up to a large flowform with a reef graphic surrounded by more clown fish. The flowform was stabilised by a pair of sharks flying behind it. Martin also had a very large bol that possibly used up the remainder of the world's supply of clown fish. It was no surprise that he won the kite of the festival award.

With the sky looking very threatening Andy and George brought the festival to an end, summoning flyers for the presentation. Some of the awards are a little tongue in cheek and others more serious, so it was a pleasure to see Felix Mottram recognised for all that he has done to make the Rev 'grid fly' a workable reality. The smallest team, Sonia and Celine Kruger won the team award and TC the field-directing award, and well deserved that was as he had kept us hard at it all weekend. Given the current climate, it was something of a relief to hear Jon confirm that the festival would go ahead again next year. Bring it on, although without the parking hassle.

### **A festival of 'two halves' Bristol 2010**

A careful balance of the cost to enjoyment ratio usually determines our attendance at festivals. To some it is their business, others their obsession but for us it is the level of enjoyment and involvement that determines whether we travel, and that can be just down the road or halfway across the country. Having attended every event at Weymouth and Bristol since 1992 we came to the conclusion that the cost, and inevitable trauma of thrashing round the M25 every time was no longer balanced by the enjoyment being derived from the event. This was an entirely personal perspective and no reflection on the festivals yet not by all accounts a unique view. Having shared our hut and some very happy flying experiences with Avril and Martin Baker at Berck earlier in the year, we found ourselves travelling round the M25 and down the M4 again. That bit does not get any more pleasant it has to be said, but the festival more than made up for it.

With the prospect of cost sharing between Portsmouth and Dieppe, Avril had brought together a great deal of talent, and put together a programme that offered us maximum involvement and interest. The prospect obviously appealed to the population of Bristol as well as the whole site was absolutely

packed as Paul Reynolds welcomed everyone to Saturday's flying. Peter Lynn, Andrew and Kathleen Beattie along with Robert Van Weers and George and Jackie Penney pumped acres of ripstop into the sky on the downwind side of the site, while the massed ranks of Wigsley's Wings occupied the upwind side.

Karl and Sara Longbottom assembled a veritable forest of carbon poles, each adorned with a long and flowing white banner, which looked most effective against the dark background of the surrounding trees. In a blast from the past, Jackie had dug out a shoal of Frank Schwieman fish of various sizes that she put together as a ground display close to the crowd. A large area was set aside for Anne Harris' ever growing selection of inflatable structures although, unfortunately, Anne was unable to be present this year to oversee this ever popular feature.

The charity being supported by this year's festival was the local air ambulance, which flew into the site each day, carefully landing near to Jerry and Carolyn Swift's bear bunging rig. They both had a very busy weekend being kept hard at it doing drops for charity and then having to transfer the rig to the main arena for their usual display of parachuting whimsys. The air ambulance was also represented in the arena by a display of bols, although it was lack of wind, rather than too much that was the problem this time. The work of the air ambulance helicopter was put firmly into perspective during the afternoon when it was called to an emergency, leaving the field without rising above the contours of Ashton Court.

The first of the spectacular arena slots was a birds and bees session with a host of Didier Ferment inspired butterflies jostling with George Peters' Cloud Birds, Bees, Wasps and Dragon Flies. Keeping a sensible distance away was John Browning with his train of Global bees and Karl Longbottom with an even larger train of more conventional oriental versions. This was quickly followed by 'Paint The Sky' featuring, as the title suggests, painted and dyed kites only. It is a very long time since four Steve Brockett pieces have been seen together and this served to remind us what an amazing kite artist he was, and how sad it is that he is no longer active. Natalie Reynolds flew her delightful winged image, while Hugh Blowers was deputised to fly Lynn's Misty high above the field. George Penney had possibly the most iconic of Steve's creations, the square, 'Where The Wind Blows' and the show was completed by Martin Baker with another winged picture in the sky that he had commissioned some 18 years ago as a gift for Avril, following the birth of their daughter Holly. Just to illustrate the level of the talent of kite artists on display, there were also numerous examples of work by Claudio Capelli being flown, both by him and other owners and co-opted flyers. John Pollack and Dave Butler added their very colourful images to one of the most imaginative kite displays seen for a very long time.

Next up, in more ways than one were a 'heavenly host' of Nick James' angels, mostly in trains along-

## Event Reports—Hugh and Lyn Blowers

side a whole range of Martin Lester products, including his latest creation, the Cheshire cat, more commonly known as 'Lesters Lips'. This was another example of the need to bring in flyers to showcase kites and a wonderful chance to fly the very best pieces available. That it was all appreciated by the fantastic crowd was the ever more difficult trip into the main arena. Bristol has some remarkable crowds and this year was no exception, judging by the throngs surrounding the traders, concession stalls and display areas.

To coincide with the Centenary of the Bristol Aircraft Company George Webster and Paul Chapman had put together a 2 part tableaux to illustrate the history of western kites over a similar period. Whilst George did his best with his usual knowledgeable commentary a certain lack of organisation on the kite front detracted from what could have been a unique celebration. As discovered in the past items like these require intense planning to ensure enough relevant examples and flyers.



Two subsequent slots demonstrated this very clearly. The mass ascents of Carl Robertshaw serpents is so effective, yet only works if there are enough flyers and enough kites, either privately owned or supplied via Carl. Similarly, Janneke Groen had persuaded the Decorators to 'change sides' for a while to fly her Sodes, creating an equally impressive display that would not work if left to individual flyers. At the other extreme was Carol Jensen from Curacao who seemed to be ignored for most of the weekend as she sat making her kites from scratch from bamboo and coloured cellophane. It is a style of kite making common in the Caribbean and South America and results in the most extraordinary shapes, yet these creations would not be showcased.

The artistic kite theme was expanded for the afternoon session to include appliquéed and cellular kites bringing together even more of the beautiful creations present. Robert Brassington has a seemingly inexhaustible supply of organza-tailed trains with his usual exquisite colour gradations. Rene Maier from Switzerland and Heinrich Hohman from Germany

have all sorts of interesting shapes and styles in their armoury, while Kelvin Woods' Debbie Harry EDO takes some beating in any company. Gerard Clement has a fascinating collection that he has built up over the years, including his monster stained glass window, based on the modular concepts of Andre Cassagnes. For bright, colourful and powerful images, it is difficult to compete with those created by Michael Goddard from Derbyshire. By gathering together 'guest flyers' he was able to put several of these very bold kites into the air at the same time, which never fails to impress. For me though, the kite of the weekend came from Michel-Marie Bougard. A simple circoflex in white, but with a needle threaded through its centre and an extremely long 'thread' tail flowing out behind. An exercise in lateral thinking, yet so effective.

Something of a mystery to us ordinary mortals is how Scratch Bunnies manage to put on such amazing routines when, as their name suggests, their line up is flexible both in numbers and personnel. I can do no better than quote Avril's programme notes. "Breathtaking synchronised team routines choreographed and flown to music." This is only part of it, as apart from their competition routine they never seem to fly the same twice. Is it all done through transference from Carl, or are they just the most remarkable group of sports kite flyers?

The AKF are always much in evidence with their club and themed slots, as well as the usual battles with Roly. They also had a rota for flying some of their larger kites in the single line arena throughout the weekend. This year they were marshalled with military precision by Helen Pearce, their new chairwoman. One of the group likened her to Boudicca in the way she organised things, and the thought of Helen in a bronze breastplate, charging around in a chariot with flashing knives has pleasantly passed many an otherwise dull moment.

The day was brought to a close with the traditional Festival of the Sea Finale, but the wind had already made its departure, leaving a lot of us struggling to either get things in the air, or in the case of Peter Lynn and the Beatties, keeping them there. In the true spirit of kite flying and with a bit of skulduggery most things were flown, but not necessarily at the same time.

The Saturday evening meal and auction at Bristol is legendary, but sometimes Avril must tear her hair out when things beyond her control go wrong. This year was to be a hog roast and very nice it sounded, except it ended up stuck on a motorway somewhere, or rather the van carrying it did. This put everything an hour adrift leaving Paul Reynolds to start the auction while some were still queuing for their tea. As usual, Paul has an uncanny knack of extracting the maximum money from the by now well aware punters and so it was. Seldom were his blandishments ignored and by the end of the evening over £3,000

## Event Reports—Hugh and Lyn Blowers

had been raised, mostly by fair means and occasionally by foul, but all in good fun. Mind you, there is still no rhyme or reason as to prices realised; yet organisers must remain eternally grateful to the generosity of donors and buyers at every festival.



It had been a long day and the walk back to the Redwood just as long as ever, but a pretty good day on all fronts. It was a different story on Sunday morning as we walked to breakfast with the rain hammering down on the glass roof of the hotel. The forecast said it would clear up, Bristol airport said it would clear up and eventually it did, but not until late in the day when it had seriously affected the programme and even more seriously affected attendance by the public.

The programme was to be a repeat of Saturday's but it was obvious that several flyers had made the choice to keep paper and cloth kites in the bags. There was still plenty to entertain the public, both with the sports kite demos and arena features and most of us were kept busy throughout the day. I had a chance to fly Martin's new kite, amused like everyone else at the auction that he had invented a modern version of possibly the oldest kite design in the world. It flies well, but is not for the faint hearted as it did pull a bit. I'm sure Martin must eat spinach as he flew his maxi sized Spirit off a harness in a wind

that was becoming a bit boisterous. Following the appearance of the Stretch Tucker parafoils at Portsmouth, TC had hatched a plan to fly as many as possible during part 2 of the kite history review. Happily the big cats repeated their performance, but TC's bald eagle design proved very reluctant to fly. The idea of mass flights of pieces from individual makers seems to be gathering momentum and apart from being a showcase for current makers is an ideal way of celebrating those that have gone before, such as Stretch or Steve Brockett. It does need some preparatory work, but what a wonderful sight it can be.

With just a few days to get ready for Dieppe, it was a rapid withdrawal on Sunday evening with the addition of a very large and heavy compression bag by courtesy of Peter Lynn. After the fourth traffic jam on the M4 and the Sunday evening navigation of the M25 the gloss had been taken off the weekend a bit but the balance referred to earlier was still positive, which has to be the mark of a good festival. Our thanks go to Avril and all her team who ensure that all we have to do is enjoy our flying.

### Dejavu! Dieppe 2010.

In 2008 I wrote that "not a lot changes at major festivals now" and this was certainly true of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration at Dieppe. It was almost as if the entire festival had been put into stasis and dropped back in exactly the same position two years later. The similarity was uncanny, with the same people in the same tents and mainly the same cars parked in the same places. Of course the Beccles Bunch were eating in the same restaurant as in previous years, what did you expect? On the downside, most of the kites on show were also familiar to most of us. The only obvious major change was the arrival of Angleterre at the head of the tent line with a larger space, sub divided into Pays de Galle or Nick James, although he did not show up, and Ecosse, better known as Dave Nicholls. Oh and yes, Karl has a grey van instead of a red one. Short of reprinting the 2008 report, this will of necessity be something of an anecdotal exercise.

Before we even got to Dieppe, things took an odd twist that turned more sinister by the minute, putting the whole festival into question. On arriving at Eu we were met with signs saying 'route baree' and 'deviation'. No problem as we know our way round there pretty well. Trying to get back onto the road we were met with a phalanx of Gendarmes waving us back the way we had come. Sat nav and maps were no good, as more Gendarmes blocked every road leading to the coast. Taking courage into our hands we headed inland to the motorway and drove south. All went well until we turned towards Dieppe and more Gendarmes. This was getting puzzling, as we should have been well past any accident or incident. Travelling through a small town we saw a newspaper flash hoarding with the legend 'accident nucleaire', which put the wind up us a bit, knowing how close Penly is to Dieppe. Still no roads open to the right, so

## Event Reports—Hugh and Lyn Blowers

we pressed on to the outskirts of Dieppe to find the coast road closed, confirming that it was Penly. You can imagine what was going through our minds by this time? Going down the main drag into the town it got worse as something like 20 coaches came up the road with dozens of Police outriders, blue light flashing and sirens going. By now it was more a case of 'what the heck is happening'? Will there be a festival, or are we going straight back home? This feeling did not go away when we reached the harbour to find Pompiers, Police, Defence-Civille and all sorts of decontamination units in operation. Doing a good impression of a nervous wreck, we presented ourselves at the Windsor and enquired what was happening. 'Nothing, just an exercise'. Phew, all was well, but it took a goodly few minutes for the stomach to stop churning and the heart rate to return to normal.

By Friday morning it was as if nothing had happened and we early arrivals from Britain adopted our usual stance of chatting in the motor home park. With the Deardens, Thomas' and Mabons already established, two years had just vanished. After a trip up the hill to Puys, we contented ourselves with sitting on the sea wall and passing the time of day with the new arrivals and reflecting on how circumstances had changed from the early days of sleeping in cars or camping at the now demolished town site to the delights of hotels and showers.

92 was our first Dieppe with Thailand as the guest Country, and they had been invited back, along with long time supporter Ron Spaulding and a host of dancers and kite masters. This was a major logistic operation alone all handled most efficiently by new recruit to the Dieppe team, Marie. As the coaches and cars arrived there was much hugging, reminiscing and renewal of occasional acquaintances. It was apparent that the British contingent was significantly smaller than in previous years, but that most of them were extending their visits considerably. Not too many had the stamina for the entire 10 days, but congratulations to them as made it. In something of a real link with the past it was lovely to see a sizeable contingent of the Essex Kite Group, with Kelly

and Gareth James using the festival as their honeymoon. Early in the week, two Grumpy Old Gits put in an appearance, along with their apprentice and a new trainee, but most disappointingly, a distinct shortage of bangs! Obviously not an official Git, but seemingly showing aspirations in that direction was Jim Batten, who spent much of his time charging around on a modern penny-farthing, although more Euro-Cent in size. During our conversations it seemed that Lesley and he were having a thoroughly enjoyable time on all counts.

Following the first of the daily welcomes and briefing from Sandrine it was down to some kiteflying. Remarkably we would stay dry for the entire festival, which has not been our experience for a long while. What was immediately apparent was the huge numbers of public that were filling the site, enjoying the sun and the spectacle. In the end the authorities reckoned it to be a record crowd. The flyers gravitated to something approaching their traditional spots and the festival was underway for the 16<sup>th</sup> time, although there are those that would contend that there had been kite events at Dieppe for longer.

Seldom have we escaped from Dieppe without a series of traumas involving large inflatables, yet this year, apart from one or two near misses with the lampposts, it was an incident free week. It would not be Dieppe without a story involving Peter Lynn though and we did not have to wait long. After a couple of hours the wind changed direction requiring a change of anchors, efficiently accomplished, only to be followed by a brief lull that dropped a maxi Cuttlefish and the tail of a Manta into the surf. Normally this would be no problem, but with a record spring high tide and the steeply shingle beach, the water was 6 ft deep within a couple of steps as Peter and George Penney found to their cost. While wrestling with the Cuttlefish, the drogue of the ray was doing a very good impression of a sea anchor as the kite tried to lift back into the sky. This was a simple question of what was going to give up the ghost first and the tide was not going to stop. In the end it was the ripstop, performing an interesting tailectomy on the ray. Relieved of the drag, the ray went up and the drogue eventually washed ashore. This would not be the only 'near miss' the Manta was involved in, but we will come back to that later. The cuttlefish was left to roll around in the surf and fill with stones before the tide dropped enough and sufficient enthusiasm and red wine enabled us to untangle it and get it and flying again. Slightly more amusing was a vignette with the maxi crab and a little girl. As is normal for Dieppe, the kids terrorise any inflatable near the ground, and with all its waving legs, the crab was a natural target. She was giving one of the legs a severe tugging, when the crab gave a nonchalant sort of wave and aforesaid child performed a perfect arc to land in a heap on the beach. With a stern look, she got up, walked back to the crab, and by way of retribution, gave it a mighty slap on the leg.



## Event Reports—Hugh and Lyn Blowers

Dieppe is no different to many other festivals in one vital respect. The organisers do get very frustrated when kites in the air do not represent the numbers of delegates and flyers registered. Some have a very high profile and are in the air all day every day, such as Peter Lynn, Michel Gressier and Robert Brassington with their multiple lines. AWITA are much in evidence at the weekends with their huge displays, but do leave a large empty space when works takes them away during the week. The Taiwanese also make a great impact, although this is as much for their totally uninhibited and enthusiastic flying as for their kites. Whatever they put up, and this is often a long train of some sort, it is done with gay abandon and complete disregard for anyone and anything flying in their immediate vicinity and the need for suitable anchors. In the course of the week they are usually the cause of several harsh words and assorted cut kites headed downwind, either towards the sea, or as this year, the town and houses. There are always dozens of individuals and small groups flying and it is often amongst these that the new, odd or unusual designs can be found.

The Chinese, much to the dismay of many, seem to have moved away from their traditional designs into copies of western kites and their own strange interpretations of what the western market is wanting. It is now quite obvious what is going on in the Chinese factories as the copies are being flown alongside the originals with little regard to the ethics or legality of the situation. As can be imagined, this does not go down too well with the original designers and makers who see the inferior quality ripoffs being sold considerably cheaper. The Taiwanese did have a maxi octopus on display, but there was no way this could be confused with anything that had gone before, and in truth was probably the most realistic version seen so far. It was also the Chinese that were responsible for an incident that could have turned nasty. First on the line was a whacking great flowform followed by a maxi sized bear and then two of the oddest and most 'orrible looking inflatables ever seen. All this was tied off to a small bag of stones on the beach and left to its devices. Inevitably the bag started dragging and headed with increasing velocity towards the crowd, our cars and the tents. All that stopped it was a small decorative wall but everything was now over the road. Of course the owners were well gone, so it was left to a mass effort of willing helpers led by yours truly and David Gomberg to drop it all safely in the road. An emergency call over the PA system brought the culprits back to the scene just as everything had been sorted out.

For three days during the week the wind was somewhat brisk, which only served to sort out the keen flyers from those more prepared to sit in their tents. Michel Gressier seemed to put more in the sky each day and at one stage Robert Brassington had no less than 10 lines of kites out, and that was not counting those added by the Beccles Bunch and others. It proved that most kites will fly in strong wind; it just needs a bit of thought. Something that seems to

work was a tip learnt in our early days of sports kite flying, (yes, we did used to do that). As the wind increases, bridles are usually moved back from the light wind settings, but as it gets stronger and stronger then moving them forward again can make the kite eminently flyable. In the end, our Dagues had the bridles as far forward as they would go and they were flying beautifully. If Michel could fly four of them in these winds, then so could we. The strong winds gave the ever-increasing contingent from the UK something to think about on the crossing, but it gave us some grand flying.

The 'vol de nuit' to me was a prime example of the danger of under organisation. At one stage, the presentation and spectacle at Dieppe was second to none, but recently it has reverted to whoever is there flies whatever they have, and there is little regard to preparing or presenting kites specifically for night flying. It is a great pity, as thousands of people had either stayed over or come into the town for the event. All the promenade lights are switched off, but then not a lot happened. It was not helped by the onshore wind that had been evident for days suddenly dropping, minutes before the start. This almost gave rise to another PLK incident of legend. Peter had put his manta and pilot up a 1,000 or so feet, with another pilot lower down in order to lift the giant puppets that have featured recently at French festivals. As the wind dropped, so did the manta, and quicker than the line could be retrieved, leaving it to settle gently on the rooftops of Dieppe. A final little flurry of breeze was enough to lift it off again with no apparent damage, so preventing another addition to the folklore of Dieppe disasters. After a few minutes of total calm, the breeze started to come in again, but exactly 180 degrees from the previous direction, meaning that every kite and anchor was now in the wrong place. As it was only the light wind and floaty kites that could make use of this breeze, many gave up at this stage, reducing the spectacle even further. Michael Alvarez must deserve 11 out of 10 for sheer persistence though in trying to get his multi, ribbon box flying. He did not give up for the entire hour. If the night fly is to remain a feature of the festival, then the organisers will need to take a long and hard look at what is provided, and no, having it during the day Cleethorpes style is not the answer!!!

A wander round the delegation tents is always informative. Sometimes they are just showcases for a maker from the country. Often the scene of lunch-time forays into national food and drink culture, thank you Sweden for the pickled herring and aquavit. More rarely now workshops for the creation of traditional kites and here we were treated to some gems. The Indonesian nations were building wonderful birds from a reed or raffia type material, all of which flew beautifully and were true works of art. Anywhere within about 50m of the French tent and you could be in no doubt that Michel Gressier was inside, painting another kite. It is a joy to watch him start on a perfectly blank skin and end up a few

## Event Reports—Hugh and Lyn Blowers

hours later with another vibrant design. It is no surprise that he had a container of his own, judging by the quantity and sizes of his kite bags. He did not have the tent to himself however as he was sharing with Gerard Clement, organiser of the Berck festival. Gerard has an amazing and eclectic collection of kites, large and small that he has gathered over the years. Several of his well-known pieces have been inspired by Andre Cassagnes, but he had dug out a gem from the past that took nearly three days to put together. It used the concept of the tetrahedron cell but arranged so it was four cells wide, with five cells joined to the tops of these. The process was repeated to create a rectangular unit 7 elements deep, making 63 tetra in all, held together with Cassagnes injection moulded fittings and hi-tec metal arrow shafting. A single row of bridles and a reasonable wind is all that is needed to make this magnificent structure fly. A joy to see.

Less of a joy are the inevitable examples of kite rage that crop up from time to time. The causes are many and varied but can usually be avoided with a bit of forethought and consideration, which does seem lacking at times. What are more difficult to come to terms with are the quite deliberate acts of arrogance. Kites put up immediately under yours, kites and anchors moved to accommodate someone that wants your bit of sky and the wildly scything unstable pride and joy of those that should know better. I have seen a few in my time but was witness to one of the most amazing, angry, continued and abusive sessions imaginable. How it did not end in violence I do not know, but it revolved round a member of the historic kite group with a very simple kite who expected and demanded an exclusion zone around him that he guarded with a frightening level of ferocity.

Much more serene was an exhibition of the work of Claudio Capelli that he had assembled in the foyer of the town hall. In other reports I have mentioned the need to pre-plan such events carefully, and here Claudio had spent many months contacting owners and arranging for kites to be collected or delivered for his show. All his images are very bold and full of impact, and to see so many of them together was breathtaking. To own a piece of his work is a joy and a privilege, so the finale of the exhibition was truly memorable. Claudio and his daughter Caterina brought the pieces back to the field enabling owners and invited flyers to fly all these wonderful images on the Sunday afternoon in the company of the man who had created them all, Claudio Capelli.

Sunday afternoon continued with another tribute to an iconic figure in the world of product and kite design, Andre Cassagnes. I was brought up short last season when in reply to my question about the Cassagnes ring that a British flyer had just built, he replied "who?". It reminds us that memories are short and that so many people now involved would never have heard of Andre or had the luck to fly alongside him. His major contribution came from his involvement in product design and moulded plastics in particular. This enabled him to produce complex injection moulded joints to create the rings and other cellular kites. What is often not appreciated is that every size and type of kite needs differing angles and numbers of sockets to complete the construction. Andre used to hold court on the terrace of the Agora at Berck, conversing with one and all and sharing ideas. He was incredibly generous and would help out with mountains of fitting for those that wanted to build rings. Through his injection mouldings, he also created several versions of the 'Popper' line ferry, which he used to demonstrate to great effect on the beach.



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Andre is now 86 and in poor health but in a tribute to him probably the largest number of rings, large and small, that have ever been assembled (in both senses) were launched into the sky one after the other. The wind was only just enough to hold them, and even so several drifted back to earth, but it was a wonderful sight and a wonderful gesture.



The festival closes with the presentation of the prizes for the kite creation competition. This can often be contentious, both for what is entered and who is successful. For the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the organisation deliberately set a theme that would encourage and reward new and radical designs, new materials and lateral thinking. With the theme roughly translated as 'unidentified flying structures' it was hoped that it might move makers away from appliqué work into other areas. Kite makers are a cunning lot by nature, so there were still the appliqué and painted Roks,

Ghenkis and assorted other traditional shapes that could not be in any way related to the theme. There were also some very tongue in cheek 'new designs' such as a Hoffman Bow, which has been produced commercially by HQ for some years, a UFO Sam and an Ohashi ladder kite that is many years old in concept. Perhaps some of us have just been around too long? There were certainly some odd objects that were ingenious, such as the Indonesians flying tricycle and the Peacock's Tardis, which is OK if you understand the Doctor Who connection. Not entirely new but brought up to date were a pair of rotor kites from Joel Goupil. It was the blue version he entered, and the general consensus was that it could be in

with a shout. Karl Longbottom had built a 'flying saucer' with flowing comet like tails and there were several others that were entirely conceptual and followed no known design and could definitely be described as unidentified.

Static judging had been on the Saturday, followed by flight to check



that they do just that, and here a few of them fell at the second hurdle. The wind was not strong, but some of the designs showed little inclination to take to the sky in any case. Inevitably, there was a great deal of speculation before everyone was summoned to the stage late on Sunday for the closing speeches and results. The winner of the 'first time' category turned out to be a Balinese who won a trip to a festival in Thailand, which carried a certain irony given their close geographic locations. A degree of surprise greeted the third place in the experienced category when it turned out to be Gerard Clement with his Hoffman Bow. His prize of a trip to Cervia also carried a level of irony as he is organising the Berck festival at the same time. There was no doubt as to the validity of the second prize, winning a trip to Weifang as that was Loik Lamalle from France with a very delicate winged S shaped structure. Loik probably puts in more hours of flying per day at Dieppe than anyone else and thoroughly deserved his prize. It was little surprise when Joel Goupil was announced as the winner of the category and a trip to Thailand. Joel is normally found in the wind garden with his wonderfully dynamic and animated rolling ball sculptures, yet he has won this premier kite making competition previously with the 'feather flower' featured on the cover of Kiteflyer a while ago.

You may notice that I have mentioned nothing about activities on the western half of the site, and there are two prime reasons for this. Firstly I seldom seemed to have the time to make the trek down there, and secondly, Vee Griffiths has very kindly offered to give her far more knowledgeable perspective on the areas where one line is just not enough. Thanks Vee!

So that was it! All over for another two years and thoroughly enjoyable for the weather, flying, food and the people, but perhaps the 17<sup>th</sup> festival does need to consider ringing the changes a bit, but not the Beccles Bunch's chosen restaurant of course?





Paul looks very proud indeed!

THE NEWS LETTER FOR THE BRIGHTON KITE FLYERS

## DINNER AT CERVIA 2010

On the second last night of the Cervia 2010 International Kite festival in Italy, something very special happened, Some of the World's top kite flyers and kite makers and designers were being recognized by the organizers, in the audience were the famous Peter Lynn NZ , Robert Trepanier Canada , Kisa Germany, George Peters USA , Claudio Capelli Italy , Nick James UK, Jon Trennepohi USA, Malcolm Goodman UK , Bas Igbal Switzerland , John Burkhardt USA, Team No Limit from Germany and so many others, but there was one, and only one, that when his name was called, caused the whole room to erupt in a spontaneous loving and joyous standing ovation that did not want to end. And the one and only person was Ray Bethell, The outpouring of respect, appreciation and love for Ray was contagious, and there can be no greater tribute than to receive the recognition of your peers especially from some of the very best in the world.

When you see the Italian people coming up all day long every day of the ten day kite festival to have Ray autograph their kites, Tee shirts and to have their pictures taken with Ray, You think it is amazing to also witness his peers applauding him.

It was a magical moment I shall always remember.

Thank you for the memories Ray, Cervia will always be synonymous with you for me, You could move there and be a Governor of that region, you are so very popular.

Good Stuff Ray.  
George Paisiovich.

*Here is a little information about George and his museum*

*As a lifelong kite collector who owned a kite shop in the 1970's and organized kite festivals in south Kent, it was a logical extension to think about introducing kites to an island with such great wind and flat land surface. The museum informally opened on June 28th, 2008. I claim no special gift as a kite flyer, kite maker, or kite historian or expert - Kites are fun and they make people happy. For me, that is enough*

*The Kite Museum is a family owned museum - for families. I say family which really means it is my passion, my 8 year old daughter really likes the idea and is always looking out for kite images; and my wife, well, lets just say that after 24 years of marriage, she has learned to resign herself to certain things in life. But every once in a while when she thinks we are not looking, we do catch her smiling as Ashley and I go about our silliness. At least until we return home and she*

*still can't get into the garage or basement.*

*The mission of the museum is:*

- \* *Preserve kites and related knowledge*
- \* *Provide opportunities for people to be exposed to kites, their history and future*
- \* *Help teach the making of kite and related items*
- \* *To help preserve North American paper kites*
- \* *To use kites to bridge cultural understanding, environmental awareness and family togetherness*
- \* *To develop and introduce opportunities and means for physically challenged to participate in kiting*

*... and simply stated - to share joy. Enjoy - with the emphasis on "joy".*

Ray would like to say Thank you to George, Sara, & Ashley Paisiovich for, their kind words.





## WHAT DID YOU MANAGE TO DO IN 2010

What another awesome year it has been for me being again fully sponsored to International Kite festivals, which was impossible to attend them all as there are only so many weeks in a month and only 12 months in a year and some festivals are 10 to 2 weeks long ,

I was very sorry to have turned down the great International Kite festival in Berck France due to having an eye operation at that time it would have been my 12 year of performing at this Huge World class kite Festival. I have already received an invitation to perform at their festival in April 2011

Cervia International Kite festival as always was once again a huge success which as Berck is within easy reach of most of all the European kite flyers and they attend by the hundreds to show off their latest creations some travel after work on Friday and travel 10 plus hours to attend the festival on the Saturday and Sunday of both weekends which indeed shows there endless love of kite flying, this year was also special as it was there 30 kite festival anniversary we had a couple of days of rain but that is okay as it gives everyone a chance to socialize with old friends and making new ones, I was very pleased this year to share the main kite arena with my friend of many year Jon Trennepohi and the Decorators flying team from the UK who I have had the pleasure of flying with them many times around the world they were the very first revolution Team who started in 1988 and it was a real treat to see them again at WSIKF this year at long beach.

As always there was no lack of spectators just like Berck France they come by the thousands , plus Cervia is also a holiday resort , that is why this kite festival is held early in the year, in summer time it would be an impossibility. As the beaches are cram packed with Sun lounges and umbrella's and thousands of vacationers from all over Italy.

Dolores and I really enjoyed our self's nice hotel good food and good company, the only draw back these day is the traveling via air the airlines are trying to get every penny they can get out of us, taking my kites as part of my luggage was always free, but now they charge \$85 for my kite bag.

Makes me wonder how Peter Lynn and Dave Gomberg makes out with all the kite bags they travel with.

Dieppe France again as always was awesome it was estimated that over 500,000 spectators attended this 10 day kite festival every day the sky was packed full of kites of every description the

weather was great but the winds some times was very strong but in spite of that we sport kite flyers did our very best to entertain the masses that come it see what a kite festival is all about, so we all have to do our part to make sure they enjoy the festival. there is a huge long row of Tents each one represents a different country showing of there traditional countries kites, and one of the High Lights for me is catching up with so many of my UK kite flying friends which for me is always a great pleasure as it brings to mind the great times we shared at so many kite festivals in the UK.

It is indeed a very well organized kite festival it would take many pages of words to tell you every aspect of this wonderful and unique International kite festival I take my hat off to the organizers and all the wonderful volunteers that helps to make this a World class kite festival for which every kite flyers should attend at least once in their lifetime,

Sorry there is so much more I would like to write about but the dead line for articles for our news letter is very close, so off to the post it goes hoping I am not to late.

Thank you for listening  
Ray



# 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

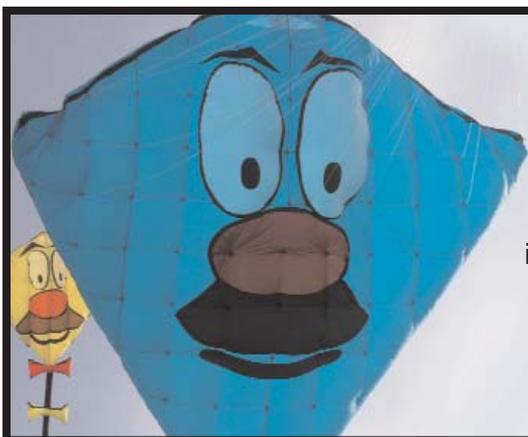


considerable effort before Colin could attach the beer. But the train proved too difficult to control and in the end the competition was won by Martin Croxton, a White Horse member, who very generously shared the beer with the rest of the contestants.

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



## NEW DATE

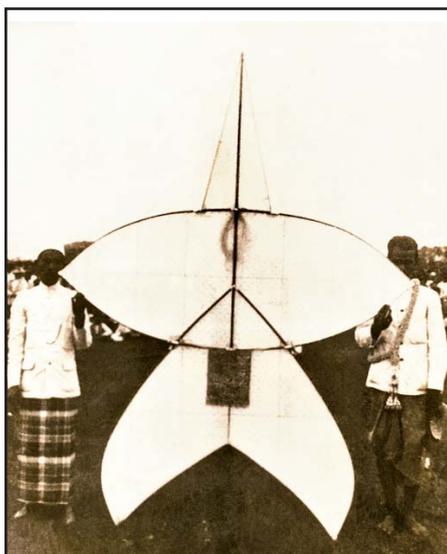
Brighton Kite Festival will be taking place in 2011 in Stanmer Park as usual, but the date will be changing to the second bank holiday in May (28th - 30th) it will be a two day festival and we will have free flying on the Monday much the same as Portsmouth.

Keep and eye on  
[www.brightonkiteflyers.co.uk/festival](http://www.brightonkiteflyers.co.uk/festival)  
for more information

# THAI KITE HERITAGE IN DIEPPE

While in Dieppe, France in 2010 I came across a man I had often heard about but never met call Ron Spaulding. Each festival held in Dieppe has a country that is the main show country for the festival and 2010 it was Thailand Ron was over there with the kite flyers from Thailand and runs the Thai Kite Heritage Group. I spent quite some time with him talking about kites and kite flyers we knew and he told me lots about how Thai kites are made, their history and how they are flown. Ron produces a publication on this and has given me permission to reuse it in Aerodyne, so over the next few issues you will see details on Thai kites and their history etc..

## MALE VERSUS FEMALE:



When the southwest monsoon is beginning to stir the leaves of Thailand's flame trees, many an elderly gentleman, not to mention his grandson, lifts his eyes to the sky contemplating the excitement of the kite-flying season. For in this happiest of all lands, kite season is a time of delight for everybody.

### AN ANCIENT TRADITION

In Thailand, kite flying is not just a casual attempt to see how high it can be made to soar into the sky. It is an ancient sport dignified by rules and regulations and a heritage involving everyone from kings to commoners. Before the inauguration of the competitions as we know them today, the Thais were flying cargo-laden kites over their golden cities. In the late 17th century, King Petraja used kites for what was probably the first aerial bombing in history. When the principality of Nakhon Ratchasima (Korat) rebelled, King Petraja tied kegs of gunpowder to kites, lifted them over the rebel stronghold and blasted the miscreant into

capitulation. Kite flying as a sport has been popular since the reign of King Ramkamhaeng of the Sukhothai period, some seven hundred years ago. The kings of Sukhothai loved kite flying so much that the sport played an important role in Thai literature of that period. The craze for kite-flying reached such heights in the new Thai capital of Ayutthaya that in 1358 a palace Decree was issued stipulating that kites were not to be flown in the vicinity of the palace. There is also evidence of kite fighting being enjoyed as a sport more or less in its present-day form by King Rama II (1809-1824). The King matched his pentagonal male kite called a "Chula" against a courtier's female kite called a "Pakpao" from the Phramane Ground in front of the Royal Palace, the same area from which kites are flown today. Kite flying contests were held during the reign of King Chulalongkorn (1868-1910) and in 1906, the first contest for a Royal Gold Cup was held at the Dusit Palace. The King presided over the competition with members of the royal family in attendance and a court orchestra provided the background music intended to spur the competitors to greater endeavors. King Chulalongkorn enjoyed these contests so much that they became



the national sport and were held annually until his death in 1910. In 1921, in the reign of King Vajiravudh (1910-1925), the game became popular as a national sport. Princes and commoners entered their teams, squaring off against each other for valuable prizes. The King himself presided over the opening battle in the skies and even sent his personal "Chula" kite stamped with his "Three Arrows" emblem to participate in the



contests.

### SUITORS IN THE SKY

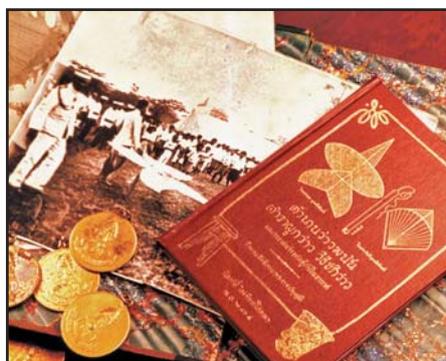
Sex rears its head in the competition because the combatants are the "male" Chula kites and the "female" Pakpao kites. The Chula is a sturdy 8-1/2 foot tall kite whose bamboo frame has been seasoned for months. Shaped like a five-pointed star, the big kite has three sets of bamboo barbs attached to its string for snagging a female. A Chula team consists of at least 20 men or boys

The Pakpao, like the female it represents, is deceptively fragile, diamond-shaped and only 35 inches from stem to stern. Its defenses are a



marvelous maneuverability plus a loop of string hanging beneath its' flying line and a long tail with which it attempts to snare and strangle its opponent .The flirty little Pakpao with an expert at the end of its string can dart in on its cumbersome enemy with deadly accuracy. In formal fighting such as that seen during the annual tournament, the ground is divided across the centre with a rope. Upwind is Chula territory. From here the great male kites are launched across the border into the downwind half of the field where in a clear blue summer sky the Pakpaos flutter about in swarms like so many high-flying butterflies. The object of the game is for the Chula to snag a Pakpao (only one at a time) with the bamboo barbs attached to its flying line and draw it back across the line into male territory, or for the agile little Pakpao to throw it's loop (a 12 meter length of string slung below the flying line) or her tail, around the male and drag him down on her side. There are two objectives in this "male against female" sport; male kites competing for the most female kites snagged; and female kites competing for the greatest number of male kites brought down. A male kite venturing out into Pakpao territory is any female's game and vice versa. Sometimes the male is the aggressor,

choosing from the pool of flirting wallflowers the Pakpao he thinks he can bring home, like choosing an unknown partner at a dance, and often with as calamitous a result. At other times, a Pakpao may find herself in a position for a Leap Year approach and will swoop down and lasso an unsuspecting male. No male dies without a struggle, nor does any female, but the wails of anguish are greatest at the Chula end of the field when one of its members is in jeopardy. Thus, for the spectator, the best position for viewing a competition is as close as safety and the officials will permit to a Chula team. The team members work under the directions of a captain who indicates his will by blowing a whistle. The Chula captain takes over at critical moments during a catch, with the team standing by, slack end of rope in hand, waiting for the moment when the bamboo barbs take hold. When a catch is made a specially designed brass pulley is snapped over the flying line and, to the rhythm of his whistle, the Chula is raced home with its prey. When a Pakpao succeeds in throwing her loop around a Chula, or when, as often happens, the agile little creature takes the wind out of the Chula's big sails by laying herself flat against his surface and causing him to lose his balance, the Chula captain immediately sounds the alarm. His whistle shrills faster and faster, driving his team to pull harder and race each other out and



back on the rope for the final desperate and heroic effort to keep their ensnared warrior in the air and bring it back to the safety of its own territory.

By Ron Spaulding

## B K F X M A S

Leading up to the event we had some of the worst snow every seen in December many years in the South of England and at one stage there was even talk of cancelling the event, the gods were kind to us and the roads started to clear the day before the event and most people managed to get through. We had members from the East (Ashford, Kent) from the West (Barry in Wales) and locales as well. It was new venue but any worries I had about it soon disappeared as the facilities were much better and the hall was light and just the right size for the event. There were about 20 or so people expected to turn up and they started arriving for a 7.00pm start from around 4.00pm to help set up, cook the last bit of food and generally join in the fun and frolics. Some managed to turn up at a little late at 7.30pm, but then they did have a long way to come from Crawley about 5 miles down the road. The food was soon ready and eaten, clear away and the now infamous BKF party games began, starting with Pass the parcel with the odd forfeit, you should see Andrew Scott do the Irish jig, Brian Wakfield after a few bears doing a tounge twister to name but a few of the forfeits. Then came the game that Keith introduced to the club a few years ago and has become a firm favorite, if you have not heard about you don't know what you have been missing. (come along next year and find out) All too soon the night came to an end and the tidying up done we all headed off home after what can only be described as a great night out with good company. A big thank you to all those that helped leading up to the event with catering arranging and to all those that turned up and joined in the fun to make it one of the best Christmas parties the BKF has had to date same time next year possibly.

# JAN 2011 BRIGHTON KITE FLYERS AERODYNE

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### Treasurer:

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### Club library:

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### Club Kites:

(BKF members only):  
If you wish to borrow any of the club kites please just ask any member of the club committee.

### Membership Secretary:

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### Pins/Badges/Pens:

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E simon@BKF.org.uk

## Thank you

I would like to say thank you to all those who made this issue of Aerodyne possible. George Paisiovich, Ray Bethall, Ron Spalding 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:

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

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

## CLUB AGM

Don't forget the club AGM is coming up and if you would like anything added to the agenda please let a committee member know. Although the hall is not yet booked as an advanced warning we are hoping to get the 1st weekend in April at Telscombe town hall.

## MARTIN LESTER GOOSE AND SPIRIT

Brighton kite flyer had a lot of requests for us to run another workshop with Martin making his Spirit kites again. We have been in touch with Martin and he has agreed to run a joint kite workshop making the Spirit kite and his semi inflatable Goose. Lots of people have already booked the workshop but if you are interested please e-mail chairman@brightonkiteflyers.co.uk to find out if there are any places left.

The workshop is planned for the 19th and 20th February 2011 and will take place in Saltdean just outside Brighton.

The cost of the workshop will be just under £100 for the Spirit and about £20 less for the Goose depending on final numbers.

If you are interested please send off an e-mail in the first instance to workshop@bkf.org.uk to check if there are any places left and what colour you would like to make if you are lucky to get on.

## Next Issue

Whatever you want as long as you write it up for others to see. It could be the new kite for Christmas what you plan to do in 2011 or a reflection on 2010.

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



# 42 ROMAN SANDLE 99.



The Journal of the Bearly Made It Skydive Squad. The International Brother and Sisterhood of Parachuting Fauna and the U.K. Ted Devils. Mindless drivel content regularly exceeds 100%, and every issue is bound to get up somebodys Hooter, but do we give a monkeys? 'Eck as like.....

## Teddy bears gather for lots of cuddles at the sale of the century



**SALE OF THE CENTURY?** o.k. we'll take that with a pinch of salt, but one thing is for sure at least one of the Teddy Bears is pretty well unique.

Said to be the only one in existence, the 1925 Harlequin Steiff Bear was supposedly made as a one off promo Bear that was never put into production. This Bear and at least one other Steiff notable Black TITANIC Bear were part of a collection of upwards of 1,200 separate items in a highly priced historic toy collection put together by a New York hedge fund manager who was actually operating a PONZI scam along with one of his cohorts. These two naughty boys went the usual route of using clients to acquire mega buck properties flash cars, race horses, and in this case a collection of toys which it is estimated cost upwards of 2 million to put together.

One does sometimes wonder how it is that the so called smart money does fall for the oldest trick in the book and cannot wait to shovel vast sums into a scheme promising ludicrous return percentages, when its blindingly obvious that its nothing more than a scam, but then we'd better not go there as that is perhaps the biggest can of worms perhaps a far bigger can than we can ever imagine.

The lawyer for one of the naughty boys who were found guilty of egregious frauds, said that the toy collection sale was approved by the receiver but it was thought not to be able to realise what it had cost to amass and no there was no mention of any historic Kites being listed.

So there you go for a parting shot, would historic Kites be classed as toys or scientific instruments nowadays Well, we know what we class them as KITES great KITERS nutters.

I WAS TOLD THAT HARLEQUIN WAS A PROTOTYPE BANK ROBBER BEAR

YEAH TO CONFUSE THEM WITNESSES, HALF WOULD SAY HE WAS RED, HALF WOULD SAY HE WAS BLUE



# STILL LIFE IN MOTION

OR, IF YOU DONT LIKE SNAPPY TITLES HOWS ABOUT FLOTATION MATERIALS FOR AERIAL DELIVERY OF ACETAMINOPHEN TOXIC BAIT TO BROWN TREESNAKES.....

Would seem that brown treesnakes have only been in Guam since the late 1940's and pretty well decimated indigenous birds, lizards and bats, bitten children and caused power cuts by shorting out power lines. Whoops, yet another disaster caused by Humes...

So, if the science bods can get the bait of dead mice stuffed with poison delivery system sorted, everything will be ticketyboo. However there was a problem with the first idea of using dead mice inside pvc tubes. It did not work as the tubes would not catch in the tree canopy, they fell through to the ground where they merrily started killing off the local land crabs which was a no no.

Not to worry as the science bods had already moved onto a variety of other delivery systems, including would you believe it paper cups, plates, streamers and you've guessed it, Parachutes. Chutes we hear you say, yes chutes, some made of paper and some made of a bio degradable plastic called Ecofilm. The paper chutes were a bit of a dead loss as they tended to disintegrate when it rained. The plastic chutes were a lot better even though the plastic they weremade of was touted as being biodegradable, yes it was, after about two years And after all that the method of primary toxic bait delivery did not come cheap as the science wallahs were using a U.S. NAVY MH 60S Knighthawk Helicopter, still whats the cost of a chopper to good old Uncle Sam.

And should for one moment all the above is getting a bit on the weird side as it rolls around inside yer bonce, not to worry as the science bods have already ramped it up a bit more, by wait for it, hotglueing a radio transmitter to every dead mouse so they can see how they are doing, talk about overegging the pudding aint in it.

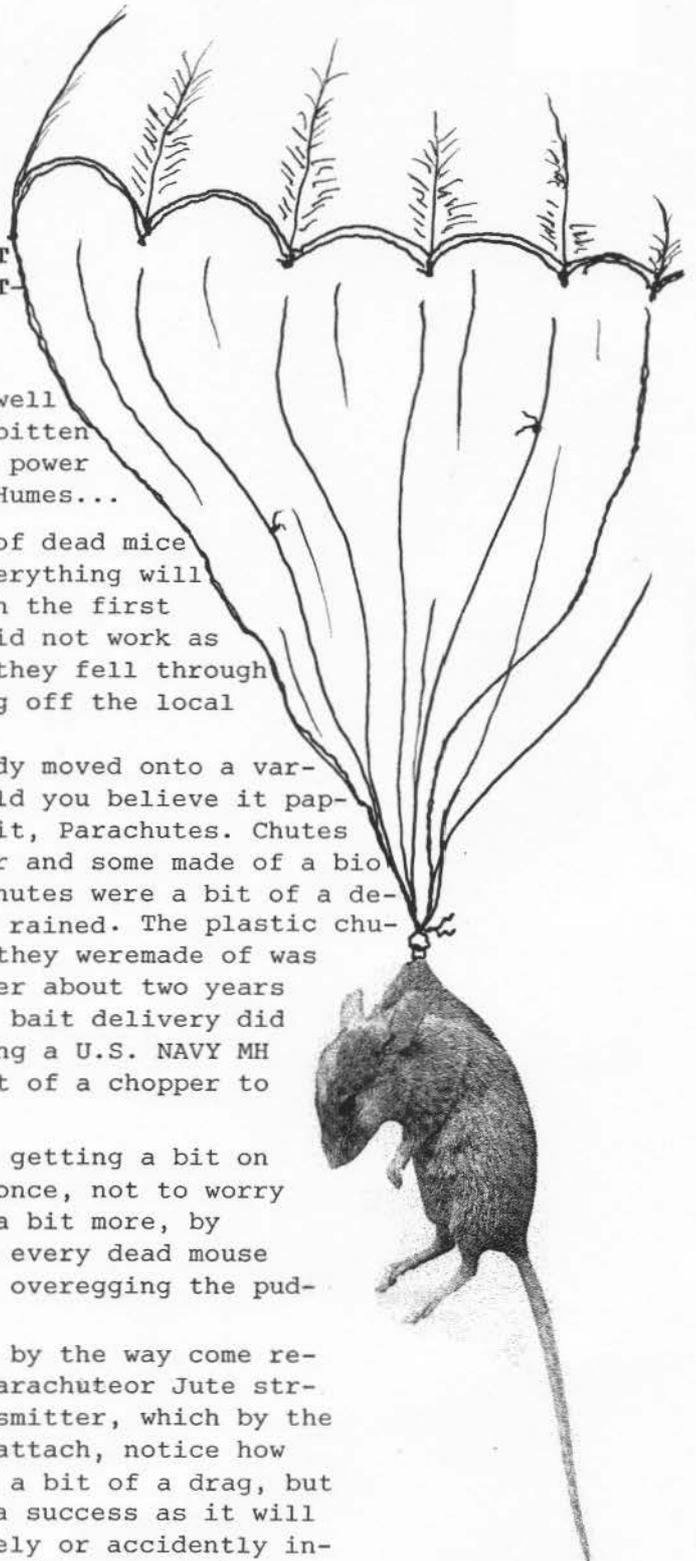
Last we heard was Brown Bread Meecees, which by the way come ready frozen were equipped with either a small parachutear Jute streamer and individuallyequipped with a radio transmitter, which by the way we are assured are very time consuming to attach, notice how many times we are assured that this or that is a bit of a drag, but of course it is for science and hopefully is a success as it will help roll back the severe effects of deliberately or accidentally introduces species, species that have no natural predators and then consequently start to run amok and how many times has that happened around the world.

Apré po of nothing, or words to that effect witness how introduced pythons are getting out of control in the everglades, so much so that they are having a go at the alligators whilst in other parts of the states snakefish are running amok, scary or wot?

Talk about the road to Hell is paved with good intentions, so we'll stick to parachuting from Kites, its a lot less frightening.

Why dead mice need parachutes in the forest

Thanks to Nick Wadsworth for this, what an eye opener.



SOD THAT FOR A GAME OF TIN SOLDIERS





ONCE AGAIN ITS OFFICIAL WINTER KIP TIME AS F.H.B.YET AGAIN TRIES TO TRAMPLE THE THESPS INTO THOSE BOARDS!

Hmm, I suppose it would be by some stretch of the imagination if we were to class those venerable "DRIFTERS" as Thesps. Still, be that as it may a permanently Pissed as a Pudden Orangutan has to earn a Crust anyway he can during Official Winter Kip. Hibernating = Lost Drinking Time!

DEAR FRED,

Tonight it's "THE DRIFTERS" WOW WOPPEE WOW! We have just been "Under the Boardwalk" and are radiply heading through "Saturday Night at the Movies" not forgetting "Sugar for my Sweet" hell boy I'm grooving now. Ims swinging my red wine bottle and have just produced a wicked chase stroke crap blackout. Oooooops!. Sorry sir and mamm audient.

"ON THE ROOF , SWARP SWARP,OOOOOOO, BAAA, WOOOP". We like that one it's got a certain something. Lets go red. " NOT THAT BUTTON YOU STUPID HUME". Oh bollocks, they won't notice. It's a greeny sort of cak orange. Its art or have I missed an F. "BLUE MOON ,BLUE BLUE BLUE BLUE"?..... Why is he in orange?. It's not as if there was any hint to a suitable colour. AH ... if in doubt start a chase. Flash ,flash, bash NOW WE ARE SMOKIN! Long live R+B. Or is it soul. Schuup.

Hi guys . Nice of you to turn up. The limeys have just strolled up to to the hieghts and are decapitating all the singers. Look chaaaps it is blatently obivious even to a Flexi Foul pilot that the head is an integrall part of the body and that tonights show would look alot smarter with this small added extra. Thats it . Right a blackout finish at the end of this number 3.....2.....1..... BLACKOUT..... Well we almost got that right. 50% of us any way. Thurston is concentratyating and looking as if he knows what he is doing. Hah Bloody Hah.

At this point it is probably worth mentioning his latest book,

### THURSTON GRUNTFUTTOCK'S HOW TO SEQUIN YOUR KITE.

50 Great designs to refurbish your old fadded Deltas and power kites.

Including special decoration sections on buggies and crash helmets. A real collectors item. Why not sparkle up that dowdy old cabana ?. No more boring winter nights! Co-ordinate your whole team.

Put a bit of sparkle into your flying with THURSTON GRUNTFUTTOCKS

### "HOW TO SEQUIN YOUR KITE"

Ali, I have tried to contact Uncle Dalmer and the tribe but seem to have lost his correct address. Please furnish polish this poor groviling atang with the afor yee go mentioned zip code .I had an Elvis Pressley to sender and am slightly miffed. It is probably his bad riting that has done it.

Have found as you may of noticed a rather fine portrait of my self in rubber. It is not as squit says of him. After much stamping he has agreed. The selection I have sent are created with embossing ink and black embossing powder. Just apply heat and Guff is ones uncle. Grab your felt tip and scribble.

The band is reving up to "Now That We've Found Love" so I had better help the flashy sparkly waitscoiated Thurston.

See you soon , **F.H.B.**



Does'nt that warm the cockles of yer heart. cor thats a right Doddle of a Job the Boy has got himself there, with the added bonus that if he really does get Mega Rat Faced and takes a Purler off the Lighting Gantry, hes fully Toggged up at all times with one of Bazzers finest. As our Froggy chums would say"Avoidez vous le crap avec une Bazzer Brolly Magnifique" Theres no business like show business\*\*\*\*\*

# Lines from a lost world

WE MAKE NO APOLOGIES FOR HAVING A TRAWL THROUGH THE AND REPRINTING FROM THE ONE AND ONLY PILE OF RUBBISH THAT IS THE BMISS ARCHIVES. ARCHIVES?, ALL RIGHT PILE OF RUBBISH... FHB and Thurston Gruntfuttock back in the day used to work as lighting techs at a theatre somewhere in Sussex and whilst we wont say that the standard of thier work was somewhat a bit slipshod at times, its true to say that thier hearts and minds were somewhere out thar on the Kiteflying field. However it turned out OK for all as Thurston along with FHB went out to the good old US of A and as far as we know are wowing people with thier unique take on the design and constuction of Kites.

## CAN'T GET IT OUT OF MY HEAD

AT TIMES YOU DO WONDER IF THE WORLD HAS GONE RAVING MAD, AND QUITE OFTEN THE ANSWER IS, YES IT HAS...

You maybe remember a few issues back where a Belgian woman Skydiver was accused of deliberately sabotaging the Parachute of another woman Skydiver, causing her to plunge to her death. It would seem that the two were love rivals at the Skydiving Club they both belonged to, each vying for the attention of an insructer at the said club. Maybe the wheels of justice do grind slowly in Belgium, but grind they do, for at a recent trial the woman who was accused of sabotage wasfound guilty and recieved a sentance,30 years in prison for murder.Love, or should that be lust has at times a hellish way of showing itself, but sabotaging a chute, that is worse than nasty, that is vile.

## Follow the bear

AND NOT ONLY THE BEARS, BUT A WHOLE HOST OF PARACHUTING FAUNA OF A SOFT CUDDLY TOY PERSUASION IN THIER QUEST FOR WORLD DOMINATION.

Can anyone think of something or somewhere we hav'nt Parachuted from? Kites of course goes without saying, Bridges,Stairwells,Hot Air Balloons,Cliffs,Airship Hangers, Planes, Belltowers,Helicopters,Potholes, yes even underground, Towerblocks, etc, etc and probably more more different locations than these, and its all grist tothe mill as no doubt one of you dear reader will some location we have forgotten,Onwards, Upwards,Downwards.....

### DYING SCREAM OF BEAR ATTACK VICTIM.....

EMERGENCY SERVICE OPERATORS HEARD A MAN SHOUTING THAT HE WAS DYING WHILST HIS WIFE REPORTED THAT HE WAS BEING ATTCKED BY A BEAR.

John Chelminiak was attackes by the Bear at his holiday home at Lake Wenatchee in Wasington. He had been out walking his dogs when the Black Bear attacked him and he could be heard screaming that he was dying in the background when his wife called for help. Mr Chelminiak sufferd wounds to the upper part of his body and underwent several operations in Seattle. The Bear was later Killed.So the Hume had a result, but not the Bear.



So as ever its the usual to the whatnot, the Teddytorial co The Boring Old Fart at 48. Laurel Lane,West Drayton, UB7 7TY, in what will always be ENGLAND, no matter what the traitors have planned, which is probably more of the old yuro crap, England pays,we all play.....



March 2011		
11-13	British Leisure Show Kite Festival, Royal Windsor Race Course.	<a href="http://www.britishleisureshow.com">www.britishleisureshow.com</a> <a href="#">Martin Corrie</a>
April 2011		
10	Streatham Common Kite Day, London	<a href="mailto:bobcolover@easynet.co.uk">bobcolover@easynet.co.uk</a>
16-17	Jolly Up 8, The Buggy Field, Cliddesden	<a href="#">Kites Up</a>
29/30 & 1/05	Plein Vent, Houlgate Normandie France	<a href="http://www.plein-vent.fr">www.plein-vent.fr</a>
May 2011		
1-2	East Yorkshire Kite Festival, Driffield, East Yorkshire.	<a href="http://www.kite-festival.co.uk">www.kite-festival.co.uk</a>
1-2	Layer Marney Kite Festival, Layer Marney Tower, near Colchester	<a href="http://www.layermarneytower.co.uk">www.layermarneytower.co.uk</a> 01206 330784
7-8	Swindon Kite Festival, Lydiard Park, Swindon	<a href="#">White Horse Kite Fliers</a>
21-29	3° Festival Internazionale degli Aquiloni by Trapani Eventi, San Vito lo Capo, Sicily	<a href="http://www.festivalaquiloni.it">www.festivalaquiloni.it</a>
28 - 30	Brighton Kite Festival, Stanmer Park, Brighton	<a href="#">Brighton Kite Fliers</a>
June 2011		
4 - 5	Basingstoke Kite Festival, Basingstoke	<a href="#">Kites Up</a>
4 - 5	Bedford International Kite Festival, Riverside Park, Bedford	Bedford Events <a href="http://www.bedfordevents.co.uk">www.bedfordevents.co.uk</a>
4 - 5	Exmouth Rotary Kite Festival, The Imperial Recreation Ground	<a href="http://www.exmouthrotaryclub.co.uk/kite-festival">www.exmouthrotaryclub.co.uk/kite-festival</a>
11-12	Wirral International Kite Festival, The Dips, New Brighton.	0151 666 9188
11-12	Teston Kite Weekend, Teston Bridge Country Park, Maidstone	Malcolm Ford 07840 086770
18 - 19	Beacon Park Kite Festival, Beacon Hill County Park, Up Holland, nr Skelmersdale, Lancashire	<a href="#">Northern Kite Group</a>
18 - 19	Southampton Kite Festival, Lordshill Recreation Ground	<a href="#">Michael Lowe</a>
July 2011		
2-3	Sunderland International Kite (Friendship) Festival, Washington, Sunderland PROVISIONAL	0191 564 0833 <a href="mailto:info@infinitearts.co.uk">info@infinitearts.co.uk</a>
16-17	Leominster Kite Festival, The National Trust, Berrington Hall	<a href="mailto:karl@longbottom.org.uk">karl@longbottom.org.uk</a>
16-17	Dunstable Downs Kite Festival, Whipsnade Road, Dunstable	Pat Redman 01582 500922 <a href="mailto:pat.redman@nationaltrust.org.uk">pat.redman@nationaltrust.org.uk</a>
23-24	Golden Valley Kite Kamp, Newlands Park, Cheltenham	Peter Whitaker 01452 728521
31	Monmouth Kite Festival, Monmouth Show Ground	<a href="mailto:sandra.davey@talk21.com">sandra.davey@talk21.com</a>
August 2011		
6-7	Jolly Up 9, The Buggy Field, Cliddesden	<a href="#">Kites Up</a>
13-14	Teston Kite "Big" Weekend, Teston Bridge Country Park, Maidstone	Malcolm Ford 07840 086770
27-29	Portsmouth International Kite Festival, Southsea Common, Hampshire	<a href="#">The Kite Society</a>
September 2011		
3-4	Bristol International Kite Festival, Ashton Court, Bristol	<a href="#">Avril Baker</a>
17 - 18	Mascotte Kite Festival, Scheveningen, Holland.	<a href="http://www.mascotte-vliegerfestival.nl">www.mascotte-vliegerfestival.nl</a>
17 - 18	Chester Kite Festival, The Roodee Racecourse, Chester, Cheshire	<a href="#">Northern Kite Group</a>
25	Wakefield Kite Festival, Heath Common, Wakefield	<a href="http://www.facelessco.com">www.facelessco.com</a> Tony Wade 01924 335985

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Michael Lowe	44 Bellemoor Road, Shirley, Southampton, Hants SO15 7QU	023 8077 0788	
M.K.F.	David Buckland, 98 Thanet Street, Clay Cross, Chesterfield, Derbyshire S45 9HS	07971 177085	<a href="mailto:david.buckland@mkf.org.uk">david.buckland@mkf.org.uk</a>
White Horse Kite Fliers	P O Box 585, Swindon, Wiltshire SN3 4YR	01793 824208	<a href="mailto:Cowpat.ed@whkf.org.uk">Cowpat.ed@whkf.org.uk</a>
NKG	Northern Kite Group		<a href="mailto:wkiterdave@btinternet.com">wkiterdave@btinternet.com</a>
Avril Baker	5 Lilymead Avenue, Wells Road, Totterdown, Bristol BS4 2BY	0117 977 2002	<a href="mailto:info@abc-pr.co.uk">info@abc-pr.co.uk</a>