

# THE KITEFLIER

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



**Issue 127**

**April 2011**

**£2.00**

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

# KITEWORLD

## Spring Is In The Air!



*Large Selection  
Of Inflatable Kites  
Available*



*New HQ Spinning  
Hexagon*

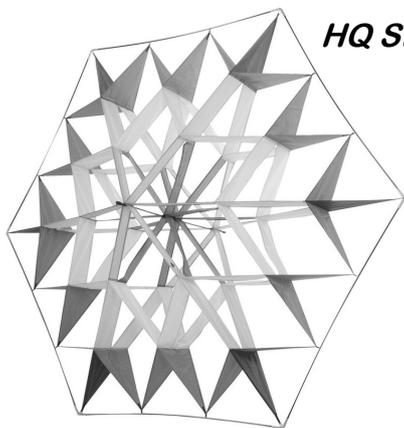


*HQ Flapping  
Bertie Beetle*

**Keep checking our  
website for  
everything new in  
2011**



*Sky Dog  
Sweet Emotion*



*HQ Stellar Box XL*



*New Rev B2*



*Prism Kites  
New Colours  
For 2011*



*Lot's Of Great Kites From  
Colours In Motion & Premier*



# [www.kiteworld.co.uk](http://www.kiteworld.co.uk)

01255 860041



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Dear Reader

**Editorial**

As you will see John Barker has decided after nearly 25 years to hang up his parachute and stop producing Roman Candle. We can understand his reasons—we have great difficulty finding information for these pages—we would like to thank John for all his contributions over the years and hope that his unique style will still appear in these pages occasionally.

It seems that a number of events this year have suffered from the general malaise of lack of money—particularly where these events are supported by local councils. This has affected Weymouth, Rougham, Blackheath—which is not happening this year and Sunderland to our direct knowledge. Please support all of the events you can to show that there is still a desire for them.

This year is the 20th Anniversary of the Portsmouth Kite Festival—as you can see we are planning some interesting activities at the festival. We hope as many of you as possible can attend and continue to support the event. Of course there is also the Margate International Kite Festival in September.

**The People are Back  
Revolution Fliers at  
Portsmouth 2008—  
returning for a mega-mega  
attempt at Portsmouth in  
August**

**Photo: Tara Bloom**

Over the winter we have revamped The Kite Society web site adding more information and trying to make it better for navigation. You will also find some more back issues added—more will continue to added but each one—produced before the days of modern computers, takes several hours to scan, clean up and publish—that is why it is a bit slow! If you have any links or suggestions for the web pages then please let us know.

Gill and Jon

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

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

## Pothecary Corner

### Buying a sport kite

Draw a horizontal line, six inches long, on a piece of paper.

At the left side write Precision and on the right, put Tricks.

Now, hold your pen in the middle and move it one way or the other and you will begin to appreciate the problems a designer encounters when trying to get an all round sport kite that will do everything – the closer you get to one – the further you are from the other.

Somehow, of course, the other problem that has to be overcome is to make it fly in anything from 2 to 30mph without having to make any adjustments. Pretty impossible task huh? – Well only a few years ago the line you just drew was twelve inches long and some of the modern kites of today have got it down to about four and are now trying to bend it in the middle!

### R & D

Of course these kites don't come cheap, they are made of the latest, high tech materials and there is a mountain of research hours to be paid for.

Remembering the days Tim Benson had been developing his sport/trick kite The Deep Space, and I had watched him tweak it this way and that with different rods, tensions, panels and bridle settings for more than eighteen months getting ever closer to what he wanted the kite to be able to do before he even thought about releasing it.

In the last few years Close Encounters have become involved also with Peter Taylor at Airdynamics and have been grateful for each of Peter's modifications that have made our custom made, yellow and black T4 kites fly a little better in a little lower wind each time.

Skyburner always kept their name synonymous with that of good quality build and innovative ideas but, for us, really cracked it when Jon Trennepohl poured his years of experience in to creating the Widow-Maker – imagine how he felt when he realised what he had created!

Guys like Tim, Jon and Peter put so much time and thought in to getting their designs to work at their very best with some of the tweaks barely noticeable unless you are flying their kite all the time – it's all down to pride!

### Hands on Help

So, do you need to spend the sort of money these high end kites justify, and what do you look for in a sport kite when you are buying for yourself or someone, not perhaps in to power, but would still like to be having fun flying.

At festivals our sponsor, [Kiteworld](#), often send people over, who are interested in learning to fly but have no idea where to start. The easiest thing would be to say "Go spend at least a hundred quid and get something big" but that teaches them nothing. Instead I take them through a familiar pattern from which I can predict – I will always get the same reactions.

I start them off on a small kite – something around £30 to £40 which has low pull and needs a little bit of wind to get it going. These are usually quite difficult to fly at first but make good training and if, as usual, they are a bit quick then I'll put a tail on the kite which will also make it more stable and concentrate the flyer's mind on keeping it in the air.

Something like a Bolero, Nexus or Bebop kite has the strength to stand up to some good bashes into the ground here.

Basic stuff of how not to do it (and try not to hit anybody/thing) is followed by how to launch and what to do to correct the Kite's flight path to keep it flying and then a quick demo by myself or my wife Marilyn just to prove that it is all possible.

### Not the Same

As soon as they are confident enough and before they decide that they are going to head off to the world championships with this wonderful little beast, I deprive them of the kite and put in their hands something like a Prism Quantum (not the Pro), which has a shock absorber built in to nose, something like one of our older Overs or and HQ Falcon.

I love the look on their faces on launching as they get their first experience of – "All kites are not all the same!" and they can feel the firm pull and much better controllability. "Perhaps this one costs a little too much" they say – "But I'll definitely buy the other one!"

So I put them back on it and the usual comment is about how wishy-washy it now feels and that maybe a more expensive kite is a better investment.

There aren't too many kites around the £70 to £100 mark that will deliver tricks, precision and fly well enough to take you on to the next stage, but a larger kite chosen carefully usually means that you can fly in much lower winds and will be much slower and easier to control when the breeze freshens.

The sail will be better quality though probably not the best available and most manufacturers are now using higher grade, stiffer and lighter rods such as Skyshark or Avia (Skyshark now label all their rods) so that is another thing to look for in a better quality and probably better flying kite.

There are some kites at around the one hundred pound mark I would thoroughly recommend as a first or second kite purchase or even to use in pairs or

## Pothecary Corner

team flying but if you want real class then it's going to cost more.

Even the inexperienced eye can spot the difference between a high end kite and a cheapie if you stand them side by side, and believe me – you do get what you pay for!

### Good Looks

Don't be influenced by the colours – like "Go Faster" stripes on an old banger – performance will not be enhanced by livery. I have to say that there are some kites I have found to fly really well but I don't feel happy flying them because they look awful – and I am not alone here so manufacturers take note when you wonder why your kite isn't selling as well as you had hoped! It's a bit like clothes – if they make you look good you feel good. When was the last time you saw a good trick flyer ordering a top end kite and asking for one with a picture of Kermit on it?

### What do we Fly?

We do keep with us quite a selection of mid range kites, so if you want to try before you buy then look out for the "Close Encounters" banners. The kite that's always in our bag and, in our opinion, the best trick kite, is the Benson, Deep Space. You are always welcome to come over and give this one a try – You will not be disappointed!

Then, of course, are the kites we use in demonstration. The ones we have been really fussy about are the super ultra-light, Airdynamic T4 kites designed by Peter Taylor – as said above, these have been really tweaked.

This is because we want to be able to fly and demonstrate in the lowest of winds possible – we hate letting people down and we hate going all the way out to a practice session and we can't fly through lack of wind.

These kites can be bought to order – we had ours in special team colours too! We had super light tails made first and then got the kites done in the same colour – the tails are so light we can still fly in virtually no wind – and they are over 100ft long!

After that we use standard kites by well known manufacturers such as HQ (the Skydog Dream On has a pretty good wind range) or Eolo Gayla – here we get sponsored a bit (mostly by HQ) but the kites are as anyone would buy off the shelf and we don't tweak the bridles any more than the standard, built in adjustments allow.

In higher winds we use Nappy brakes, Wah pads or vented kites. In pairs we have two of our old competition kites (Lithiums) with removable panels and when there are three of us we now have three HQ Invento Vented Infinities.

You can see lots of videos of all types of kites flying

in the video section of our web-site.

We'll be happy to recommend traders you can trust but if you tell them what you want for a kite and how much you can afford you would be unlucky to get ripped off. A good trader will tell you honestly what you get for your money and should be there for you with after sales service. They know that you will come back there for your next kite if the first one was a success.

How many kites do you need? Just one more!

### Commentary

It was never easy for a commentator to keep up with us when we got in the demonstration arenas.

Often, things have to change with very little notice because the wind has moved or one of the team has not understood the instruction I have given them or most often, I have forgotten what comes next!

We like our audience to understand what it is we are trying to do and it is very impressive if you say what you are going to do (land that kite there) and then do it.

We started using a wireless mike some years ago just to talk about how to launch and keep a kite in the air and how to make simple manoeuvres, moving quickly on how to fly synchronised in a pair or a team.

This was then very useful for work we did in schools and village fetes.



I have likened it to the falconry exhibitions where the guy stands in the middle and tells you all about the birds – I just do the same with kites as we fly them about – people like to know what is going on and seem to enjoy the interactive commentary.

It did get a bit of a worry that some of the events we were booked for did not have a PA that we could link in to. Basingstoke Festival, for instance, one year de-

## Pothecary Corner

cided to run their PA on batteries and our receiver needs to be hooked up to an A/C current!

Not to be caught out anymore we have now armed ourselves with two PA systems quite adequate for us at smaller events. One can be run from our car battery and the other came with its own wireless microphones and headset and can be wheeled out in a field miles from anywhere and run for about four hours on its own batteries. We now use that one for practice sessions too!

### Contributions

Often the editors of this magazine are asking you, the membership, for help and quite honestly some are not giving the support they deserve. The task of filling this magazine each quarter is frightening – not a duty I would want to take on!

Often the plea for more articles goes out and often no more come in. One of the reasons for this perhaps could be that it is difficult to know what to write about. So I will be trying to think of topics for which you need have no greater experience than others but that people would still be interested to read.

#### Idea one

Have you ever made a kite? What got you interested in it and how did you go about getting the plans – or did you make it up as you went along? Where did you get the materials and what were the most difficult to obtain. What troubles did you hit along the way and how long did it all take. Most of all did it work? OK add a few more bits of your own type it up, send in a photo - sorted!

My own experience of kite making? I tried a couple of things but got so frustrated – I don't do fiddly – I won't be doing it again – I'd rather be out flying!

I know that editors have an uphill battle for contributions, I have been asked, recently, to send my ramblings to a couple of magazines including "Kitelife" the on line American magazine and they now have their own Pothecary's Corner, which is good because the number of visits to our website have increased.

#### What you forgot

Have you attended a good festival? How did you find out about it? How did you plan your day? Who made the sarnies or do you go for the onsite food and what was it like? What were the things that impressed you about the festival and what got up your nose? What time did you leave in the morning what did you forget to take and what time did you get back? What will you do different next time and what would you advise others?

#### Bought a kite?

Tell us about a kite you bought. Was it an impulse buy or was it one you have had your eye on for ages? Did you buy it on line or at a festival? Was it

one you had read about in Pothecary's corner and did you agree with what I said about it? Does it do what you expected or will it when you get the time to practice?

#### One more

Here's one more idea and I will add my story to it just so that you can see how easy it is to put something together.

Two questions we are always being asked, apart from those to Marilyn on how *does* she put up with me, are "How long have you been flying?" and "how did you start?"

We hadn't been together long and were still taking those romantic walks in the country.

Combe Gibbet was our choice one Sunday in 1992 – it doesn't sound great but there are fantastic views across at least three counties from the top and it was there that I saw people flying some black two line deltas. Not the sort of thing that interested Marilyn at the time so I just stumbled along the track taking it in as I went, I thought that it looked pretty good fun. We were in to road races, 10k most Sundays, at the time and I was playing a lot of football so we didn't get back there but the memory stayed with me.

Coming up to Christmas Marilyn said that she needed to get me another present and was there anything I particularly wanted? Remember we are back at the beginner's stage here and knew absolutely nothing about kites at all.

"A kite" she exclaimed "What made you think of that?"

#### How much?

I reminded her about Combe and said that it might be an inexpensive way to fill up the odd afternoon when it was our turn to have the kids, thinking that she could pick one up like the ones we saw for about eight quid in the local toy shop.

After some searching Marilyn found a proper kite shop (remember those) in a precinct in Southampton where she secured my first ever sport kite – a Generation. I was pleased to get it on the day but couldn't believe how much it had cost –

"Ok – I give in" I said.

"Thirty quid!" she said "thirty quid! Who would have believed that a kite could cost thirty quid! ...and there were some that cost more than that!!!"

#### Now add wind!

The next few weekends were pretty foggy and we knew that you needed LOADS of wind to fly a kite so not much happened for a while so, eventually we decided to go where there was bound to be lots of wind – back to Combe!

It was windy and it was cold, very cold but, we had-

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n't come all the way out here....

My son, Grant, twelve at the time, had forgotten his hat so kept his ears from dropping off in the cold by wrapping the kite bag around his head. Marilyn's daughter, now a teenager, showed the expected interest of a female adolescent and stayed in the car with a book.

We went through all of the games of throwing the kite up, crashing, untwisting and relaunching shouting instructions at each other through the biting wind before going home excited at having been able to stay airborne for at least 15 seconds on a couple of occasions.

### This is how

We had to try this again. Back to the hill the following week and then, suddenly, what was I doing? The kite was staying up there! Careful analysis showed that by keeping my hands out in front and returning them to a neutral position when the kite was pointing in the direction I wanted was the answer! Follow that with a big movement back with one hand until I had completed a circle and I was away – oh the excitement – I was bitten. Now I had unlocked this secret I was able to explain it to Marilyn and she too was a master of the sky!

### First Festival

A few weeks later we were returning from a shopping trip passing Basingstoke when we caught sight of a sign saying 'Kite Festival'. We couldn't believe the size and shapes of those kites there - we were on about it for weeks after! What a pity the festival was just ending as we arrived. From our road running days we were used to picking up leaflets for other events so our next date was at Teston Bridge. It was here that we saw some bigger sport kites set up on the ground and looked to see the difference between those and our little toy. It was Mike, the guy who ran the buggy club that came over and asked me if I would like to try and insisted I did despite my protestations about not being a 'proper kite flyer'. After a quick demo I was given the straps – I was airborne – WOW – what is this thing – it's fantastic! The stronger pull, the controllability – everything about this was wonderful and then, bump, I nosed it in to the ground. I was told not to worry and the kite was righted again for me but I decided not to push my luck anymore and went back to join Marilyn who had been watching, cross fingered, from afar. We were both so excited, we picked up more leaflets and it looked like Weston was our next target.

### What's next?

What happened next? Well if anyone contacts us to ask I will write up the next episode to be printed amongst all the other contributions in the next issue. Allan and Marilyn Pothecary are founder members of Close Encounters Kite Display Team  
[www.closeencounterskites.co.uk](http://www.closeencounterskites.co.uk)

### Butterfly Kites

Just screen printing on rip stop nylon has a strong, colourful effect on the Ruby Red and Swallowtail butterfly kites from HQ.

Only the top, leading edge is covered, wrapped over to contain the main supporting rods for the sail. The rest of the kite, made from four sections, is heat cut and dependant on the melting action of the cutting to seal the edges and prevent fray.

I didn't need the instructions and, after a bit of cursing found that the kites are best assembled by holding them against the dihedral and pushing them back through and in to shape after the rods were inserted. Both kites have long and colourful matching tails and, to be honest, would not fly without them.

There are adjustments on the retaining line across the top which is, sort of, part of the bridle and this may need to be played with a bit to get a steady flight depending on the wind. Both kites need a minimum of 5mph to get them going and a hoop of suitable line can be found supplied in the bag.

Because of the vivid colours and overall size the tails provide, both butterflies command a relaxing presence as they flit around. Quite good fun these two and I didn't feel as though I was going to be let down with them so I suppose quite good value for around 20 quid!

There is a reasonably good video we did of these on our website.

### Allan Pothecary



## Forthcoming Events

### Western Lake District Kite Fest 2011 Millom & Haverigg 7th / 8th May

In association with Northern Kite Group

Situated on the award winning Lake District Coast with the dramatic back drop of Black Combe and the Coniston fells. At Western Lake District Kite Fest 2011, land based kite display teams from across northern England will descend upon the coastal village of Haverigg for two full days of displays.

- \* Free entry and parking
- \* Specialist kite display teams with professional commentary
- \* Public kite flying area
- \* Kite making workshops
- \* Teddy bear parachute drop
- \* Kite and toy retailers
- \* Situated adjacent to an award-winning beach at Haverigg.

Contact Mark Holroyd, Tourism Development Officer for South Copeland.  
mark@southcopelandtourism.org.uk or telephone: 01229719680.

### International Kite Festival, Cleethorpes 28th—30th May

Cleethorpes International Kite Festival will return on the 28th - 30th May 2011 on the Lower Kingsway, a spectacular three day event with flyers from around the world and all over the UK.

As in previous festivals the event will showcase kites from the four corners of the globe including America, Canada, Japan, China, Germany, France Holland and Belgium as well as flyers from across the UK. The programme throughout the weekend will feature kites never seen before in the UK and children's and adults workshops in the kite marquee.

The festival has the unique ability to engage and enable all ages to take part; anyone can fly a kite. A special arena for members of the public to fly their own or made in the workshop kites will also be onsite. Based on the previous festivals staged in Cleethorpes we expect approximately 30,000 spectators to attend over the weekend.  
[events@cleethorpesevents.co.uk](mailto:events@cleethorpesevents.co.uk)

### Basingstoke Kite Festival—4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> June

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.

The theme for the weekend is FAVOURITE ANIMALS. As in previous years, a prize will be awarded for the best themed kite, so you can now get carried away with your imagination!

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.

Come along and join in, and we look forward to seeing you there!!!

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

### Butser Hill Festival of Flight Sunday June 12<sup>th</sup> 11am to 4pm

This has now been held at Butser Hill for several years, and always fun. The site is off the A3, located between Horndean and Petersfield, and not far from Queen Elizabeth Country Park.

Follow the brown signs for BUTSER HILL.

Kites, Hand gliders, Para gliders and Model gliders are welcome. Parachute your Teddy Bear for fun!

Plenty of space for flying. There is an on-site cafe for basic refreshments (but Please contact the Park before the event to confirm the Cafe will be open and what will be on sale, as this is out of our control)

Sorry, but buggying is not permitted. This is just a relaxing, fun day, with room to fly your kites, or purchase one while you are there. Come along and have some fun!

Contact: Roy Broadley of Kites Up on 01256 812487 or Queen Elizabeth Country Park on 02392 595040

## Forthcoming Events

### 16<sup>th</sup> Southampton Kite Festival 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> June

This year sees the 16<sup>th</sup>. Southampton Kite Festival organised and run by Solent Kite Flyers. It is to be held over the weekend of 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> June from 10.00am to 5.30pm each day. The venue is Lordshill Sports Ground, 5 Acre Field, Lordshill, Southampton, Hampshire SO16 9BP. Access is via Junction 2, M271 off Junction 3 M27. All major access routes will be signposted for the event.

This year's Festival will be a great show of many different types of kites, flying displays and kite competitions, as well as varied and interesting activities happening around the Festival Site.

Each day will see Kite Flying Displays from some of the UK's best kite fliers as well as general entertainment and display flying to music. There will also be a few very special arena displays from local groups, including displays of Power Kiting with buggies and boards. We have invited International Guests to give both flying and static displays around the Festival site and there will be plenty of open space available for public flying, so please bring your kites! There will be a Kite Making Workshop, where everyone will be able to make their own simple kite.

Anyone is welcome to make use of the Sport Kite Flying School for help in getting started in two and four line kites, as well as Kite Traders selling a range of Kites and Accessories to all levels of experience and price. Craft stalls, general interest and activity traders, hot and cold refreshments, local based live music and face painting will be there to keep all ages entertained throughout the day.

On the Sunday the Southampton Open Trophy is just that – anyone can enter with any type of kite. This year there are *two* trophies to be competed for. One judged by a panel drawn from the audience and one solely on the reaction from the crowds this is really where the first time flyers can beat the experienced guys as it is decided purely on entertainment value.

There will also be 'Parachuting Teddy Bears'! so don't forget to bring along your own 'Cuddly Toys' so they can join in the fun; each one receiving a certificate for their bravery (Weather permitting).

Do you have a Sky Dancer? Please bring it along because we are having a special tribute to David Davies with a mass fly in the arena! This will be great fun and very colourful – bring the cameras!

Again with the weather and wind permitting, there will be a 'Night Fly' on Saturday evening once it gets dark! (Probably after 9.30pm) This is open to all fliers to join in, with the kites having lights attached or using reflective tapes etc.

Even if you don't feel like flying over the two days, why not just come and watch one of the most colourful and exciting events to happen in Southampton this year. Entry is free, parking is free and the sky is free for all to use and enjoy.

There is limited on-site camping available over Friday and Saturday nights, for those flying and displaying kites at the festival. There will be a charge for this of £5.00 per night and space(s) will need to be booked prior to the event.

For more information on any of the above, please contact Mike Lowe of Solent Kite Flyers on 02380 770788 or email [secretary@solentkiteflyers.org.uk](mailto:secretary@solentkiteflyers.org.uk)

### Invite to Flight – Fly your Kite! - 25 June

Stokes Bay Field, 2pm-late

As part of Celebrate! Gosport's Grand Finale, all kite flyers are invited to come and fly your kite! Nothing formal, nothing serious, just an excellent opportunity to join in in your own way with the music, food, dance, sun, sea and sand also happening at Stokes Bay over the afternoon and evening. We hope the sun won't be optional! For more information contact Nigel Draycott, Arts Development Officer, Gosport Borough Council. (023) 92 54 53 07

### Dunstable Kite Festival, 16th & 17th July

The National Trust is pleased to announce the the Dunstable Kite Festival for 2011 will be a two day spectacular this year. Held over the weekend of the 16th / 17th of July on the Beautiful Dunstable Downs in Bedfordshire. The site offers spectacular views over the Chiltern valley below. Full commentary will be provided by Joe Brown and Martin Corrie.

Acts confirmed so far are:

The Flying Squad—European Mega Display Team  
Team Spectrum (Displays to Music)  
Dark Star (3 kites - 1 man team )  
Andrew Beattie (Large Inflatable's)  
French Connection (Kite Stacks - flying backwards)  
Yan Spooner (Trick Flying)  
Son Of The Winds (Dancing with kites)  
Oobee - Dave ( Power Kiting display )

## Forthcoming Events

NEW! Team Sky Art (Unusual large Inflatable's)  
Stafford Wallace (Indian Fighter Kite Champion)

We hope you will come and attend the event with us. There is a small fee for parking but attendance is free. Use the golf club postcode for sat navs! LU6 2NB.

For up to the minute news on the Festival please visit [www.dunstablekitefestival.co.uk](http://www.dunstablekitefestival.co.uk)

If you are a team wishing to partake in the event please contact [Martin@dunstablekitefestival.co.uk](mailto:Martin@dunstablekitefestival.co.uk). Stall holders wishing to attend should contact [Paul.Hancock@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:Paul.Hancock@nationaltrust.org.uk)

### Northants Kiter's Jolly Up 9 Aug 6th & 7th

It's almost that time again! Same format as always, so come and join us for the 9<sup>th</sup> Jolly Up, and another FUN Weekend of Kite Flying for Kite Fliers! The site is located in the village of Clid-desden, 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 works well, so we will do the same format. (£6.50 and bring your plate and cutlery as normal please!).

We can do Jacket Potatoes for those interested over the weekend, and Bacon rolls available both mornings. The Auction will be held on the Saturday evening, and any donations gratefully received before or on the week-end.

We will also run the Competition for Garden Produce, which can cover fruit, veg, plants, anything really. Show us what you've been growing, it may win a prize. Rules are minimal and made up on the day!

We hope to run the Beer Lift again, same rules as before. 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](mailto:roy@kitesup.co.uk)

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

### Kites over Capstone, Gillingham, Kent - 25th September

Medway Council have confirmed the date of their annual Kites over Capstone Event. It will be held on Sunday 25th September. Invitations have

been sent out to various Kite groups. Although it is a confirmed date, there is still much to be finalised in regard to the day.

It will be a day for kitefliers to be able to fly kites of all shapes and sizes, as it is not intended to set an area aside for demonstration teams, although it is anticipated there will be a Kite teddy bear paracuting available on the day. A separate part of the flying area will be set aside for power kiting.

Kite flyers will be allowed to park by the main flying area and camping will also be allowed from the Saturday through to the Monday morning. The camping arrangements are still to be finalised, due to discussions still taking place with the Park manager to allow camping from the previous Friday 23rd September.

The full address of the venue:- Capstone Farm Country Park, Capstone Road, Gillingham, Kent ME7 3JG. Contact :- Ms Sammie Freeman, Events Officer, Medway Council. Tel: 01634 338109. email:- [Sammie.freeman@medway.gov.uk](mailto:Sammie.freeman@medway.gov.uk)

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## Boat Kite—Stephane Blanco

Senegal fishermen test life- and energy-saving 'boat kites'

In Senegal, traditional fishermen struggle to meet fuel costs, and risk dying at sea if a dugout canoe motor breaks down. But a French maths teacher may have found a surprising solution: kites.

Stéphane Blanco is a 40-year-old maths teacher in the French coastal town of Melle. He invented the "Volanz", a "dynamic emergency boat-kite". He grew up in Senegal, and has kept close ties with the country.

"I've been working on the "Volanz" project for a little over ten years now. It was an uphill effort: I took a leave of absence for three years to create a prototype, test it, and launch a micro-company to market it.



Stéphane Blanco testing a "Volanz" prototype in stormy waters along the Vendée coast, in western France. Photo: Jean-Paul Gendry.

The kites came to public attention in 2009, when two participants of the trans-Atlantic Bouvet-Guyane rowing race successfully used them to pull their boats to shore after suffering technical problems. The kites are big and bright, and also make good distress signals.

"I trained two Senegalese craftsmen to design and make the kites."

After that, I approached the Senegalese fishing authorities, who expressed interest in equipping local fishermen's boats with the kites. There are over 10,000 independent fishermen in Senegal – most of whom use small wooden dugout canoes with dilapidated motors - and each year an unknown number [up to 50 according to some estimates] die at sea because of motor failures. So I travelled to Senegal in February to train two local craftsmen, Badara "Badou" Tall and Babacar Fall, in designing and making the kites, and we tested the first two they produced with fishermen in Hann [a coastal town east of the capital Dakar].

What is interesting, though, is that while I had initially designed "Volanz" kites for emergency use, the Senegalese fishermen I worked with quickly saw its fuel-saving potential. Petrol in Senegal costs as much as in France, while the average Senegalese fisherman earns much, much less than most French people. Official figures are hard to find, but one fisherman I spoke to told me that he can spend up to 10,000 CFA francs (15 euros) per day on gas, while on some days he'll make only 1,500 CFA francs (2.2 euros) from the fish he sells. Most fishermen really struggle to make ends meet. If they use the kite to either go out to sea or return to shore --depending on which way the wind is blowing -- they can save up to 50% of fuel costs.

The kites are single-cord models that don't need to be piloted, which means that they can be used without any special training. They simply need to be attached to a sturdy point on the boat (in dugouts, the fishermen attach them to the back near the motor, and slip the cord under one of the benches). They usually take about eight seconds to deploy. A 6m<sup>2</sup> "Volanz" can pull an 8-metre long dugout at a speed of 3 or 4 knots (5/8 km per hour), depending on the force of the wind.

"I want the kites to be a sustainable source of income for the workers who make them."

Right now, we're in a pilot phase of making and selling 100 kites to equip small Senegalese fishing boats. If that goes well, then I'll return to Senegal to train more workers, and we'll gradually launch a more wide-scale production. My partners (sponsors, Senegal's Ministry of Fishing) and I have yet to determine at what price the kites should be marketed in Senegal. All I know is that I don't want to start a low-cost operation: I want the kites to be a sustainable source of income for the local workers who make them, not mass-made and sold cheap by a major manufacturer."



Fisherman holds on to a kite string. Photo: Rémy Frappas-Denis.

## Re-inventing the Wheel—Peter Lynn

Every person who has ever made a kite, probably everyone who's ever flown a kite, maybe even everyone who's ever watched kites fly, is familiar with hunting and looping instability. This is when a kite starts to hunt from side to side with ever increasing amplitude as wind speed increases, eventually crashing out in a series of violent loops.

This sequence is set off if a kite, when correcting after getting a bit out of line, goes too far the opposite way, then in correcting from this over-correction, over-corrects even further the other way, and so on.

Whether corrections build or fade can depend on unimaginably small effects- which is why kite making is so rewarding and annoying:

\*Rewarding when they fly well: Irrefutable proof of our cleverness.

\*Annoying when they misbehave: Persecution by malign external influences.

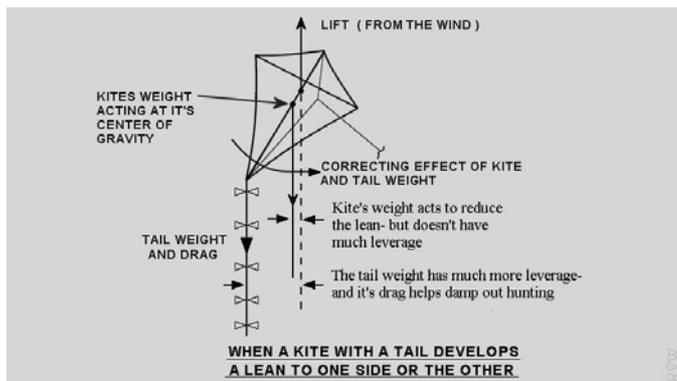
\*But in reality: We're usually just being fooled by randomness.

Very occasionally it's possible to identify some small difference that has a big effect on kite behaviour.

An early prototype of the 10sq.m 4 bridle Pilot design I have described was stable in all winds while the next one was irretrievably unstable. Between these two kites, I had made a new template for the outer ribs (profiles) as the original was a bit wobbly- but when smoothing out the bumps, had inadvertently moved the widest point forward by just 80mm (each rib is 3.25m long). The actual change in the rib depth at any point is not more than 10mm or so, an amount that gets lost in fabric stretch when a cut rib is laid back on it's template- but the first kite flew and the second didn't- and with this change reversed, the next one flew just as well as the original.

Having lots of lateral area (keels, flares, vertical surfaces etc) is effective in preventing hunting/looping, but a 5,000 or 10,000 year older solution (from the first kite I expect) is to add a tail.

All kites are pendulums; their weight (acting at the kite's centre of gravity) hanging beneath wind generated lift forces, points them upwards. When they tilt over to one side or the other because of unsteady winds, this pendulum effects corrects the lean and gets them back to pointing straight upwards again.

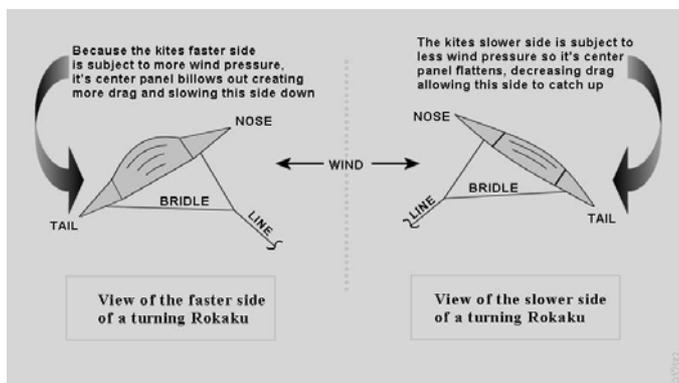


Tails enhance this pendulum effect because their weight, acting at the tail attachment point, has much more leverage. The tail's aerodynamic drag also helps keep everything pointing upwind and works to damp out any hunting that threatens to take hold.

Tails have a 'dynamic' effect, in the sense that their corrective effect increases rapidly when a kite starts to behave badly- which is pretty much the opposite of how the "Department of Corrections" (prisons) function in New Zealand-, but I digress.

And there are other dynamic stabilising mechanisms that kites use.

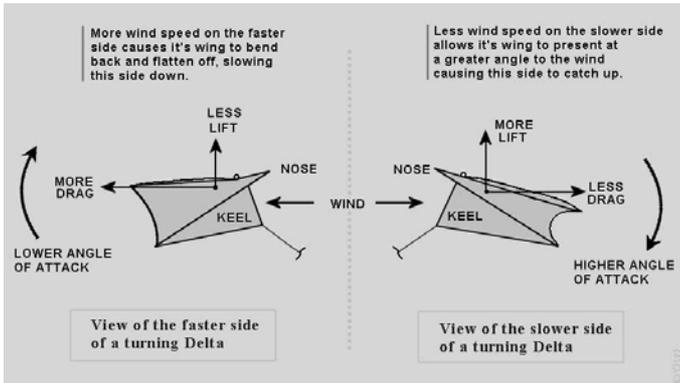
Rokkakus have one that I admire a lot. When a Rokkaku begins to turn to one side or the other, aerodynamic forces and the kite's structure combine to cause the camber of it's centre section on the faster side to increase and that of the slower side to flatten- which resists the turning tendency and shuts down any hunting/looping build-up before it can establish.



Deltas (and Genki's, and fighters when their bows aren't too stiff) have another:

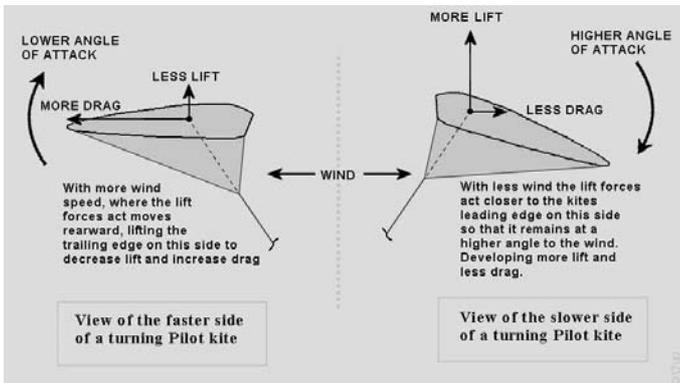
Their wingtip angle of attack decreases as wind speed increases: reducing lift (which is the driving force behind instability) and increasing drag (which has a stabilising effect). This is very clever;

## Re-inventing the Wheel—Peter Lynn



not only do they automatically de-power to maintain stability as wind speed increases (because lift decreases and drag increases as the wingtips flatten off in response to more wind pressure), but if one wing should happen to fly faster than the other, then it's extra flattening-off response acts to slow that side, restore the kite to straight flying and damp out hunting before it can establish it's baleful grip.

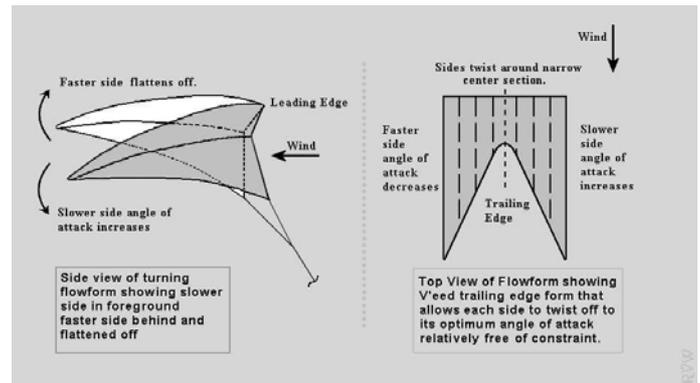
And there's a dynamic stabilising effects that some ram air inflated kites use also.



The 4 bridle Pilot's automatic de-power system described in a previous newsletter (which works by lifting the kite's trailing edge as wind speed increases to decrease angle of attack, reduce lift and increase drag) also has a dynamic stabilising effect. This is because, analogous to the delta kite dynamic stabilising system, when one side finds itself flying faster than the other, that side de-powers preferentially, and this immediately damps out any hunting behaviour that might have had a mind to get in on the act. Embarrassingly, I've been using this system for years without realising that I have been; my standard pilot designs have always (or at least from when I first ditched the central flare) used profiles that are cambered in their rear half (induced by the flares so that if the kite overflies it reverts to reflexive form to resist luffing) and this has been providing, I now see, at least some auto-depower and dynamic stability.

I didn't understand why or how this worked until a few months ago, just knew that this camber somehow made these kites fly better.

And here's where credit is really due: Flowforms have had this dynamic stabilising feature for at least 25 years, and even cleverer, they enhance it by having a giant vee in their centre trailing edge so that one side can twist freely relative to the other. My hat goes off to whoever first figured this- it's an idea that's right up there with clever dick Deltas and Rokkakus.



Aagh!: Seems like I just invented the wheel, then find out I'm years too late and that my version isn't even properly round!

Peter Lynn, Kuwait City, Feb 28, 2011

PS But the 4 bridle Pilots did get lucky in two other respects.

Moving their centre front bridle to the top skin- which was done to improve initial inflation and reduce collapsing- has provided two additional useful features:

This centre top bridle point can be used to attach another kite; these Pilots are completely stackable (and much more reliable when stacked than the centre cell slot system that is available with some 8 bridle models).

And, this top bridle point provides an excellent de-powering system. Pulling on this bridle (when it can be reached) de-powers the kite and makes even the 22sq.m versions easily handle-able in strong winds. I expect that a second line rigged from this bridle to the ground will become an effective safety system when using Pilot kites for lifting things (banners, trains etc) and will save a lot of heavy work when pulling stuff down if the wind doesn't co-operate by dropping off at the day's end (everywhere except Italy).

## Bits & Pieces

### Air Banners

Prince William's speech supported by an Air Banner. Prince William was on a down-under tour, visiting New Zealand and Australia. In March he was offering condolences to the people of Japan, while paying tribute to the victims of the earthquake in New Zealand.

Air Banners was proud to be at the Memorial Service in Christchurch's Hagley Park to show our support for the people of New Zealand and Japan. It really showed how effective our Air Banners can be.

If you can, have a look at the video on the BBC web site or Air Banner's video gallery [www.airbanners.com](http://www.airbanners.com).

### Precision Parachute System for Pin-point Delivery of Sensitive Loads

*The 'ParaLander' ram-air cargo parachute is a 'precision air-cargo*



*'ParaLander' is classified as an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) and its manufacturer claims 'it is the only commercially available system in the world that can ensure the pin-point delivery of sensitive mission equipment, humanitarian aid, and supplies fully automatically from the air without damage'.*

The ParaLander system consists of a ram-air parachute and a control unit, which are attached to the payload, and a mission planning system. After the parachute system has been dropped from an aircraft, the control unit steers it and its payload to the target area with the aid

of servomotors and GPS. A laser altimeter ensures that the descent is slowed down well before landing.

The system is intended to carry a 1000kg payload. Depending on the type of aircraft dropping it, the system can be used at altitudes of up to 10,000 metres and over distances of up to fifty kilometres. The German armed forces have bought five ParaLander systems which they intend to deploy in Afghanistan.

### Be part of the Artic Migration

From the website of the Alaska Wilderness League.



The Arctic is all around us. Every year, birds that begin their lives on the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge journey to all 50 states and across six continents, before heading back to the Arctic, where the cycle of life begins again. Many of these birds come through our backyards or make a stopover in your local National Wildlife Refuge.

As we celebrate 50 years of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, we must do everything we can to be sure that this last wild haven remains for generations to come. You can be part of this by participating in our symbolic migration. Concerned citizens across the country will be getting together throughout the year to fly kites symbolizing the birds that come through their areas and celebrating the natural connection between the Arctic Refuge and their area.

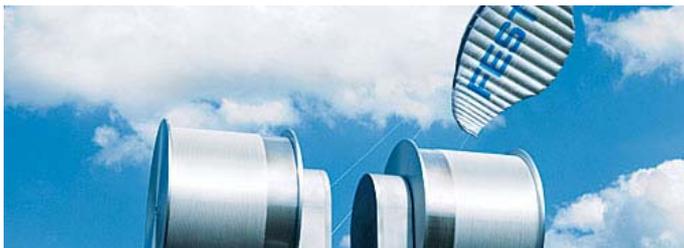
After you get your kite materials, make a plan to fly them with the rest of their flock. Invite your friends and family to a mini-migration of your own! You will have fun and raise awareness about the Arctic Refuge. Click here for more info on how to set up your own kite-flying event and please email us at [kites@alaskawild.org](mailto:kites@alaskawild.org) to tell us how your event went! We'd love to share your report and photos on our website to build momentum for folks to have their own events and to keep the migration roll-

## Bits & Pieces

ing! The League thanks our friends at The Drachen Foundation for generously providing kite materials to make this celebratory action a huge success!

Go to <http://www.alaskawild.org/kites/> for the kite plan.

### CyberKite - the automated Kite System



To control the forces of nature has always been a challenge of man. CyberKite by Festo is the Bionic Learning Network which uses a cybernetic system developed by their team of engineers using the Dragon controller. The wind is an unpredictable factor in the handling of a steerable kite having to direct the air wing to permanently stay in the air. The CyberKite shows a biomechatronics overall design that can control up to a 24m<sup>2</sup> inflatable wing kite and be energy self-sufficient and autonomous. The performance of both the electric drives as well as its overall performance is impressively demonstrated.

### From The New York Times Archive

Extracted from the reproduction March 6th 1863.

The Presidential Controversy Military Matters Kite-Flying by Rebel Prisoners

"The rebels last week, made an ingenious attempt to establish postal tions with the outside world. They expressed a wish to fly kites and were indulged. But the officers noticed that the cords frequently broke, and the paper messenger sailed away. They grew suspicious and sent a soldier out to capture one; neatly ensconced in its tail were found several letters."

### From the Guardian Web Site.

Featuring a picture from last years Portsmouth Kite Festival.

Weatherwatch: When kites helped to measure the weather

March winds are ideal for kite flying, not just for

fun but also for meteorological purposes. The first experiments with kites were carried out in Glasgow in 1749, when two students used them to measure the temperature at high altitudes.

Benjamin Franklin's 1752 kite experiment with lightning is well known, but weather kites became popular for the less hazardous and more mundane task of daily data gathering for many years. Of course balloons were also used to carry instruments aloft, but kites are cheaper, simpler and much easier to handle in high winds.

By 1899 the US Weather Bureau had 17 kite stations, each of which regularly lifted instruments to 8,000ft using a train of several kites joined together. The standard "moderate wind" kite was about 2 metres by 2 metres. Light wind kites were used when the breeze was less than 8mph, and heavy-duty ones when it was above 30mph.

The kites were of a box design, made of spruce with cambric cloth. Piano wire was used for kite string, and kite trains needed to be hauled back with a steam-powered windlass, housed in a reel house mounted on a turntable to face into the wind. Each kite train carried a meteorograph, a combined instrument package which recorded temperature, wind velocity, humidity, and barometric pressure.

While weather kites have been largely superseded, they still have their uses, and are still employed by the British Antarctic Survey.

### Kite Aerial Photos of Manihi Now in Google Earth

<http://tinyurl.com/4ygh57g>

The author of this site says: Some of you may know about my five year trip around the world by sailboat which we are calling the Tahina Expedition. As part of a partnership with Google, I'm taking photos of the Earth in some places along the way just like what you see in Google Earth. Only, some of the photos are even better than what you normally see because we are flying a camera only a few hundred feet above the ground with a kite!

Kids watching kite aerial photos being taken in ManihiBack in May, we visited a beautiful Tuamotus atoll in French Polynesia called Manihi. We had a wonderful time visiting there, and one day we had perfect conditions to fly the

## Bits & Pieces

kite. My goal was to capture parts of the village near the pass into the lagoon. We had time to walk down the main street on the north side. There were electric poles and wire and trees, so we couldn't quite capture the entire street. It was a really unique experience because the local kids and some of the adults all came out to find out what we were doing. We asked the kids to help us when we had to bring down the kite.

Google just recently published our photos of Manihi in the latest imagery update. You can see the results in Google Maps, or in Google Earth. Make sure you zoom in close to see all the amazing detail. It's way better than the surrounding satellite imagery for the rest of Manihi.

### Vancouver UFO just a fancy kite with lights

VANCOUVER, Wash. (AP) - Shed a tear, UFO buffs, because the curtain has been pulled away from that mysterious flying object in Fisher's Landing - and it's not here to carry us off or eat our brains. Last month, several folks reported seeing something high in the air, only after dark, something that danced strangely back and forth and emitted vivid blasts of flowing colors, sort of like large fireworks displays or some huge electrified, airborne chameleon. Some said the object resembled a flying saucer. It generated a media buzz from here to Seattle.

But now the UFO has been identified, so it's an IFO, and a really cool one. Ta-da! It's a magnificent Chinese-made kite, made of parachute fabric in a triangle shape, standing 7½ feet tall with a wingspan of 13 feet. The lights are hundreds of LEDs of every bright color imaginable, powered by an onboard rechargeable lithium ion battery and a small onboard computer that sequences many flashing light patterns. Watching the kite flying at night, you might see a gold-and-green pattern like a palm tree - and that might change into an upward shower of red light instead of water. The first minute of the patterns depict the rising sun, and then there are four more minutes of other patterns and it repeats the cycle, said the kite's owner and operator, a guy named Mike.

### Kite-Powered Electric Car Crosses Australia Using Only \$15 Worth of Electricity

The Wind Explorer--a kite-assisted lightweight electric car--drove 3,107 miles across Australia in 18 days using only \$15 worth of electricity.

As if that wasn't amazing enough, they journey set three world records: the first continental crossing by a wind-powered vehicle, the longest distance covered by a wind powered vehicle, and the longest distance covered by such vehicle in 36 hours!

The vehicle, an open roadster seating two people, weighs 441 lbs including both its battery pack and the wind turbine. It is constructed of sandwich carbon fibre which sits over an aluminium frame on top of bicycle tires that reduce any rolling resistance. The car's electric motor is located at the rear wheel with the trunk space up front.

The team, Dirk Gion and Stefan Simmerer, traveled over 1,400 miles on wind-generated electricity alone and did another 300 miles by kite.

With a lot of flat tires and a few blown out motors, the trip finished in Sidney on February 14th. The trip's top speed was 50 mph and their best daily distance was 306 miles. Quite an impressive journey considering the concept was conceived just last summer.



### A History of Aerial Photography and Archaeology: Mata Hari's Glass Eye and Other Stories

This book was inspired by a centenary marking the first aerial photographs of an archaeological monument in Britain. Those photographs are inevitably of Stonehenge. How a single balloon flight and the resulting photographs fit into the context of the history of aerial photography is revealed in this fascinating new book. The main emphasis is on how aerial photography came to be such an important tool for archaeologists over the last 100 years. However, the beginnings and development of aerial photography

## Bits &amp; Pieces

within military and civilian contexts are explored in depth, especially the contribution of pioneering aeronauts and aviators such as Samuel Cody who designed man-lifting kites and J L B Templer who was crucial to the development of military ballooning. During the First World War the true potential of aerial photography as a reconnaissance technique was realised. The Second World War saw even greater resources invested in aerial photography and the training of skilled specialist staff to interpret the millions of photographs taken from aircraft. Nevertheless, after the First World War it was realised how something that had developed within the context of warfare could serve non-military uses, including archaeology. Between the wars, aerial photography had a considerable impact on our understanding of the past, particularly once the significance and extent of cropmarks became apparent - the airborne camera could record sites and landscapes that were often invisible from the ground. As examples of recent and current archaeological work are explored, it becomes apparent just how far we have progressed in the use of aerial photography to record and interpret past landscapes. The book includes nearly 200 colour and black and white photographs, ranging from images of early balloon exploits and intriguing photographs from the Boer War to reconnaissance views from the World Wars and modern aerial shots of archaeological sites.

£25 from Amazon.

### The Open University View on Why Kites Fly?

<http://tinyurl.com/n4ud8s>

In conjunction with the BBC the Open University has a page How Does a Kite Fly? It is a fairly basic overview and was produced as part of the Rough Science 2 series. Quite a reasonable introduction although some would dispute the reasoning.

### On Ebay



PETER POWELL stunt KITE FLYING CLUB 1970s tin BADGE A superb vintage rare 1970-80s PETER POWELL KITE CLUB MEMBERS badge 57mm across in good condition a great item. Sold for £2.99.

### Banksy

Acclaimed street artist and Academy Award nominee Banksy continued his onslaught of Southern California streets when he "modified" the side of Bull Taco in Oceanside the evening of Thursday, February 24. The all-black exterior wall now depicts a giant rat flying a kite with the all-too-familiar highway sign illustrating a small family of illegal immigrants running towards safety.



A close up of the possible Banksy piece of graffiti which appeared in San Diego.

### New CAA Regulation

A new regulation has been published by the CAA which may affect some kitefliers who also partake in this activity. The introduction reads:

The use of lasers, searchlights, fireworks, helium-filled toy balloons and sky lanterns is now widespread throughout the UK, and their use has the potential to impact upon aviation activity. Lasers and searchlights make use of a generated light source to produce intense and directional beams of light, which can dazzle pilots and have the potential to cause damage to the human eye, and which can be exacerbated should a pilot be wearing night-vision goggles or similar devices. Unexpected fireworks could distract and confuse pilots and cause damage to aircraft in flight. Helium-filled toy balloons and sky lanterns have the potential of causing damage to engines through ingestion. Additionally, debris from sky lanterns dropping to the ground could produce Foreign Object Debris (FOD), which could cause damage to aircraft should any remnants land on the manoeuvring areas of an airfield. The risk to aviation is increased when such activities take place in the vicinity of aerodromes, particularly during those critical

## Bits & Pieces

phases of flight associated with taking off and landing.

### Popular Science

Have partnered with Google to offer their entire 138-year archive for free browsing. Each issue appears just as it did at its original time of publication, complete with period advertisements. It's an amazing resource that beautifully encapsulates our ongoing fascination with the future, and science and technology's incredible potential to improve our lives.

A simple search brings up 20 or so items for kite the earliest being around 1903.

Go to [www.popsci.com](http://www.popsci.com)

### Prehistoric Manlifting?

A human figure intaglio, or geoglyph, is seen on an alluvial bench near the Colorado River north of Blythe, Calif. These figures, several others are nearby, are scraped into the Pleistocene-era desert pavement. The figures are on public land, and so are fenced to protect them from further damage by vehicle and pedestrian traffic.



### The Big Kite Show



Royal College of Art graduate Daniel Frost had a new show at SHFT in Copenhagen that opened last month. The Big Kite Show is an exhibition of handmade kites, each featuring weird and wonderful characters capable of taking to the skies.

How did the show come about?

It all started with making a kite as a fun experiment for a kite festival that takes place in Copenhagen every year, I wanted to create a character on the kite that look as if it is in the state of flight, my work is very figurative and the characters are quite animated so I wanted to create a character that looks as if he/she is flying, so that when the wind catches the kite the figure flies into the air a becomes literally animated. After this first kite for the festival I made another two for and toy exhibition they were see by the guys at SHFT, Copenhagen and I met up with them, initially we I was just going to make some to sell in the store, but then we thought that it would be amazing to have an exhibition of as many different characters as I could, and then display them all over the store, some hanging on the wall some stuck to the sealing, I really like the idea of art work being hung on the ceiling. Its been such an amazing opportunity to just experiment with this one idea and to see how many directions you can push it in, It has produce some really playful and exciting results.

What have you produced for the show?

I have produced 25 kites, each kite displays a different playful character, leaving the ground by various means, some magical some propelled by springs. These will be displayed alongside some original drawings of the kites. Also I have made 100 tiny kites that I will be giving away free at the show.

What made you choose kites in the first place?  
I think its is because of their simplicity, not in construction but in aesthetic and the feeling of making some thing fly, its kind of magical and primitive, they are something that everyone can enjoy, children and adults. The playfulness really attracts me to kites.  
What's next?

I would really like to make a work on animation, it's something which I tried a long time ago and would really like experiment with again, its abit like the kites in a way I would like to see my on drawings move.

**Amrica's Got Talent**

Contestant Connor Doran recently featured on the cover of the Epilepsy USA magazine flying his trademark Revolution Kite.

The magazine also features an interview with him about his kite flying. See <http://tinyurl.com/3pf4et8> for the issue in question.

**Largest kite marks start of heart foundation's women campaign**

The kite, measuring 9m x 7m, made it into the Singapore Book of Records for the largest kite flown in Singapore, and soared above the crowd of mostly women who had gathered with their friends and family around picnic mats on the large field.



**Push KAPing – Flying High**

Ever dreamed you could fly and upon waking, wished you could have recorded that dream on film?

Short of growing your own set of wings, you could realise that dream with a Push KAPing prototype! By using two Nokia N8s that communicate with one another wirelessly, you can fly one suspended from a kite rig whilst using another on the ground to not only see, but also control exactly what is being shot in 12 megapixels or 720p quality HD recording from above.

What would you capture?

<http://bit.ly/pushn8Push> - link to a promotional video.

**Flying kites to help protect breeding birds**

Is it a bird? No, it's a kite of the non-feathered kind - and it is being flown at RSPB's Bowers Marshes to keep real birds away. They are all part of a scheme to protect breeding birds from the earthworks due to restart there.

Work to transform the site into 250 hectares of wildlife haven had to be postponed because of bad winter weather - and are due to resume in May. David Hedges, RSPB South Essex manager, said: "The kites are there to try to keep birds, looking for potential nesting sites, away from that part of the site – and encourage them to the areas already finished.

"We'll also be keeping the grass short to discourage birds, like skylarks, nesting on the ground," he added.



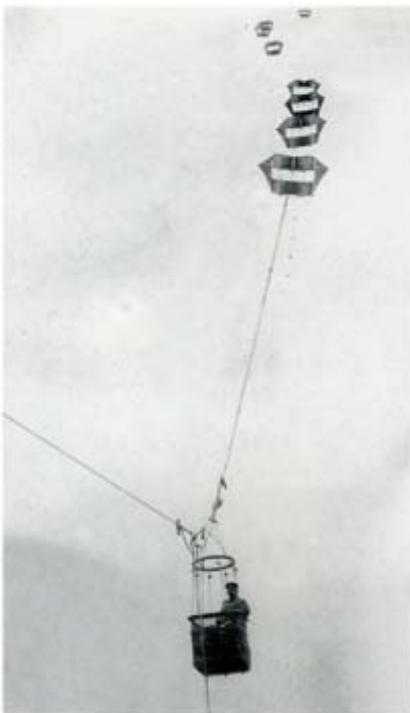
## The Russian Article—Dylan Stacey

From the Drachen Foundation.

Before the project known as 'The Russian Articles,' kite flying, to me, evoked thoughts of festivals on the beach: hundreds and even thousands of people from all over the world gather to share and foster their common passion. Many there use their kites as a means to express their cultural identity. Or perhaps I saw kite flying as a symbol of childhood, innocence, and fun. Memories of flying a kite with my father on the beach or at the park on a warm blustery day. The Russians changed that.

The Drachen Foundation acquired a collection of old Russian books, articles, journals, and pamphlets compiled by Jan Desimpelaere of Belgium, dating from 1898 to the 1940s. All of these focus on either kite flying or kite construction in Russia. Ali Fujino recruited me, a recent college graduate and Russian Studies major, to sift through these documents. This collection includes books outlining the basic guidelines to make and fly a simple box kite. Some articles are more detailed as Shestakov wrote about a number of his conducted experiments that explored the different weight, size, and shape of kites and different kinds of wind. The most interesting article I came across, however, was Danilevsky's 'The Aerial Kites of Captain Ulyanin.'

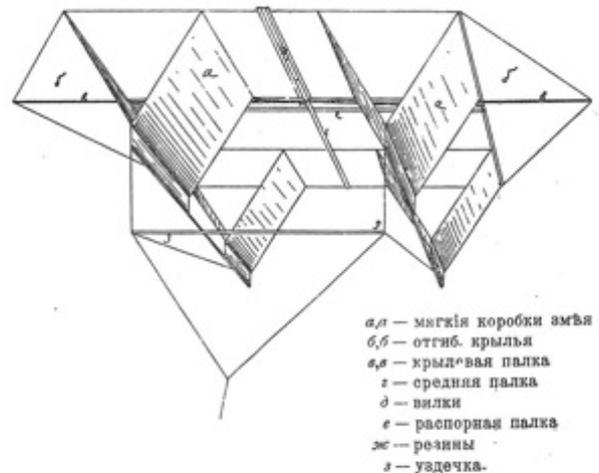
Sergei Ulyanin was a Russian engineer, balloonist, and military pilot; he was also the creator of the collapsible aircraft and the initiator of aerial photography in the military. He did so using kites. Before the development and perfection of the aircraft, most militaries used hot air balloons to gain an aerial advantage and spy on their opponents. But launching and flying an air balloon near enemy lines without being noticed was essentially impossible, and Ulyanin recognized this. Although he was not the first, he used a number of kites to lift an observer two hundred meters off the ground, high enough to scout as far as four to seven kilometers away. Before Ulyanin, Lieutenant Schreiber of the Imperial Russian Navy developed a man-lifting system using a Hargrave double box kite in 1903, but abandoned the idea after several fatalities. Ulyanin altered the design by using a train of double Conyne kites that achieved the lift and stability the military was looking for.



Danilevsky wrote this article in 1910 after collaborating with Ulyanin himself on the military application of aerial kites, which in-

cluded reconnaissance, correction of artillery fire, photography and so on. He outlines his instructions and advice on how to make and launch Ulyanin's observation kites. He explains that "kite lifts are fairly safe" and they are ideal for observation. If flown in steady moderate winds, the basket is almost motionless so the observer could notice details through binoculars that would not be possible to detect from the rocking basket of an air balloon. And most importantly, "kites can be brought much closer to the enemy's positions than an air balloon since it is much harder to destroy them. Bullets cannot harm kites and it is very difficult to hit the rope or the observer." Danilevsky was an adamant supporter of these observation kites and encouraged their immediate application in each aerial unit.

Unfortunately, the perfection and increasing popularity of the aircraft halted further development of Ulyanin's observation kites in the military. Nevertheless, Ulyanin helped the Russian military gain an edge over their opponents before the use of airplanes became widespread.



Фиг. 1. Змья системы капит. Ульянина.

Figure 1. The Ulyanin Kite:

The Drachen Foundation has a copy of Danilevsky's article in our archive in Seattle, including an English translation. See catalog record 2010-07-L-1485 to access the article online.

- Dylan Stacey, Drachen Foundation Scholar-in-Residence

### Links

Original Russian article: <http://www.drachen.org/pdf/Danilevsky.pdf>

Article translated by Olga Berg: <http://www.drachen.org/pdf/DanilevskyTranslation.pdf>

## Events Extra

### Sunderland Festival

Due to recent council efficiency measures, the events programme in Sunderland has been reviewed and developed to create a new festival in the summer of 2011. The "Sunderland Festival" (provisional title) will take place on July 2nd and 3rd 2011 at the Northern Area Playing Fields in Washington and in other venues around the city including flagship parks and seaside resorts.

The new event will have a wider remit than previous kite and friendship festivals and will focus in particular on community participation and there are plans for music concerts each evening in a big top tent on site. Kites will still play a large part of the event with an area reserved for specialist kitefliers to demonstrate, and it is hoped that kitefliers from all over the UK come to take part. Sadly, there is no money to support travel and accommodation so it is unlikely that many international kitefliers will be able to join us, although they are still welcome. The city plans to invite a small number of guest kitefliers from a selected country and in 2011, it is likely that the guest country will be the USA.

We hope that, as in previous years, free camping and parking will be available for registered kitefliers, so if you are interested in attending The Sunderland Festival, please put the dates in your diary now. I hope to be able to send out more information soon and to start registration for kitefliers as soon as possible

Because of this our festival will be smaller and not so 'international'.

It is possible that some of the local kitefliers will be able to offer accommodation in their own houses to visitors who can manage to get here at their own cost. So if you are still interested in attending, we'd love to have you - do keep in touch

Quite a few kitefliers have already responded from up and down the country and even from abroad, showing that they are interested in coming - so we hope that the new event will be a success.

Thanks again for your support in the past. Hopefully there will be more money available in future years - if we hold the faith!

Pauline Taylor and the team.  
info@infinitearts.co.uk

### Portsmouth International Kite Festival

Taking place Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th August, with Monday 29th August reserved for free flying at Southsea Common, Portsmouth. This is the 20th anniversary of the event so let's celebrate.

One of the new events we have planned in conjunction with Felix Mottram and the Revolution fliers is UK record attempt similar to the fly in 2008. We have arranged a separate and larger arena for just this purpose, away from the normal arena space. So more space for all.

**Free parking** will be available for KSGB members only. Because of new arrangements this year you are required to send us a request (via snail mail with an S.A.E. or email) together with your car registration number—please note that each pass will be specific to you and NOT transferable. Your name and registration number will be present on the pass —. Also note that if you do not supply the registration number you will not get a pass.

Finally a CAR pass does not equal a CAMPING pass—a separate pass is required for CAMPING—see below.

**Camping** is not officially permitted on site by the council but, as a concession we have gained agreement for camping to take place. It is important to note that this concession is only between **Friday 26th August 10am until Tuesday 30th August noon**. You will be moved if you arrive earlier or stay later. Please do not abuse this concession as this is the last chance to get it right—if the council decide it has been abused then there will be NO camping next year.

Number are STRICTLY limited and passes will be issued based on date of receipt. Once we run out then you will be added to a waitlist and if anyone drops off then we will let you know (although this is unlikely).

Therefore anyone who wants to camp at Southsea MUST request a pass from us. You need to send us an S.A.E. or an email together with your vehicle registration number and the number of camping units. Security will then have this list and will move on ANYONE without a pass and outside of the dates above. Send postal applications to P O Box 2274, Gt Horkesley, Colchester CO6 4AY—email to [portsmouth@thekitesociety.org.uk](mailto:portsmouth@thekitesociety.org.uk).

For details of local accommodation please contact the Portsmouth Tourist Centre on 023 9283 6722, [www.visitportsmouth.co.uk](http://www.visitportsmouth.co.uk). The University Halls of Residence, where the invited kitefliers stay, can be booked online at [www.port.ac.uk/holidays](http://www.port.ac.uk/holidays) or call 023 9284 4884.

Look at [www.portsmouthkitefestival.org.uk](http://www.portsmouthkitefestival.org.uk) for up to date information.

## Kite Flying Locations—Kitemap.org

KiteMap.org is a resource for kite fliers worldwide to submit their favourite kite flying locations which can then be searched via the database.

Kite flying needs little in the way of resources to be a satisfying hobby for young and old alike. However, a good site to fly helps a lot. [www.kitemap.org](http://www.kitemap.org) is a resource created by the kiting community for the community; a database of good kite flying locations created by the community and equally importantly, maintained by the community.

**Why?** As a regular flyer at a location, a lot of information is taken for granted. But if you are planning on visiting a new area, or have moved recently, how do you find where to take your kites on a free afternoon? This website is designed to help that decision; as more locations are added to the database you will be able to get good directions to a site you've never visited or unique help in planning a road-trip!

**Surely there are other sites that do this?** Well, yes, there are other sites on the Internet. We've visited a few, but the coverage has been quite sparse (often with limited geographic coverage based around the site owner) and there can be a question over how up-to-date the information might be. [www.kitemap.org](http://www.kitemap.org) is a resource to allow the community to share information on their favorite safe and publicly accessible flying sites for the benefit of others. The website draws on the great mapping of Google Maps so you can see quite quickly if there are suitable locations listed within your area of interest, or you can jump straight in and search for the sites listed near a named place or town.

**But there are so few sites listed now.** Yes, you're right. But we said it's a community initiative. That's where we need your help. Whilst we would dearly love to travel the world testing out kite flying locations, there are of course practical constraints! And the best information is known to those on the ground. So please help make this a site that showcases the locations you meet to fly. We ask for your contact details so, in the future, we can check periodically to confirm whether any changes are necessary.

**How can I help?** Please consider adding your local site to the database. It's easy. Once you've typed the address (a town name will do) you can drag the pointer to mark the location very accurately, thanks to Google Map's zoom features. We want to capture some fairly standard information too. If you find any factual inaccuracies, please use the 'contact' form to report back to the site administrator. [kitemap.org](http://kitemap.org)

All locations should be publicly accessible and suited to flying a range of kites; this is not aimed specifically to any particular branch of kite flying.

**Do I need to register for an account of any**

**kind?** No, submissions are made easily through a single form using a drag-and-drop marker and simple fields that help describe the features and facilities of the flying field you're submitting towards dual line fliers or multi-line kites, but is inclusive. So when, as we hope, you add your favorite sites, we ask that details entered reflect the broad community that we are.

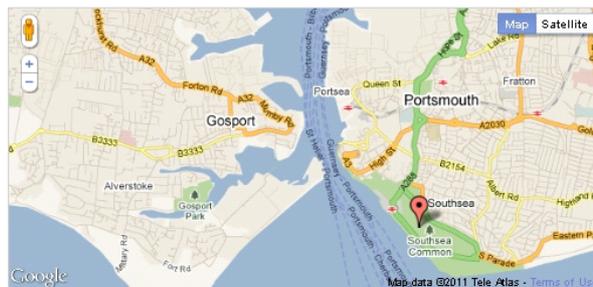
**But the site is just in English** As a community resource, our priority has been to get it up and running to accept information. If you can help provide a translation of the pages for another language, we would really welcome your support. Just drop us an email or comment via the website!  
How do I use KiteMap.org?

We've put together a couple of quick video tutorials for both searching and submitting flying sites in the KiteMap database... Granted, we've changed a few things since the tutorials were made, but most relate to functionality improvements and these should still apply.

**Further information:** Contact via web form at [www.kitemap.org](http://www.kitemap.org) or email the administrators: admin \*AT\* kitemap \*DOT\* org , or feel free to check us out on Facebook and add your comments, praise or suggestions there.

### Southsea Common

For an especially good aerial view of the flying site, trying clicking the "satellite" button in the top right corner of the map and zooming in... If you find this site needs additional information or corrections, please use our [site correction form](#).



	<p>Name: Southsea Common          Address: Southsea Common, Portsmouth - United Kingdom          Website: <a href="#">click for website</a>  <a href="#">click here for directions</a></p>
<p>Well-used public area which hosts the Portsmouth International Kite Festival each year at the end of August. At other times this is a multi-use recreational area featuring families, dog, bikes and kites. Very close to hovercraft terminal.</p>	
<p>Field size: approx. 400m x 200m</p>	
<p>Surface: Grass</p>	
<p>Parking &amp; Access: Adjacent pay and display car parks. Free festival parking for members of Kite Society of Great Britain.</p>	
<p>Facilities: Nearby pizza restaurant and pubs.</p>	
<p>Prevailing Wind direction: SW</p>	
<p>Obstructed Wind direction: NE - potential turbulence from nearby buildings. Some (ground level) boundary effect near sea wall and hovercraft terminal for SW.</p>	
<p>Unobstructed Wind direction: SW</p>	
<p>Information submitted by: Andy Scott</p>	

Weather for Southsea Common				
<p>Nov (Apr 09) Partly Cloudy, temp = 63F, 17C. Wind: S at 7 mph</p>	<p>Sat Clear low 48F / high 61F</p>	<p>Sun Clear low 48F / high 64F</p>	<p>Mon Mostly Sunny low 39F / high 61F</p>	<p>Tue Clear low 37F / high 55F</p>

## Kites.... Life—Takako Barresi

This item appears in the latest issue of the online kite magazine KiteLife.com. Reproduced with permission. Donations can be made to the AKA appeal via the Kite Society home page [www.thekitesociety.org.uk](http://www.thekitesociety.org.uk).

**Japan, kiting and disaster relief!**

While John usually writes this column, I felt moved to report on the recent events in Japan, particularly news from the kiting community there as it's near and dear to my heart having moved from my home in Tokyo just one year and a half ago.

Located in the Nihonbashi area of Tokyo (160 miles away from seismic center), the Japan Kite Museum, JKA (Japan Kite Association) chairman Mr. Modegi and JKA Secretary General Mr. Fukuoka told me that many of their historical exhibits were ruined, and Modegi's restaurant (named "Taimeiken") was similarly affected.

The Japan Kite Museum is on the 5th floor of same building as Taimeiken, and at the time of the earthquake, they couldn't walk because of the strong shaking back and forth. With so many of their exhibits falling, a lot of kites have been damaged and it seems some of the archived items there cannot be restored, many old, treasured kites damaged beyond repair, according to the story of secretary-general's Mr. Fukuoka.

The JKA's main office shares space with the kite museum, and they experienced similar damage as the museum. Almost everything fell down, shelves collapsed as shown in the photos below. The elevator also stopped working, and had not been repaired when I last spoke with my dear friend Mr. Modegi. Also in Tokyo, one of the most popular kite flying locations (Kasai Rinkai Park - near Tokyo Disney) experienced liquefaction and has been closed until further notice.

Sadly, some of the Japanese kite festivals have also been cancelled by various related circumstances. Nagasaki Hata-Flying Festival, Sagami Giant Kite Festival, 23rd Uchinada International Kite Festival, Hamamatsu Festival

Representatives of the AKA (American Kitefliers Association) and the Drachen Foundation were among the first to call out within the North American kiting community for donations to assist with relief efforts, joined by Revolution Enterprises, KiteLife.com, well known kite makers and others.

Anyone can make contributions from the AKA web site until end of April (National Kite Month), and a drawing will be held for those who contribute.

Prizes donated by folks in the kiting community include:

- Handmade kite by Jon Burkhardt
- Handmade kite by Barbara Meyer
- Handmade miniature kite by Dave Butler
- Handmade hand-painted kite by Diane & Dave Butler
- Rev bag with no-snag handles from Revolution Kites
- Three yearly subscriptions from KiteLife Magazine

Japan Kite Fund donations received by the AKA will be delivered directly to the JKA. We contacted the JKA directly to inquire about how the donations will be used, and they replied:

We want to use it for the Tohoku region, where the earthquake struck. There are a lot of kite friends who have been affected. Of course, not only kite friends, but also the many

people suffering there in this very hard time, so donations will be distributed between stricken kite fliers and local relief organizations as determined by JKA committee.

In our communication with the JKA offices, they also reported the current situation of some kite fliers after the disaster...

Mr. Masakatsu Kato, chairman of the Kesen-numa kite club is alright despite large damage received from the tsunami in his area. Their kite festival was just held in Kesen-numa in February... Many kite fliers in the Kesen-numa area are not JKA members, but are dear kite friends and we worry about their safety. Mr. Shigeki Endo and his kite friends in Sendai are alright, as is Mrs. Tokuko Sato in Aomori. Some of our kite friends in Iwaki City are in safety shelters because of the radiation poisoning, though they are fine.

There are many kite fliers we've not still been able to contact, and we hope they are okay... We will continue trying to reach them.

More, from the heart of the JKA...

The sky is blue just like it was during the disaster. However, kites aren't flying... Now we're realizing for the first time, without peace in our world, we can't fly.

Kite festivals in various parts of Japan were discontinued by self-imposed control. Other festivals that rely on municipal sponsorship have been postponed as well, since the budget used for such things has now been allocated for relief and public assistance.

There are lots of people who were looking forward to the kite festivals, but they will be held when we recover from this disaster. There are people who taste the despair of life now, so many sad and uneasy... How can we understand their feelings?

We have received countless messages of a warm encouragement from kite friends all over the world via Facebook and E-mail, etc.

We think the thing to do is to make an effort to regain our ordinary days, the same goes for people in the regions most affected (earthquake, tsunami, and radioactivity). If you were the one(s) in this situation, how would you want people to help? Please give that to the stricken people with this idea in mind, what you would want if you were in their position.

Please fly a kite for those of us who cannot, this is what we're asking as Japanese kite fliers.

Many disaster help funds have been set up for victims of the earthquake and tsunami, and donations are being gathered all over the world... We've listed many of them here for your easy review, and as the JKA stated above, "If you were the one(s) in this situation, how would you want people to help?"

John and I sincerely wish for our many kite friends and family in Japan to look up, yes, looking at the blue sky we all share, and know that we are all thinking of them – keep hope.

To all you reading, sharing in my feelings and thinking of Japan, thank you for your prayers.

TK Barresi, Assistant Editor, KiteLife Magazine

## Airborne Warfare

### AIRBORNE WARFARE: SECURITY SUCCESS DISPLAYED FROM THE SKY

International troops in Afghanistan have been giving kite kits to local kids, and the smiles on the face speaks volumes for the youngsters' appreciation. (Actually, I would rather like to have one myself!) I think it is a great story because many of us have heard of the popularity of kites in Afghanistan, and, through *The Kite Runner* book and film, they became a very powerful metaphor for the spirit of Afghans. As kites rise into the sky again, perhaps we can be optimistic about the future for these long-suffering people.

Fun and enjoyment of the kind never tolerated when insurgents were in control has been experienced by children in the newly-secured Afghan village of Popalzai - thanks to British and Afghan troops, a few simple toys and some ace flying ability.

Having already suppressed insurgent activity with their frequent joint patrols, soldiers from the Afghan National Army and their British partners from 2 SCOTS are now concentrating on building relationships with the community.

Often on their joint patrols, British and Afghan troops carry items such as notebooks, pens and Afghan flags which they hand out to appreciative locals. Now the patrols in this area of Lashkar Gah district have started also handing out kite kits – and the toys have gone down a storm with youngsters.

On a patrol yesterday, dozens of kites were handed out and, while some of the troops chatted to local adults gaining valuable information and developing key contacts, others helped their children to build the kites and taught them how to fly them.



Colour Sergeant Roddy Weir, who was involved, said:

"Before long the soldiers were sharing a laugh and a joke with the local children. The kids were thrilled to receive the kites and almost overwhelmed the soldiers who were showing them how to put them together.

"It was a strange experience for most of the young soldiers – it's not often you deploy on a foot patrol only to find yourself playing with kites and entertaining the local children!"

Lieutenant Erik Smith, of 2 SCOTS, added:

"This was a fantastic sight and real evidence of progress in Helmand province. Sights like this are becoming increasingly common and, as the confidence of people and communities gets stronger, there is nothing the insurgents can do about it.

"Even in areas that were previously contested, children can now approach the ISAF and Afghan forces without fear."



For more information about this press release, contact the Task Force Helmand Media Operations staff on 0208 099 2531 (call routed via London) or email

[tfh-mediaadvisor@defencemediaops.co.uk](mailto:tfh-mediaadvisor@defencemediaops.co.uk)

## Bristol International Kite Festival—Avril Baker

### **Bristol International Festival of Kites & Air Creations**

**Saturday 3 & Sunday 4 September 2011  
11 - 5pm, Ashton Court Estate**

#### **Introduction:**

Plans are going well for this year which will mark our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We are working on some new ideas for celebrating this milestone and are keen to welcome many friends old and new to what we hope will be a really memorable festival.

Regulars will I am sure be relieved to hear that we are back to your usual start/finish times and are not clashing with the Half Marathon this year!! Some of you may be interested to know that the Organic Food Festival is again taking place in the city centre the same weekend which has happened for a number of years and caused no difficulties at all.

#### **Guests:**

At this early stage in the year this is still under discussion but we have some early invites out to a number of interesting people, some regulars and some new faces, and will be looking to share costs of some long distance flyers with Portsmouth. Check our website ([www.kite-festival.org.uk](http://www.kite-festival.org.uk)) over coming months for news and there will also be a full update in the next Kiteflier.

We would love to see as many UK flyers, clubs and societies come along and there will be scope for people to join in some of the arena programme such as artistic kites, themed slots such as festival of the sea and of course the usual Rok battles both days, so do bring along your individual/club kites, air creations etc to join in.

Last year we tried extending the single line arena and setting aside an area for the large soft/inflatable kites in order to encourage more stick kites/artistic kites to fly. This seemed to work well as did the third arena for sport kites.

Alongside the arenas there will be the usual line up of kite traders and Festival food and drink, a licensed bar, a range of air sculptures and inflatables and some children's entertainments.

#### **Festival charity:**

This year we are again supporting the **Great Western Air Ambulance** as our nominated

charity. The service which covers North Somerset, Bristol, South Gloucestershire and Gloucestershire is funded entirely by voluntary donations and needs to raise over £1m every year to stay in the sky. We are again hoping that the helicopter and crew will be at the festival and the Appeal will have a stand and run various fund-raising activities. Plus Jerry and Carolyn Swift have again offered their fantastic parachuting teddy bear services to help raise funds.

#### **Saturday night party:**

As has become a tradition at Bristol there will be the on site kite flyers' Saturday evening party under cover in the large marquee with the usual hot meal and bar which will be followed by the Festival auction. We are hoping within the ticket price to be able to offer a complementary welcome drink as well. Those not eating are more than welcome to come along and generally join in the party and make use of the bar and don't miss the Festival Auction which is vital in terms of raising funds for next year.

#### **Hotel Accommodation:**

We have again negotiated a group rate at Brook Redwood Lodge ([www.brook-hotels.co.uk](http://www.brook-hotels.co.uk)) and ring fenced an allocation of 30 rooms. This is the nearest hotel to the site and the car park can take vans, cars with top boxes etc. These rates will be held for reservations made before 31<sup>st</sup> July 2011 or until they run out!! Costs are £72.00 for 2 people sharing a double/twin room B&B and £60.00 for a single.

Bookings should be made direct with Redwood Lodge on tel 01275 395 814 or [reservations.redwood@brook-hotels.co.uk](mailto:reservations.redwood@brook-hotels.co.uk). You MUST mention you are booking as part of the Kite Festival to get the reduced room rate. Any problems ask for Laura Walker, the reservations co-ordinator who is looking after our booking this year.

If we get any other hotel deals offered these will be posted on the festival website [www.kite-festival.org.uk](http://www.kite-festival.org.uk)

**If you want to look at other hotel options try the Bristol Tourist Information Centre Accommodation hotline 0845 408 0474 or try [www.visitbristol.co.uk](http://www.visitbristol.co.uk)**

#### **Camping**

We are again intending to run with camping at the Cotham Park Rugby Club ground. This is literally a 5-10 minute walk from site (depending

on your speed!). The Club can accommodate camping for tents and/or caravans, and provide secure parking, showers and real toilets! 'Above ground' BBQs are also permitted, as are pets (as long as you clean up after them – this is their playing field!).

The Club groundsman is away at the moment so I am waiting to confirm costs and any other details but last year the cost was £15 for 1 night, £25 for 2 and £30 for 3 nights. I am assuming it will be the same. You **must** pre register so if you are interested please either email your details to [kites@abc-pr.co.uk](mailto:kites@abc-pr.co.uk) and put 'Rugby Club camping' as the subject or send a letter to festival office, 5 Lilymead Ave, Bristol BS4 2BY confirming your arrival and departure dates/times, name(s) of camper(s), contact email, phone and address, number of tents/caravans. Payment will be made to the Rugby Club directly and will be collected on arrival. (see [www.cothamparkrfc.co.uk](http://www.cothamparkrfc.co.uk))

I am also waiting to find out from the Council whether we **might** be able to reinstate a crew camping area on site, especially as it is our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary as this might enable more clubs and societies to participate. If it goes ahead we are going to have to run it like a military operation and make sure we know exactly who is there and for how long. Watch this space!!

#### On site car parking

To help cover costs, such as our site fee and event licence, we are again asking flyers for a contribution to car parking. On arrival any fly-

ers displaying a valid festival pass will be asked to pay just £3.50 per day, (instead of £7 for general public).

To get your car pass please apply in writing, with SAE, **BUT SEND NO MONEY** to: **Festival Office, 5 Lilymead Avenue, Bristol BS4 2BY** Passes will be issued by on a first come first served basis up to a maximum of 200. (Any kite flyers who are AKF members will have received details in the recent AKF Newsletter asking their members to reply separately) The Festival will also be running a system of dropping off passes for those with particularly heavy loads of kites and kit so again mention this in your car parking request.

On behalf of the Festival team we are looking forward to seeing you soon.

**Any queries please contact Avril Baker or Lynn Gibbons at:**

Festival Office, 5 Lilymead Avenue, Bristol BS4 2BY  
Tel: 0117 977 2002 Fax: 0117 977 4255  
[www.kite-festival.org](http://www.kite-festival.org) or e-mail [info@abc-pr.co.uk](mailto:info@abc-pr.co.uk)

e-mail: [info@abc-pr.co.uk](mailto:info@abc-pr.co.uk) or [festival@kite-festival.org](mailto:festival@kite-festival.org)

Hope to see many of you up in Ashton Court if not before!!

**Avril**

## Margate International Kite Festival—24th & 25th September

### Margate International Kite Festival

Taking place on the 24th & 25th September the skies above Main Sands, Margate, Kent, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. It is hoped to have the Turner Contemporary Centre involved possibly including kite workshops and a kite exhibition.

Organised as a joint venture between the Margate Town Partnership and The Kite Society of Great Britain, the kite festival promises to be a great day out with a vast variety of scheduled displays and free flying. It is early days as yet so keep an eye out for the July issue where more details will be published. You can also look at [www.margatekitefestival.org.uk](http://www.margatekitefestival.org.uk) which will be updated soon.

### Car Parking

Free car parking will be available for registered kite fliers near to the festival site. If you want a car pass you need to send us an S.A.E. with your car vehicle registration number or email the details to us at [margate@thekitesociety.org.uk](mailto:margate@thekitesociety.org.uk). We will send the car passes out nearer the date of the festival.

### Accommodation

There are a number of hotels in the area. For information and booking contact the Margate Visitors Information Centre 01843 297843. Email: [tourism@thanet.gov.uk](mailto:tourism@thanet.gov.uk).



So, the summer is fast approaching, I for one have just spent two weekends in a row out in the warm sunshine flying kites, and it's only March. Does this bode well for the season, or is this all we will be getting? Only time will tell, I'm not daft enough to try to predict the weather. Whatever it brings, I know lots of you will be out there, attending events, and if you need further incentive to make the effort below are the events where STACK will be holding competitions. With the (temporary) demise of Rougham, and the reduced space available at Southampton, we have had to dig deep to find event locations this year, but I have managed to pull together three weekends, and four rounds overall. There is still a question mark over the Westbury White Horse event, as the town council are still procrastinating, so if you live anywhere near the area mark sure you ask about it at the tourist information or town hall, let them know it has interested parties.

## Quad line Bootcamp

This was held over the weekend of 26-27 March in Bristol, flying up at Ashton Court where the festival is held. A great time was had by all, and a lot was learnt over the course of two days, not least by me as I am no quad flier.

This bootcamp is a great example of the sort of event I want to make happen more often across the autumn and spring. A group of fliers, with a little quad line flying experience, approached me wishing to improve their ability. They had no interest in competition and that is fine. All we require is enthusiasm and a commitment to hard work for two days.

If you are interested in doing something in the autumn then get in touch, the cost depends on how many and what accommodation is available, but the point is we can come to you. The coaching is individualised depending on experience. There is no better way to master the basics of two of four line flying quickly.

## Competitions 2011

Actual on the day schedules are not yet finalised, these will be provided as the date for events gets closer, but you should always be working on the assumption that the whole weekend (or day) 9am to 5pm will be devoted to competition, and plan accordingly. For spectating, assume the majority of the time precision events will be in the mornings and ballets in the afternoons. Do not dismiss watching the precision, it can be a great way to get insight into the flying, collar any STACK flier and they'll talk you through what is happening.

The figure numbers are taken from the compulsories book, which can be found, along with the other rulebooks, at <http://worldsportkite.com/irbc.htm>.

## Rounds 1 & 2, 16 & 17<sup>th</sup> April

### Jolly Up, Cliddesden nr Basingstoke.

This location is a private one, with no public to entertain so therefore, following the vote at the AGM, I have decided to run this as a double round, ie one round completely on Saturday, the other completely on Sunday. Please bear in mind that the AGM vote also specified that attending only the double round to achieve two scores was not acceptable, so you will have to attend at least one of the other rounds to get your required two scores for the season.

The Jolly Up is a kite fliers gathering at the field rented by Kites Up and the North Hants buggy club. This is the other side of the M3 from Basingstoke. The entrance is along South Lea private road, through the gate at the end.

The site is about 20 acres, so plenty of space to practice. Camping will be available at a modest charge, see <http://www.kitesup.co.uk/> and contact Roy for further details.

Figures for the first day are:

DI: 02 03 05 08 18  
DP: 03 07 08 14 15  
DT: 03 08 10 11 16

MI: 02 03 04 08 16  
MP: 03 04 07 08 11  
MT: 04 05 06 07 09

For Sunday, the figures are:

DI: 05 07 09 11 14  
DP: 04 06 09 11 17  
DT: 03 04 05 12 15

MI: 04 13 18 19 22  
MP: 01 03 06 11 12  
MT: 01 02 03 04 05



## Round 3, 9 & 10<sup>th</sup> July

### Westbury White Horse, Westbury, Wilts

A new one for STACK, and an event where we are the star. This event is being built around us, with Saturday being an unofficial day where we will run precision competitions. Sunday will be the official day, and a day for us to showcase our ballets, with potentially lots of other things going on. This is still awaiting council approval and funding, but I have confidence in the efforts of the event organiser in Westbury getting the necessary buy in.

The site is well signposted to the white horse from Westbury, and we are expecting the council to set up a one way system up to the site for Sunday, in from Westbury, out towards Bratton.

**DI:** 02 05 07 08 15  
**DP:** 04 07 09 11 17  
**DT:** 04 08 10 12 16

**MI:** 02 04 07 13 16  
**MP:** 07 08 10 11 12  
**MT:** 01 02 04 06 07



## Round 4, 16 & 17<sup>th</sup> July

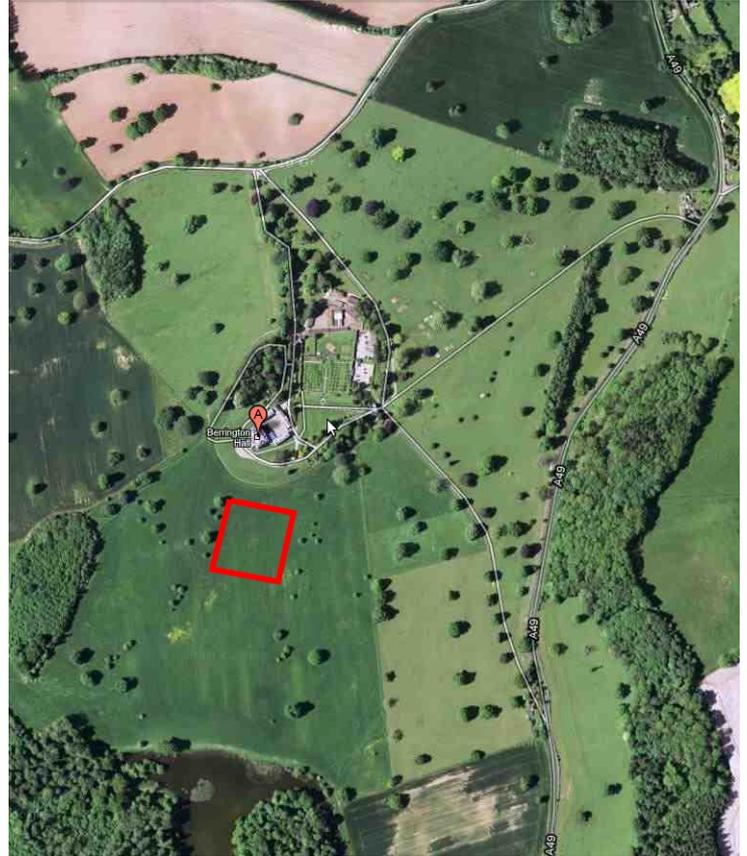
### Berrington Hall, Leominster.

Our season finale is in the usual place, at Herefordshire kite festival. See <http://www.kitefestival.org.uk/> for details. Camping is, as usual, available for a modest fee.

**DI:** 02 05 07 08 09  
**DP:** 03 06 07 08 15  
**DT:** 02 03 08 10 11

**MI:** 02 03 04 07 09  
**MP:** 01 03 04 05 07  
**MT:** 01 02 03 04 05

The festival will include a communal curry on the Saturday night, as is traditional, and we shall be running the Family Cup again of course.



See you on a field soon.

Keith  
National Director

# 42 ROMAN CANDLE 100.

The Journal of the Bearly Made It Skydive Squad. The International Brother and Sisterhood of Parachuting Fauna and the U.K. Ted Devils. This issue will no doubt raise the biggest cheer of all as it is the last, but do we or all the other Crazies out there give a toss, no, probably not, so cheers.....

# 100 & Out

## Going, gone and maybe best forgotten

ALL GOOD (DEBATEABLE) THINGS MUST COME TO AN END AND FOR SOME OF YOU OUT THERE WHO ARE OF THE OPINION THAT R.C. IS THE WORST THING THAT KITING HAS EVER SUFFERED FROM, WE HAVE ONLY ONE THING TO SAY AND THAT IS CHEER UP YOU MISERABLE SODS, FOR R.C. THE FAT LADY IS SINGING, AND YOU WONT HAVE TO PUT UP WITH US ANY MORE.....

Funny when you think about it, just how did we keep this ramshackle load of mindless drivel on the road for so long, yes, we often wonder about that, but like lots of other things that has been lost in the mist of time.

Of course it goes without saying, that with the help of lots of fellow crazies, who are into Kiting to enjoy themselves and now and again raise the odd titter, and who are not completely up thier own fundamentals, keeping the aforesaid two bob(10p) (best estimate of net worth) ramshackle load of hows yer farva on the road to el numero 100 has been easy.

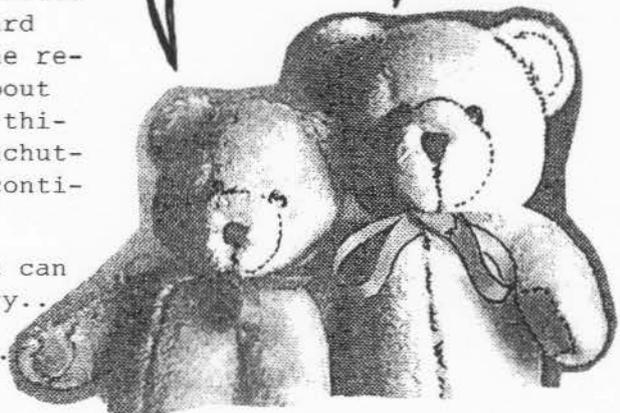
So its megathanks to everyone who has contributed to Roman Candle over the years, not only with hard copy, etc,etc, but to all of you have even had the remotest giggle about something you saw or read about within the pages of R.C. We may be gone but one thing is for sure. Up with Kites and down with parachuting fauna of a soft cuddly toy persuasion will continue for ever.

Psst, anyone seen a good stunkite display we can liven up a bit, nudge, nudge, know wot i mean 'arry..

No, no. mustent sign off being mean to Stunters..

SO THATS IT THEN  
WE'RE ON THE SCRAPHEAP

MAYBE WE SHOULD TRY  
T.V. THEY SEEM TO BE  
A BOTTOMLESS PIT FOR  
"Z" LIST CELEBS, EVEN  
THOUGH WE'AIN'T ALL  
TITS AND TEETH



# It just grew and grew



THIRTY YEARS STUCK IN A RUT, NOW THERES A THING YOU DONT SEE TOO OFTEN. OH, ALL RIGHT FOR THE PEDANTIC AMONGST YOU, TWENTYSEVEN AND A HALF YEARS, MUST'NT FORGET THE GAP BETWEEN ISSUES TEN AND ELEVEN.

Its amazing or possibly horrific as to how long a running gag can be kept running, but in the end everything just runs out of steam and the kindest thing you can do is just knock it on the head. Well, R.C. unfortunately has reached that point, so its goodbye.

WHO KNOWS, WITH A BIT OF LUCK, QUITE A FEW OF YOU WILL BE OF THE 'I'LL MISS THAT LOAD OF MINDLESS DRIVELFRAME OF MIND, HOWEVER WE KNOW THAT AT LEAST ONE MOB OF PO FACED KITERS YES, THERE ARE SUCH, MOSTLY WEANED ON PRUNES AND VINEGAR WHO WILL BE NECKING CHARDONAY UPON HEARING THAT WE HAVE HIT THE BUFFERS.

Still for all that we maybe do have at least one claim to fame in that by applying lots of well aimed kicks up the jacksie to parachuting fauna of a soft cuddly toy persuasion, we have introduced lots of you out there to arguably the most enjoyable branch of Kiting today. That really is a heady mixture. Build a chute to fit whatever pfsctp rings your bell, launch a suitable Kite, having remembered to stuff the faunas jolly old rag into the pack, loft fauna, release, and the chute opens, wow, talk about happiness is a warm gun, you've cracked it and cannot wait to do it again and again and long may it be so

SO WHY THEN IS R.C. ON THE WAY OUT. NO, NOT ON THE WAY, THIS IS THE LAST ISSUE AND ALTHOUGH ITS NOT FOR THE WANT OF TRYING, CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE CHANGED AND NO THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES ARE NOT OF THE FINANCIAL SORT FAR FROM IT, THEY ARE DEFINITELY OF THE FAMILY AND PERSNAL VARIETY.

So there you have it, Thirty Years is a fair old time anyway you look at it, so once again its a big thankyou to all you unsung heroes, contributors and supporters, you know who you are and and our overseas distributors, may your photocopiers rest easy and of course perhaps the biggest thankyou of all to Gill and Jon Bloom for publishing R.C. rude bits and in the one and only Kiteflier.

So if Roman Candle has bit the dust how will the BOF be able to sneak a picture of KON into the aforesaid KITEFLIER. No doubt he'll think of something.....

## One final question

SO, HAVE THE LAST THIRTY YEARS OF CHURNING OUT WHAT AMOUNTS TO LITTLE MORE THAN AN ENDLESS SUPPLY OF MINDLESS DRIVEL BEEN ENJOYABLE? FOR THE MOST PART YES.

We've had our ups, we've had our downs, perhaps we've even had our sideways, but yes, for the most part its been very enjoable, but time moves on so its goodbye from the BMISS H.Q, Mob , that being the operative word and he who always will be a **BORING OLD FART** at the Teddytorial which is located in the 23rd sub basement at Ye Olde BOF towers which at the risk of boring the pants of of you, is located at 48. Laurel Lane, West Drayton, Middx, UB7.7TY in what will always be **ENGLAND**, THATS RIGHT **ENGLAND**, no matter what the running dogs, traitors and sell us down the river merchants have planned, a curse of the furry wotsits on all of them.

SO KEEP THOSE KITES FLYING, THE FAUNA DESCENDING AND ABOVE ALL, ENJOY YOURSELVES BEFORE THEY TAX IT, CHEERS,



# Roman Candle 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary

The second one off edition

A special edition of the Journal of The Bearly Made It Skydive Squad. The international Brother and Sisterhood of Parachuting Fauna, Flora and Fugi and the U.K. Ted Devils. For this issue only to include The Ted Berets, The Rainbear Skydive Corps, P.A.W.S. and other various groups. Probably not quite the usual standard of mindless drivel but trying to get somewhere near, still doing our best to upset the Po-faced and brought in to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century by being set out on one of those new fangled computer things.



## CONGRATULATIONS

Little did I expect to be doing this when 12 years ago when I wrote the "One Off Edition" for issue 50 of this iconic publication. Well-done John for keeping going for all this time. Sadly I hear that this is to be the last issue of Roman Candle and so this must also be the last one off edition. I have NO intention of trying to continue John's work, but if you see a funny bear story please send it to me and there may be an occasional new letter.

## B.M.I.S.S. moves in to the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

When the previous "One off" edition was produced we were in the last throws of the twentieth century and it has to be admitted that all the clever stuff was done by Number two son, Martin, one of the younger generation who understood the technology and unlike then is now earning his daily crust with it. As this facility no longer lives with its parents they have been dragged in to the age when your abacus is the same as your John Bull printing set. So eventually after a little practice and obtaining the BOF's blessing [www.bmiss.org.uk](http://www.bmiss.org.uk) was born. Here you will find all the collected wisdom of John and his bears including such things as the rules governing the



classes of record drops and would you believe it, copies of every issue of "Roman Candle" ever produced. If you've got an on-line teddy site please contact us so that we can put a link on the pages. We are also trying to collect details of all records that have been set so that we can get them all in one place.

Teddy Christmas lunch

My teddy turned down his Christmas lunch!

He said he was stuffed.

## The Bear Facts from the Travel Lodge

For some reason best known to them selves, The Travel Lodge Hotel chain conducted a survey in 2010, on Teddy Bears. This revealed the following results:-

25% of men take their teddy bears with them on business trips because it reminded them of home and sleeping with them was comforting. What one asks did the remaining 75% sleep with to get their comfort?

The age of the average teddy bear is 27. No comment!!!!

In a 12 month period they had re-united 75,000 bears with their owners. The other 75%'s wives were not impressed.

The 75% preferred the traditional followed by the traditional teddy bear, then Winnie-the-Pooh and Paddington Bear.

Travel Lodge seem to have a fixation with teddy bears as they are now using them in their adverts. I wonder if they were some of the lost ones? I look forward to the adverts for the other 75% of travellers!

## Make new friends at the age of 84

During the years when Winnie-the-Pooh appeared in The Hundred Acre Wood (1926 to 1928) he was known to be a very friendly soul easily making friends with various animals including pigs, tigers, rabbits and kangaroos. In 2010 he has not changed as he now makes friends with Lottie the otter in a new book "*Return to the Hundred Acre Wood*" by David Benedictus.

Thank goodness that Winnie was a bear with very little brain, otherwise it would have been "*Return to the 40.468564 hectare Wood*"!

## Teddy bear gets AI

Fujitsu have announced a companion for the elderly. We have all heard about a second childhood, and now the Japanese have taken it one step too far with a teddy bear. This super

bear is equipped with 13 sensors, motorised paws and face, a camera in the nose and more software than it took for the first moon landing. The more time you spend with it watching you the better it knows you and what you like.

It responds to your facial expressions and your touch, laughing when you tickle him and complaining if you pinch him. Fortunately these are only to be marketed in Japan so I will be sticking to my 27 year old. (see Bare Facts above)

## iPad app

If you speak this language apparently one of the top 50 iPad apps of last summer was Aury'n's "*What does my teddy do all day?*" They have now launched the sequel "*What does my teddy do all night?*" I'm not sure we want to know the answer. It does raise the question; are iPads as nice to cuddle as teddy bears? Or the other 75%. (see Travel Lodge report above)



## The End of an Era

Since starting this issue I have heard that John is stopping producing Roman Candle. I can't let that go by un-noticed! I have had to make a couple of alterations to the earlier text to take account of this.

The Bearly Made it Skydive Squad was founded on May 31<sup>st</sup> 1981 and the first issue of Roman Candle appeared in July that year. Like other kite magazines this started as an occasional news letter expecting to run for a few issues. Who would have guessed that 30 years later, with very few breaks, we would be seeing the final issue Number 100? Least of all, I suspect, John.

I first got addicted to parachuting bears in about 1988 when I was flying with a group that later became White Horse Kite Flyers where one of the founders, Ron Gunter was entertaining the children with teddy drops. Having joined KSGB I got my first issue of Kite Flyer in April 1990 and inside found issue 16 of Roman Candle. That set the direction for the rest of my life. John's sense of humour has meant that like many other aficionados of para-bears I can't wait for my next fix. What will we be like when it gets to July?

Not long after this I first met John at Portsmouth and was delighted to find that he talked just like he wrote, there is certainly nothing false about him and he calls a spade a bl\*\*dy shovel. Seeing what he did gave me many new ideas and so after a very busy day at Hengistbury Head I spent the winter coming up with my electric winch. This earned me the moniker of "Electric Arthur" from John. He also stopped me dead in my tracks when he presented me with one of the rare BMISS trophies for services to para-fauna.

It is only Roman Candle that has come to an end and not the BMISS. To ensure that this lives on I have, with John's permission, set up a web site where there are copies of every issue of RC and any other information I can get my paws on. It would be good if any one had pictures of John and his bears.

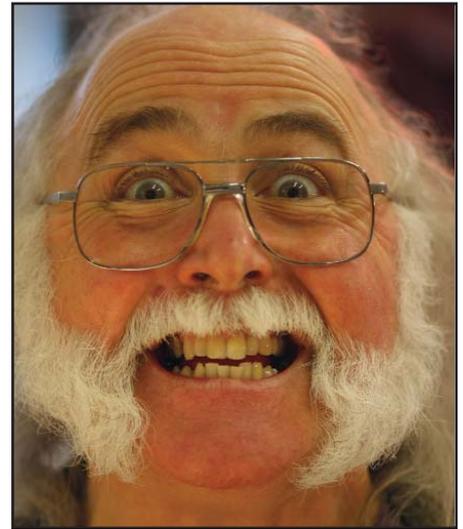
It has never ceased to amaze me that para-bears are so popular every where and even when I went to America one of the most prized possessions was a genuine JB bear. I also found that a number of people around the world get special copies of RC.

There can be very few people who can match John's achievements, 30 years of articles and acknowledged around the world as a very special person.

Very many congratulations John and thanks for giving so much enjoyment to so many people. We will miss your publications but wish you all the best in the future and hope that this may give you more time to see us on the kite fields.

So that's it from Electric Arthur and The Ted Berets but please keep in touch via [arthur@tedberets.co.uk](mailto:arthur@tedberets.co.uk) or the good old snail mail that has kept John going for the last 100 issues. Well done BOF. How the hell did you manage it? Sorry I haven't sent you any thing recently but I was saving for this issue.





It's that look when something or someone has just taken you by surprise, or has Keith just found an extra bit of fabric in his kite kit.

THE NEWS LETTER FOR THE BRIGHTON KITE FLYERS

## IN THE SPIRIT OF KITE FLYING

As many of you might know Brighton Kite Flyers ran its second workshop with Martin Lester this year and made more "Spirit" kites along with his semi inflatable "Goose", the workshop was well attended from not only Brighton Kite Flyers but members of other clubs as well. The workshop started with Martin telling us of a book about to be produced by the Drachen Foundation called "Barrileetes Gigantes" Barriletes Gigantes: The Giant Kites of Guatemala

*Barriletes Gigantes: The Giant Kites of Guatemala will be the first definitive publication on the traditional kite making of Guatemala. At 112 pages, 10.5 x 11 inches portrait format, in full colour, with two pull out panoramas, this publication will capture over a decade of work with*

*the kite makers of Guatemala and document recurring culture, tradition and ritual of the kite festivals. Contributing to the publication, Scott Skinner will describe and compare other traditional kite festivals throughout the world. Research historian Christopher Ornelas will write about the history and culture of the people of Guatemala, and Guatemalan journalist, Vitorino Tejaxun Alquijay, will detail the vision and work of the kite artists and their use of these kites as their media of expression. Photo documentation for the book is the work of many field photographers including Jose Sainz, Ali Fujino and Ben Ruhe. There will only be 1000 copies in the first edition! Don't miss your chance to help share this story.*

Martin went on to say that they were looking for patrons to help cover the cost of production and enable copies to be given to the kite flyers of Guatemala who had given so much information for the publication. A quick discussion with members of the committee and those attending the workshop it was decided that monies raised from the raffle would go towards becoming a patron and help fellow kite flyers from Guatemala.

We were the 1st club to become patrons of the book and the Drachen Foundation hope the clubs generosity will encourage other clubs around the world to do the same.

We wish the Drachen Foundation all the best with the book if you wish to become a patron see <http://www.drachen.org> and look for the March Newsletter.



## THAILAND'S CHULA AND PAKPAO KITES...

The tradition of kite flying in Thailand stretches back to the very birth of the nation. Throughout the country's history the sport has been played by royalty and commoners alike. Its heritage is dignified by the time-honored skills of kite making and kite flying, while competition rules and regulations have been long established. At its very least it is an age-old national pastime; at its best it is Asia's most sophisticated form of competitive kite flying.

While it is clear that kite flying has always been common in Thailand, its precise origins and antecedents are obscure. Like many other forms of popular culture, the sport has been handed down from generation to generation largely through an oral tradition. Written references and records are few, especially prior to the founding of Bangkok as the capital in 1782. However, although there are gaps in our knowledge and there are many tantalizing unknowns, sufficient material does exist to allow an historical sketch that traces kite flying from the first Thai kingdom centered on Sukhothai, through the succeeding Ayutthaya period and into the present Ratanakosin or Bangkok era.

### THE SUKHOTHAI PERIOD: C.1238-1438

The first Thai sovereign state was founded at Sukhothai in the early 13th century when two Thai chieftains rallied their people and defeated their Khmer overlords. Although short-lived, this first capital saw the initial flowering of Thai culture in all its vital forms. Right from the start kite flying was a part of the social fabric. If legend is to be believed, one of the first Sukhothai Kings, possibly Phra Ruang or Sri Inratit, was a kite enthusiast and there is a story which tells of how his pastime led to an amorous adventure. He was flying his kite one day, so the legend goes, when the string broke and it landed on the roof of a nearby palace belonging to a nobleman called Phraya Aue. Phra Ruang decided to resolve this potentially embarrassing situation by waiting until nightfall before,

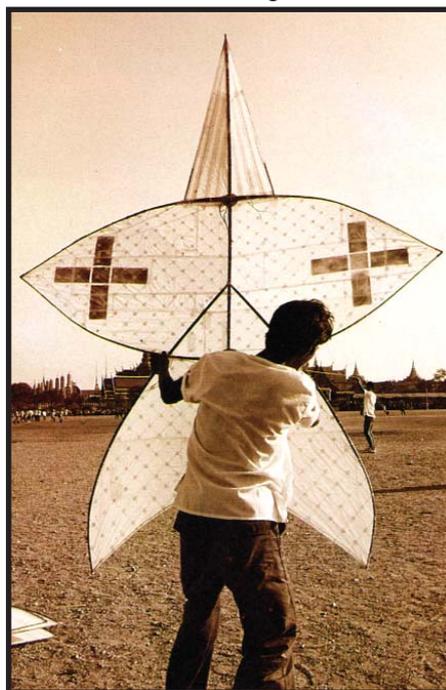
disguised as a commoner, scaling the palace walls and retrieving his kite. This he did. Or at least he so entered the palace but before looking for his kite he remembered that Phraya Aue had a beautiful daughter. The opportunity was too good to miss and so he sought out the girl and spent the night with her. The kite was recovered the next day, though the outcome of the romance is unknown. On somewhat firmer historical ground it is known from surviving chronicles that Ngao kites (Dui-dui) were a feature of a ceremony known as Klang which was conducted by Brahmins, the priests who then - as even now - conducted royal rites. The ritual, most likely of Indian origin, involved the flying of humming kites over the city either as a form of blessing or in order to predict the weather of the coming season. In the language of the Khmer (from whom the Thai inherited Brahman rituals and other manifestations of Indianized culture) the word klang means 'kite' or 'bird'. The Ngao were similar to the Chula kites we know today except they were equipped with a humming bow in the nose. Although only this type is mentioned in surviving chronicles it is certain that other kinds of kite would have been flown during the Sukhothai

period. This is a safe assumption as trade with China flourished in the 13th century and the Chinese would have brought paper to Sukhothai and, most likely, various forms of picture kites.



### AYUTTHAYA PERIOD: 1350-1767

The Thai kingdom of Ayutthaya was founded in 1350 and rose rapidly to power, taking Sukhothai as a vassal state in the mid 14th century and totally eclipsing it in 1438 to become the undisputed Thai capital. It flourished for 400 years until it was sacked and razed by the Burmese in 1767. Ayutthaya inherited many of Sukhothai's cultural and religious traditions, along with them the Klang ceremony, which continued to be practiced until the beginning of the Ratanakosin era. In his records of Ayutthaya ceremonial, poet Prince Somdej Chaofa Thammatibet Chiyached Suriyawongse wrote of the Klang: 'In December when the winds are strong...the Ngao kites will fly all over the city and create musical sounds...there will be a lot of ladies sending off the kites everywhere.' Kite flying was not, however, merely a matter of ritual, it was a craze enjoyed by everyone from the King down. Such was its popularity that it is recorded that kites often became entangled with the roofs of the royal palace, not only damaging buildings but also infringing on the private preserve of the monarchy. Eventually it got so bad that a royal edict was proclaimed forbidding the flying



# APRIL 2011 BRIGHTON KITE FLYERS AERODYNE

of kites over the palace: offenders were to have one hand cut off as punishment. Not that the Ayutthaya Kings were anti kite flying; they, like their Sukhothai counterparts, were found of the support. For example, Monsieur de la Loubère, French Emissary to the Court of King Narai in the 17th centu-



ry, commented on how the King's kite could be seen at night with lanterns attached to it and glowing 'like a comet'. At other times, instead of lanterns, a coin would be tied to the kite and if it got lost the person who recovered it could keep the money as a reward. Other Ayutthaya Kings made use of the kite as a war machine and when the city of Nakhon Ratchasima revolted in the rein of Phra Phetracha (1688-1703), the rebels were defeated by kites. The King's army had been unable to storm the city by conventional methods and so pots of gunpowder with long fuses were attached to kites and flown over the walls. The resulting aerial bombardment set fire to houses, creating sufficient confusion to enable the Ayutthaya soldiers to enter the city and put down the revolt. Such spectacular events aside, kites were fully a part of Thai social life during the Ayutthaya period. Poems were written on the subject and one, Klóng Thawathossamat, composed in the

reign of King Borommtrailokanāt (1448-88), refers to the Ngao kite, comparing its sound to that of a man calling the attention of his lover, and its movement to his waiting for her. It is also in Ayutthaya time that the Chula and Pakpao kites make their first appearance, and competitions are organized as a national sport. Undated written evidence of this is found in a book titled The Traditional Culture of Ayutthaya. Here it is recorded that the King would put up his Chula kite from the palace compound and challenge any Pakpao kite that entered his territory. When one did he would appoint royal guards to do the running-in and so bring it down. Not only is this the first mention of the Pakpao kite, it is also the first time the fierce betting which accompanies competitions, even today, is recorded.

Ron Spaulding

Thai

*Ratanakosin period continued in the next issue of aerodyne.*

## NEW DATES NEW PROBLEMS

By now most of you would have heard about the new dates for Brighton Kite Festival 2011 if not please note that these are now 28th - 29th May official festival and the 30th for a free fly day.

As with lots of events in these years of cut backs and austerity measures' funding is at a premium, kite festivals were not going to be immune from this. Brighton which is one of the longest continually running kite festival in the UK, if not the longest, for many years has had supported by the local council has been hit by these and the funding / sponsorship considerably reduced this year. But even with the cut backs and the loss of our normal date we are planning to hold the event for both kite flyers and public. so please do come along and help make the event as enjoyable and relaxed as possible.

If you are planning to stay onsite, as our normal site security, please let the club know. We are planning to have the toilet block open again for warm showers, running water etc. A donation towards the extra costs

involved in this would appreciated, there is not fixed charge as the club do not want to discourage anyone from attending for the sake of an overnight stay (can't say camping) charge. The normal BBQ held on Saturday night will still go ahead with a slight difference, following on from a great event at Suffolk kite festival where anyone could come along and cook their food a communal BBQ, we are going try the same. So please bring along some food and join in we will supply the BBQ's and charcoal, and location and you supply the atmosphere.

As the BKF information tent will not be open for business on Monday but the marquees will still be there we thought it could be put to use and hold a kite jumble, there will be tables available for anyone who wants to bring along kite or kite related items that they no longer required but might be of interest to someone else. If we say start from 9.00 finish whenever you feel like it all you have to do is stay there and sell it.

A another things to extra note are that

we hope again to have car parking in Stanmer Park as we did last year and again ask for a suggested donation for parking (Kite club members can show a membership card and will be allowed to park for free if they wish to do so). For more information see the Brighton Kite Flyers website



# APRIL 2011 BRIGHTON KITE FLYERS AERODYNE

# A HISTORY OF THE BRIGHTON KITE FLYERS

Every year the town, as it was then, now the City of Brighton in Sussex have a Festival of Art and as part of the Festival they have the Festival Fringe events. Not actually high art but entertainment for the masses. Part of the Fringe in I think 1978 was The Brighton Kite Festival. I went along, for a bit of a laugh and Mr Don Dunford was there. Don was in those days one of the leading exponents of kiting and was the inventor of twin line stunt kites. He was the author of "Kite Cookery" and I think many other books about kites. On the day he was signing and selling his books and kites. He was organising the day with the assistance of one of the local youth groups. I am not sure if they were Scouts or who they were but they did a good job. The event took place at the top of Wilson Avenue between the race course and the city rubbish dump. It was good flying weather but the wind, coming from the west, was affected by the topography of the flying site. It had been levelled by having earth removed from the west side to raise up the east and south sides, so it was in a dip and sheltered from the wind. If you could get above the first 20 feet then it was good flying wind.

The day was to be a competition in separate arenas. Each arena had a different aspect of kite flying and you could enter as many arenas as you liked. There was weight lifting, where they attached weights to your flying line. Fastest to a certain angle with 20 metres of line, longest tail and other such contests. These were put on as fun events rather than serious kite flying competitions. As I didn't have a kite I purchased one from one of the stalls. It was a Zammo. I had never seen the like of one of these before. I had only seen and made diamond kites when I was a kid but this was a Sled, with 3 round holes in the lower half which apparently

gives stability.

This cheap bit of plastic with a mask printed on it won nearly every contest! It was very light and lifted many times its own weight. There must have been a gust of wind at the right time and it went straight up to win the fastest kite to the highest angle. I can't remember if there was a prize. If there was it was probably a signed copy of one of Don's books! But certainly that little Zammo won the day. Not only that, I was HOOKED. And that was the First Brighton Kite Festival.

I was in my middle 20's and certainly could not be seen flying a children's kite, so I took my little nephew with me over to the fields near where I lived and tried to fly the kite. The fields were rough long grass and the nephew just got in the way so that was no good. I had plenty of money and no commitments, a motorbike and I could travel most weekends. Over time I purchased more kites and visited many other kite sites and kite flying groups. I was young then and I was on a mission to see England and show off my kites and kite flying to anyone who would watch! (I must have been a pain in the neck). I stayed in Youth Hostels and I went to Essex, Birmingham and down to Cornwall - anywhere and everywhere. I even went to the Round Pond in Hyde Park.

The Brighton Festival decided they were not putting on another Kite Festival so the only thing to do was to organize my own! I sorted out Telscombe Tye between Saltdean and Peacehaven, got permission from the trustees of the site and organized the insurance. I think it was £15 for several millions of pounds of cover. Advertising was done by flying a huge wind sock from the site and putting out leaflets. What was in a name? I called it the Sussex Kite Festival, August 1979. It could have been The English Kite Festival or even

the World Championship Event. I was that full of myself. How embarrassing it seems now?

If nothing else was happening sometimes I would fly at Waterhall on the Dyke Road at the back of Brighton. On one of my visits there I met Greg Locke. He was 6 years older than me and local. By that, I mean he was in his 30's, married and couldn't easily travel to fly in other parts of the country. However, he was even more barmy and eccentric than I was! There were other kite flyers there too. I remember a quiet old gentleman called David White who flew stunt kites. Greg seemed to try to outdo him with 12 Peter Powell kites tied together. Another middle aged man, whose name I can't remember, came once in a while in a transit type van but usually just looked on. He always said he had been flying somewhere else in Sussex. He knew what he was doing though because every so often he brought out some special kites and flew them - but Greg always had to try to be better than him.

One day Greg came over to me at Waterhall and said Allan you're in the Brighton Kite Flyers. What's that I said? So he explained and gave me my badge. I'm not paying you I said. No need said Greg, you're an International Superstar. Cheeky beggar, but he was right!!

On my travels I met many kite fliers. Most often I met John Barker who went on to fame with his Parachuting Bears and comic journal "Roman Candle". And then I organized the next Kite Festival. I think it was 11 May 1980 but for some stupid reason I asked Greg to help. John told me I shouldn't have involved Greg as he would "take over". And you guessed it, gradually he took over! He organized the certificates, the location and liaised with the council and Festival Fringe. I couldn't complain though, as I was still travel-

ling the country and having a great time.

Amongst other people John Barker and I met were Gill Fennemore and Jon Bloom. We all went to the Essex Group's Christmas party and they helped me on the way home when my motorbike's lights failed on the A12. Although we only met at weekends we became good friends. The professional kite magazines of the time were taking subscriptions but were not producing their magazines. We were really annoyed so together, the four of us, well mainly Gill and Jon, decided to produce a little publication called The Kitefliers Occasional Newsletter, or KON and release it at the next major kite festival at Old Warden Airfield in Bedfordshire, asking if the paid for magazines were a con. It was signed Ac/Dc, Coochi, Slim and Superstar. So even then I was full of my own self importance. Gill and Jon have taken Kon on to a much higher level and for the last 32 years have produced an excellent publication. "The Kiteflier". They say that out of little acorns grow some big trees. I am very proud to have been in at the beginning of that little acorn, but well done to Jon and Gill for making it what it is today.

Yes, that was all over 30 years ago. I no longer have the free time or the spare money to travel the country and show off. I developed other interests, got married and settled down. Some of the fliers from the past are still flying, some are flying with the angels.

The Brighton Kite Flyers has been well looked after and continues to flourish. Greg started it but others have continued his dream. Gill and Jon keep the Kite Society together. I have my memories of past glories and I am so pleased and proud that both the Brighton Kite Flyers and The Kiteflier, Newsletter of the Kite Society, have both honoured me with lifetime memberships. When I

say lifetime, my wife Dorothy was a little dismayed when once my lifetime membership to the Brighton Kite Flyers expired at the end of the year? but you have to laugh don't you!

The ball keeps rolling and now there are other superstars to follow me. There are massive long trains of kites, stacks of deltas, three or more stunt fliers side by side and three charming but eccentric gentlemen dropping the children's teddy bears and toys from their kite. (But what was the banner about?) Yes, the future is secure. Kiteers are still .....- use your own words here because I have run out of space!

Allan Martin  
Superstar

These are just a few of my memories. There are many more other notable people and things from the past. Just a few are, Clive from Essex, Peter and his white suit and stunt kites, Peter Waldron, Bill Souton, KARA, Tessa from Cornwall, The AMAZING John Barker, Dan Leigh, and Monday Lunch not forgetting Kitestore and Kite and Balloon. Dunford and Moulton. Jack Spiers and his cody. From Brook Kite to Ripstop, hey that should be the name of a book. Who was that lad who always dressed in red? And of course Fred Bear, but there is only one memory to end on, the amazing Viv Comma, after all, they named a street after him. Dedicated to the memory of Greg.

Photographs are on this link:-  
<https://picasaweb.google.com/115791763578750766892/KitesLate1970s?authkey=Gv1sRgCICZ5Yf1gu3owwE&feat=directlink#5575590752017387058>

*Ray Oakhill (our President) has kindly offered to write about the next period in Brighton Kite Flyers history so that we all have something to look forward to in the next issues of aerodyne and hopefully this history can be continued by future members for posterity.*

## £ 1 . 4 0 AND STILL GOING

What you may say has the price of diesel/petrol got to do with our hobby of kite flying. The majority of events are out of town and public transport is not often a convenient option as most carry lots of kite gear. The price for both petrol and diesel has gone up by almost 40p a litre in the last year alone. Lots of flyers have attended various kite flying events around the country in the for years. For me 5 years ago it was every weekend there was something we could attend somewhere in the UK or close Europe and a lot of us would not think twice about getting the car on a Friday afternoon and attending as many events as possible however far away there were.

Now things appear to be changing. You now hear kite flyers discussing which events to attend. It appears that we as kite flyers are becoming more selective either through choice or necessity. If they have the choice of a local event or one much further away many are choosing to stay local even if the local event is not a full blown kite festival and save their pennies. Does this also mean that the public will be doing the same and looking for more events nearer to home? This will make the influx of new blood into clubs much harder as lots of people only get involved after seeing some of the superb flying and kites at festivals. To be honest the general public that attend most events are mainly local so hopefully this will not affect this too much.

So Brighton Kite Flyers as an event organizers perhaps need to think about how we attract the kite flyers to our festivals because without them there will be nothing to get the public along to spend their money and without them there would be no festival. Lets pool good ideals and keep our hobby / sport alive for many years to come.

Corinne Hennessey

# APRIL 2011 BRIGHTON KITE FLYERS AERODYNE

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### Club Kites:

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## Thank you

I would like to say thank you to all those who made this issue of Aerodyne possible Allan Martin, Corinne Hennessey and Ron Spalding 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. I am sure next years editor will be asking the same.

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

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

Contributions should be sent to:

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

## MARIAN'S KITCHEN

No. 6: Bakewell Tarts (with jam!). Most people seem to like these - even if the jam/bakewell ratio is a sometimes discussed!

### Ingredients:

8oz. shortcrust pastry (i.e start with 8oz. flour and add the rest)  
4oz. butter or hard marg.  
4oz. sugar.  
1 egg (beaten)  
1oz. ground almonds.  
3oz. semolina (you could use ground rice)  
½ tsp. almond extract.  
Jam - raspberry or strawberry.

### Method.

To make filling:  
heat butter in a saucepan until just melted, stir in sugar and cook gently for one minute. Take off heat, add egg, ground almonds, semolina and almond extract and mix well.

Roll out pastry (quite thin) and cut out circles to suit your bun tins. Put pastry into bun tin and add about ½ tsp of jam (despite what some people say, this is enough!) then add 1 rounded tsp. (or, technically, a good dollop) of filling.

Cook at Gas Mk6 (400°F) for about 10 minutes, or until golden brown.

Last instruction: bring to kite event so that I can have some!

Marian (aka cakelady)

## Next Issue

Do we want one - do we need one if the answer is yes to either of these questions then please send in articles as it's the only way to keep it.

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



## 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



April 2011		
16-17	Jolly Up 8, The Buggy Field, Cliddesden	Kites Up
16 - 25	Berck International Kite Festival, Berck-sur-Mer, France	Gerard Clement
22 - 01/05	Cervia International Kite Festival, Cervia, Italy.	Art Evento
29/30 & 1/05	Plein Vent, Houlgate Normandie France	www.plein-vent.fr
May 2011		
1-2	East Yorkshire Kite Festival, Driffield, East Yorkshire.	www.kite-festival.co.uk
1-2	Layr Marney Kite Festival, Layer Marney Tower, near Colchester	www.layermarneytower.co.uk 01206 330784
7-8	Swindon Kite Festival, Lydiard Park, Swindon	White Horse Kite Fliers
7 - 8	Western Lake District Kite Festival, Millom Rugby Union Ground, Wilson Park, Haverigg, Cumbria	mark@southcopelandtourism.org.uk
14 - 15	Lotto Ostende International Kite Festival, Ostende, Belgium	Lotto Kites International
21-29	3° Festival Internazionale degli Aquiloni by Trapani Eventi, San Vito lo Capo, Sicily	www.festivalaquiloni.it
28 - 30	Brighton Kite Festival, Stanmer Park, Brighton	Brighton Kite Fliers
28 - 30	International Kite Festival, Cleethorpes	events@cleethorpesevents.co.uk
June 2011		
4 - 5	Basingstoke Kite Festival, Basingstoke	Kites Up
4 - 5	Bedford International Kite Festival, Riverside Park, Bedford	Bedford Events www.bedfordevents.co.uk
4 - 5	Exmouth Rotary Kite Festival, The Imperial Recreation Ground	www.exmouthrotaryclub.co.uk/kite-festival
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
12	Butser Hill Festival of Flight, Hampshire	Kites Up
18 - 19	Beacon Park Kite Festival, Beacon Hill County Park, Up Holland, nr Skelmersdale, Lancashire	Northern Kite Group
18 - 19	Southampton Kite Festival, Lordshill Recreation Ground	Michael Lowe
25	Invite to Flight - Fly Your Kite, Stokes Bay, Gosport.	Nigel Draycott, 023 9254 5307
July 2011		
2-3	Sunderland International Kite (Friendship) Festival, Washington, Sunderland	0191 564 0833 info@infinitearts.co.uk
9 - 10	Barmouth Kite Festival, Barmouth Beach.	07855810636 Waine Hucker
16-17	Leominster Kite Festival, The National Trust, Berrington Hall	Karl Longbottom
16-17	Dunstable Downs Kite Festival, Whipsnade Road, Dunstable	Pat Redman 01582 500922 pat.redman@nationaltrust.org.uk
23-24	Golden Valley Kite Kamp, Newlands Park, Cheltenham	Peter Whitaker 01452 728521
23-24	Malmesbury Kite Festival, The Worthys, Malmesbury, Wiltshire.	jon@catons.freeseve.co.uk 01666 824113
August 2011		
6-7	Jolly Up 9, The Buggy Field, Cliddesden	Kites Up
7	21st Royston Kite Festival, Therfield Heath, Royston	Jim Webb james.webb@onetel.net
13-14	Teston Kite "Big" Weekend, Teston Bridge Country Park, Maidstone	Malcolm Ford 07840 086770
27-29	Portsmouth International Kite Festival, Southsea Common, Hampshire	The Kite Society
September 2011		
3-4	Bristol International Kite Festival, Ashton Court, Bristol	Avril Baker
10 - 11	Concern KiteFest, Phoenix Park, Dublin	The Kite Society
17 - 18	Mascotte Kite Festival, Scheveningen, Holland.	www.mascotte-vliegerfestival.nl
17 - 18	Chester Kite Festival, The Roodee Racecourse, Chester, Cheshire	Northern Kite Group
25	Wakefield Kite Festival, Heath Common, Wakefield	www.facelessco.com Tony Wade 01924 335985
24-25	Margate International Kite Festival, Margate Main Beach, Margate	The Kite Society
25	Kites over Capstone, Capstone Farm Country Park, Capstone Road, Gillingham, Kent ME7 3JG	Sammie Freeman, Medway Council, 01634 338109 sammie.freeman@medway.gov.uk