

THE KITEFLIER

www.thekitesociety.org.uk



Issue 133

October 2012

£2.50

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

KITEWORLD

When The Wind Blows Think Of Us!



*Large Selection
Of Inflatable Kites
Available*



*HQ Flapping
Willie Worm*

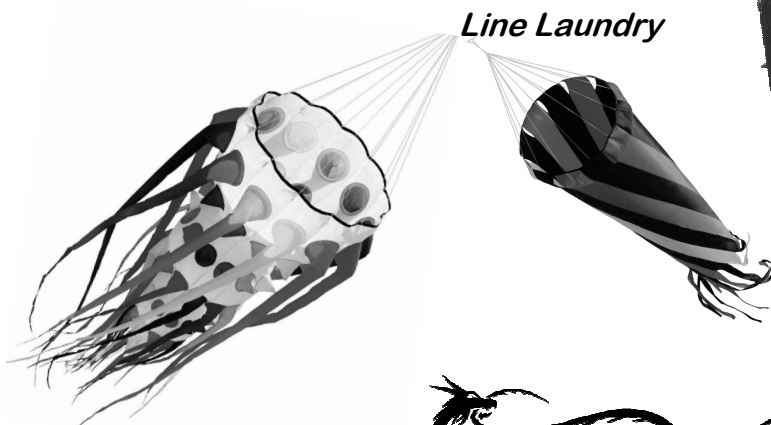


*Lot's Of
Flo Tail
Deltas*

*Keep checking our
website for
everything new in
2012*



*Sky Dog
Sweet Emotion*



Line Laundry



*Kites
For
All Ages*



*Kite
Accessories*



New Rev B2



*Prism
Stowaway
Diamond*

www.kiteworld.co.uk

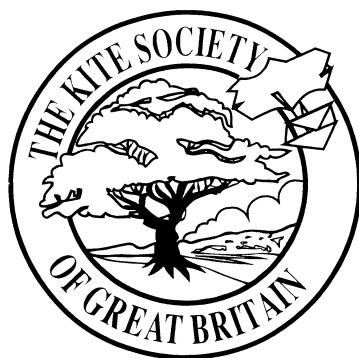
01255 860041

Bits & Pieces	4
Kite Tales	7
Misc Pieces	11
Kite Flying Demo	12
Dieppe Report	13
Borneo International Kite Festival	20
Pothecary Corner	23
Dieppe Again	29
Portsmouth 2012	31
FLOAT	35
Aerodyne	36
Portsmouth Pictures	40

Front Cover

Michel Gressier's Winning
Kite flying at Dieppe 2012

Picture: Tara Bloom



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

Well—the end of another year, it does not seem to have been a good year for festivals—both financially and weather wise. Let us all hope for a better 2013.

Editorial

The few events we have information for in 2013 are listed below, if you have an event or information then please pass it along to us. There is the usual plea for items to put in the magazine!

Gill and Jon

2013		
April 2013		
7	Streatham Kite Day, Streatham Common, London (Provisional)	bobcolover@easynet.co.uk
13-21	Berck International Kite Festival, France	Gerard Clement
20 - 1st May	Cervia International Kite Festival, Italy.	www.cerviainternationalkitefestival.com
27-28	North Hants Kites Jolly Up 12, Cliddesden, near Basingstoke, Hampshire	Kites Up
May 2013		
11-12	Barmouth Beach Kite Festival, Opposite the Lifeboat Station, Barmouth, Wales.	Waine Hucker waine@barrikiteflyers.com
11-12	Western Lake District KiteFest 2013, in assoc. with NKG, Wilson Park, Haverigg, Cumbria	kiterdave@btinternet.com
24-29	Margam Kite Festival, Margam Country Park, Port Talbot, South Wales, SA13 2TJ	www.margamcountrypark.co.uk/
June 2012		
1-2	Exmouth Rotary Kite Festival, The Imperial Recreation Ground, Exmouth, East Devon EX8 1DG	www.exmouthrotaryclub.co.uk/kite-festival/
July 2013		
13-14	Barmouth Beach Kite Festival, Opposite the Lifeboat Station, Barmouth, Wales.	Waine Hucker waine@barrikiteflyers.com
13-14	Brighton Kite Festival, Stanmer Park, Brighton	Simon Hennessey simon@hennesseys.co.uk
20-21	Leominster and Hereford Kite Festival, The National Trust, Berrington Hall, Leominster, HR6 0DW	www.kitefestival.org.uk
27-28	Dunstable Downs Kite Festival, Whipsnade Road, Dunstable, Bedfordshire LU6 2GY	www.dunstablekitefestival.co.uk
27-28	St. Annes Kite festival, Lytham st Annes, near Blackpool, Lancs	www.stanneskitefestival.co.uk
August 2013		
24-26	Portsmouth International Kite Festival, Southsea Common, Portsmouth	The Kite Society

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.

Bits & Pieces

From The Times of India

Railways blames kite strings for train delays

The arrival of Vishwakarma Puja has made Eastern Railway officials busy. They are now racking their brains over how to tackle the menace of kite strings, which often get entangled with railway overhead wires and cause power to trip, thus resulting in unnecessary delay and congestion.

Also, the officials are now at their wit's end after a test conducted on samples of these strings revealed that they are coated with iron fillings. "Earlier, kite strings would be coated with ground glass to enable them to cut through the strings of rival fliers. We were shocked to find that nowadays, iron filings are being used to strengthen the strings. This kind of nylon string is reportedly imported from China. When a nylon wire coated with iron rubs against the catenary, the strands get severed," explained Suchit Kumar Das, divisional railway manager, Sealdah.

Kite enthusiasts move on to the tracks during kite-flying and the strings get intertwined with the electric wires overhead. Some times, the strings get intertwined with the pantographs of trains, resulting in damage.

"The strings, particularly when wet, act as conductors. One end remains in contact with the live wires while the other end hangs loose. Power trips when they come in contact with the roof of an EMU local or an OHE mast. While isolation takes about 3-4 minutes, the entire restoration can take up to 10 minutes. By this time, 20 trains can get stuck midway. Some times, the string has to be removed from the wires physically before services can resume," Das said.

Power tripping due to kite strings is common in places like Nungi and Baruipur. Awareness campaigns have been launched by the Sealdah division to keep kite fliers away from the tracks. People living along the tracks are also being told of the risks involved. In the recent past, several people have been run over while flying kites on railway tracks. Most such cases happen around Saraswati and Viswakarma Pujas, when kites are flown as a sort of ritual in this part of the country.

One comment posted on the report:

Aaaah! the Indian Railways have at last found the exact reason for the delay in trains it is the kites :) and to top it all, it is China behind the mischief..... exporting kite-strings to India to delay the railways.

From The Japan Daily Press

Okinawa protestors use kites to disrupt Osprey at military base

While the concerned residents of Okinawa did all they could to fight the U.S. Military's deployment of the controversial MV-22 Osprey aircrafts, the hybrid planes were delivered and began flights this week. That hasn't stopped the people from raising banners and shouting outside the Futenma air base, but the Okinawa Peace Movement Center has resorted to a different form of protest: flying kites along the base fences with the intentions of disrupting the Ospreys' flights.

Organized by Hiroji Yamashiro, the group gathered in two places in a nearby park and attempted to fly their kites near the aircrafts as they attempted to land. Unsurprisingly, the U.S. Military was displeased with the protestor's actions, with one official approaching the group and warning them to stop. He reportedly tried to cut the kite strings, but failed.

The kite-flying protestors responded to warnings with the argument that there is nothing illegal about flying a kite, and that they won't stop until Okinawans are treated with respect. Pictures of a kite flying near an Osprey were widely circulated on the internet, prompting criticism that these actions will only make the situation worse, and that flying kites near aircrafts won't do anything to improve their safety.

On the BBC Website

Wild reindeer may face a new threat from the extreme sport of snow-kiting, a study has found. Scientists modelled reindeer's fright responses to both snow-kiting and skiing in an alpine area of south Norway. They found that reindeer were more afraid of snow-kites because of the airborne kite.

The study recommends that controls are put on the sport to prevent harm to wild reindeer. Snow-kiting is a new sport, similar to kite-surfing, in which the rider wears skis and is pulled along by a kite. It is thought to be one of the fastest-growing recreational sports in Norway.

Bits & Pieces

Ebay Items

WWII Emergency Silk Radio Kite

Nice WWII era RAF silk emergency radio kite with original case. Silk is getting a bit discoloured in place but is rip free. Original marks. Folds and rolls up into case. There are a couple of elastic fixings which have perished but could easily be replaced with new elastic if wished. 36 inches long. All in all in good condition



Sold for £100.00

Bali Kite Festival Touched by Tragedy

The three-day long Bali International Kite Festival on Padang Galak Beach in Denpasar claimed the life of an eight-year-old boy on its final day, Sunday, July 15, 2012. The child, Made Ade Yudi Sastrawan, suffered traumatic head injuries when a fish-shaped kite (bebean), measuring 8x5 meters, struck him.

The boy, who was watching the kite competition in the company of his mother, was rushed to the Sanglah General Hospital in Denpasar where he died shortly after arriving at the emergency room.

According to Radar Bali, police are considering if the boy's death can be charged as a case of criminal negligence on the part of the team flying the kite. The boy was standing with a group watching the kite flying competition when the large kite crashed to the ground, striking several spectators. Meanwhile, Gusti Putu Rai Andayana, the chairman of the Bali International Kite Festival, expressed his sympathy for the family of the child, saying this is the first time a fatality has occurred in connection with the annual event.

Andayana told the press that the incident, however, was purely an unfortunate accident without any intention to cause injury or death.

© Bali Discovery Tours. Articles may be quoted and reproduced if attributed to <http://www.balidiscovery.com>.



'BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY' KITE DANCE

See on Queen Brian May's web site. Readers may enjoy this new Bo Rhap choreography a kite dance that was performed at the Oregon Kite Festival in June this year.

Team iQuad performs their routine to Bohemian Rhapsody (by Queen) at the 2012 Lincoln City Summer Kite Festival in Oregon... Pilots are John Barresi, Steve de Rooy, TK Barresi, Willow Robin, Bazzar Poulter and David Hathaway.

Just search You Tube for the video.

Banksy Transforms Migrant Road Sign into DREAM Crossing

British street artist Banksy is back. And so are repurposed versions of the iconic yellow traffic signs with a silhouetted family that line roads near the U.S.-Mexico border in California.



Bits & Pieces

The first signs popped up near Camp Pendleton in San Diego, CA, the site of dozens of accidents where immigrants attempting to enter the country by crossing an interstate highway were struck by motorists.

The signs show three silhouettes sprinting across the frame — a father figure leading the way for his wife and daughter. They look like they're running so fast that they're leaning forward as if they were mid flight and about to take off in to the air.

Now Banksy has given the road signs new meaning by adding a kite to the design.

Seen in on The Daily Mail Online **Billionaire Richard Branson and son Sam both set records for kite-surfing across the Channel**

It took two attempts in 24 hours, but Sir Richard Branson has entered the record books as the oldest person to kite-surf the English Channel. The 61-year-old Virgin boss crossed from Dymchurch, Kent, to Wimereux in northern France in three hours and 45 minutes yesterday to establish the first Guinness World Record for the oldest person to make the crossing by kite-surfing.

Sir Richard failed to secure the second record he had also been hoping to snatch, which was set by his son Sam on Saturday for the fastest cross-Channel kite-surf. Sam made the 30-mile journey from Wimereux to Folkestone in two hours and 18 minutes, shaving 12 minutes off the previous record, which was set in 1999.

He was followed on to shore by eight friends and relatives who entered the record books as the fastest group of kite-surfers to make the Channel crossing, for which there was no previous record.

From the BBC News Website **Belarus-Sweden teddy bear row escalates** August 2012

Belarus has taken strong diplomatic action against Sweden following a stunt involving parachuted teddy bears. Sweden says all of its diplomats have been expelled from Belarus, which has also closed its embassy in Stockholm. Belarus was angered when a Swedish public relations firm dropped about 800 teddy bears with

pro-democracy messages from a light aircraft. President Alexander Lukashenko sacked his air defence chief and head of border guards over the 4 July incident. He told their replacements not to hesitate to use force to stop any future air intrusions from abroad.

On Tuesday Belarus's KGB state security service said two Belarusian men, Anton Suryapin and Sergei Basharimov, had been detained on suspicion of complicity in "illegal intrusion". The Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe said Mr Suryapin, who runs the Belarusian News Photos website, had merely uploaded photos of the teddy bears.

The OSCE's spokeswoman on freedom of the media, Dunja Mijatovic, said she was "surprised and alarmed" at the charges. "I hope that he will soon be set free and cleared of all charges brought against him," she said. "I further hope that the 'teddy bear case' is not the latest attempt to suppress freedom of expression in Belarus using dubious criminal charges."

Belarus expelled Sweden's ambassador on 3 August, and withdrew its own envoy to Stockholm. Sweden's ambassador had apparently angered Minsk by holding meetings with the Belarusian opposition. Sweden then said it would not allow a new Belarusian ambassador to take up his post, and asked a further two Belarusian diplomats to leave.



Kite Tales.....Paul Chapman

The kite flying season, such as it is, seems to be over. Winter has come early and perhaps it is time for reflection on what has, or hasn't, been achieved this year.



January was India and a search for the ubiquitous Firki; at one point I was in the old pearl trading port of Khambhat where, after a good day meeting both the kitemakers and the pearl dealers, I was taken to the midnight food market to try some local delicacies. Quite a crowd gathered and swelled to a full audience, especially when we got to the pannipuri stall. I did not know it was pannipuri until later; only that the surprise pastry package contained, not a sweetmeat, but chopped seaweed and cold sea-water! The crowd cheered as I choked back the rising banquet! It was only later, when I was back at home, that I read that Marco Polo had the same treatment a millennium earlier when he visited Cambray. Apparently the pannipuri tradition lives on as the means of making pearl swallowing traders regurgitate stolen pearls. It was lucky that Marco survived to write my version of his book which contains the description of an unwary sailor being shackled to an enormous kite as a means of eliciting whether an ocean voyage was going to be successful. It is not clear in the book whether this flying kiteman is actually Chinese or whether he is Japanese....and there is some resonance with the Japanese story, written in the 1170s, of *Minamoto no Tametomo* who was exiled to the island of Oshima and who made a huge kite to carry his son back to Honshu in Japan. I asked Ohye Makato to translate my copy of the Minamoto story when I was at the Dieppe Festival but he declined, perhaps politically, by explaining that he could not read the Japanese.

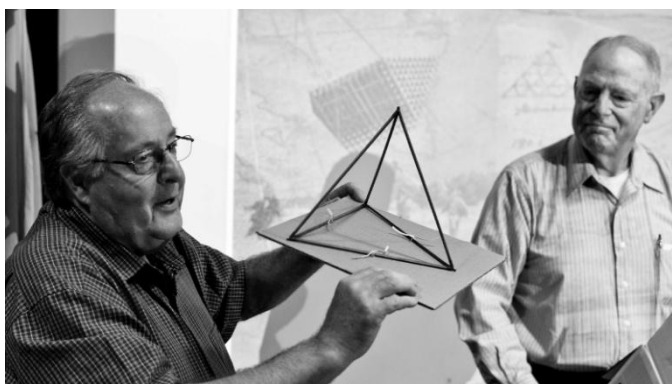


February was spent working on the Vietnamese Flute Kite book. It meant travelling to Germany (where it was nicely warm) to meet with Uli Wahl and top'n'tail the book so that we could get it published. Instead we spent the long weekend making new discoveries, visiting old university libraries and generally getting distracted. I arranged for publication as soon as I got home in the hope that a physical copy of the book would put an end to the endless additions. Not a chance. And now the book comes with a supplementary book of Corrigenda.

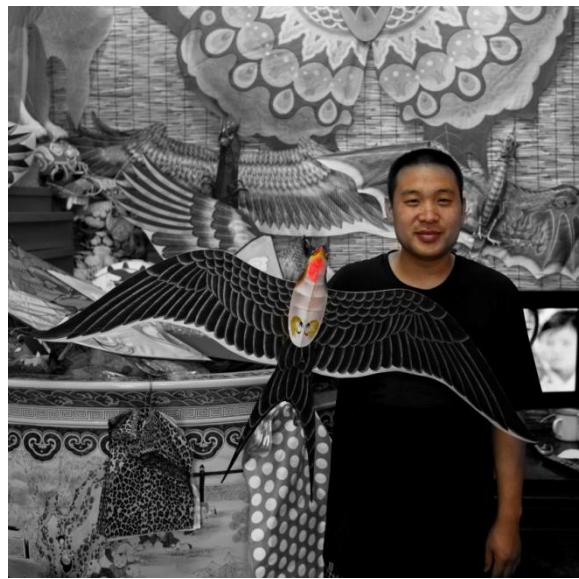


By then it was the festival season but somehow the Jet Stream joined in and, as you will know, winter continued with endless rains. I accompanied the Grumpy Old Gits and went to France in May where we were welcomed by the hospitality of the good people of Houlgate. The best bit was when a Bleriot monoplane of Cross Channel notoriety turned up and I was able to get in the way when they put the thing together. It was just like a big model aeroplane. Eventually it was pushed out onto the beach, the engine fired up (it is a LeRhône rotary so the cylinders rotate with the propeller) and off it went. Then the rain returned.

By the end of June I was in Nova Scotia. This time it was for the "Kites to Flight" symposium at the Alexander Graham Bell Museum at Baddeck on the island of Cape Breton. We were billed as "the greatest gathering of kite historians ever assembled in North America"! In fact there must be a ring of truth since we were headed up by Tom Crouch who was the chief curator at the NASM in Washington DC and the team included Bob White (Bell; he is in the photo receiving his Bell cell), Tom Shanken (US Kites), Uli Dracheim (Steiff to Flight), Jan Westerink (Kite Patents and general mayhem), George Pasiovich (Co-ordinator and Kite Museum Director) and me (Cody). We all had to give a talk and the great surprise was that the descendants of A G Bell came along, not only to heckle, but to present each of us with an original tetrahedral cell, probably from the Frost King. Not only that, but there was the privilege of invitations to the Bell family estate. We had dinners with members of the family and, for me, the amazing experience of flying my own tetrahedral kite from the original kite field! Much muttering of happy pigs and excrement!! In fact it was a week full of excitement and discoveries. The museum very kindly let us loose amongst the Bell toys; at one point Tom and I were discussing the intricacies of the co-axial propeller for a hydrofoil boat when, and this was after a lot of pondering, I noticed that the experimental gearbox was, in fact, a modified egg whisk! It really was a magical experience; sharing a room with Uli who woke every morning muttering "another day in Paradise"; watching the fireflies over the luminescent Bras d'Or lake at night; sailing on the good ship Amoeba around Beinn Breagh and watching the bald eagles snatching fish from the lake...oh and doing a bit of KAP too.



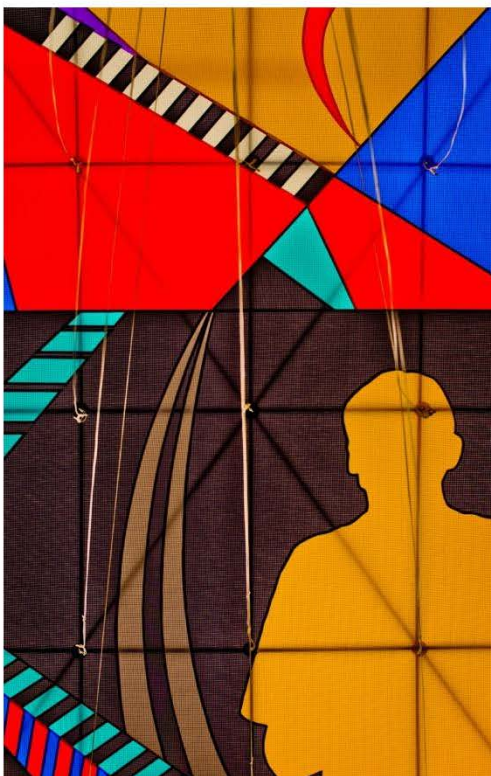
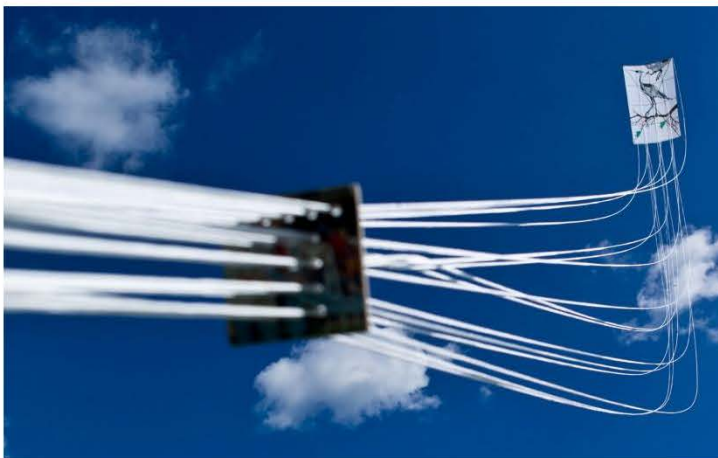
I had bought a GoPro Hero2 as a lightweight KAP camera. It is very light and easy to hoist under my 2 metre rokakku that I had modified for travel (no stick to be longer than 27inches). So a few weeks after the Cape Breton visit, I found myself in Beijing where I met up with my Chinese friends in their 4x4. We travelled more or less due north, through the Great Wall and the mountains that once protected China from Ghengis Khan and the Mongolian interlopers. We travelled on into Chinese Inner Mongolia and when the roads stopped....we carried on, and on. Eventually the grass and dirt roads stopped at a fence...so we turned right and followed the tundra tracks along the Mongolian border. It is wonderful kite country...rolling grasslands and perfect warm winds. At about 1000km in we stopped at a yurt gathering and out popped the rok and the GoPro....click, click. But the local people ran away when they were told that a camera was up with the big tethered bird. They were protecting their souls! Another day and 500km further along the border we come across more yurts, we stop and KAP away again, this time while the children are trotting off on horseback to inspect the border with Russia. Then we discover the Black Dragon River which forms the China-Russia border. There are lots of Russian lookout posts over there in Putinland. Eventually, and after 6000km we returned to Beijing. While I was in Beijing I took the chance of visiting Liu Bin at his little shop. Liu Bin comes from a long line of kitemakers but sadly he says he is at the end of the line. No one, not even his son, wants to become a kitemaker. There is no money to be made and the cost of running his little store is exorbitant. It is true that the workshops at Weifang are churning out lots of kites but they are badly made and are not hand painted. There are no more young craftsmen. And it seems to be true. Liu's kites are very nice so I returned home with his lovely soaring swallow even though it cost the equivalent of a week in my Royal Palace 3 star hotel; but it does fly beautifully.



And so to Portsmouth; and shortly thereafter to Dieppe. Dieppe...! Such fun and so many little adventures and kite deals! I spent a lot of time with the Vietnamese...at one point using my incomprehensible Chinese as translator for Mr Wang from Yantai. Meanwhile the flutes made by Mr Kiem droned on, and on, and on...a very clean bell like sound. The F22 fighter made by Mr Wang zipped in and out of the single line kites; a soaring kite on steroids! And the Vietnamese Flute Kite Book? We are definitely not salesmen. Some have gone off to relevant institutions and the rest were taken by friends who REALLY needed a copy!



Here are some Portsmouth Photos...Ralf Dietrich and a couple of Edos...



And a few more from Dieppe...Mike Goddard, AWITA and the poppies.

Mi-NewtKites



Mi-NewtKites is an inflatable kite design company from the South West of the UK who specialise in inflatable kites, or 'Line Laundry'. They create large wind sculptures for leisure and business incorporating bespoke designs for advertising, and their personal range of designs for leisure. You may have already seen their 25ft inflatable pig kite, flown at Coney Island kite festival 2012. All designs are hand crafted from their workshop in Devon.

They are currently working on many exciting designs, such as their 40ft inflatable triceratops, as well as their 8ft customisable koi's. These vibrant fish will have the option to be almost any pattern you want, whether that be spots, stripes or even letters! Estimated to be ready for purchase by Christmas.

Mi-NewtKites started in 2011 from a small cottage in the middle of Dartmoor, it was the vision of Jonathan

Hodge and his partner, Staci Deakins. Having formally designed and made kites in his younger years, Jonathan decided to return to his passion for flying, and together they created Mi-NewtKites.

It wasn't long before their creativity outgrew their cottage surroundings and they had to expand. Finding an amazing workshop space to design and produce from, they were able to develop new designs and establish the business.

Mi-NewtKites also offer many products and solutions for your advertising needs. From businesses to events. All advertising products are bespoke, designed and created by hand from their workshop in Devon. Producing a number of options, from feather flags, banners with poles, or flying advertising such as their own Mi-SkyLetters! Long flying banners with your name/logo/slogan/initials hand appliquéd on for sky advertising!

Mi-NewtKites now have a sister company – Mi-NewtKAP – who specialize in kite aerial photography. Using their own lifting platform, they attach their 18mega pixel DSLR to a radio-controlled rig and fly above a chosen focal point/location to take really interesting shots.

They are planning to attend as many festivals and events as possible throughout the year to promote their new products, and have fun flying. All of Mi-NewtKites and Mi-NewtKAP's products and services are available via their websites.

www.mi-newtkites.co.uk

www.mi-newtkap.co.uk

Jorgen Moller Hansen—Remembered

His kites you may well know; the apparently simple, almost minimalist graphics based on white, black or grey with the inclusion of a single colour, the pattern chopped and rearranged to create balance and tension. Some designs could be gently decorative, like the patterns in drapery painted by Matisse; others could be bold and almost aggressive, the diagonal lines slashing boldly from left to right, cut and rearranged like collage in a Russian constructivist composition. They were undoubtedly some of the most ambitious attempts at a pure, fine-art approach to kite design; the kite was Jørgen's canvas, the sky his gallery wall.

Jørgen lived in Aarhus, a port town on Denmark's east coast, famous for its sail-making industry and deeply affected by its relationship with the sea. When reminded of his Viking ancestors, he'd usually respond with a cry of 'Rape and Plunder!', typical of his robust sense of humour. Jørgen's kites had the same attention to manufacturing excellence as the sails he saw in the sail lofts. Close up you'd see the reinforcements and strengthening strips; the kites were made

to last and could seem almost heavy on the ground, but up in the air they seemed fragile and delicate and flew superbly, a combination of great craftsmanship and sharp design.

The Decorators met Jørgen for the first time in Berlin in 1989, before the Berlin wall came down; he had arrived by train in West Berlin, his kites somehow ending up in the east. He was standing in the middle of the kite field holding the end of a hairy bit of string, to which was tied a very makeshift kite made of gardening canes and a plastic bag, a murderous look on his face. We gathered up the courage to talk to him and spent the next two days rocking with laughter. When asked that first evening where he came from, he decided to draw a map of most of northern Europe on the paper table cloth in the restaurant. Running out of space on the cloth before he'd even got to Hamburg, he dispossessed the neighbouring party of their table, added it to ours and kept drawing, finishing with a final flourish and declaring 'and that's where I live!.'

Jorgen Moller Hansen—Remembered

Over the last 23 years, Jørgen has designed the sails for our Revolution kites, making us instantly, uniquely recognisable. He loved the way the Revolution kites could come together in different combinations, constantly breaking and reforming his picture, emphasizing different aspects of his design, accentuating one element or another. In 1992, shortly after he met his future wife Karen, he travelled with us to the US on what we called the Rok and Rev tour. Jørgen designed and made a series of Rokkaku kites which we flew on multi-line bridals in combination with the Revolution kites to form a big, ever-

changing scene; a kinetic sky-picture.

Working with Jørgen has deeply affected the way we approach flying Revolution kites as a team, taking a much more pictorial approach to our routines, rather than the linear, sequential-manoeuve based flying that prevails in team display. We carry his vision of a huge, ever changing picture with us constantly. Along with his lovely wife Karen, his family, many friends and kite fliers, we shall miss him hugely.

Jacob Twyford

Llansteffan Fiesta – Kite Flying Demo—Neil Little

Location: Llansteffan Beach Football Pitch, Carmarthenshire, South West Wales (SA33 5H-)

Objective: A follow up to The Llansteffan History society talk on 23 May 2010—'Flying Kites From Around the World' by Neil Little.

The talk centred on my interest in single line kites and in particular fighter kites. It was well received by the audience who wished to see a demonstration of the kites being flown.

Session 1: Saturday 28th July 2012

Conditions and Report: The weather was sunny but the wind of 25 mph SSW was a bit too strong to demonstrate bamboo and paper kites. My wife Dianne, daughter Nia and also my neighbour Howell helped me. We put up a couple of decorative single line kites to show where we were flying. I then concentrated on Mylar and Ripstop fighter kites:

1. Ripstop Tyke by Merlin Kites,
2. Ripstop MiniMac Indian fighter,
3. Home made Korean Mylar and glass fibre kite: a scaled up, re-bridled version of the Tony Slater design in Gallot's book,
4. Home made version of Merlin Kites' Hornet made from film and carbon fibre with a bamboo spine,
5. And at the end of the session flew a genuine Japanese-made Nagasaki Hata made of paper and bamboo. This gave the best performance of all the kites in the prevailing conditions.

The audience turn out was low (as expected) considering the other events in the Fiesta that were held at around the same time. However, those that came were interested and asked questions. I showed them some of the paper Indian and Indonesian kites and explained the principles of the flight and control of the kites.

Session 2: Saturday 6th August 2012

The weather was sunny and the wind was 12 mph S. This was far better than during Session 1. My wife Dianne, daughter Nia and also my neighbour Howell helped me. We put up four decorative single line kites, including a French Pilot Kite, to show where we

were flying. I then concentrated on flying fighter kites:

1. The Family original Mylar fighter made in a KSGB kite workshop in Bristol conducted by Martyn Laurence of Merlin Kites,
2. A paper and bamboo Indonesian kite,
3. Home made Korean Mylar and glass fibre kite: a scaled up, re-bridled version of the Tony Slater design in Gallot's book,
4. Japanese-made Nagasaki Hata made of paper and bamboo,
5. A small Indian paper and bamboo kite.
6. It was a pleasure to see our daughter Nia flying the Indian FK, while relaxing on one of the plastic garden seats we provided, with the Indian spool stuck in the ground beside the chair. She is still an expert even after not flying for at least 12 years.
7. In the mean time the children who turned up enjoyed flying a Pig Yakko and a Ghost Yakko (by Sky Bums) and a Wycombe delta.
8. At the end of the session I flew a Chilean fighter made of paper and bamboo. This gave a good performance but then it turned interesting when I failed to control it in an eddy near some trees. It landed over the low boundary fence and fortunately on the near bank of a little stream so I retrieved it undamaged.

The audience turn out was better than last week. The total number involved I estimate to be about 30. Again, those that came were interested and asked questions. They were mostly locals, some with children, and two groups of visitors one of which came from as far afield as Sheffield. I showed them some of the paper Indian and Indonesian kites and explained the principles of the flight and control of the kites. I also used the small Indian kite to give people the feel of controlling a FK. I chose this kite, as it was quite stable and spun reliably. About six adults had a go and did reasonably well – at least the kite was still in one piece at the end of the day!

Neil Little

Neil is looking for fellow fighter kite fliers in South Wales. Please get in touch with us.

Dieppe 2012—Hugh Blowers

Well, that was different. Dieppe 2012

Two years ago I commented that little changed at Dieppe between succeeding festivals, and on the surface, this year was no exception, yet there were subtle differences that made it in many ways one of the best ever, a view shared by many hardened Dieppe veterans. Not so subtle was the fact that Royame Uni (that's GB to the non French speakers) was to be the host nation. Since Derek Kuhn had announced this at Berck, many posed the question as to what truly represents GB, and from the posters it appeared to be a bowler hatted businessman and a Scottish Piper. What was not revealed was how much work Derek and Clara, along with Sandrine, would have to put in to pull it all together. What could not have been foreseen was the sad loss of Sandrine's partner Laurent shortly before the festival.

The host nation status is a double-edged sword as it is an ideal opportunity to highlight the country, its fliers, kite makers, organisations and traditions, but at the same time requires a team of people to devote most of their festival to serving these ends, leaving very little time for the more normal activities. The major players were Derek and Clara along with TC and Barbara making a return after 16 years, all looking after the English interests and serving untold quantities of tea. Ceri and Janet Jones with a super display from Wales and Dave Nicholls upholding the Scottish interests. The Northern Irish content was a bit more tenuous and low key. Francis Anderson and Pauline Taylor provided the in-house workshop while roving ambassador, itinerant kiteflier and general factotum throughout the week was Simon Hennessey, doing a sterling job. Music was to be provided by two marching pipe bands and entertainment by two sides of Morris Men, but more of this anon, whilst an English Circus occupied the harbour end of the site to complete the GB input.

A bone of contention for the organisation has always been the disparity between the number of delegates and the number of kites flying, especially during the week. This year, a conscious decision was made to concentrate on delegates who would commit to the whole 9 days and as money was inevitably tight, only pay for those and not partners, spouses and accompanying 'hangers on'. This meant that at least 3 British teams and other individuals missed out, as they

could not make this commitment. Another deliberate policy to concentrate flying into the arenas was the reduction in the number of flyers of large inflatables, including AWITA who were requested to concentrate on their deltas. Missing for the first time for many years was David Gomberg, currently pursuing political ambitions in Oregon.

Friday is always a lovely day as acquaintances are renewed and there is a chance to chat without the pressures of flying, although we did have an impromptu flutter of butterflies. The motor home village soon filled up with the Mabons, Thomas', Deardens, Cruickshanks', Bob being intent on polishing his van until he was through to the undercoat, and others including Jim Batten who had traded up from his euro-cent cycle two years ago to a full sized penny-farthing. Ignoring the temptation to pursue the British theme with packets of M&S sandwiches, we set out as we meant to go on with jambon complets and a most agreeable Cabernet Sauvignon on the beach. For those of us paying our own way, the seafront hotels offer a convenient if expensive accommodation, but as many of the delegates were to find out, theirs was neither close nor, in some cases, particularly salubrious. The choice was either driving, with all that entailed, or legging it to the hostel at the top of the hill or the hotel some 4km away. The ETAP seemed positively close by comparison.

It always takes a bit of time for the festival to stagger into life on the first day as the long haul travellers have to recover bags and boxes from the trucks, while everyone is faced with having to get their booths and tents set up before the marauding hoards arrive. The first briefing reveals the true extent of the guest list, and although we were aware of the possibility, it was a huge personal pleasure to see Steve Brockett after a gap of something over 12 years. Also making a welcome return were George Peters and Melanie Walker from Colorado with enough material for their own mini festival. While it was lovely to see Martine Chatel and Joel Thiez again following their joint retirements, it was sad to see the normally jovial Joel so badly affected by health problems.

Formal flying starts at 2.00pm each day, and to introduce the UK, TC had organised a mass launch of Robertshaw Serpents to get everything underway. The mass launch of any kites is always impressive, and these are no exception,

Dieppe 2012—Hugh Blowers

and it also meant including many fliers who would ordinarily be on the sidelines. A quick tour of the display arena took in 'Gressier corner' with a number of very large hand painted windmills and a large canopy, which covered the pedestrian walkway from side to side. Michael and Fran Goddard seemed intent on taking on George Peters with the extent of their ground display, comprising a set of banners in his usual vibrant colours and a vast number of tubular 'pencils' with flowing tails that represented their writing in the sky. This was before a single kite was in evidence.

Further along, Karen and Godfrey Gamble had set up camp with a row of banners on purpose built ground stakes that negates the requirement of hammering in bits of reinforcing iron. I rate these as the 'idea of the season'. These led on to a series of ground pieces and kinetic art, including a collection of stars with what has to be the most complex and finely engineered centre joints I have ever seen. Not original, but very effective were a swarm of red ants each with legs several feet long. The last section of the arena was to be home to George and Melanie and their amazing collection of flags, banners and kites. They certainly never travel light. It was also the first viewing of the new direction they are both following in their kite making, which would provide an interesting topic of conversation for the rest of the week.



A feature of Dieppe is the early morning briefing, and with the parade due to take place on the first Sunday, this was the main business, but not until a rollicking in three languages pointing out that far too many delegates had been in the arena the previous day taking photos rather than flying. The admonishment

seemed to have the desired effect as everyone started gathering for the parade, making it probably the biggest and certainly the longest ever. It was led off by a pipe band and then Mr Bradford and Mrs Bingley, AKA Karl and Sara Longbottom in bowlers, business suits, ties and gloves and with umbrellas at the ready, echoing the images on the posters. Well done to them both for this very British portrayal throughout the week. Ceri was resplendent in his kilt along with Janet in traditional welsh costume. The broolly theme was continued by many of the GB contingent with an assortment of these attached to the tops of banner poles. Happily the brollies were one thing we did not need during the week.



Topical was one 'Wiggo' James, complete with bicycle and angels wings. Following the first wave was the one of the two Morris sides that attended during the week, At regular intervals they would stop for a twirl and a hey nonny nonny oh, although what the locals made of the badger figure and being whacked with an inflated pigs bladder is open to conjecture.

Another raft of banner waving enthusiasts, the traditional stilt walkers, a drum band, the Ukrainians with daughter now wielding a trombone and even more delegates brought up the rear. The stars were definitely Karl and Sara but one must give full marks to George Peters and Melanie Walker who had two huge banners each, rigged as wings around their necks, which they flapped continuously, along with bandanas and goggles they were wearing representing either Bugz or Antz I believe. Hard work in that heat. With the regular stops, and length of the

Dieppe 2012—Hugh Blowers



parade, it was not short of lunchtime before we made it back to the field and some very welcome beers.

After the parade, it all settles down to some degree of normality, so it is now something of a wander round the highlights, oddities and quirky moments and some of the personalities. Of course, one person missing was Laurent and at 6 o'clock in the evening, everyone was asked to fly a kite for him. With kites of every description filling the arena a 'memory' kite was cut adrift to drift over the town. Bizarrely, this was retrieved and returned by a member of the public, so the procedure was repeated with the kite much higher for the second 'casting to the wind'.

Having used the Serpents to open the show for a few days, a decision was made to have a mass fly of Michael Goddard's kites one afternoon. Michael already had four huge Ghenki type kites in the exhibition hall, but kept producing more from his bag until there was something like 16 or 17 of his kites in the sky being flown by a representative selection of British flyers. Bearing in mind that virtually every kite had at least one long tail, either tubular or flat, there was a lot of material in the sky, and with his 'pencils' as well, an incredible amount of putting away at the end of the day. Michael's kites are always bold and representative of something meaningful to him, yet the delta I 'borrowed' for much of the week seemed in-

stantly recognisable to one and all as a cityscape.

It was Melanie and George's printed kites however that would provide for interesting discussions throughout the week. I can't say that I found the photographs reproduced on kites madly exciting, yet an artichoke where the kite was the same shape as the image worked for me. They certainly polarized opinion and reignited the whole debate surrounding art on kites, kite making, appliqué etc. What the effect will be in the long term remains to be seen, but in general I must admit to having reservations. Still people ask for his 'Flying Colours' designs but as he said, you can get awfully fed up stitching Cloudbirds, hence the reason they are now made under licence, but are they George Peters kites anymore?

At the other end of the spectrum were the works of Steve Brockett. Although he does use simple plan forms at times, most of his kites are complex in shape and construction, none more so than the stylised Welsh Dragons he produced back in the 90s. Certainly, Cyril the commentator was overjoyed when he heard that Steve had been invited, and waxed lyrical when I brought Idris into the arena. Steve soon followed with the original version and for the first time ever at a festival, two of these magnificent pieces of art flew together. One of those magic afternoons that make kite flying what it is. Steve had a selection of his kites, some instantly recognisable such as 'Eyecon', some less well known, but all a reminder of what the kite scene has been missing.



Dieppe 2012—Hugh Blowers



Another maker who has not been seen for ages is Maurizio Angelletti and while his Millistelle is somewhat tedious to put together, the ghost version looks absolutely superb against a blue sky and with the ability to steer it round the sky to a certain extent, walking it down through the arena and then back via the road provided a morning's harmless fun. I also discovered that it could be controlled with one hand whilst holding a beer in the other, a very useful facility, thanks Sara. Later in the week, another custom built version, this time in red and white in red, could be seen being flown on the beach by George Penney.

The works of Claudio Capelli are well known having been the featured artist two years ago, but another member of the family, Katerina, has now produced a number of kites with very bold painted images. These were far removed from father's style being very busy, cartoon like scenes, all with dense black borders. Don Mock is still in his painting phase, even to the bottom sheet of a Mockform with bold brush strokes in red and black, along with some spatters, almost as if the pots of paint had been kicked over and rolled across the skin. Not a very technical description, but I do not have Michael Goddard's modern art vocabulary, although he is trying to educate me. Perhaps if I fly his kites enough I will get the hang of the terminology?

Michel Gressier always has a large tent filled to the gunwales with his gorgeous painted kites, in all sorts of shapes and sizes. Throughout the festival he continues to paint new works with vibrantly coloured but extremely smelly paint. For one day, Michael Goddard joined him to paint a glorious seascape motive over something like an 8ft long skin. Towards closing time

it looked like Michael was fighting a losing battle, so Michel joined him, painting from the other end until they met. We wait with some anticipation as to how this lovely image will be incorporated into a kite.



A thorny subject that I have commented on before raised its ugly head again, and this time officially, and that was the manja left trailing across paths, roads and rooftops. Europe does not have a tradition of fighting kites, so why the town and residents have to be blighted with this stuff remains a mystery. It was made quite plain at one of the briefings that leaving it all over the place could not be tolerated, and might yet lead to a complete ban, but unfortunately the main culprits were not amongst those who attend the briefings. If, and it is a big if, the exponents of this branch of kite flying wish to continue to enjoy the activity, then they must take a much more responsible attitude to the use of manja.



Dieppe 2012—Hugh Blowers

Significantly more amusing was Wolker Holberg's wallet, which had a habit of bursting into flames each time it was opened. Not some comment on the current problems of the Euro, but a fun and impressive device that he was asked to demonstrate at regular intervals. Wolker was flying alongside Peter Lynn, and no Dieppe would be complete without at least one Peter Lynn story. On the day in question, the wind rose steadily throughout the day until just after lunch when I asked casually if it was of any interest that his Manta and fish had dragged something like a ton of shingle across the beach, and now all that was stopping a trip through the tent line and into the town was the low, decorative, promenade wall. This engendered a degree of immediate action seldom seen, as more and more bags were tied to the line to stop further progress. This of course left the ticklish problem of how to get the whole lot down in the evening, when there was no space at all downwind. The solution, 20 or so strong lads, some of whom like Dirk Kruger who knew what they were doing and Suze, who was definitely an asset, brought the whole lot down along the beach at 90 degrees to the wind. Not surprisingly, the bulk of the volunteers vanished when it came to the second line, so that was left to a few of us and a bit of cunning. John Tang's solution did not meet with much favour from Peter when he suggested cutting the kite lose and picking it up from wherever it landed.

Something of a surprise was a huge, multi-coloured Komodo dragon made by Suri from Indonesia. This was an amazing piece of kitemaking as it was constructed from small geometric shapes, and appliquéd as well. Creating the dragon form was a tour-de-force of design as it was achieved by controlling the sizes and num-

bers of the multitude of tiny panels. She and her partner admitted that they would rather have made it from ripstop than the nylon they used. The Tang's PL Crocodile looked positively dowdy in comparison, although the colours were more realistic. Patchwork Komodo dragons are far from common.

Each day, a different nation hosts a lunchtime party for other delegates, sometimes in private, often in public and it was a pleasure to be invited to the joint Austrian Swiss event. Daniella, Gerhard and Rene had provided a selection of wines and spirits from their respective countries as well as several varieties of 'charcuterie', including a mega expensive black ham that is so dense that it has to be sliced on a veneer cutter. Beats Tesco's breaded ham any day!

Over on the sports kite field, Jean Lamoureux, from Dieppe Canada wore a multitude of hats, being commentator, translator at the briefings and in one of the resident teams, the Windjammers. He presided over continuous displays of dual line, four line, historic, team, individual and multi kite flying. Graham Lockwood was kept busy throughout the week, as were the Steve's, Matchett and Hoath, Helen Ribchester and honorary Flying Squad member Steph Ferme. Not seen for a long time was a set of Cerf Volant Azure Tandems as flown by Crazy Diamonds back in the heady days of the 90s. Keith and Vee Griffiths had assembled a selection of sports kites for the GB tent that took many of us back, especially the Flexi, still with its dowel bar and 200ft of twist that became 210ft every time a manoeuvre was attempted!

The British contingent numbers had been relatively static throughout the early part of the week, and it was good to see Jim and Vanessa Potts along with Neil and Lyndsey Edwards taking up station at the edge of the arena. Keith Boxall and Alan Outram were constantly on patrol, as was Jim on his Penny Farthing. He had brought his smaller version, which seemed to have been commandeered as transport by one of the circus performers, whose little legs were a blur as he chased around the site. Towards the weekend there was the usual influx of trippers from Avon, White Horse and all stations west. On the town side of the arena was the Peacock family en-masse, now with three generations of fliers on hand. Looking out for all things historic were David and Maureen Hughes, who we have not seen for ages. There is no



Dieppe 2012—Hugh Blowers



doubt that the dynamics of the festival change as the visitors join the fliers, although I would suspect that there were fewer from 'tother side of the channel than usual.

The skies were full for all but one of the days, with much of what was flying having been seen before, although there were some new pieces on show, including a set of European style birds, but built in Indonesia. These flew well in all winds, and on the Friday continued to fly by the simple expedient of a single point near the nose. If Alain Micquiaux's Poppies and Scarves were the wow kite of Berck, then from Dieppe it had to be Rene Meier's hearts. These were so simple, based on the circoflex principle, but with joints at top and bottom, creating the heart shape. Flying as a mass on the beach, they looked so effective. Proving yet again that size does not really matter and that there is never the wrong wind, just the wrong kites, were the miniature kite artists. No matter how strong the wind, Daniella Zitman, Frances Anderson, Thereze and Etienne Veyres would have the most delicate kites from paper and natural materials flying happily. Daniella also produced a most exquisite miniature train that she flew for ages. Of course, the day that TV3 came to film was the day the wind went a bit silly, but this did not deter these artists at all.

Art of a different sort was on show each day, and that was street art in the shape of a living sculpture, except that he had taken the concept one stage further and was a 'living automaton'. He would remain absolutely stationary on his pedestal until someone put some money into the hat, at which stage he would then perform

an intricate series of mechanical movements ending with a touch of the cap if the benefactor was male, or blowing a kiss if it was female. How he kept this up for hour after hour was something of a mystery, but it was most entertaining. Without a regular stage show as we have seen in the past, there was an eclectic mix of entertainment. Morris men at the weekends, one side being close harmony folk singers as well, Irish dancing by a French troupe, Belgian and French pipe bands, and a Zumba (or similar) keep fit group that seemed to have as big an audience as any.

It is now something of a tradition that you fight Michel Gressier and his team for space in the display arena, and again he had no hesitation about putting up his works of art in even the strongest wind. Another flyer that will utilise every bit of space possible is Robert Brassington. He was whacking up trains at every possible opportunity until a few grumbles about the amount of space he was using moved him up to the main arena where he put up an arch of trains to complicate matters. With AWITA flying their delta trains, Robert viewed this as something of a challenge, so on the final weekend he set about putting more kites in the air than the French team. By utilising the promenade wall and the entire contents of his bags, plus a couple of borrowed trains, he finally managed to get 68 kites into the air at once.

Because of the TV presence, the Friday soiree was delayed somewhat with many not getting to eat until the first busses were due to return. This did not deter the partygoers, who carried on until the early hours of the morning, no doubt encouraged by 'sprinklings' from the 'glitter bunny' who now even has a personalised whizzy feather by courtesy of Roy and Hayley. Saturday was another grand day, although some were by now a bit jaded as they had probably never flown as many hours as they did at this festival, and from this point of view it was a total success.

Not quite so successful was the competition with the theme of the five elements. After the results from two years ago, several people had decided not to enter, and it was quite obvious that others had looked through their bags to see if there was anything that could be remotely allied to the theme. One kite that covered both camps turned out to be the winner as it was Michel Gressier who had stripped the

Dieppe 2012—Hugh Blowers

covering from an old bamboo frame, recovered and repainted it, finishing just before judging took place. Yet again, Gerard Clement finished in 3rd place, winning a trip to Cervia at the same time that Berck is on. One wonders if these trips ever take place? A surprise announcement called Karl Longbottom to the stage as he had won the CVCF 'kite of the festival' award for his train of matchstick men.

Bizarre kite of the festival had to be the parafoil with half a penguin hanging out from the bottom. We have seen the same thing with ducks, but this was to represent a penguin diving into the water from the perspective of someone below the surface. It was not difficult to work out what it was, but it still had an odd look about it. Almost unnoticed was a gentleman on his own on the downwind side of the arena flying a very plain Circoflex. Nothing unusual in that except that he was one of the co-designers, inventors, developers of that type of kite that first flew at Dieppe several years ago now.

Saturday evening is the Vol de Nuit and for some reason the organisation has not been able to get a handle on this for some years. Again it was not helped by an almost total lack of wind to start with as the sea breeze died early on and the offshore wind did not spring up until very late.

A further complication was a complete set of lights that failed to work until Gallic poking and prodding produced lumens some 30 minutes late. Everyone tried their best, but by the time things got underway, most of the kites were sodden and reluctant to fly, especially in the shadow of the seafront buildings. Particularly impressive was the PLK Alien lit from inside, with its 'afterburners' glowing. Having got everyone into the town and keeping them there until late in the evening, some sort of non-wind dependent finale would not come amiss. Bring on the pyrotechnics!

Somehow the final day had crept up on us, and what a day it turned out to be. AWITA had taken delivery of a number of new kites, and in an almost 'look, this is what we could do' scenario, put just about everything they possessed up along the promenade, all in about 30 minutes. They were running at times to get everything in the air, including three maxi squids on an arch. Unfortunately the offshore breeze died soon after, so it all had to be packed away

again.

Robert Treppanier is never far away from the fun, so it was no surprise to see him having a go on Jim's penny-farthing, and while he had got the hang of riding it, stopping was by virtue of a barely controlled crash. Having had a great week catching up with Steve Brockett, it was only appropriate that we flew with him on the last day. George Penney had the gorgeous 'Where the Wind Blows' rigged, while Lynn had 'Misty' that Steve had worked on for a couple of days, making it a reliable flyer at last. With Steve flying his Dragon and me looking after his other kites, it was a wonderful way to finish the festival.

No doubt helped by the weather, it has to have been one of the best Dieppe festivals ever, with skies full of kites day after day. For some it was their first visit and for others the first for a long while, while for many it was a welcome return. Needless to say we made a welcome return to the New Haven restaurant each evening, being creatures of habit.

On reflection some things might have been done a bit differently to involve more British flyers and showcase British makers, by asking all those participating to bring examples from their collections to fly and feature as was done with Carl and Michael Goddard. Still we all had a lot of fun and enjoyment, so thanks to everyone who contributed. On the weather front, just how lucky were we, given what has happened both here and in France since the end of the festival. Well, that is it. Hopefully Dieppe will see the benefit of doing it all again in two years time?



8th Borneo International Kite Festival—Gill Bloom

One of the better uses of Facebook is that it enables kite festivals to be promoted in a way that was never thought of before. Having seen the many photos of this event in previous years I was very keen to attend, however problems with communications and wrong contacts meant that by the time I finally managed to track down the correct person there was only a few weeks left and I had resigned myself to waiting to next year. But at the last minute there was an opportunity to go. This led to frantic searching on the Internet for the cheapest flight and resulted in a flight via Doha to Kuala Lumpur.

Bintulu has no direct flights and the only two carriers from KL that go there are Malaysian Airlines and Air Asia, neither of which fly that frequently—and unsurprisingly the day that everyone was meant to arrive in Bintulu the ticket price had more than doubled.

A frantic exchange with the Bintulu organisers led to them generously agreeing to put us up for an extra night.

Heathrow is never a good airport if you have a tight schedule, but this time it was engine trouble that held us up (interestingly we had engine trouble on the way back as well, maybe Qatar planes are getting a little old!) and the 90 minutes connection at Doha had dwindled to around 30 minutes resulting in a frantic dash to connect. Our luggage made it but the kite bag did not. Being informed it was on the next flight, guess what? That flight was also delayed, the kite bag finally arriving around 1.30am, I knew Jet lag was useful for something.

So successfully reunited with the kite bag we embarked the next day for the 2 hour flight to Bintulu. You hear a lot about rainforest destruction, but it is not until you see palm oil plantations as far as you can see, a monoculture of trees stretching into the distance, that you realise the extent of the destruction!

There were quite a few kite fliers on our flight including a number of the Japanese sport kite teams and Andrew Taylor from the UK who was coming over as judge and hand holder for the 1st Pan Asian Sports Kite Championship. As we approached Bintulu you could see the flying site and also the world's largest liquefied natural gas production facility on a single site, with an annual production of 23 million tonnes. Not surprising that one of Bintulu's nicknames is

"Oil Town". As such Bintulu has grown very rapidly over the last 2 decades and has the feeling of a frontier town rather than a tourist destination, but there is nothing wrong with that. This is real Borneo with no tourists traps and the people of the town are genuinely welcoming and interested in the kite fliers. The kite festival is a big event for the town and you have to shake a lot of hands as you walk around the town, almost makes you feel like a celebrity with many photos being taken.

The festival site is the old airport and there is still some remaining tarmac, which could get hot in 35+ degree heat. (Plus a first for me—carbon rods that burn you if you pick them up!). The site is therefore a long narrow strip which could have been a problem if the wind had come in the wrong direction, but we were informed by the local kite fliers that the wind was never good in the morning but blew steadily during the afternoon down the site from the sea. Obviously no one had told the wind about that, more on that later.

Once we were welcomed at the airport—outside to the heat and humidity and whisked off to the hotel in old Bintulu. There were lots of shops, restaurants and other premises which were probably best not to inquire about their business. Apparently there was also cock fighting if you so wished—and we did see a lot of cockerels each staked to their own piece of ground and spaced beyond pecking distance. Chicken did seem to be on the menu for most of the meals. One advantage of the hotel was the fact that it was within easy walking distance of the field. The route took you through an interesting local market full of intriguing cooking smells and sights. The local corner shop in this area was the provider of alcohol, which was incredibly cheap apparently. Being non drinkers we just noticed that coke were 20 pence a can!

So we waited for the rest of the kite fliers to arrive. There was a good selection of both sport kite fliers who had come over for the first Asia—Pacific sport kite championships as well as the usual inflatable kite and artistic kite fliers.

Registration was in the hotel lobby and the only place where there was internet which meant that there was plenty of opportunity for kite fliers to meet and greet and mingle. The lobby was decorated with various kites as the days rolled by. Including some fine examples of the

8th Borneo International Kite Festival—Gill Bloom

local speciality—Waus in various forms. (Waus are everywhere in Malaysia—used on buses, air-planes, bathroom floors, there is even an avenue of Waus in Kuala Lumpur).

On the first day the kitefliers were treated to a river trip—life jackets were provided, but looking at the muddy water and rumours of crocodiles not too sure if they would have helped—to visit one of local communities where we were treated to local delicacies (fermented rice in palm leaves was definitely my favourite). Traditional dances were performed by the local men who were accompanied by the women on drums. Kite fliers were invited to take part but in 35 degree heat and high humidity there was not that many takers!

That night we were briefed about the festival, especially the opening ceremony where the local minister was coming to grace the event. So an early morning to make sure we were in our places before his arrival—sitting in the heat in a covered area—great! When the minister did arrive he was presented with a specially made Sport kite, just hope someone shows him how to use it and then to the speech which contained some good news. The Bintulu Development Agency will be supporting the event for the next 3 years, they really do want to make Bintulu a big event on the kiting circuit. There is even talk of holding the Sport Kite World Championships there in the future.

So the opening ended with the Minister being presented to all the kite teams and the event had began. For the event I had specially made an appliquéd kite depicting the National Flower of Malaysia (Hibiscus) and one of the local rain forest birds Scarlet Rumped Trogon. This appeared in the local newspaper.



Each day fell into a familiar routine, wait for the wind, enjoy the wind for 20 minutes, then no wind. Repeat for most of the days—except when lunch was served when the wind was quite good! Still this did have the advantage that it meant that the kite fliers could get to know each other and talk kite whilst waiting for that wind to steady. It was frustrating as you could see that there was a brilliant display just waiting to happen when the wind did blow, often there were just big piles of ripstop blowing around the tarmac.

So Friday came and finally the wind had got the idea—there was a magical afternoon when the sky was filled with kites of all descriptions—sports kites, rev kites, power kites, single line kites and inflatables. All vied for space in the sky. Fortunately this also coincided with the start of the weekend and the crowds had arrived to appreciate the display. There were a lot of happy kite fliers that evening, and an happy organiser!



What must be commented on was the friendliness and helpfulness of the field crew. They were working in the heat from early morning to late afternoon, always smiling and ready to be assistance, and enjoying playing with the JCB moving anchors in the constant wind shifts and keeping the kite fliers supplied with food and water. They really made the event so enjoyable, it is great to have someone put up and take down all your banners each morning and night and to deliver and collect your kite bags to your designated country area.



8th Borneo International Kite Festival—Gill Bloom

Saturday and Sunday the wind must have forgotten again as it was back to the cycle of wind/no wind but the rain really left off until the State Governor decided to pay a visit. There were a lot of wet kites that day and five of my kites spent the night in the hotel room. There is some advantage to the heat, they were bone dry by the next day.

Highlights for me in no particular order

The mesh rokkakus of Eric Siaw, well crafted and quite a sight when flown as a group in the sky.



The local Chinese community coming one morning for their dragon kite competitions. Great to see so many dragons at the same time and to watch as one team recklessly let out line in a turbulent wind. The resultant death spiral reminded me

of Cody train loops as the dragon spiralled down to earth behind a distant block of flats, reckon that particular kite did not win.

Some of the sport kite display, the Japanese teams especially were very good and the routine of four lined bat kites in formation to suitable music, great!

Some new big inflatables—including a cute pink dinosaur and appliquéd and patchwork dragon

which I had not managed to see in Dieppe.

So the event wound down to the closing meal where there was some karaoke, dancing and the usual jollifications. There were a few awards—yours truly got the “Most Committed International Female Kiteflier” (always knew I was mad). Fortunately the award was small and



fitted into the luggage unlike the cup that was won by the Japanese team for the sport kite competition, reckon that was excess luggage. The next day there were fond farewells as people wound their way to the airport.

So despite the wind this had been a great festival—meeting up with old friends and making so many new friends. The kiting community worldwide is such a diverse but great bunch of people. The whole event had a joy about it which some European events seem to have lost, maybe because the Asian events are still new and not jaded? Special thanks to Ansari the big Boss—you can be proud of the event you have created.



Pothecary Corner

Change of Tac

At the end of last season Marilyn and I decided that we weren't getting to fly many kites that often so this year we wouldn't putting ourselves around as much and just sit back and enjoy what we wanted to do for ourselves.

This did not mean if someone wanted some help, advice or coaching that we would refuse, I for one get a big kick out of bringing people on, but we would leave it up to them to organise things for themselves rather than us.

As a consequence we unfortunate to miss Brighton due to the ensuing misunderstanding. We thought that we had been the casualty of diminishing budgets and they thought that we had been invited.

On the first day of the event we were sitting in a travel agents booking a trip to Spain when Mrs Hennessy called to ask where we were. Arrangements were quickly made for us to get down there the following day! This meant an early start and lots of driving on the same day but at least we didn't have to worry about food and accommodation. We pointed out that the weather forecast wasn't too good but we were wanted so back home we went to get loaded up in readiness.

Going loaded

We tend to take everything with us to cover all sorts of conditions when we are invited to an event, after all what's the point in purchasing two lots of low wind kites and standing in a windless field having left them in the garage just because the weatherman had said to expect strong breezes that day? That means rear seats are taken out and kites are sorted in to groups in bags so that we can leave at least some of them in the car and have a bit of room in the tent. Our tent does tend to get a bit crowded sometimes - especially when it's raining or when our Nepalese friend, Aditya brings a banquet of curries with him!

Early breakfast the next morning with a phone call planned to check on the weather - "It's been chucking it down all night" said Simon Hennessey "And it doesn't look like stopping either!"

We went back to bed! We have already received next year's invite so hopefully we will see lots of you there too!

Odd Bookings

We have had some pretty strange invitations since we started kiting such as last minute trips and traveling the way down to Portsmouth and roping in a few other flyers just for the BBC to advertise the festival one year, (I taught Lizzie, now on BBC Sport how to fly at that one!). Corporate events have thrown up a few, there was the invite to run a festival and competition in Lithuania, then this year to fly two kites the same height as a wind turbine so the the surrounding residents would get an idea of how high 65 meters, the centre of the hub and 100 meters, the tip of the blade at the top, actually were.



We were given the site - obviously the middle of a field, somewhere near Totnes in Devon, but relentless driving around the near by roads via "Street view" on Google maps failed to give us a real close up of what the ground would be like. The drawings we were sent showed the exact location of power lines and pylons that inhabited the field and we then had to write risk assessments, get permission from the Civil aviation Authority, health and safety procedures and how we would determine the height of the kites for the SIX hours we had to keep them aloft in a safe manner.

Other distractions

Marilyn wasn't keen on the long drive both ways on the same day - she's not a good traveller - the the appeal of a day with baby granddaughter Bethany was stronger, something that has got to both of us this year I have to admit! Luckily, good friend, Mike Stevens is usually free midweek the same as me so we now had a plan!

The date got changed to the first Saturday of the school holidays so you can imagine what the traffic was like on the M5 into Devon even at 7 O'clock in the morning!

Nevertheless we got there well ahead of time so we had the all important chance to suss things out before anyone tried to 'organise' us!

Summer?

The weather was absolutely gorgeous - remember that day? - warm, sunny and a smooth 6 to

Pothecary Corner

8 mph and blowing away from the power lines some 250 meters behind us.

I had wondered why they had not thought of using a balloon instead of risking a no wind day with kites. But when we saw the field, waste deep in barley, they would never have gotten their equipment trailer in and any wind would have the reverse effect of a kite lifting as that would be blown downwards - anyway I expect that we were a heck of a lot cheaper!



within heats up rises into the sky of its own accord.

It was tough going waging through the field and even tougher trying to get launched. By comparison, imagine being stood in the sea up to your waste and trying to get sled lifters away. Trying to launch in these conditions made us aware that the wind could have been just a little stronger to stop the kites folding every now and again and it wasn't easy moving about

Just in case of a windless day we had both brought HQ Hybrid kites and I also had one of those enormous big plastic bags from the national Science museum that you fill with air then as the air

to keep them going. When they did fall it was a nightmare job disentangling the lines from the straw and gathering up the kite. With our employers for the day starting to get anxious we opted to us deltas. Mike's were a long and heavy walk away in the car, wedged in to a corner of the field but I had brought over my HQ Flow Delta (a



much sought after kite these days) and our superb Morgan Mega Delta (in team colours). It wasn't too much effort to get these away, they both like a light wind and we used those for the rest of the day.

How high?

I had spent some time the day before working on Pythagorus's Theorem to gauge the exact height of the kites but in reality moving through the barley was too slow and difficult to be practical. Instead Mike had marked off the measurements on his altitude sprint kite that flew almost vertically and occasionally hovered it next to the deltas to check.

With precisely nine minutes to go the wind finally gave up completely but that was job done by then. As far as we could tell we didn't really change anyone's opinions but we had lots of people blocking the narrow roads all around who wanted a closer look at the kites. A week later we were still covered in midge bites. That was quite a marathon event and, a bit like a marathon, we both said that we wouldn't do another one like that again - at least not until after harvesting!

Paignton Regatta

Out of the blue we got an invite to fly at the Paignton Regatta.

Again we were able to accommodate a midweek booking and travelled down the day before to have had a look around.

Mike and Sheila Stevens of Catch the Breeze came along too with an unexpected visit from Pete Dawson from our club, the White Horse Kite Flyers who just happened to be down there visiting his Dad that weekend and stayed on. Lots of planning involved in this one. We didn't know exactly what part nor how much of the green we would be given so a detour on the way home from our 'wind turbine' event gave



Pothecary Corner

us the chance to suss the place.

We were hoping for an on shore breeze as the width was just wide enough so that we wouldn't be flying over the road and we would need to be a bit careful flying along the arena. The lady who had invited us had a jobs-worth health and safety character on her back meaning the we had several exchanges of emails to get the risk assessments written up and drawings of the site changed to suit. Both Chase the Breeze and Close Encounters' insurance policies were due to run out at that time so a bit of harassment was called for there. I also have CRB clearance but that wasn't required and nor was height clearance because we wouldn't need it - although I am not sure how high Pete was flying with his Ostend Bird.

Small arena

A bit of a discussion with Mr H&S when we got there because the arena was too small and not as the drawings were but the tent was soon up and Mike was already beginning to fill the sky. We posted that our demos were to be half an hour every two hours and the crowds started to pile in each time about five minutes before we started. This was the other perfect day we had this summer. Warm sunshine and the steadiest of 8mph winds the like of which we have not experienced in this country for a long time! Catch the breeze were going well and said that it was the first time they had managed to get the Giant penguin, Dog and their Manta Ray flying at the same time and still manage others as well. We had a great time and were able to get through all of the routines we have including the ones not seen normally at festivals, such as our Skydancer ballet, because of the short time slots. One of the organisers said that his favourite part was the ballon popping. We put flour in the balloons to make the burst more effective and Marilyn just happened to be stood under one when I homed the kite in! The lump on my head has healed nicely thank you.

Find events

We will post this event on our site and "The Kite Calendar" if it is on next year - a nice event to go to with lots of other things going on all day including a massive firework display in the evening.

Talking of our web-site, I have just mended the link to many of my old articles and, over the winter months will be adding some of the later

articles including some that have not been published here. Because we have such a wide readership with hits peaking at around 1200 per week during the summer months from every continent (except we still haven't had one from Antarctica yet!) I will be doing a blog type page so that we can be more current and give good reason for people to come back and explore more often. Remember that any event we attend gets the benefit of free advertising on the front page.

Fuengirola

This was our third trip here - we would have gone last year but I had the unexpected pleasure of an major operation two days before we were due to leave.

For some time now there has been a report, photos and video "Kites over Fuengirola" on our web-site from the last time we were there including some not so nice things about the hotel - we went to a different one this year!

The best thing about Fuengirola is that the beaches are floodlit at night and there are loads of people about so it's quite safe - and quite friendly too, especially on the western side of town where the Spanish families invited us to join in their bar-b-Qs.

One night we were flying at around 11.30.

The wind was at our backs so we were flying toward the lights and unable to see beyond them - a bit like being on stage and you can't see the audience.

We were flying around a bit with full sized ultra lights and some very light tails we took with us just going over some new moves and tightening up some of our regular ones when we decided to land and take the whole thing from the beginning. Then there was a huge round of applause went up from all along the prom and over



Pothecary Corner

the nearby bridge from a crowd we didn't know was there! We were flying single lines on the beach and an English guy came over to say that he had filmed it and that there were too many people to count up there. He said that he was surprised not to see someone going around with a hat - apparently we would have made a lot of money. We don't know what the local police would have said about that - maybe we should test it out if ever we return?

We always take a good selection with us when we go on holiday. We don't do anything special with the packing. All the kites go in our usual bag (as shown over my shoulder) which ends out weighing about 18 kilos. We pre-book it in as 'sports equipment' - they don't have a category for kites so it goes under 'surfboard' or 'kite-surf' and that costs around thirty five quid return.



This year we took an old HQ star kite with us that hasn't been out of the garage since the last Petworth - and how long ago was that last held? There was an arrow knock missing which I managed to replace by bodging a spare I took for the other kites and a

bit of manipulation but we soon had it in the air - not bad for someone who doesn't do fiddly! There was no obvious tow point so I took an educated guess and it seemed to fly pretty well until the nose dipped forward and then there was no hope of recovery. Thinking about it afterwards I am sure that I could rig up a bridle that would counteract any dipping on the nose. I am interested if anyone else has this kite? - perhaps the bridle was missing from the bag when I got it? - I think that it came from a wholesaler/importer who'd asked me to trial it, so there is every chance of that.

Rainbow Delta Tail

I'm not trying to claim credit for this, there is rarely anything new in kiting these days apart from materials - most things are just adaptations/improvements of earlier ideas.

We only had our HQ Rainbow Deltas to use as lifters and I like to use tails to add that bit more stability and reduce the chance of the kite taking a sudden dive when it could go across

where there are people sunbathing even though they all seemed to be on our side and enjoying it without any of the "....if that kite comes anywhere near me ... " numpties!

The wind was just short of being able to leave the kite flying

without any gentle tending so I took off the single, quite heavy, tail and used one of the tubular tails we took for our sport kites looping it across the bottom corners.

The result was quite amazing because the of the more immediate effect of correction - the kite moves one way and the drag on the highest corner increases whilst the opposing corner tail drag decreases and at the same time increasing our confidence that the kite was safe. There were loads of people asking us where they could buy kites like ours so I suppose the Kite-world site would have received a few visits.

Next year we were thinking of either Florida or San Diego so anyone with tips for good flying beaches for both single or dual line please let us know through the contacts page on our website at www.closeencounterskites.co.ukand maybe we might see you there!

Coaching

I mentioned earlier that we were always up for a bit of coaching if asked - as long as you organise it, then get in touch.

At a recent Jolly Up event at Basingstoke I took on two guys from Brighton who wanted to get in to team flying. We used our training kites - Eolo Sport, Overs that have seen better days and got in to some basics. One of the guys was a bit embarrassed to be photographed using



Pothecary Corner

plastic model kites on the end of sticks "Something I never saw myself doing" - but he soon saw the benefit once we got into the air. Both guys did pretty well. We started by each of them flying at number one in a pair with me to get the first, easy moves in to their heads and we moved on from there to fly in a team of three. The main comment was that they didn't realise just how much concentration was required but they both went home buzzing with excitement. They were really keen to do more and I said that it would be a pleasure and we talked speculatively of a date in September. I never heard back but that's what I meant before. Learning to fly well takes commitment and that means organising yourself, I'm not going to do that bit for you.

Simple Pleasures

Sainsbury's has launched the next in a series of adverts encouraging its customers to live well for less.

The new adverts, which first aired during X Factor, will run throughout autumn and celebrates simple pastimes that parents can share with their children, with this one focusing on a father and daughter as they go through the process of building and then flying a kite.

Encouraging

This could prove one of the biggest boosts to our sport/hobby for ages!

About the first 80% of the advert is just about the simple but memorable pleasures that all of us oldies have of our young days when we made kites from paper or plastic bags.

This will undoubtedly encourage the parents and grandparents of today to go out with their off spring, get away from their computers and get hooked on kite flying!

It's probably the older ones that will start to look around at what is happening in the kiting world as most of us will have experienced - I wonder what the average age is of those of us was when we re-kindled or even started up our interest in kites - a question I think that I will be asking for a while to see what I come up with.

There has been a lot of talk about how the average age of true kilters at our events has increased without the youngsters there to bring it

down, so let's hope that this advertisement will sow the seeds.

Some questions answered

OK, so you were thinking "Where was that done - who made the kites" well, I'm sorry but I can only answer some of the questions at the moment but I am willing to share your knowledge if you get back through our contacts page. Filmed on location in Colley Hill, Surrey, the 60 second advert demonstrates how parents and children can create memorable and enjoyable moments together, without having to worry about undertaking costly activities.

Played out to the song from family favourite film Mary Poppins, 'Let's go fly a kite', the music pulls on childhood heartstrings and links to Sainsbury's previous summer Live Well for Less advert music choice of 'The Monkees'.

The advert was directed by Tony Barry of Sonny Production Company. Tony, who directed Sainsbury's previous 'father and son' and 'summer moments' adverts, has been responsible for memorable adverts for a wide range of companies including VW, MTV and Land Rover.

Watch the ad here: <http://lbbonline.com/videos/2005/>

I am sure someone out there will know who built the kites used - it wasn't "Kites Up" this time!

Copies Good or Bad

I seem to have started some debate with my recent articles over whether copied kites are a good thing or not or indeed is it a copy or is it a variation.

Surely the originator would have slapped the manufacturers with copyright infringements by now if they were out and out copies?

I always appreciate comments about my articles (good or bad) and I will always endeavour to reply although generally I lapse in to 'live and let live' in the end because the only strong opinion I have is that kites are for fun and there for the enjoyment of others as well as myself - a point which has certainly proved itself many times over this year as I will mention in this quarter's ramblings from the stables of Close Encounters Kite Display Team.

Pothecary Corner

The reason I mention all this is that we had an anonymous letter sent to our web-site suggesting that the kites shown in the last edition looked hideous and that I should burn them. Well I know that not everything we do meets everyone's approval but at least I am out front with it and not ashamed to be named. I think anonymous letters are on a par with complaining about that your club's recently elected committee member shouldn't have been given the position when you couldn't be bothered to turn up and vote!



I believe I did say that the quality of our new kites wasn't up to the standards of manufacturers of companies such as HQ - i.e. no reinforcements and flimsy looking bridles - and I have every expectation of them not lasting anywhere near as long as some of the more expensive kites out there. I do know also that they have brought great enjoyment to so many people and that some of those have come over and chatted to us have gone home with an enthusiastic, new interest in a sport/hobby they knew nothing of before.

We use any money left over after expenses from attending events to add to our kite purchasing fund and I can say without doubt that if we had not been able to purchase our kites at the price we did then we probably would not

have swung as wildly toward single line kites as we have this year and lost out on having and giving a great deal of enjoyment!

Now we have been bitten by this bug too we will be delving more deeply into the quality kites that we can find readily available as we replace our cheaper ones. This is in no way a means of apology for the route we have taken and no-one that we have spoken too in the kiting world has yet openly disagreed with us. I suppose that our first two line sport kite (The Generation) was, in some way, a copy or a variation on one of one of the many other proprietary brands about at the time. These days we fly only the best kites suited to our form of demonstrations and they are not cheaper variations of other models!

Anyway, the debate will doubtless continue - and we will continue to try to enjoy and entertain!

We are always there if you want us - just visit our site or if you have one of our cards, call me - see you soon

Allan and Marilyn Pothecary

www.Kites4U.co.uk
Secure Online Shop. Or request 'Shop on CD'.

EMKAY Kites & More
Sleaford, Lincolnshire
08451 301161
01529 415700
07960 056678

more@kites4U.co.uk

Kites
Windsocks
Inflatables
Kite Lines
Accessories
Glove + Finger Puppets
And More ...

Supplying kites and related accessories since 1992.

Dieppe 2012—An Alternative View—Gill Bloom

Elsewhere in this issue you would have read the extensive report on Dieppe by Hugh Blowers, trying not to rain on his parade, here is another view.

We only attended the last weekend so naturally cannot comment on things before that. So here goes.

Just a little personal aside here, the Brits were The Honoured Guests this year, and we have had a number of people ask why the Kite Society was not represented. Simple answer really, we were never asked! Make of that what you will but we feel that we could have at least contributed some archival materials about the history of British kite fliers at Dieppe over the years.

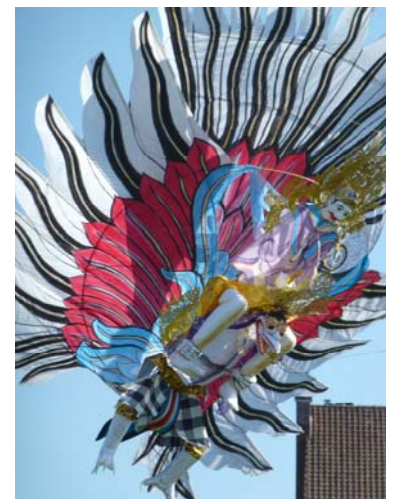
We have attended every Dieppe kite festival, right back to the first one and thus we have a unique view of the event as we can remember what it used to be like. In some aspects little has changed, to quote Linda Sanders from Australia "someone has to die before you get any new faces in the booths". Indeed the same

faces appear every two years and if you are very lucky they may have made some new kites! The layout has also not changed much in the last 6-7 events, with the festival site effectively cut into two with the sport kites/fighter kites and the AKA tent distanced from the main event. It is clear that many members of the public do not even get over that far. Talking of public, yes a brief glance in the narrow corridor between the stalls and the flying field it would appear that the place is busy, but we can remember times in the past when the crowds were 3-4 deep all around the display arenas. Maybe even the good citizens of Dieppe have seen it all before! Dieppe stills remains one of the few places where artistic kites are showcased, but even here, as Hugh has noted, the entrants for the competitions are dwindling. So maybe it is a time for a revamp, In our opinion Dieppe still is a good festival - but it used to be a Great One. Rant Over!

The competition this year was based on the 5 elements and rainbow colours seemed to dominate, below is a selection of entrants and the winners.

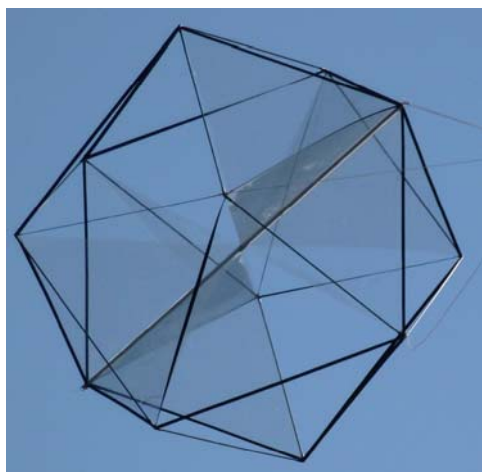
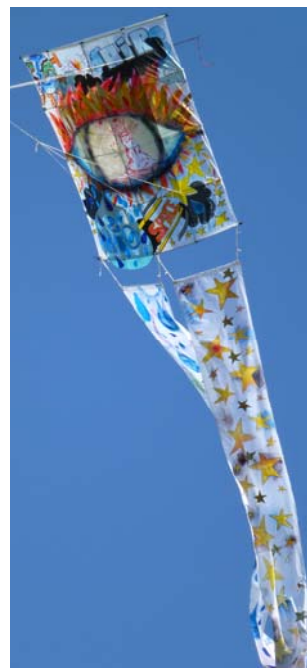


Gerard Clement with his 3rd place kite



Ralf Dietrich 2nd place series of kites.

Dieppe 2012—An Alternative View—Gill Bloom



Michel Gressier and the 1st place kite.



The three competition winners.

Portsmouth 2012—Hugh Blowers

Never believe a weather forecast.

The record for Bank Holiday weather this year has been pretty dire, and the forecast for the weekend in general was not encouraging, whilst for the Saturday, pretty 'orrible, with gale force winds and rain to look forward to. In the end we stayed remarkably dry for the whole weekend, even though luck did play a part as we were safely ensconced in the restaurant when the heavens opened on Friday evening. After the travel (or crawling) experience last year, we decided to beat the crowd and head down to Portsmouth a day early. As Mr Punch would say 'that's the way to do it', and as it transpired, the Friday was no better on the M25 than last year. Walking towards the docks, we met a number of flyers that had made the same decision and also came across a huge crowd of 'boat spotters' armed with zillions of pounds worth of camera gear. They were all waiting for a Russian warship to come into dock, as were tugs, police launches, helicopters and the great and good. Eventually it arrived, guided by tugs fore and aft, and a menacing thing it looked too. By the time we got to the dockyard it was moored up and we could have a closer look at all the hardware. It was open to the public on Sunday, but we had a pressing engagement on the Common that precluded a visit.

On our return we ventured onto the field to see how the new arrangements for camping and trading were shaping up. The pass situation may not have been popular, but siting the campers at the far end of the field and having the traders with security barriers behind certainly seemed to tidy up the area and allow a lot more space for the public to fly in. It also appeared to reduce the perennial problem of flying from the camping area. Others may feel differently, especially if they were not lucky in the 'pass lottery', but to us it all looked a lot more like a kite festival. One group that were making use of the space was Eric and the Oddballs, Rev flying enthusiasts who had gathered together, just to enjoy their kites. Whether they will ever fly together again is not the point, but for that afternoon, they were an impressive team having fun. Mind you, it does help if you can fly one of the things in the first place.

How they manage it in the current climate I do not know, but Gill and Jon have an uncanny knack of producing an incredible list of guest flyers for this festival, with a 'tasty mix' of old

favourites and new faces. Having seen them in Berck and spoken to them about their flying philosophy, it was a personal pleasure to see the Cerf Volant Follies in attendance, but more of them later. It was also great to catch up with Jan van Leeuwen who has been suffering and Jolande along with Jurgen and Ingrid Van Almelo who had been forced to leave Berck after just one day. Making a welcome return was Robert Brasington who flies with the simple philosophy of 'get as much in the air as often as possible'.

So how was it going to pan out? Well Saturday was at the upper end of comfortable wind, but not excessive, and apart from a short shower at the beginning and end of the day, dry. Game on as they say. Inevitable the inflatable arena filled up quickly with huge amounts of ripstop, both flying and hanging from lines. Amongst them was a real blast from the past, Kevin Appleton, who was one of the first people in this country to have a maxi Peter Lynn Octopus for displays with his Team Cascade. The site of a PL Octopus rising to the strain of the Beatles song of the same name alerted the public in East Anglia to the fact that kites had moved beyond Peter Powells and two line deltas.

Inevitably the strong winds led to a very short attitude sprint, which now seems to have become split between the Chinese delta exponents, who largely do not appear to take the event too seriously, and the others that do, including Stephen, the sprint King, from Great Ouse. Well, it was long live the King, as Karl's new, secret, ultra lightweight, hyper sprinter did not make its appearance until the following day, and the wind was far too strong for it in any case, as it seems to be made of an exceedingly exotic, almost non-existent, material.

The display arena became the home to two and four lines kites for a while with the usual varied displays from Brian and Carl Wright, Flying Squad, Decorators and the 'bonny lads' from the North East, Team Fusion. Adding an International flavour was Air-4-Ce from Holland, and it is interesting to see the differing styles of flying and routines being presented by each of these teams. What we see relatively little of now are two line teams to remind us of where it all started, but in the far distance was a hint of how all this would change very shortly following further single line displays. Three-dimensional kites can cover a multitude of types, and so it

Portsmouth 2012—Hugh Blowers

proved, with everything from a single cell Brasington 'Listener' to the totally whacky, complex and asymmetric flying machine of Christian Harms. While all this was going on Francis Pariset and Claudie Ragon from Nice were demonstrating something very two-dimensional yet equally complex and intriguing and not even a kite. Attached to their line were a whole series of white streamers, essentially a long line flag cut into strips, but on them was a image of Neptune that changed constantly as the streamers moved. Viewing from any other angle than side on produced a series of weird kaleidoscope patterns.

The first casualty of the day was the featured kite, the Edo. Whilst it would have been perfectly feasible to fly in these conditions, laying out and launching a number of these kites with their multitudes of bridles would have been courting disaster. Now it does get into semantics, as all of the Edos would be considered to be 'art kites' yet there was a separate session for kites that came into that category, and these seemed less effected by the strong winds. The Gressier 'Dagues' can handle almost any amount of wind, and with their long flowing tails always look elegant, especially when flown 'mob handed'. Difficult to categorize, as George W al-



most found to his cost, are the creations of Brenda van der Zee, which definitely come into the modern art category. Jeltje Baas is a superb technician when it comes to painting cows, primarily of the Friesian Breed, and there were several of these in evidence on a variety of different shaped kites.



The west of the site is now the home of the inflatables and the incredible array of shapes and figures that designers have come up with. One universal difficulty is that although many of the characters depicted are well known, Disney, Sponge Bob, Garfield etc, others are restricted to the country of origin, such as the magnificent Pedersen and Findus, unknown outside Germany. Instantly recognisable to all kitefliers were the arch of Martin Lester Legs in the most garish colour schemes imaginable. These were by courtesy of Gerard Clement and Dominique Weill. Gerard reckoned that with only two days available, there was insufficient time to put any of his amazing cellular kites together. Bears are not unusual and we have seen just about every representation of toy and cartoon versions possible, yet it is a relatively unknown British maker, Guy Reynolds who has produced trains of very lifelike Polar bears, along with the cousins the Brown and Black bear. A new diversion were patchwork efferlumps, made of innumerable separate panels, something like 170+. Just goes to show that the talent is out there if we can avoid it being ripped off. Talking of which, there has been a great number of postings on Facetube and Youbook with regard to

Portsmouth 2012—Hugh Blowers

the rights and wrongs regarding production of the Cherub. Ignoring the politics, I still think it represents what an inflatable should be, a kite that flies, and so it does, without the requirement for a pilot. Marco Casadio has been producing these for a long while and has extended the range and colours available. This year, along with Sophie Quesnal, he was flying a black version, not as nice as the original in my opinion, but a good talking point.



Those of you who waded through my Berck scribblings will know how taken I was with the massed ranks of the Cerf Volant Follies, the one club 'mega team' from Ouistreham in Normandy. In competition they flew as a 6 but added the three ladies to make 9 for a display routine, but they can add another 3 flyers to make a 12-person team, and fly a routine. At one stage they were practising with 11, flew regularly with 10 and then dropped back to the 9 for their arena display. I have banged on long and loud about mega teams now being 'follow my leader', primarily as I am old enough to remember the 12 and 16 person choreographed routines that used to be presented at major events. Here was a group that took many of us back to the very best days of team flying, and what a joy it was to watch. One manoeuvre that I saw them working on was a ring of 8 kites with the 9th stalled in the middle. The 8 would then starburst out before they all reformed. Magic piece of flying. When they popped it in during their show, it was even more impressive. Took me right back to the days of Tsunami, Aircraft and Crazy Diamonds.

This not a blow-by-blow account of the weekend as many of the kites and personalities I have mentioned before, just my ramblings about what came to my attention or otherwise impressed me and other observers, which

brings us round to Saturday evening. What happened to those balmy nights when we could eat and socialize outdoors? For several years it has been necessary to get everyone into the workshop tent, but with Sue Wardle being relegated to the far side of the field, the tent had been used for exhibiting kites during the day, many of which remained on display throughout the meal. Again it was Shaun Turpin who provided the Chilli, while 'puddings and cakes' were an in-house operation, and there were some mighty nice ones too. Then it was on to the traditional auction, and here, sadly, there were a few issues that need to be resolved before next year. Whatever else was bought on the evening, no one would be in any doubt about how the 'Glitter Bunny' disposed of his purchase, as some students are probably discovering even now.

The breeze on Sunday had moderated a little and apart from some grumbling about the auction, most fliers were anticipating being able to fly a more representative selection of their kites. Last year a portion of the single line arena had been set aside for small kites, yet to the dismay and annoyance of some of the guests, this was soon annexed by the larger inflatables, leaving no room to fly. This year, the area was enlarged and cordoned off to allow a safe area to display the smaller, sparred kites and to set up the Edos. In this it was highly successful, as Robert Brasington showed, systematically unloading his kite bag into the sky throughout the day. He now has his trains with their black gossamer tails in a variety of designs



and has come up with a storage system that allows him to get them into the air with maximum speed and minimum aggranoyance. 6 to 9 trains flying at the same time is now quite

Portsmouth 2012—Hugh Blowers

usual. It was a pleasure to meet Paul and Natalie Reynolds on a flying visit in both senses of the word. They usually manage to pull something intriguing out of their kite bags, and this time it was a large and intricate Star from Jose Sainz, which included numerous baubles as decoration on the radial spars

Happily it was possible for all the flyers of Edos to get their kites rigged for the arena slot, which was a spectacular display. Most of the kites have been seen before, although not quite so many at the same time. One that did not make it was Joel Thieze's Leda and the Swan from the Air Gallery. This was my personal choice to fly, but a previous pilot had mangled up the bridles so badly that it took Peter and his crew nearly two hours to get it sorted. Memo, that is why the Beccles Bunch use 'condoms' on all theirs. Works on inflatables as well!



So the day went on, roughly repeating the programme from Saturday, with a few amendments that were not unfortunately communicated to those waiting for their 'slots'. One of these 'extras' was another 'blast from the past', an old fashioned two line routine from Flying Squad. The first sighting of a 'Ronnie Weaver' seemed to defy logic, and all these years later it is still a spectacular manoeuvre, although Gary Neville reckoned he had the easy part as all he had to do was 'fly straight and level' and it was up to the 'weaver' to miss him and the other

two on the pass.

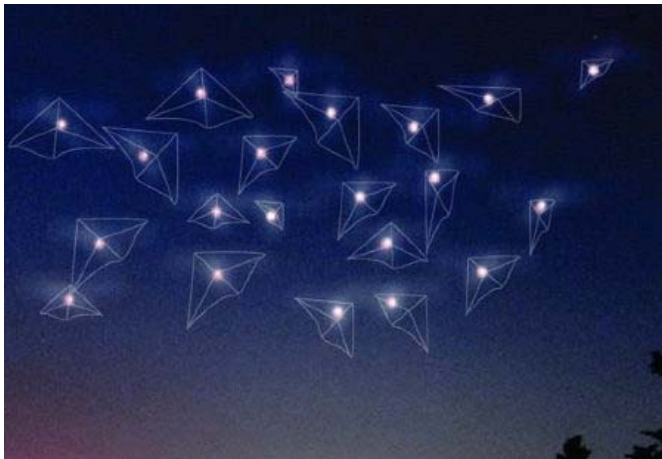
Something new to me, and I expect the crowd as well, was the Brighton Club during the 'Noah's Ark'. They are well known for their workshops as shown with the remembrance flight of the Spirits, but this time it was frogs, large numbers, all in glorious colour schemes. What so impressed was that in order to fly them all, they had lofted one pilot in the arena and then each member flew their own frog up the line. A wonderful sight, and at a time when several clubs are struggling, reflects what can be achieved by an enthusiastic group. Not new, but probably the first time it has been seen in an arena slot was a Peter Lynn Horse being flown by George and Jackie Penney.

The Rev 'grid fly' goes from strength to strength as more flyers become au-fait with the calls and are able to practice the routines. Did not do anything for Jake Twyford's voice though as he was doing the calling this time in the absence of Stephen Hoath. Four flyers that need no practice, the Robertshaw brothers, Chris Goff and Greg Reynes kept at least one of the commentators enthralled with two and four line flying of the highest level, although appreciating an individual Rev routine is probably easier for other fliers than it is for the crowd.

By now there was some distinct 'slippage' in the programme, and with a lot of packing up to do, it was observation from a distance, which was about right to fully appreciate 'The Follies' in full flight. You may have guessed by now my personal highlight of the weekend, although staying dry was a distinct bonus. So Portsmouth remains as the sole large scale, international festival in this country, and what a cracker it was again, so thanks Gill and Jon and all those who contributed to making it happen.



FLOAT



Urban air quality in China has been miserable for years, but the issue really came to the foreground in June when China's vice minister for environmental protection put foreign embassies on blast for publishing national air pollution data online. The U.S. Embassy, whose hourly Twitter updates on Beijing's air quality have helped spread awareness of the dangers of pollution among the Chinese public, was the likely target of the criticism.

With the Chinese government's resistance to letting air quality information circulate freely, two graduate students from Carnegie Mellon and Harvard are taking things into their own hands: literally. Deren Guler and Xiaowei Wang are the creators of FLOAT Beijing, a grassroots project allowing urbanites to measure air quality with sensor-equipped handmade kites that identify pollutants by lighting up the night sky in a variety of colors.

FLOAT Beijing is an interactive, community driven art project that uses kite making and kite flying to activate dialogue, map and record air quality in Beijing, China. FLOAT uses local knowledge sharing, public kite flying and creativity to address an urgent ecological, environmental and social urban issue.

"We see the traditional art of kite flying as an immense opportunity to pair it with microcontroller technology in order to give agency to local residents in understanding urban air quality."

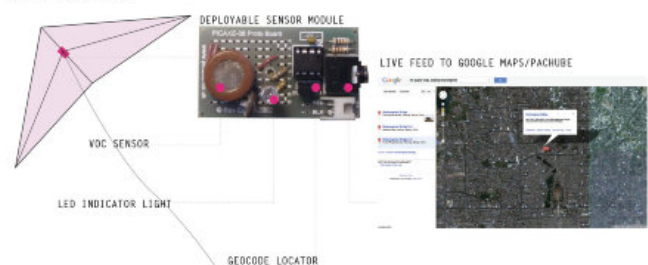
"Our project has two components: a workshop and a group kite flight that uses a special module developed, which detects carbon monoxide, VOC and particulate matter. The modules are attached to homemade kites and flown into the

air. Detection levels are displayed through LED lights that change in color, creating a constellation of air quality indicating lights in the night sky."

FLOAT plans to kick off a series of workshops and kite flights beginning in August. Local residents will design and assemble their own air quality monitoring vessels, learn about the technology, and partake in a night time flight—a provocative display linking art, science, and environmental activism.

The technology attached to each kite includes a microcontroller with a range of sensors for VOC (Volatile Organic Compounds) particles, natural gas, carbon monoxide, and particulate matter. An LED indicator will display color-coded detection levels that flash red, yellow, and blue (taking the place of the otherwise invisible stars). A GPS locator will also peg the information to Google Maps and Cosm, a website for real-time data storage. Because it's unclear whether the data will be blocked from transmission in Beijing, a storage card will save the data for uploading later, if necessary.

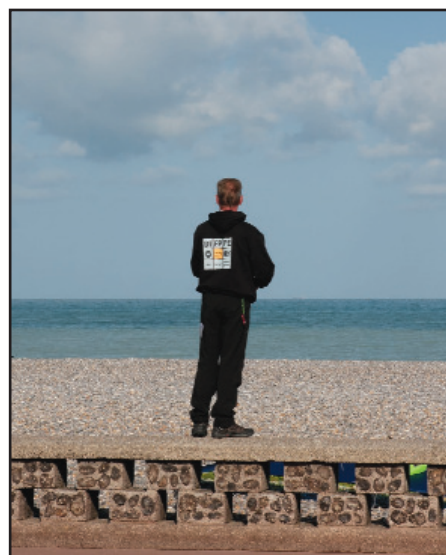
DIAGRAM



"It's citizen-science—that's the main goal," Guler says. "We're trying to interact with people on the street and see what they're trying to do with the information they see. I don't plan to argue that this is the most accurate data because there are many potential reasons for differences in air quality reports. We want to just keep it up, upload the data, and focus on that more after we come back."

The project has already received grants from The Awesome Foundation and the Black Rock Arts Foundation. In June they launched a Kickstarter with a \$2,500 goal and reached over \$4500.

More information can be found at <http://f-l-o-a-t.com/> including instructions on how to make your own air quality device.



THE NEWS LETTER FOR THE BRIGHTON KITE FLYERS

Dieppe 2012 Where have all the Kites gone? Behind you.

A SAD LOSS TO BKF AND ALSO KITE FLYING

Alan Cragg

kindness, consideration and



thought fullness for others. From the day I met to the day he died Alan he always showed these traits.

How did we first meet Allan, Well? My wife Corinne and I had just got into kite flying and were in a field in Brighton when a couple who were

It is with much sadness that I had to write here to tell you about Alan, but also joy that I have been lucky enough to know him as well and I will always remember the good time the steadying influence he has had on my family. I and do my best to pass this on to others as he would have wished.

Alan and Dorothy his wife were some of the 1st people I met when we got into Brighton Kite Flyers and kite flying and have been friends ever since. It is at time like this that most people try hard for nice thing to write and can often finding it hard. I had no trouble in doing this, all my memories of Alan show his

flying came over and started to chat asking what kites we were flying it was then I noticed his kite and soon discovered what it was and that he had made it from scratch. It looked fantastic and was his pride and joy. But he was still more than willing to swap kites and let me have a quick fly. Not only did it look great but it flew well. In the men time Dorothy and Corinne had been chatting and looking after our young daughter Charlotte this turned out to be the start of a wonderful friendship.

All of the thing that we have done together over the years have been fun and although mainly kite flying our friendship went way

beyond that.

Alan used to spend hours over the years helping Brighton kite flyers, over the past few year he was on the committee along with Dorothy keeping a steadying hand on those of us that could quite easily get carried away although done so subtly you never quite new he has doing it. But they both managed to do it with such a pride in what they were doing.

I am sure each and everyone that knew Alan will have fond memories of and can think of ways your life has been improved by Him.

Rest In peace Alan



OCT 2012 BRIGHTON KITE FLYERS AERODYNE FLYING WITH THE KITE CLUB OF SCOTLAND

A family trip to Scotland earlier this year provided the ideal opportunity to fly with the Kite Club of Scotland.

The KCOS meet every other Sunday, alternating their flying sites between Ayr in the west, St

Andrews on the east coast and the central Howden Park in Livingston. As it happens, Livingston was just down the road from where we were staying and a fly there was scheduled during our visit. What luck!

morning there were more exchanges which gave us confidence that if we went, we wouldn't be flying on our own.

As it happened we were the first to arrive and set up on a spot at the top of the park. It wasn't long before KCOS regulars began arriving. We were amused to see that the first thing they all did was to set up a rain shelter. However, it soon made



The only dark cloud was the weather. If e a r l y



summer had been very damp for us, it had been even more so in Scotland. And sure enough the weather forecast for the Sunday in question was looking a bit dubious. Would anyone turn up? If we emailed to find out if the fly was going ahead, would anyone pick up our message?

We checked their website and discovered a link to a Facebook page. Here club members near to the flying site post last minute weather reports, note whether they are planning to go to a fly, and share post-fly reports and photos. What a find! The day previous someone had been in to advise that the forecast was for showers. And that

sense as the heavens opened for the first of several heavy downpours. But we were made to feel very welcome and encouraged by Hugh O'Donnell to share his shelter.

In between showers, we managed to fly a range of kites albeit mostly low wind ones. It seemed that the only time the wind really picked up was just before it was about to hammer down with rain. But over the course of the day everyone managed to get a good selection of kites in the air. And we all had a fun day.

We'd like to thank everyone for making us feel so welcome. We'll definitely check out their flying schedule when we're next north of the border.

Andrew Scott
&

Sandra Fletcher

YOUR FESTIVAL NEEDS YOU

This year's club festival very nearly didn't happen. With just four weeks to go, your committee was asked to consider a worst case scenario which could see the club stand to make a considerable financial loss.

The main reason for the dilemma was a change to the way that the council supports community events such as the festival. Rather than sponsoring the our festival as they have in previous years, they have introduced a grants system with a formal application process.

The maximum amount available through this new grant system is £1,000 - less than we have previously received and certainly not enough to cover costs if everything went wrong. We would not even know if our application was successful until sometime after the festival had taken place. As we are not able to charge people to attend due to the nature of the venue, and with

corporate sponsorship as rare these days as rocking horse droppings, the only other main source of income would be from the traders. And the number of those was looking uncertain - partly because of the economic climate and partly owing to the poor weather we'd had in early summer.

If the grant application didn't succeed and the traders didn't materialise, we could stand to lose several thousand pounds. Which would be particularly galling if the run of bad weather continued and nobody came to the event anyway.

I don't need to tell you that we decided to go ahead. With so many other kite festivals falling victim to budget cuts, we voted to carry on. But if we are to continue to hold festivals in the same format the club needs other sources of revenue to be able to continue long term.

Sandra Fletcher

How you can help?

Would you be prepared to make a donation to the festival?

Would the company you work for be prepared to sponsor some aspect of the festival (the PA, marquees, invited flyers, advertising, etc)?

Do you have a connection to someone else who might sponsor us?

And, perhaps most importantly of all. Would you be prepared to volunteer to be sponsorship co-ordinator?

If you can help, please email festival@bkf.org.uk. We will need to have an indication of your support by early January 2013 in order to confidently plan to go ahead with the festival in 2013. Thank you in advance for your help.

TOUCH AND GO FOR 2012

As you can see from above and some of you may have already known it was touch and go for 2012 Brighton Kite Festival.

This is why Brighton Kite Flyers had the flyer back "KEEP CALM AND LETS FLY ON" on its poster.



We also produced a limited number of T-Shirts, all proceeds (cost £10 + P&P) from the sale of the T-shirts goes in to covering costs for 2012 and looking forward to 2013's Brighton Kite Festival.

The feedback from kite flyers, public and the local council was good for 2012 and those asked want to see the event carry on. With that in mind and the fact I believe it will be our 30th consecutive Brighton Kite Festival, run by Brighton Kite Flyers the venue for next year's Brighton Kite Festival has been provisionally booked with the council for 13th - 14th July 2013 in Stanmer Park Brighton. I see a party coming on so please make a note in your diary for this event as it is only possible to run it with the good will, help and support of club members and other kite willing flyers.

DATES FOR 2013

Dates for 2013 are beginning to come in, most are provisional at present One confirmed date and Venue is New Years Day Brighton Kite Flyers fly-in Devils Dyke just outside Brighton all are welcome. Along with Brighton Kite Festival on the 13th - 14th July 2013. I have had provisional dates for Streatham kite day 2013 7th April 2013.

The club is also planning to run a workshop in the New Year with Paul Morgan, a choice of kites will be on offer more details to follow by e-mail to members soon.

We are also looking to hold a Christmas / New years party as soon as dates are confirmed we will let members know by e-mail With all this on offer best get a 2013 diary so you don't miss the dates.

If you know of any other events please let us know.

OCT 2012 BRIGHTON KITE FLYERS AERODYNE

Useful Contacts: Merchandise

Coordinator/Chairperson:

Simon Hennessey
T 01273 582309
E simon@BKF.org.uk

Treasurer:

Marian Reynolds
T
E marianl@BKF.org.uk

Aerodyne:

Simon Hennessey
T 01273 582309
E Aerodyne@BKF.org.uk

Club library:

(BKF members only):
Dave Hollingworth
T 01273 421286
E library@BKF.org.uk

Club Kites:

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

Membership Secretary:

Sandra Fletcher & Andrew Scott
T 07947 011287
E Membership@BKF.org.uk

T-Shirts/Sweatshirts:

Alan & Marian Reynolds
E tshirts@BKF.org.uk

Pins/Badges/Pens:

Simon Hennessey
T 01273 582309
E simon@BKF.org.uk

Thank you

We would like to say thank you to all those who made this issue of Aerodyne possible, Sandra Fletcher. We know we keep going on, but Aerodyne is only possible with your help with articles etc.

So please do write an article you will notice we have even printed an area for you to do this as we cannot keep the publication going without them. So thank you again to those who help and keep the articles coming and those that haven't if you want to keep aerodyne going put into action the good words said at each year's AGM please put pen to paper for the Autumn issue. Dates for future articles are detailed below.

Editor

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

Contributions should be sent to:

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

Deadlines dates;

January issue - 1 December
April issue - 1 March
July issue - 1 June
October issue - 1 September

NEXT ISSUE

Please can we get some more articles for the next issue. The deadline date is 1st December 2012 so I am giving you plenty of warning. I am told there will be a write up on Dieppe that did not quite make it to this issue so I look forward to reading that.

ALAN CRAGG

Dorothy would like to thank all those that sent messages of condolence and support her in the weeks leading up to and after Alan's death. She hopes that soon she can meet up on kite field with you soon.

M A R I A N

AKA The cake lady is on the mend after her treatment but has said that she is not quite up to recipes for this issue but hopes to be fit and well intima for the Winter edition (hopefully something festive will be in order). A speedy recovery and more wonderful cakes soon, this gap has given us time to get you lots of jam just in case

SOES ARDINLEY

Well it stay dry during the day so we did our best to fly but with no wind it was almost impossible those that went along seemed to have fun. and the organizers seems happy enough and unstood the lack of wind made it hard to display. lets hope we get back in 2013 and have both good weather and wind so we can fly as well.

If we get invited back it will be the second weekend in October and if you want tickets please send a SAE in plenty of time.

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



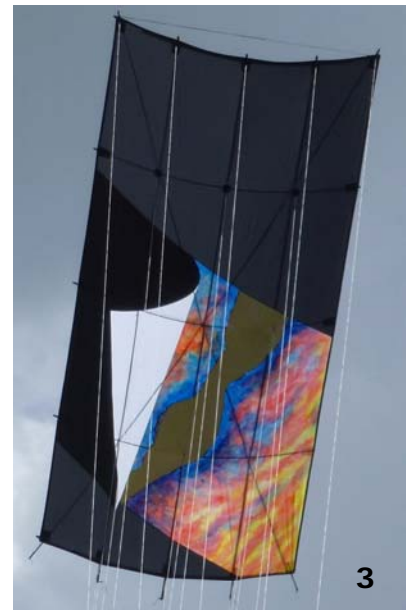
fly - in reminders

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. Remember that during the summer members may well be attending kites festivals, but the fly-ins are still on.

See you there



Edos at Portsmouth 2012



1. Ralf and Eva Dietrich—Children of the World
2. Stefan and Dagmar Reilmann—Winner of German National Championships
3. Heinrich Hollmann—Winner of Best Edo at Portsmouth
4. Christian and Patra Harms—Farno Edo
5. One of the European Air Gallery Edo—Hazel Barron-Cooper Winged Horse
6. Albert Trinks—Keith Richards of The Rolling Stones
7. More of the European Air Gallery

