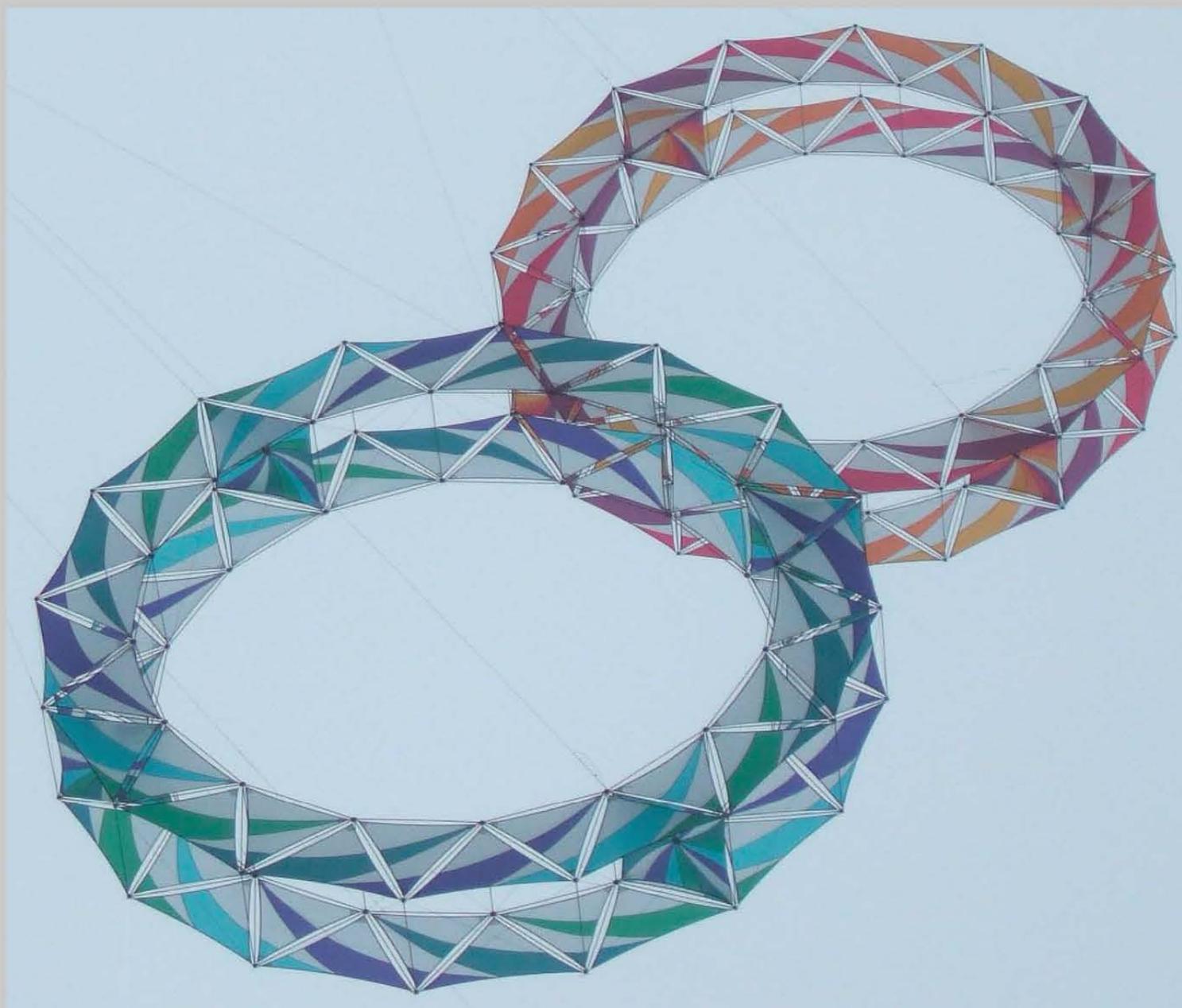


THE KITEFLIER

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Issue 135

April 2013

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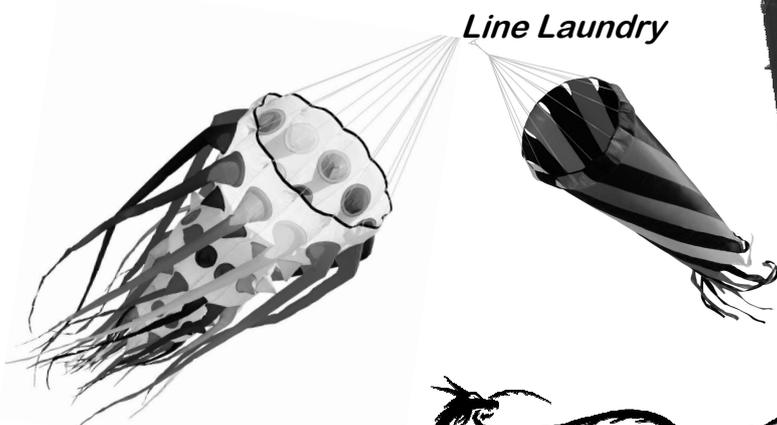


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Front Cover:
Two of Andre Cassagnes style kites flying over Dieppe in 2010.
Photo: Tara Bloom



Editorial

Dear Reader

Once again the season is about to start. There has been good news—Weston Kite Festival coming back onto the scene, the Bristol Kite Festival starting again after the year off, and an event at Rougham celebrating the Suffolk Kite Fliers 20th year; and some bad news—Wirral Kite Festival being cancelled through lack of funding.

Times are hard for all kite festival organisers where the level of financial support is not forthcoming. Support from the local councils is also on the decline. Where once they would provide resources free of charge now they require a payment! All of the organisers (including us) put a lot of effort into organising events for you as kite fliers and the public as people out to enjoy themselves (and future kite fliers with luck). Often hard decisions have to be taken to keep costs down. It is hard for organisers to hear comments which denigrate their efforts. So please support the events and the people organising them.

Gill and Jon

For Sale.

The reintroduction of the 'for sale' section of the Kiteflyer, conveniently coincided with our realisation that we 'aint going to be flying any more sportskites. Therefore we have the following for sale. Carriage at cost or delivery by mutual arrangement.

- Pair of North Shore Radicals in the pink, purple, blue, teal, black colours £50 the pair
- Pair of Aircraft VIP Radicals in spectrum colours. £50 the pair
- Pair of Rare Air Pro Cheetahs in pink, purple, yellow £50 the pair
- Pair of Aircraft ¾ somethings in fuschia, purple and black, in carrying cases. £40 the pair

All of the above are in sparkling condition and have had relatively little use, for reasons outlined in previous articles.

In addition I have a 60sq ft Hagaman 'research parafoil'

built under licence by Stan Swanson. This version has a full leading edge with mesh vents, rather than the more traditional open cells. It is in red, white and blue and has been flown once. Why you might ask, well I was offered an original 'Firebird', so no contest. £120

An enforced 'spring cleaning' has also found two sought after hardwood hand held reels by the master of such things, Mr Clarke. These are complete with untold metres of Mason's finest Dacron for those that like to get things 'up a depth'. £40 each

For delivery or collection only. A bargain Corroflute folio case with 10 assorted paper and mylar fighters for the princely sum of £15, and a cardboard case of 5 Tony Slater specials and a few other fighters, all for £10. Last but not least, a genuine Geoff Crumplin quadrilateral fighter for £5.

Contact Hugh Blowers 01502 712570 or email h.blowers@btopenworld.com

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	£18.00
Overseas - Airmail	£25.00
Electronic Subscription (Individual or Family)	£5.00

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

John Barker—R.I.P

I was saddened to hear of John's death.

I first met John over thirty years ago when we were members of the Essex Kite Group. He was a one off having many talents, I always thought he could have gone far in life if only the opportunities had been there for him. John with his parachuting teddies always gave great pleasure to everyone at kite festivals especially the children. I know many kitefliers enjoyed his writings in the magazine and his views on many subjects. Not a person to mince his words—That was John.

I hope Gill and Jon will find someday at Portsmouth this year to remember John—a real character.

Joyce Fennemore

Jon and I have know John for many years, from our very first kiting years. We were a little taken aback and did not know quite what to make of John when we first met. But underneath the bluff cockney exterior there was a real heart of gold. John was very generous with both his time and talent, but he was very reluctant to let any one see that side of him until you had proved your worth.

John, together with Allan Martin and ourselves, created KON (Kitefliers Occasional Newsletter), the predecessor of The Kiteflier, in a pub in Colchester. John was very active in providing material for the magazine over the years. So it is partly John's fault that you are still reading this magazine 135 issues later.

John had many skills including being a very talented artist. His small Japanese badges were a delight of the miniaturists art and he continued to produce these until his eyes could no longer cope with the fine detail. He even made a very small set of badges for Tara, our daughter, to wear on her cap. He loved children and could be very entertaining, probably because he was still such a child himself!



John was always coming up with some lark or other and was involved in the early days of project KARA (the first time around) and was involved with Greg Locke in trying to establish a world record drop of parachuting teddy bears.

Although he did not travel to many foreign kite festivals, he did go to Dieppe—memories of him descending the ferry steps in Dieppe with a wheeled shopping trolley, what the French thought of him.... But the shopping trolley came in handy as it was used to smuggle tobacco back cleverly hidden under a very ripe brie, no customs man would go below that, and he was never stopped!

Always ready with an opinion and never PC, he was as Joyce said a one off.

Thank you John it was good to know you. If nothing else several of John's cockney expressions have now passed into

our family's vocabulary. Such as "Black as Newgate's Knocker", used to describe heavy rain clouds, particularly used when we were flying over Blackheath!

So we like to think that somewhere John is still making a brew from the back of his old minivan and flying a few kites and bunging a few bears.

Gill and Jon

The B.O.F. is DEAD. Long live the B.O.F.

I started kite flying in earnest in 1978. All this time John Barker has been there. He was one of the early members of the Midlands Kite Fliers, driving his old mini-van all the way from West Drayton to our early fly-ins in the Arboretum Extension in Walsall. On arrival he would get out of the van roll up a fag and complain bitterly as to how far it was. He always made it to every fly-in.... Offering words of advice to the kids from my school, who obviously thought we were all 'barking'.

He nearly ended my career in teaching when he turned up to my school workshop with a full lorry load of scrap timber that he had 'acquired' for the kids. My Head at the time just didn't understand John's way of dealing with things....that is until he wanted some timber to repair his fence at home. Thanks John.

Then there was the time early in his 'Parachuting Fauna' career when John, the former 'Mrs Souten' and myself decided to go Hot Air Ballooning in Bristol. She booked the swanky hotel, that coped admirably with us ALL! Then very early the next morning we set off to Ashton Court. John had a large polythene bag in tow! We boarded the balloon basket and we were off over towards Yate?

John was very excited and kept asking the 'driver' if he could do it now. "No - not yet". came the very authoritative response. Then just as we were coming to the end of our flight, John couldn't wait any longer. A large, parachuted bear was hurled from the basket—much to the annoyance of the 'driver'. We landed with a bit of a crunch and John disappeared to retrieve his bear. Sod the champagne he was away. The stories could go on forever.

God Bless John, see you around someday

Bill Souten

The next page is one of John's early contributions to the Kiteflier. It has been scanned from the original magazine—so please excuse the quality!



John Barker (centre) with Tony and Barbara Cartwright watching the small kites fly.

THE SEALINK SLED.



When it comes to putting on the brakes of a 5,000 ton Sealink Cross Channel Ferry, with the Sealink Sled we are fully justified in saying we have the technology.

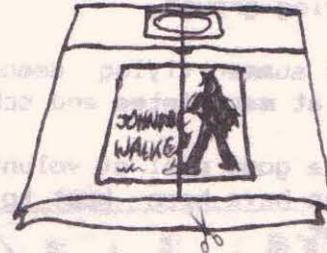
Two of these amazing flying machines, (one hesitates to call them kites) were responsible for the M.V. Senlac being all of 7.2 seconds late on our return trip from Dieppe. Aloft for well over 40 miles the two machines flew so stably that the flight crew were of the opinion that not only were they boring, they were only marginally less boring than a wet Wednesday in Wapping.



1. Lay the bag out flat.



2. Whip off the bottom....



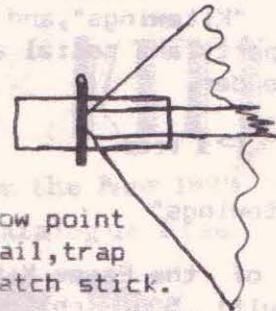
3. Cut up the middle, one layer only...



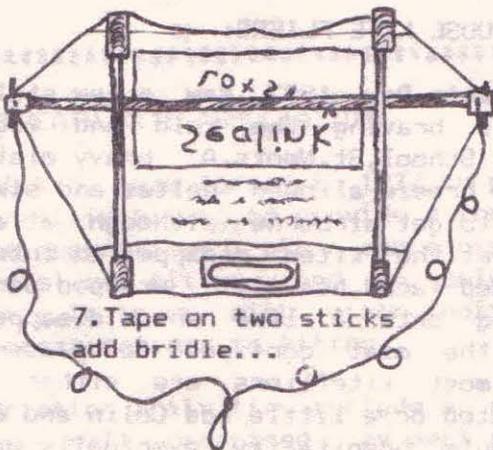
4. Fold in half and whip off the corners...



5. Lay out flat and tape across...



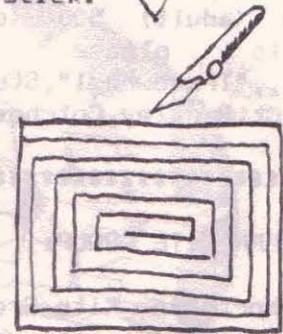
6. Tow point detail, trap a match stick.



7. Tape on two sticks add bridle...



8. For the Spendlove tail cut around bag to leave two plastic squares...



9. Each of which are cut in a square spiral and voila les cerf-volistes, ie tail.

The number of sleds you can make is dependant on how many duty free bags you can flich, coupled with how much wood you strip from the ships fittings, bearing in mind, all the while, that the rails around the deck are no longer topped with best mahogany. It will be instantly apparant that no dimensions are given for the kite, the assumption being that if the average kite loony cannot knock up a sled by eye, without measurements, then he or she should dispense with kite and take up some simple hobby such as metaphysics.

One detail is of note and this is the amazing "Spendlove MK2 Tail". From prototype to finished article the speed of development was little short of amazing, and all at a cost of three lacerated fingers and a severely gouged table top in the Hasting Bar on board the Senlac.

John Barker.

Portsmouth 2013

Portsmouth International Kite Festival

Thanks to the continuing support of Portsmouth City Council the kite festival will take place Saturday 24th & 25th August, with Monday 26th August reserved for free flying at Southsea Common, Portsmouth.

The theme this year is going to be Cellular Kites—partly in honour of Andre Cassagnes. We will have an exhibition tent and ground display area. So we are looking at new guests for the festival who have these kites. Watch the web site for details.

There will also a special arena tribute to John Barker—one of the founder members of The Kite Society. We were thinking of a mass ascent (descent?) of parachuting teddy bears.

Free parking is available for KSGB members on request from us IN ADVANCE. No passes will be available at the site. Send SAE or email us with your car registration number. please note that each pass will be specific to you and NOT transferable. Your name and registration number will be present on the pass. Also note that if you do not supply the registration number you will not get a pass.

You will be able to unload your vehicle on the site but PLEASE, once unloaded, move your car to the car park. The car park is located on the left as you enter the site from the Queens Hotel end. This year access to the site will be from **Clarence Parade**, through the gates opposite the Queens Hotel. We have been informed that the gate will be manned enabling kitefliers access. At least this is what we have been told so far. Watch the web site for any changes to details of access.

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

Camping is not officially permitted on site by the council. This year the festival is being run in conjunction with Seafront Services. They are happy with the reduction in the number of camping units last year and do not desire a change (either upwards or downwards). Thank you to all of last years campers as you contributed to this decision being made and thus allowing the arrangement to continue.

Although we had a few complaints about the system we used last year—there have been no proposals for a better way. We are relying on you—the campers—to respect this decision and follow the procedure below.

Camping is only open to Kite Society members or affiliated club members.

As for last year we have decided that a ballot is the best way forward. Therefore anyone who wishes to enter the ballot **MUST** request a pass from us together with the vehicle registration number.

All requests for camping must be with us by **31st May**. We will notify both successful and unsuccessful people by the **2nd June**.

It is important to note that this concession is only between **Friday 23rd August 10am until Tuesday 27th August noon**. You will be moved if you arrive earlier or stay later. Please do not abuse this concession—if the council decide it has been abused then there may be NO camping next year.

Send postal requests to P O Box 2274, Gt Horkesley, Colchester CO6 4AY or email to portsmouth@thekitesociety.org.uk.

If you are one of the keen ones and already sent your request—please do not send again.

Note requests for camping will NOT be acknowledged—we have better things to do! - unless you ask for a read request via your email system.

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

Look at www.portsmouthkitefestival.org.uk for up to date information.



Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

We have owned an HQ 7.0 Flowform since the days of the Petworth Festivals and how long ago was that?!!! We had almost no experience of flying such large kites in those days but enough to be a little bit frightened of it and to ask for help from those we thought more experienced in such matters.

We were there very early - as we always were in those days - so we had plenty of room to set up using the full extent of our 1000 pound breaking strain line. It was obvious that the kite was going to fly, even in the low wind that prevailed so we quickly decided to add our two Crazy Tails to increase the enormity of the kite and the colour coded spectacle against the blue sky - Oh how I remember those as I write on this dank, grey February morning!

What followed was constant pulling, coming down, carry back for the long launch and wait for better wind. When the wind did come in ever further apart short sessions the kite rose and looked so nice.

We convinced ourselves that the line was too heavy and, afraid to risk anything lighter eventually packed away for a better day.

We tried again on other days in stronger winds and although successful there was never the confidence that the Flowform was going to stay aloft and therefore didn't get that many outings - but we were wrong!

HQ have recently re-introduced the Crazy Tails, this time modified so that you can have the end open or tied shut. You can also fold the tail up and push it into the last section like a bag but this means you have to fold the bridle right back inside and they come in a nice bag anyway so why bother?

I thought that the bridle was a bit flimsy and easy to get in a mess - much better to take the time to daisy chain them up when you've finished for the day - even I can do that and I don't do fiddly!

I am not sure if the new finished article comes with spinners. The tails are not designed to spin but you are bound to get a few turns and if you plan to leave them flying for any amount of time, it might be a good idea to fit one!

We managed to acquire another four ex-demo

tails to add to our collection and we headed off to a site in the New Forest where there weren't too many puddles to get some photos and a video for our website.

We thought "Two off the back of the kite and four off the line" - "Yes" we agreed, "That would look brilliant!"

The wind was fairly low and again we were struggling to get the lifter going and then, "Duh!" how much longer was it going to be before we realised that the tails were altering the shape of the kite so much, it was losing all of its lifting power. It's only ever going to be good when there is enough wind to take the tails out horizontally out behind.



The wind was easing now so we dropped to 550 lb line, took off the tails, 7.0 meters opened out and the Flowform just soared - It's just so good that way and much better as a lifter for the line laundry!

It took quite a bit of time to get all six tails set out along the line and the wind was doing us no favours at all but we managed to make the best of a couple of good spells to get some nice shots.

Take a look on our web-site www.closeencounterskites.co.uk to see the results including some nosey intervention from some of the local wildlife.

Benson Superfly—Allan Pothecary

In my very distant late teens and early twenties I used to play the drums in a rock band - yes I even had hair - and it came down over my shoulders! We had a regular, fortnightly Gig at a big pub in Basingstoke and we were honoured that many other bands used to come and watch us. Well I say us, what I really mean is our lead guitarist - Ken!

With early influences from Eric Clapton, Jeff Beck and much more so, Ritchie Blackmore from Deep Purple, Ken brought together a blend of all his heroes and moved on with an interesting style of his own. So it wasn't just the regulars to the gigs that said this guy was good he was also widely acclaimed by his musical siblings.

He appreciated the best and the latest of equipment and was one of the first to use the voice-box made more famous by Beck and Peter Frampton. Had he the time, skills and money I am sure that Ken would have gone on to innovate his beloved guitars even above his prized Fender Stratocasters and Les Paul Gibsons.

OK, so what has all this got to do with kites apart from many of my fellow fliers are aging rockers or flower children?

Similar story

Well if you have not guessed by now, I am talking about the similar story of Chris Goff, now acclaimed by those greats around him to be one of the greatest there is at the moment.

Actually, Chris did try to take things a bit further by taking what he had learned from the best



kites around and developing something that would more easily perform the latest discoveries in trick flying - but I have touched on that in previous articles.

Chris's design, "The SuperFly" is not really a new kite now although there has been nothing that I have seen in the same range, style or ability to hit the market recently. Many of us witnessed a gradual development until it became the fully tweaked machine that lots of us saw demonstrated and then even tried for ourselves.

Slightly bigger and more angular looking than the Deep Space the SuperFly is designed to lay in a really deep turtle (nose away on it's back) and is fairly easy to wrap up in it's flying lines for a lovely feeling roll out even for someone of my very limited ability. If you are new to trick kites of this calibre you may find this level of instability annoying until you learn to use it - and then the the fun really begins!

I am not about to get into a review of how the kite flies in any more depth than this - I am not worthy! - read the sales blurb at Benson Kites and I can assure you that it does indeed do what it says on the tin!

The kite was now ready for full production and some began to reach excited customers, but then it stopped.

Many Stories

Rumours started to circulate and many theories were floated, we all heard stories about Chris having to concentrate on his studies, I heard some about problems given by suppliers and even the total collapse of his sewing machine; but then, after even more conjecture, we saw a new addition to the Benson stable.

Long time friend and mutual admirer Tim Benson agreed to produce the kite under the Benson name, as designed by Chris Goff.

What's the difference?

In the photo below the older one is on the left (Pink - nice!).

Those who have seen both 'versions', and I use the term lightly, will notice the subtle changes as the kite was "Bensonised".

I spoke to Tim about this and he confirmed that he was very careful not to make any radical changes to the Superfly that would alter it's identity.

Benson Superfly—Allan Pothecary



It is definitely not a replacement for the Benson Deep Space (that continues unchanged apart from there is now a vented version too - more later) but it is a kite designed and built to perform some of the 'specialist' tricks such as the Cynique - (Lazy Susan Cascade) which happens because it is easier to keep the nose sitting more deeply.

Re-enforced quality

I know of no other person that has Tim's justifiable pride in his quality of workmanship from the barrel straight sewing to the thought behind giving people something really pleasurable to own. Over the many years I have known him, "Quite good" isn't enough for Mr Benson's standards!

Tim has made a couple of reinforcements because he likes his kites to last. The nose shares the familiar Deep Space, double layered material for added durability and carefully hot cut to eradicate line snagging.

The tail was left as it was but now there is an extra layer of mylar around the stand-off area

And a cordura, double re-enforcement covers and protects the standoff connection point.

Previously the stand offs were fixed to the sail by R Sky, screwed in connectors but now there is a Jaco type holder held in by a rubber O-ring which better maintains the overall tension of the sail under duress of the more aggressive tasks set by the pilot.

I have several times had the absolute pleasure of standing on a beach flying with Tim and, believe me, he does not like the walk of shame to free lines from a kite any more than the rest of us, so you may notice the odd smoothing out here or there that it's original designer would have added

in time.

What do I think?

Remember, on nearly all matters kiting I speak much more as a long time enthusiast than as an expert (please write in if you feel the need).

So, in conclusion, I think that anyone with a reasonable level of experience wanting to do more would be happy with a purchase of a Superfly but if I had neither, I would start with the Deep Space which is still my favourite trick kite - can I have an ultralight one please Tim - you know where I live - Oh and can I have a vented too please?

Vented? Did I say vented?

Yes, there is now a vented deep space to complete the range!

Vented Deep Space

There are those of us that believe that when the wind gets too strong to fly then what's the point if you are not enjoying it. As we know though - one man's meat and all that - some kites prefer a bit of a blow whilst others are just so nice with the very gentle drift of a warm, late summer's evening.

The art of trick flying is to keep the kite in a semi stalled state. This is done either by not letting the kite settle between tricks or by a rapid forward movement.

Now even these younger, fitter and more agile younger flyers have their limits of speed and stamina and sometimes the given effort still doesn't attain the sought after result.

R & D

So, in order that they might stay out in the field longer, getting the 'fix' of flying they craved, some of them attempted to extend the range of the kite by purposely creating their own venting in the sails of their kites - ouch!

Some of these experiments were reported back to the original Creator, Tim Benson but at first he was not sure of (a) the need to go in to higher winds and (b) whether such changes would compromise the ability of the kite and so ruin it's reputation.

Experience tells

It was clear to Tim that the solution, if there was one, would not simply be making holes in the sail - other factors such as the impact of higher

Benson Superfly—Allan Pothecary

winds would have on the shape of the kite and it would have to be heavier as well as stronger so that it would still turn and roll and not be blown off course.

Cutting of the holes would have to be something pretty special too. Hot cutting was always going to be untidy and never strong enough whilst appliqué is time consuming and just not quite, 'professional'.

Adrian's work

At this point I should mention Adrian Atherton for whose development work and testing Tim says he is very indebted. A couple of years back now I wrote about self adhesive, clear Mylar that I found supplied relatively cheaply on a roll in a chandler's, coincidentally not too far from where Adrian lives.

I wrote about how we successfully used it to repair a massive tear in a sail on (again coincidentally) one of our vented kites. The tape is used extensively for repairing sails in yachting and, therefore, undoubtedly proven. Adrian has used strips of this adhesive backed Mylar cut into "capsule" shapes (I like that description) and then cut through with another "capsule" shape (good isn't it?) for the vent (hole).

Added to that was hours of testing and retesting using some of Tim's sails that were especially dedicated to the project.

Stuck on this

Now those that know me can vouch that I don't get technical as much as I don't do fiddly but having once worked in the adhesive industry I retain some fascination for the subject; but without going to far into Van der Waals forces resulting from polarized molecules and molecular locking can I explain that where most tapes will stick on and pull off in varying degrees of 'aggressiveness' the adhesive in this tape seems to actually cure but retain its elasticity making it virtually impossible to remove.

The action of the adhesive is that it cures against the sail but does not blend into it such as we used to find with our Airfix models of old - that wouldn't do it any good at all.

Why have I gone in to such detail here? Because I think that those of you creative people out there can develop this idea in your wonderful designs - can it be another way to appliqué or an easier way to make reinforced holes and, I want to assure you that after about a year or so of rigorous testing, the results on the Deep Space



Vented kite are all good.

Tech Spec

Of course any technical data I can provide here would only be a rehash of what is on the Benson website so nothing heavy on detail here - you'd only check it there anyway!

Obviously the rods have been exchanged with heavier ones and I know that the weight in the tail has been increased but I am going to hazard a guess that even if you have read this far and you are among those that are reading printed copy because you don't have a computer then you are not likely to be the sort of person to be off out to buy one. Contentious of me? Maybe so but try buying from Tim without one - he would always be pleased to hear from you but he is very much an online business these days!

Test

I just can't help you here - this article has been based purely on interviews with those in the know - I have not had the fortune to try one yet. Come on Tim - any freebies?

No? - I thought not! - Jeez, how many free plugs has a guy got to give you?

...and finally!

One thing! Although this is a vented kite, it is only an extension of the standard kite, it is not intended for winds blowing a hooley by the very nature of a trick kite you just aint gonna get much higher than this.

The concept is to take over at a point before where the standard becomes uncomfortable and go on into winds a bit stronger giving the pilot an opportunity to fly where it was not so good before.

(Photos courtesy of Roger Backhouse and Benson Kites)

Two Spins on Dieppe—Bob Cruickshanks

In reality I suppose I should say a 'spin on two Dieppes'. This about 2 Dieppe festivals that I attended last year and the kites that I made for the associated competitions.

Firstly, I was fortunate to be invited to L'International du Cerf-volant à Dieppe or the Dieppe Kite International in Canada held 15 – 19 August 2012. For those that do not know the festival in Dieppe Canada used to alternate with the festival in Dieppe France ie, one year Canada the next France but several years ago the organisers in Canada felt that they could support a festival each year albeit, I believe, a slightly scaled down event when the years coincided.

The theme for Dieppe (C) was the Olympics – wonder why—and invited fliers were obliged to design and construct a kite based on the theme. I went through the usual thought process of something with coloured rings or a touch which was high on my list but then went left field. Trawling through various images and pictures used at previous Olympics and, having made a kite using black and silver ripstop in 2010, I had this barking idea to use the image of discobolus, the famous statue of the discus thrower. I say barking because I thought "what if I made the discus spin" – woof woof!!

There are various pictures of the sculpture in slightly different poses but courtesy of the British Museum I obtain what I believed to be the correct one. Scaling up the image to put onto a 1.8m high Rok had its own challenges but getting the disc to spin was another thing. I had my own thoughts as an engineer and having searched again at various spinning things on kites I stumbled across a kite made by Robert Van Weers. A quick email to Robert and then a couple more with questions and some pictures in return – easy!!

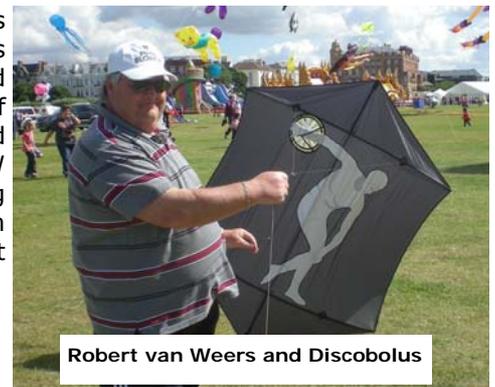
Building the Rok didn't take too much effort/time apart from the shading of the figure, which was essential to add definition to the image/figure when held up to the light. Time to cut the hole for the spinner, once cut no turning back :-o] For ease of constructing the disc I purchased one of those 3-disc coloured spinning wind garden affairs, which would give me various options for disc size plus the know-

how to make it with my own colour. In the end all I use from the original was the centre hub. I slightly changed the mounting method from that used by Robert VW to support the spar but the fiddly bit was getting the length of the spar right to give clearance for the disc to spin. All that remained was the main spars, where are all the kite shops when you need them??

A quick call—again—to my mate, Karl Longbottom, who was busy with Olympic business of his own (well done Chap—great boat, pity they only showed it on TV for a few seconds) we agreed delivery. This was to be the summer Jolly Up—if you haven't been you are missing a great relaxing weekend—albeit the weekend before I was due to fly out to Canada but time enough to frame, check bridling and more importantly whether the disc would spin in the air. A couple of adjustments to the mount and in the kite bag, fingers crossed.

The festival itself was great, I met several overseas fliers who I had met at other festivals plus met many USA and Canadian fliers that I had only read/heard about. What event has a fantastic bunch of people particularly the volunteers that pick you up from the airport and generally do all the running around and support. As for the kite competition I had some very complimentary comments regarding originality, construction and flight but no cigar. The winning kite, an appliqué Dopero made by Yvon Haché with great graphics and stitching and second was a 'torch' Pointer made by Rene Maier from Switzerland.

Many thanks to Karl for his support and provision of bits and Robert VW again having thanked him personally at Portsmouth.



Robert van Weers and Discobolus



Discobolus Rokkaku



Rene Maier's 2nd place torch



Yvonne Hache's winning Dopero

Two Spins on Dieppe—Bob Cruickshanks

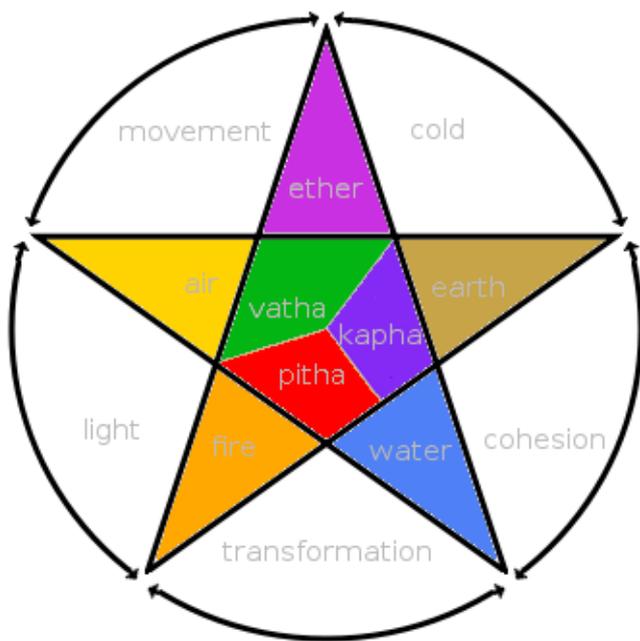
The second spinning episode concerns De Cerf-volant Dieppe but this time across the channel in France. Although not invited personally, having attended 2 years previous for the first time, this was not an event to miss now that I have effectively retired from earning a crust.

As with Dieppe (C) there was a kite competition and the theme at Dieppe (F) was the five elements; air, water, space, earth and fire. This was certainly a testing theme but having entered one competition why not try again. Testing wasn't the word but I got to thinking having incorporated one spinner why not make another – woof woof!!

Thank the kite gods for the good old internet search looking at all aspects of the 5 elements, particularly those listed in the criteria, but I came across Ayurveda. As in the advert, here's the science bit:

Ayurveda (Sanskrit: Āyurveda, "the knowledge for long life"), ancient medical/holistic system from the vedic civilization of India, teaches that health is maintained by the balancing of three subtle energies known as Doshas - individually they are Vatha, Pitta and Kapha. Ayurvedic medicine is based on an individual's characteristics and body frame rather than oriented toward treating disease or sickness.

Each of us is made up of a combination of the three types of doshas. The 3 doshas are comprised of the five (Devanāgarī) universal elements; air, water, space, earth and fire. The doshas':

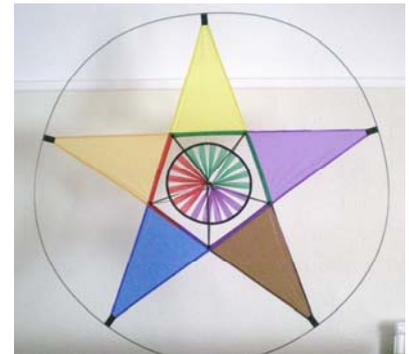


Vatha is a combination of air and space.
 Pitta is mostly fire with some water.
 Kapha is mostly water with some earth

Science lesson over, my plan, whilst still woof woof, was to reconstruct the Āyurveda image in full using

the same shape and obviously the colours but instead of the 3 centre segments I would have a spinning disc. Having cracked one spinner this would be simple – yeh! The kite would be flat with a circular outer frame/ring. However, the overall surface area and spinning element would be a challenge regarding lift quality and stability, as I was to find out. As with Discobolus construction was very much last minute; I started after returning from Canada and bridling, which was fun – to say the least – was carried out whilst at the festival. I did make 2 drogues to assist with stability which helped when flying. I called the kite "Tri- doshas" and yes, much to my surprise, and probably everyone else it did fly albeit the wind on competition day was light. I may modify the kite to add some white panels in between the outer triangle to increase the surface/lift area.

Again, thanks to the Karl Longbottom for material, spars, bits and advice. The experience of entering a competition was very satisfying and one might say fun and if you get the opportunity why not give it a go. As the saying goes "It's not the winning, it is the taking part".



Tri-Doshas Kite



Competition Day



Tri-Doshas Spinner

Andre Cassagnes—Hugh Blowers

It is a measure of the stature and achievement of the man that the death in February of Andre Cassagnes should feature so prominently in the national papers in the UK, as well as on many news bulletins. Although his kitemaking was mentioned in most, it was his invention of the 'Etch O Sketch' that was the focus of the obituaries. Several years ago at Berck, there was a large exhibition dedicated to Andre, which featured many of his inventions and devices that he had developed, as well as his involvement with kites. What was evident was the huge range of products that were based on injection mouldings, large and small, which was really the key to the kites that Andre built and the designs for which he is best known.

I do not know whether I was saddened or shocked when I was asked 'who is Cassagnes' after commenting on a 'Cassagnes Ring' built by a prominent British kite personality. Well, Andre had not been well for a while and had not been at festivals for a number of years, but it was an absolute joy for us when he was brought up to Berck not too long ago to take up his habitual place outside the Agora. All the while we knew him, he never ventured far from that area, and would be flying close by, holding court or having a long lunch. He would also snack on large moulles, offering chunks to passing flyers.

In the early days we admired his work from afar as we were led to believe that he spoke no English and we certainly spoke no French at that time. We had taken ourselves right down the beach, almost to the waters edge, in order to give ourselves a bit of space to fly three large Angeletti Quatrotelles. With the long tails and delicate bridle settings, they needed a bit of space, so we were well out of the way. It was something of a surprise therefore when, who should be making a beeline

for us, right from the far side of the beach, but Andre Cassagnes. To our utter amazement he addressed us in perfect English, thanked us for coming to the festival, and expressed his pleasure at seeing the display of Maurizio's kites.

From then on, we were always assured of a greeting when we saw him and Lynn a piece of whatever vegetable he was dishing out. He was a singularly generous person who would hand out bags of injection moulded joints and fittings to those interested in building version of his kites, and even allow a rummage through his box of assorted bits for items and unusual pieces that might be of use. It would be difficult to calculate how many thousands of complex moulded joints he made and gave away. What is often not appreciated is that as the number of elements of a 'Cassagnes Ring' changes, so does the angle between the spars, so a different joint is required, and he had numerous versions to suit every conceivable variation. He also produced joints that could take six or eight spars at differing angles.

The rings are elegant and graceful and lend themselves to all sorts of decoration and embellishment, including interchangeable centre panels, and it was one of these that formed the link throughout the Millennium tableaux at Berck. As each decade was announced, the ring would rise with the centre panel changed to the new years. At Dieppe in 2010 a celebration of Andre Cassagnes saw what was probably the largest ever number of rings flown together, although the wind failed to cooperate fully on this occasion. My favourite though were the 'poppers'. Not a new idea, but made practical with the injection moulded hubs and over-centre joints. If the basic 'umbrella version' was not enough, there was also an even more ingenious set, with the sails arranged so that the whole thing rotated as they rose up the line.

Cassagnes was a bit more protective about this device, although he did give a couple of the more complex ones to people who had an interest in his kites. He also gave permission for Pete Rondeau to use the design on a semi-commercial basis, although that was almost instantly shot out of the water by the arrival of the Chinese copies.

Not too many modern designers have their name as a prefix to a genre of kite, but with the Cassagnes Ring, Andre joined this exalted band. The sight of Michel Gressier's massive versions flying at Dieppe last year serve as a fitting tribute and reminder that we should not forget who was responsible for the 'Cassagnes' in the Cassagnes Ring.



Bristol Kite Festival—Avril Baker

Bristol International Festival of Kites & Air Creations

Saturday 31 August & Sunday 1 September 2013, 11 - 5pm, Ashton Court Estate, Bristol (sat nav BS8 3TQ).

After our well-earned break last year the good news is that barring catastrophe Bristol is back on for 2013. We will be updating programme and other event information on the website (www.kite-festival.org.uk) or you can email with any queries on kites@abc-pr.co.uk or call 0117 977 2002.

Much of the event logistics and detailed planning is still to be confirmed so look out for more detail in the July Kite flier or our website but here is some info in the meantime.

Guests:

Less than a year on from Team GB's outstanding Olympic performance, as well as inviting international guests, we would like to profile some of the amazing British kite talent out there. We particularly want to welcome the very best UK flyers, designers, clubs and societies this year, so do let us know what you can offer.

There will be scope to join in the arena programme with displays including artistic kites, themed slots such as festival of the sea and of course the usual Rok battles both days, so do bring along your individual/club kites, air creations etc to join in.

More information about our proposed line up and programme of events will be in the July Kiteflier.

In the meantime a couple of highlights. Subject to funding we have invited the amazing Bristol-based artists Luke Egan and Pete Hamilton (www.designsinair.com) to set up an air creations area. The Al Farsi kite team's awesome giant Kuwaiti flag (still the Guinness Official world record holder) will also hopefully be making a welcome return.

Festival charity:

We are supporting the Great Western Air Ambulance (www.greatwesternairambulance.com) again as our nominated charity and their helicopter will be visiting the Festival both days. GWAAC is fundraising for a new aircraft plus they need to raise £1.5m annually just to oper-

ate! We are also supporting and raising awareness of the Lighthouse project (<http://www.lighthousegoa.net>) a charity which helps impoverished, destitute and disadvantaged children in Goa, India.

Accommodation:

We are working with a couple of other major festivals in Bristol to see if we can broker a better hotel deal this year with either Redwood Lodge or another hotel/s.

If you normally stay at Redwood we suggest call us before you book in case we can update you further.

Cotham Rugby Club have confirmed in principle they are happy to offer camping with facilities plus there will be a limited no frills crew area again on site. Contact us for more info nearer the time.

Car parking

We are locked in combat with Bristol City Council at the moment as they are threatening to levy a surcharge on all cars parked on site (as well as upping our site fee!!)

So we can't confirm reduced price car parking for flyers yet. We may also be operating an online car parking booking system via the website otherwise it will be the usual SAE for a windscreen voucher – but hang on until we can confirm what's happening in the July Kiteflier or check our website for updates.

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

Any queries please contact Avril or Martin Baker at:

Festival Office, 5 Lilymead Avenue, Bristol BS4 2BY

Tel: 0117 977 2002 Fax: 0117 977 4255

www.kite-festival.org.uk

e-mail: kites@abc-pr.co.uk

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

Exploring the Victorian Kite—Katrien van Riet

Figure 1: "The Kite; or, Pride must have a fall."

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The Kite; or, Pride must have a Fall.



Good John Newton of Olney, the genial and wise friend of the poet Cowper, himself also a poet, was ever on the watch to draw moral and spiritual lessons from common things. His Fable of "The Kite" is one which is pleasant and profitable for readers of all ages.

ONCE on a time a paper kite
Was mounted to a wondrous height,
Where, giddy with its elevation,
It thus express'd self-admiration:
"See how yon crowds of gazing people
Admire my flight above the steeple;
How would they wonder if they knew
All that a kite like me can do?
Were I but free, I'd take a flight,
And pierce the clouds beyond their sight;
But, ah! like a poor pris'ner bound,
My string confines me near the ground:
I'd brave the eagle's tow'ring wing,
Might I but fly without a string."

It tugg'd and pull'd, while thus it spoke,
To break the string—at last it broke.
Depriv'd at once of all its stay,
In vain it tried to soar away;

Unable its own weight to bear,
It flutter'd downward through the air;
Unable its own course to guide,
The winds soon plunged it in the tide.
Ah! foolish kite, thou hadst no wing,
How couldst thou fly without a string?

My heart replied, "O Lord, I see
How much this kite resembles me!
Forgetful that by thee I stand,
Impatient of thy ruling hand;
How oft I've wished to break the lines
Thy wisdom for my lot assigns!
How oft indulg'd a vain desire
For something more, or something higher!
And, but for grace and love divine,
A fall thus dreadful had been mine."

terial on the subject, even though nineteenth-century stories involving kites abounded. It soon became clear that the nineteenth-century kite had been largely glossed over in favour of the earlier electric kite hype (building on Franklin's 1752 kite experiment), and the later developments in cellular kites starting roughly around the 1880s, which were a crucial part in the invention of the airplane. This period dating from the electric to the cellular kite is perhaps just seen as the long pause that separates one big invention from the next, but as I will show, the kite nevertheless underwent a fascinating development in nineteenth-century literature. In order to explore this statement, I am mainly interested in the moral aspect of the kite in children's stories. I will look at a few poems and stories intended for a youthful audience, and

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When you combine a love for nineteenth-century literature with a love for kites, some interesting things happen. As I began researching nineteenth-century kite literature, I realized that there was precious little ma-

describe how exactly the kite is a shaping presence in these texts.

Victorian children's magazines abound with pictures of kites broken free, or of children being carried off by an over-sized kite (figs.

Exploring the Victorian Kite—Katrien van Riet



Figure 2: "The Tale of a Kite"

2 and 3). This notion of freedom returns powerfully in the fundamental paradox of the flight of a kite: the kite pulls on the line, as if wanting to break free from its captivity, but it cannot stay up without being tethered. Of course, this duality did not escape writers who used the kite as a metaphor in their texts. As a result, this paradox was often used in moral imagery featuring the kite. In these texts, the kite represents a boy or girl who is tired of being told what to do, and the curtailing character of the string represents the child's necessary obedience to its parents. They all contain the lesson that without restraint, a child will plunge (as a kite literally plunges) into bad behaviour and will come to harm.

The comparison between kite and wayward

child as it is depicted in "The Kite; or, Pride must have a fall" (fig. 1) was a very popular one. The poem begins with an image of pride. Almost like a real person, the kite yearns for appreciation and wants to display its talents to the crowd of people beneath, but it feels restrained by the string that tethers it. The kite is not only proud of the great height at which it is able to fly, it feels it can also do better on its own, without the restraint of earthly fetters (string) that literally hold it down. The kite then breaks the string to gain its freedom, but this turns out to be a bittersweet liberty. Restraint is necessary, the poem seems to say, even though the arrogant think they can do without it. Towards the end of the poem, physical restraint is transformed into a religious one: the string becomes a metaphor for the individual's relationship with God, whose authority is portrayed as a good and much-needed part of life.

As it turns out, this poem brings across a moral message: do not be proud or conceited, as this will cost you dearly (in a physical as well as religious sense). Such messages return in many other children's tales and rhymes as well. Figure 2 and 3 both portray children who bit off more than they could chew when they tried to fly an enormous kite. Such a warning of "self-conceit" is also present in "Charlie's Kite." Charlie did not follow his older cousin's advice when flying his brand-new kite, and Charlie, being a novice to kite flying, soon had his kite caught on a tree that tore a large hole in its sail (fig. 4). Again, the message of the story is to avoid being conceited, which might cause children not to heed the advice of others more experienced (such as adults). The kite seems to come to harm so often that the image of the kite with a hole or tear in it becomes quite common, with writers coming up with new creative ways to harm their fictional kites. Figure 5 shows a picture from "Ups and Downs; Or, the Life of a Kite" in which the

Exploring the Victorian Kite—Katrien van Riet



Figure 3: "Boys Who Have Risen"

miserable life of a kite, including all its accidents, is portrayed. Of course, if the kite is harmed so often, just the image of a damaged kite can come to imply the punishment of wayward behaviour, which leads to the kite becoming a symbol instead of just a toy.

Although the kite doubtlessly appealed to writers who wanted to use the rebellious image of the kite as a warning, the kite was also used to represent hope and reward. These other stories highlight the importance of good conduct and honesty. "The Lost Kite", for example, tells the story of three friends, one of which is jealous of the kite-making abilities of the other. He tries to discredit his friend's good reputation but is found out and forgiven. The image on the title page of the book shows the three friends having made up and standing around the kite, which, in a possible act of patriotism on

the part of the artist, features a portrait of Queen Victoria. In "Found at Last, The Story of a Kite's Tail," a young lad is fishing when a small boy loses his kite. When a young girl asks him to run after the kite to see if it can be saved, the youth grumpily consents. He finds the kite lying half in the river and considers it lost, but after some persuasion by the girl, he fishes it out of the water (fig 7). When he examines the kite, he notices that one of the paper strips attached to the tail is part of a five-pound note, and as a reward for this find, he is given the full five pounds. Here the reward has literally fallen from the sky! In these texts, the kite seems to represent hope and reward instead of restraint or even punishment. The kite, it seems, could be used as a symbol in a wide selection of texts.

It is precisely this development of the kite into a symbol that is so interesting. As many kite fliers will know, it is hard to escape the prejudice that the kite is a child's toy. That Benjamin Franklin was able to study the nature of lightning with it, or that it helped the Wright brothers develop



Figure 4: "Charlie's Kite"

Exploring the Victorian Kite—Katrien van Riet

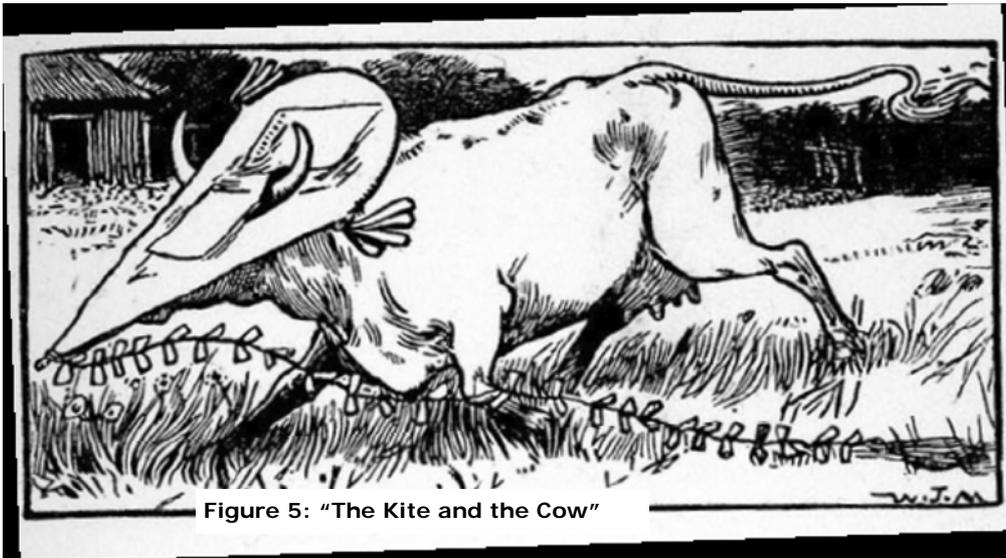


Figure 5: "The Kite and the Cow"

hope and reward as well. In the texts discussed here, the kite says something about Victorian culture: the importance it adhered to obedience, its focus on virtues (such as modesty instead of pride), and its praise of restraint. Especially this last quality is one that is seen in quite a different light today. Indeed, the thought that the kite can represent restraint instead of freedom might be surprising to some.

their airplane seems to make little difference. A Victorian reading of the kite, on the other hand, does not overthrow the assumption that kites are for children. On the contrary, it suggests that this 'childish' nature of the kite helped establish the kite as a symbol of waywardness, recklessness, unpredictability, but

When studying something as mundane and ordinary as the kite, such pre-formed twentieth-century notions are defeated, and new insights into the nineteenth-century are revealed. And you get to find pictures of kites that feature Queen Victoria.



Figure 6: "The Lost Kite"

THE LOST KITE RESTORED. Page 44.

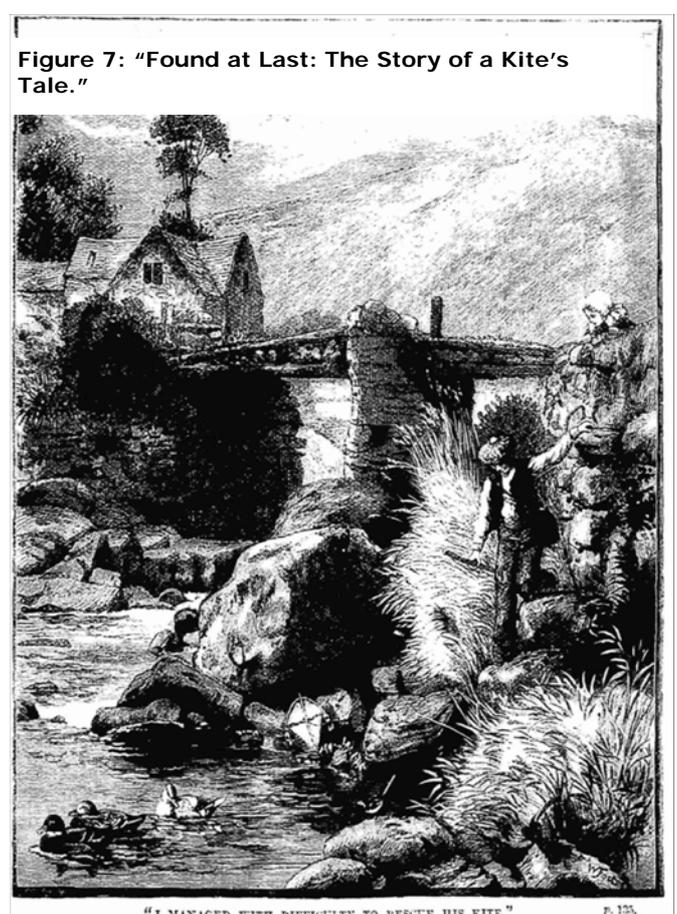


Figure 7: "Found at Last: The Story of a Kite's Tale."

"I MANAGED WITH DIFFICULTY TO RESCUE HIS KITE."

P. 135.

Small Kites—Nicolas Wadsworth

This article originally appeared in the July and October 1998 issues of The Kiteflier. Nicolas has updated the materials list from that article.

Small kites have a fascination all their own. They can be complicated and highly decorated but they can also be simple, quick to make and quick to remake if you decide to try a new version. They fly slowly indoors and look good on the wall or on a shelf. But how do you get started?

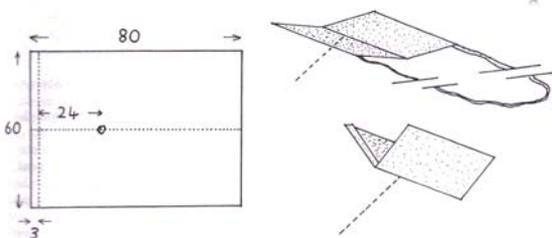
The important thing is that small kites need light materials if they are to fly well. Tissue paper is a good starting point.

For a simple kite:

- Take a flat piece of tissue, iron it if it is badly crumpled, and cut a rectangle 60mm by 80mm (see diagram).
- Press a line 5mm from a short edge by running a used-up ball point pen gently along it, and fold the strip over to make a stiff leading edge. Do not glue the strip down.
- Now mark a centre line of the kite and fold it gently to give a slight dihedral.

That is the kite finished.

- To make the tail, cut and join a strip of tissue paper 3mm wide and 900mm long.
- Scrumple the tail up to soften it and then straighten it out again.
- Glue one end to each rear corner of the kite to make a loop.



For flying line use thin sewing thread (the cheaper the better). Bridles are fiddly, so fix the thread directly to the kite 24mm from the leading edge. Use a weak glue so you can peel the line off later if you decide to move it. I use a very small drop of Copydex.

You can fly the kite indoors by walking holding the line in your hand, but it is easier if you use

a stick. Find a stick about 0.8m long (a broken spar from your scrap box?) and fix the line to one end. Use a flying line a little shorter than the stick. The stick keeps the kite away from the turbulence caused by your body and hand if you walk, or you can sit in a chair and fly the kite by waving the stick slowly in a figure-eight over your head.

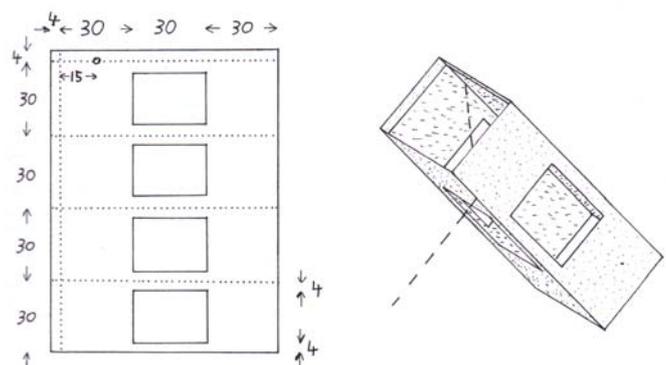
If you use a piece of masking tape to fix the line to the stick it is easy to change kites – of course you could use a proper clip or a clothes peg.

When this kite is working try variations. The kite will fly without a tail, but needs a dihedral angle of about 45° each side. Make another one, better, and decorate it. Try more interesting variations on the shape and different sizes.

For a more ambitious kite make a sparless box.

- Mark out a piece of tissue paper as shown in the second diagram.
- Press the dotted lines with your used-up ball point pen.
- Cut on the solid lines (I use a metal rule and a sharp craft knife).
- Fold over the long edge to make a stiff leading edge.
- Fold each of the other fold lines to 90° and you have a box shape.
- Glue the overlap.
- Now use a needle to thread the flying line (sewing thread) through the centre of one edge of the front box and out through the opposite edge.
- Glue both points so the thread is straight when the box is square.

[If you decide later to try moving the tow point, cut the line off leaving the diagonal in place and then glue the line on in the new position.]



Small Kites—Nicolas Wadsworth

To make smaller kites which fly well you need a lighter material. 'Tissuetex' is a very light paper, less than half the weight of normal tissue; it will make kites half the size of these or smaller. The kites will also fly more slowly which is more convenient indoors. Try specialist paper shops.

For a stiffer material which glints nicely in the lights try thin aluminised polyester sheet. This is a thinner version of giftwrap and is sold as 'space blanket' or handed out free after the London Marathon and similar events. Giftwrap itself works for slightly larger kites, but being heavier it flies faster. (See below for materials update.)

Small kites with spars.

Above I suggested two small kites which did not need spars; they used folds in the paper to provide stiffness. Avoiding separate spars makes a kite easier to construct and also helps keep the weight down which helps it fly well. However many interesting kites need spars to hold their shape.

What are the best materials for small spars? Bamboo is traditional and can be split and shaved to less than 1mm. Carbon fibre rod comes down to 0.5mm diameter and is robust. For the smallest kites glass optic fibre (the sort which is 0.25mm diameter measured over the protective plastic coat) is light and easy to handle. Combined with very light sail material such as Tissuetex it makes good kites up to about 100mm in size – depending on the particular design. (See below for materials update.)

Here are designs for two sparred kites which can be made in various sizes depending on the materials available. They are designed to be simple to construct in small sizes. One advantage of small kites is that there is no need to dismantle them for transport or storage, so the spars can be glued on.

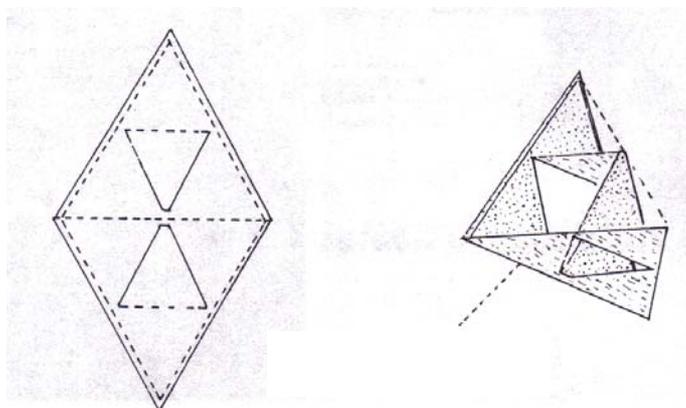
Bell Quad Tetrahedral

- The drawing shows the sail the sail which is based on 60° triangles.
- Cut along the solid lines and press and fold along the dotted lines.
- The folded-over strips stiffen the edges.
- Join the top corners by a spar whose length is equal to the edges of the large triangles.

- Fix the spar just below the tips.
- When the glue is dry, glue the tips of the centre triangles to the middle of the spar, bending it down slightly if necessary.

Now all that remains is to find the best bridle point. A quarter of the way along the centre fold (half way along the edge of the front small triangles) is about right.

Using optic fibre and Tissuetex or space blanket this works well with the main triangles 40 or 60mm.



Microcody

Normal Cody Kites are complicated to construct and very fiddly in small sizes. This design (by Tom Vinken, Netherlands) looks very similar in flight is much easier to make.

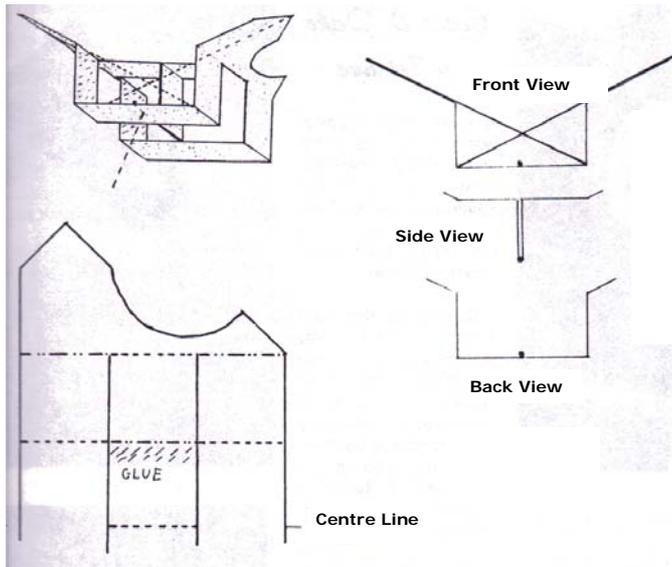
- The sail is based on squares and cuts in one piece. The drawing on the next page shows half.
- Cut along the solid lines and press along the others.
- Then fold all the dashed lines one way and all the dot-dash lines the other.
- The sketch shows the shape to aim at.
- There are only three spars: one along the centre bottom which holds the three sections together and two diagonal spars in the front section which hold the box shape and support the front wings.

15-20mm squares work well in Tissuetex and optic fibre.

Christmas Kite

With Christmas only just past, here is a simple sparless Christmas kite consisting of three identical wings joined in the centre. The exact shape of the wings is not critical.

Small Kites—Nicolas Wadsworth

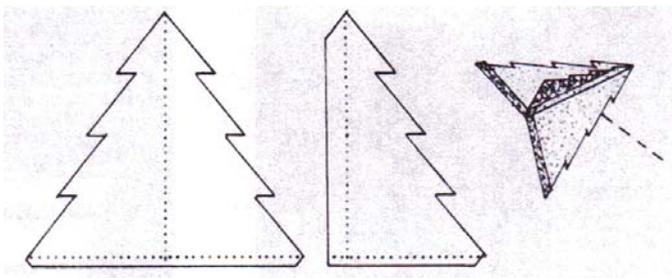


- Cut out the two pieces as shown.
- Fold the bottom (trailing) edges over. Do not glue them.
- Glue the flap on the single piece to the double one, keeping the dotted lines over each other.
- Fold at the dotted lines so the three sections make equal angles, taking care not to warp the sails, and attach a bridle.
- Decorate to taste.

This works well 60mm high in tissue paper and will go smaller in Tissuetex.

When you have experimented with these designs, make your own. Take any successful kite and try to make it smaller, using the lightest materials you can find.

For well supported kites try the thinnest plastic bags from local stores. These come in a range of colours. The thinnest are the same weight as Tissuetex, but floppier.



Finally let me emphasize again – small kites must be light to be stable and very small ones must be even lighter.

Good flying.

Nicolas Wadsworth

Materials Update

Spars

I guess the optic fibre I used is not available, although I have some left. Carbon fibre comes down to 0.25mm diameter, see www.freeflightsupplies.co.uk It is not much heavier than the optic fibre I used and much stiffer.

Bamboo can be split and shaved much thinner than I indicated. It just needs practice.

Boron fibre is available from a few places. It is about as stiff as the optic fibre (the 0.004" is a bit stiffer and the 0.003" a bit less), but much lighter (and expensive).

Sail materials

Some Supermarket plastic bags are quite light. Local shops have smaller, lighter bags. www.freeflightsupplies.co.uk has thinner aluminised polyester sheet (and even thinner clear sheet). Try other specialised suppliers.

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.

Support Your Magazine Part 5—Hugh Blowers

Another super festival that had more than its fair share of 'weather' extremes over the years was Swindon in its various incarnations. The White Horse Kite Flyers were/are a wonderfully enthusiastic bunch with an extensive list of 'connections' and scheduling their festival just a week after Weymouth always gave it a great 'International' flavour. The only downside for us was that work meant a 265-mile drive home on the Monday followed by a 215-mile return on the Friday evening. Happily George and Jackie could be a little more flexible, so combining the two meant that there was a nice comfortable caravan and a large lump of 'red cooked pork' always waiting for us. When Cervia relegated us to a tent, things took a different turn, but more of that anon.

Lydiard was a lovely location, if a trifle compact for a kite festival. A combination of a tree in the middle of the arena and Ray Oakhill during one of our early visits soon taught us that Rok fighting was not for the faint hearted, but it is the trips to the 'top of the hill' at Wroughton that are indelibly stamped on the mind for all sorts of reasons. It is a fabulous flying site and in early May could be seriously cold, and we have woken to solid ice on the tent or caravan awning on more than one occasion. Who will forget a certain well known 'south coast character' being carted off to hospital with hypothermia when the campsite was right over on the far side of the airfield. Getting there was something of an adventure in the first place, arriving at the gates of a strange airfield late at night, trying to find a campsite having only a rough idea of its whereabouts. Wroughton is BIG.

That was also the year of the squall and two very large examples of kite destruction from the WHKF. It started with a monster flow-form built by the club in the Art Ross style and size. It was a gloriously sunny day, yet we forsook flying for a wonderful master class on kite construction from Don Mock. What was learnt that day has stood me in good stead. Anyhow, Neil and company had spent an awful lot of time cutting and stitching this creation and were in the process of tuning it when it did the closest approximation to a ripstop storm possible. Something let go in a big way and the tatters fell gently to the ground.

If that was not bad enough, we spied a curtain of rain heading across the countryside, so retired to the cars for a bevvy. The flowform had been replaced by another monster club creation, a giant doughnut that was rotating majestically. As the rain and attendant squall arrived, we saw a small tear open in the fabric, and then as if filmed in slow motion, the tear grew and grew until the doughnut finally exploded.

Talking of ripstop and associated material explosions, we observed another similar incident a while later when the campsite had moved to its customary position behind the hangars. It was a wild and

woolly night and the occupant of the tent next door had abandoned his fabric shelter for something (or someone) more hospitable. Having fought to get the caravan awning down before it took off, we saw the little tent suddenly balloon like someone puffing out their cheeks and it opened up from top to bottom before flapping itself to destruction. No amount of stitching would put that back together.

Of course there were some wonderful flying days and equally spectacular evening parties, especially when Port, Stilton, and strangely, custard, were in vogue! Are we just getting old, or was everything a bit more sociable in those days? Only those that were there can appreciate the physical prowess of a certain lady who could remove the last traces of custard or yoghurt from the bottom of the pot with her tongue. Yes, we know her secret? Few will forget the frustration of another young lady who set off across the airfield to answer the call of nature. Unfortunately she was wearing a fluorescent hi-viz jacket and several 'caring' kite flyers were armed with zillion candlepower torches to highlight her futile attempt to find privacy.

Wroughton was, without a doubt, the best inland flying site in the country and with excellent camping facilities and space for buggying was nigh on perfect and finding a space for a tent, caravan or motorhome became more difficult with ever increasing numbers. The ability to wander round the hangars and take in all the exhibits was an added bonus while the displays of kites that WHKF put on in the latter years were quite amazing.

Unfortunately, the attitude of the Science Museum changed over the years, putting more and more obstacles in the way of the festival. WHKF did try and address these with a degree of ingenuity, especially circumventing the new licensing laws that threatened the very existence of the beer tent. Rain affected festivals did not help and by our last visit there were just a smattering of tents and a couple of motorhomes, looking very lost in the vast expanses. With rain in the offing, we pitched our tent in the lee of the hangar, under the eaves and were able to enjoy tea and breakfast in the dry.

Ultimately it was unrealistic financial demands that forced a return to the cozy confines of Lydiard Park, but even that did not work in the long run. Sadly, after goodness knows how many years of organising such wonderful events, WHKF called it a day on the festival front. Our trips down to Wiltshire provided many super kite flying experiences as well as meeting up with untold wonderful characters and enjoying numerous highly inkiholic evenings. Yes, things do change, but unfortunately, not always for the better.

Thanks WHKF.

From The Mail Online

They have been running a series called “The A-Z of Dreams” by Theresa Cheung. On the 17th March they arrived at the letter K—and Kites featured.

Are you dreaming about flying kites or knitting? Kites could signal an ambitious new phase in your life... but if you dream about dropping stitches it could mean you have been tactless about something recently

KITE: Although your feet are on the ground, you are starting to control your aspirations and direct them to a higher place. If the kite has disappeared from view or snapped from its string, this may suggest your vision has lost touch with reality.

From the Lancashire Evening Post Web Site

Chinese kite exhibition has VIP launch



Flyer: Sam Green, Feixia Yu and Dom Wylor-Owen at the Chinese Kite Exhibition at Uclan. Sam and Dom are studying Chinese Language. Feixia is Director of the Uclan Confucius Institute

Students are riding high after a key figure from the Chinese Embassy in London visited the University of Central Lancashire to officially open an exhibition celebrating Chinese kites and paper cuts.

Fenghe Qiao, the First Secretary of Education Section from the Embassy of the People’s Republic of China, opened the Wind Birds exhibition at UCLan’s PR1 Gallery which celebrates the Chinese art of kite making and creating art through paper cuts.

Organised by The Confucius Institute at UCLan and set up by MA Textile students at the Preston university, the exhibition of around 20

kites, was open to the public Monday to Friday 10am until 5pm until next Wednesday, March 20 at the PR1 Gallery, Victoria building.

World Kite Museum Kay Buesing Living Memorial Fund



This campaign will allow the World Kite Museum to operate in perpetuity to honor the efforts of our founding director. The World Kite Museum in Long Beach, Washington, was founded in 1988 by Kay Buesing and her husband Jim. Under Kay’s stewardship the museum has grown from a small house museum to a ten thousand square foot facility on the Sid Snyder beach approach.

We hold the David Checkley collection of kites as well as the entire archives of the American Kitefliers Association in our museum. We have the honor of being the only kite museum in the United States and having the largest collections of kites and kite related ephemera in North America.

This campaign will honor the efforts of our founding director, kiter, and philanthropist Kay Buesing, by preserving her dream of bringing the joy of kiting to future generations.

To donate go to <http://fundly.com/wkm-kay-fund>

André Cassagnes

For those with access—either online or maybe your local library The Economist published an obituary for Andre in February.

The article covers both his invention of the Etch-A-Sketch as well as his kites and ends with the following:

Bits & Pieces

He had his kites, and spent, all told, twice as many years on them as on his drawing box. He never tired of finding new geometrical shapes and combinations for them. Besides, it was not in his nature to keep good discoveries to himself. At festivals he sometimes even gave his kites away. Nothing made him happier, at Brie or Vincennes or Berck-sur-Mer, than the free, magical, unexpected, yet subtly controlled movement of their lines in space. And perhaps no epitaph was more apt than the remark of a French blogger: "All our lines converge towards you, and our kites salute you."

Nicolas Wadsworth also wrote in: I have just seen an obituary of Andre Cassagnes (born 23 Sept 1926, died 16 Jan 2013), the inventor of 'Etch A Sketch' (sales 100 million) and also of course of the large multi-spaced multi-layer circular kites as well as the 'competition and stunt kites' mentioned in the obituary. The obituary quotes him as telling 'a kiting magazine' in 1992 "I am not an artist but I love symmetry and geometry. I am not an engineer, but I am ingenious".

The obituary I saw is printed in The Guardian today (5 Feb) and was also on their website.

Auction From Bonhams

One of the lots in the 30th January Auction was Alexander Graham Bell (1847-1922) - a Tetrahedron kite cell from the Cygnet 1.



The description goes on:

Built during the period 1902-1908 with test flights throughout the design refining process,

The module - of six same-length square pine beakings, corners of pressed mild steel with stamped eye terminal.

Also included were some photographs including a view of one of the project workman holding an early design of the tetrahedron kite, with opposing triangular vanes, photographed outside against a white sheet.

The auction lot also included the Bill Harper Manuscript - dated April 24th 1962, titled Canadian Aeronautical and Space Institute Halifax-Dartmouth Branch - ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL

AND AERONAUTICS. Typed on Foolscap, 12 pages, stapled.

A fascinating insight into the history, thinking and practice of how AGB attempted flight using this method of lift, naming specific events, places and people who worked with and assisted in the making of the cells, Cygnet I and Cygnet II history and legacy from 1902-1919, using personal memories, references and quotes.



Estimate:
£5,000 - 8,000

So then, this lot provides a strong insight into the technical genius of AGB, who if he had come up with this idea just one year earlier, would have made that young man who first strapped himself into the kite fly a full 10 months before the Wright Brothers.

KAP

The technology web site www.theregister.co.uk recently did a piece on spooks in the sky. They followed this up with The DIY spy-in-the-sky: From kites to octocopters.

The article just has a short piece on aerial photography using kites saying: Kite Aerial Photography (KAP) is worth a look.

The first man to suspend a camera from a kite was Brit meteorologist Douglas Archibald, in 1887.

The most famous KAP image is George Lawrence's 1906 panorama of post-earthquake San Francisco, taken on a hefty 22kg plate camera:



Modern KAP snappers usually restrict themselves to a small SLR as their maximum payload, with hobbyist shops supplying lifting "rigs" ranging from a basic frame to servo-controlled monsters - the latter capable of supporting a full-fat digital SLR, if you're determined to push it to the limit. You can either trigger your camera remotely, or try an intervalometer, as we did on the PARIS Canon, using the splendid Canon Hack Development Kit.

Alternatively, the latest GoPro video camera can do time-lapse stills at up to 60 second intervals, and boasts a Wi-Fi remote control option.

Whatever device you choose, you can get some pretty impressive results, although you are, of course, at the mercy of the wind.

KAPFrance 125

The Cerf-Volant Club de France is organising an International Convention of kite aerial photography in October 2013. The event will celebrate the 125th anniversary of KAPs invention by Arthur Batut. It will take place in Southern France near Labruguiere—the birth place of Arthur Batut. The exact dates are still to be confirmed.

Look at <http://cvcf.info> for updates.

Event Listings

To kite festival and event organisers. Close Encounters now average over 1000 hits per week on our web-site. We are pleased to advertise your kite event for free.

Please take a look at the top left corner of our front page www.closeencounterskites.co.uk and tell us if you want your event to be seen there - it doesn't matter if we are not attending - we just want to hear that even more people are going to your kite flying events.

We know that www.kitecalendar.co.uk is THE place to look - we want to supplement that (we don't want to be as big or as good) and catch the casual browser or people that follow us and are so far unaware of them.

Allan & Marilyn Potheary

The Electric Kite Company

Kites by Robert Valkenburgh

All these kites are handmade by me, and available in any colour combination desired by the



client. Standard price is given in the kite's picture, special requests (i.e. appliqué) on demand.

Prices are without P and P. For larger quantities, special prices are negotiable.

All kites are sparred in Exel carbon and high quality glassfibre. Bridles can be detached for Vector powered flight. All models are Vector ready, and the same power unit fits all kites complete Vector RC units are available (prices on demand)

Delivery time is about three weeks, after having received customers confirmation of the order and full payment.

Initial orders can be mailed to : windgallery@hotmail.com And payment can be made to my Pay-Pal account.

Please contact me for more details. Robert

Kite Altitude Record Attempt

Jesse Gersonson is a mad-scientist type who lives in Central Europe. Jesse has been pondering the nuances of high-altitude kite flight since 2009.

On the web site [/www.stiffarmingsociety.com](http://www.stiffarmingsociety.com) information is available about her attempt to beat the record of a team led by Robert Moore flew to 14,188 ft (measured with onboard GPS) in 2011. Guinness, however, recognizes Richard Accetta (aka Richard Synergy) who reached a height of 13,609 ft in 2000. (In error, he submitted an above-sea-level altitude of 14,509 ft

Bits & Pieces

to Guinness and it was accepted).

She says "My hypothesis is: "People are better than machines at flying kites." To prove this I'll set the altitude record with a kite which can be flown by hand and reeled in by a person. Everything I need fits on my bicycle. This is in stark contrast to previous record-breaking kites, which have been flown by machines. Run of the mill high-altitude kites are so big that people can't fly them, so they are flown by machines. I'd like to show a single person flying a small kite is more effective than a machine flying a large kite. I'll be flying a kid-sized delta kite that I made in my living room, on 39,000 ft of UHMWPE line, and winding it in by hand. Let's set the record straight - people, not machines, fly kites."

You can contribute towards buying line for the attempt via the website.

Giant kite, Evonic technologies help Wind Explorer EV cross Australia

From Green.autoblog.com

Turns out, you can drive a unique electric vehicle all the way across Australia on less than \$15 worth of electricity. You just need some kite assistance (or, yes, solar power). The Wind Explorer that made this trek is now on display at Evonik's New Jersey office, since the company worked on the quirky EV.

The 3,000-mile trip was piloted by German extreme sportsmen Dirk Gion and Stefan Simmerer. The car is powered by a lithium-ion battery from Evonik's Litarion electrodes and Separion ceramic separators. These technologies are exclusively manufactured by Evonik and allow its battery cells to store energy generated from a portable wind turbine. The Wind



Explorer also used large, steerable kites to cover hundreds of miles in crosswinds during its test run Down Under.

While we won't see kite-cars on the roads, some of the technologies in the Wind Explorer could find their way to production vehicles. Evonik has been working with Daimler for the past five years on a joint venture to produce lithium batteries for Daimler's hybrids and EVs.

Killer kites: After second death, police swing into action

From The Express Tribune, Rawalpindi.

A 14-year old boy who was injured during Basant celebrations died at Holy Family Hospital on Saturday. Hospital sources said Arsalan had fallen from the roof of his house while flying a kite on Friday. He was in the intensive care unit, but could not survive his injuries.

After the second life lost during the festival, along with dozens of injuries, the police swung into action and launched an anti-kite drive in the city on Saturday. At least 13 motorcyclists and commuters were injured by clipped kite string and needed treatment in various city hospitals.

A police official said that over 10,000 kites and a large quantity of chemical-treated string rolls have been seized while over 56 persons were arrested from the jurisdictions of various police stations. He said 31 cases related to kite-flying and selling have been registered so far.

"The city police officer (CPO) has warned station house officers at all police stations to take strict actions against kites," he said.

However, despite police action, many residents were seen celebrating the festival.

The residents at Ratta Amral, Dhok Kala Khan, Waris Khan and other areas were dueling kites without any fear in brazen violation of the ban. "We will celebrate the festival come what may," said Amjad Bhatti, a resident of Ratta Amral. He said the government should ban the use and sale of chemical string instead of entirely banning kite flying.

More threateningly, youngsters in various parts of the city openly displayed weapons and were firing them in the air.

Future Events

North Hants Kiter's Jolly Up 10, 27/28 April

It's nearly that time again to come and join us for another FUN Weekend of Kite Flying for Kite Fliers! The site is located in the village of Clid-desden, just south of Basingstoke (not far from J6 of the M3).

On site camping is available from Friday evening onwards (£7 per tent/camper for Fri and Sat night).

The Saturday evening food will be the BBQ (£6.50 and try to bring a plate and cutlery please!). Once again we will be doing Jacket Potatoes for those interested at various times over the weekend, and Bacon rolls available both mornings. The Auction will once again be held on the Saturday evening, and any donations gratefully received before or on the weekend (before 4pm if possible Please)

We will run the Beer Lift competition, wind permitting, same rules as before. Roy Martin's Sled competition will take place (to contact him directly please)

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

For further info, please either contact:

Roy on 07778 352825
Colin on 07770 338419
Or e-mail roy@kitesup.co.uk

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

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

Basingstoke Kite Festival, 1st & 2nd June At Down Grange Sports Complex, Pack Lane, Basingstoke.

From 10am to 5 pm (both days)
Come along and help us to celebrate our 21st Festival and join in the fun!

Guests from Home and Abroad will be joining in, and as well as things going on in the display arena, there will be the usual array of activities, along with various Kite & Food traders.

A raffle is held over the weekend with lots of donated kite related prizes, donations gratefully

received! There will be a theme of TRANSPORT for those who want to fly theme related kites.

On Saturday evening we will have our usual Social Get Together in the marquee, and all are welcome (There is a small fee if you would like to join in with the Buffet, please let us know-in the Raffle area- on the Saturday in the morning)

Camping is available on the Friday and Saturday evenings for £7.50 (payable on the weekend) and there are showers and toilet facilities on site.

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

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

Teston Bridge Country Park nr Maidstone June 8th/9th 2013

As with a number of events, there are difficulties in regard to funding. After the withdrawal of the County Council funding for the event in 2011, there was no Teston in June 2012. It was anticipated that sponsorship would be found to be able to put on the event on the above dates in 2013. Unfortunately this has not been forthcoming after initial hopes. So a decision has been taken at the AGM of Kent Kite Flyers to cancel the June 2013 Teston. This allows kite-flyers to attend other events, although some may wish to attend Teston on either day and bring along their kites. This will not be an official fly and so any-one attending should have their own insurance cover. Parking will be in the car-park.

"Suffolk Kite Flyers" 20th Big Birthday Bash! and BKSA Championships Round 2 at Rougham Airfield near Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk 7th—9th June

Suffolk Kite Flyers will be celebrating its 20th birthday this year so we thought that this requires some great celebrations!

This is an event organised by flyers for flyers, no public and includes all disciplines, whatever you fly. This weekend will be based on the legendary open weekenders that we run throughout the summer but bigger, better and whole lot more fun!

Future Events

We are please to announce that the 2nd round of the BKSA Freestyle Championships will be held at the same weekend which will bring the top Freestyle Power Kiders from the UK and all over Europe to Rougham Airfield!

We are also going to be having live music on the Saturday evening along with some fantastic pyrotechnics to really celebrate our 20th Birthday! (TBC). A bar and marquee will be onsite all weekend for liquid refreshments. We will also be doing a big pot of Chilli or similar in the evenings and will have a BBQ lit for anyone to use (bring your own meat and food etc).

This is going to be a great weekend for all of the family and we welcome everyone to come along and celebrate with us.

Prices :-

Camping only - £10 each

Camping with flying - £15 each

Camping (family) with flying - £20 (2 x adults, 3 x kids)

For details & online payment system and to book your camping space etc visit:
www.skfc.co.uk/BBB20

A £5/person day pass can be purchased on the day (subject to availability).

SKF members get a 50% discount .

We will offer BKSA championship competitors that have entered a discounted individual Camping only charge of £10 only for the weekend, otherwise normal charges apply. Camping will be from Friday to Sunday night. You can arrive on site from 12 mid-day Friday (No sooner please) and stop until no later than 11am on Monday.

Toilets and drinking water available on site.

Note – Please take away all your own rubbish as no skips will be on site and leave the site clean and tidy – thanks !!

You will also be required to have 3rd party liability insurance – please bring proof with you. Any traction kiders are required to wear a helmet whilst flying.

Suffolk Kite Flyers Club or its Committee mem-

bers accepts no responsibility for all unknown, unforeseen, unanticipated and unsuspected injuries, damages, loss and liability and the consequences thereof, as well as those now disclosed and known to exist. The provisions of any state, federal, local or territorial law or state providing substance that releases shall not extend to claims, demands, injuries, or damages which are known or unsuspected to exist at this time, to the person executing such release, are hereby expressly waived.

For full details, camping, online payment and any updates visit our web site and or forum: - www.skfc.co.uk .

or contact Hank – hank56@gmail.com or Mobile 07708 – 809775

Martin Corrie - SKF

Weston Kite Festival 8th & 9th June

After the leader of North Somerset Council saw some AKF members flying kites in Portishead last year he was so impressed that he decided he wanted a kite festival at Weston. The festival has now had the go ahead and we are putting in place the logistics now.

The Festival will take place over the weekend of **8th & 9th June**. (this date was going to be Exmouth kite festival which has sadly had to be cancelled). Low tide is in the middle of the day so there will be plenty of space for large arenas.

As this is the first festival at Weston for some time it will be a relatively small scale but we are looking to grow the festival over the next few years with the help of North Somerset Council. It's a great flying site and we look forward to welcoming as many flyers as possible to join us. STACK will also be holding a round of the UK nationals.

North Somerset Council has kindly agreed to provide/pay for all the event infrastructure, PA etc but we have to cover costs etc for everything else. So at the moment funds for flyers travel/accommodation are very limited but if we manage to raise some sponsorship we will do what we can to help. We can however offer reduced rate or possibly even free kite flyers parking on the beach so get in touch/send an SAE for a parking pass. There are also plans for a flyers get together on the Saturday evening with either a barbecue on the beach or a subsi-

Future Events

dised restaurant meal nearby. Please get in touch if you are planning to come along so we can work out numbers.

There are loads of B&Bs in Weston and there is camping and caravans /lodges e.g the Unity holiday resort and others at Brean Sands.

Here's hoping for some good weather and steady winds over the weekend!

We have created a facebook page for the event so please "like" it if you get the chance. This will be updated regularly with info and news on the event... <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Weston-Kite-Festival/401407473282815>

17th Southampton Kite Festival 15th/16th June This year sees the 17th. Southampton Kite Festival organised and run by Solent Kite Flyers in conjunction with Charles Cole Funfair. It is to be held over the weekend of 15th & 16th June from 10.00am to 5.30pm each day. The venue is Lordshill Sports Ground, 5 Acre Field, Lordshill, Southampton, Hampshire. Access is via Junction 2, M271 off Junction 3 M27. All major access routes will be signposted for the event.

This year's Festival will be a great show of many different types of kites, flying displays and kite related events, as well as varied and interesting activities happening around the Festival Site. Each day will see Kite Flying Displays as well as general entertainment and display flying to music. There will also be a few very special arena displays from local groups, including displays of Power Kiting with buggies and boards. There will be plenty of open space available for public flying, so please bring your kites!

There will be a Kite Making Workshop, where everyone will be able to make their own simple kite. There will be a number of Kite Traders selling a range of Kites and Accessories to all levels of experience and price. Craft stalls, general interest and activity traders, hot and cold refreshments, local based live music and face painting will be there to keep all ages entertained throughout the day. C.Coles Fun Fair will also be at the event for those seeking other types of thrills during each day.

On the Sunday the 'Southampton Open Trophy' is just that – anyone can enter with any type of kite. The competition is judged by a panel drawn from the audience and so this is really

where the first time flyers can beat the experienced guys, as it is decided purely on entertainment value. You will need to supply a short piece of music to fly to (approx. 2-3 minutes Max).

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

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

Even if you don't feel like flying over the two days, why not just come and watch one of the most colourful and exciting events to happen in Southampton this year. Entry is free and the sky is free for all to use and enjoy. There will be a small on-site car parking charge for this event.

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

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

North Hants Kiter's Jolly Up 11, 13/14 August

Same format as always, so come and join us for another Jolly Up, and another FUN Weekend of Kite Flying for Kite Fliers! The site is located in the village of Cliddesden, just south of Basingstoke (not far from J6 of the M3).

On site camping is available from Friday evening onwards (£7 per tent/camper for Fri and Sat evening). The Saturday evening BBQ works well, so we will doing the same format. (£6.50 and bring your plate and cutlery as normal please!)

We will do Jacket Potatoes for those interested over the weekend, and Bacon rolls available

Future Events

both mornings. The Auction will be held on the Saturday evening, and any donations gratefully received before or on the week-end (before 4pm please if possible!)

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

We hope to run the Beer Lift again, same rules as before. Roy's Refreshment Tent will be open for Business, normal rules apply.

For further info, please either contact:

Roy on 07778 352825 Colin on 07770 338419
Or e-mail roy@kitesup.co.uk

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

August 10/11th August 2013

Due to the financial climate and the above news it has been decided to ensure that at there is at least one event held at Teston Bridge every year, with a hope that at sometime in the future the June event can be resurrected.

Over the years Teston has become known as somewhere kiteflyers are able to relax, meet, socialise and generally chill out whilst flying kites. There has never been any competitive edge to the kite flying nor any organised demonstrations, just time to fly for enjoyment. As well as mingling with the public and hopefully introducing the fun of kite flying to them, so that they would continue either within their own families or perhaps by becoming a member of a Kite club local to them.

Due to changes within the County Council, the event has been taken away from the Park Rangers to an events committee, who wish to commit the County Council to less input and cost through less direct involvement by the Park Rangers.

The County Council will be responsible for collecting any car parking, keeping the toilets clean, emptying the waste bins.

Camping at the moment is from the Friday morning 9th August although we are trying to

have the Council change their minds, for which there will be a minimum donation of £10 per unit of up to 4 persons, whether campers are there overnight or for one nights. Access to the flying field for cars on both flying days will be restricted between the hours of 10am and 5pm. There will be a charge for kite flyers who wish to bring their cars onto the field. There is a car park adjacent to the flying field for which the charge is very reasonable for all day stay.

It is expected Kite Flyers will have their own insurance or will be flying under their club insurance.

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

As said previously we want to make it an extra special event this year not only to show that the event will be well supported by kite flyers and generate interest from the public.

Contact for Teston is Malcolm Ford, Kent Kite Flyers e-mail Malcolmf@kentkiteflyers.org.uk
Tel 07840086770
also Syd Bennett syd.bennett@kentkiteflyers.org.uk

Wirral Kite Festival

I am writing to tell you the sad news that this years Wirral kite festival will not be going ahead. The cancellation has been brought about by the Council having to make cutbacks in their events budget. This could last for the next three years.

I will however be looking at next years festival being funded by sponsorship. I will be calling on local business firms and maybe looking into linking with other events that have shown interest in the past. If any of you know of any corporate businesses that may be interested please do feel free to contact me and let me know.

I would like to thank all of you for the support you have shown in the past and sincerely hope we can all meet up again on "The Dips" very soon.

All the best for this year and I hope to see you all within the coming months. Dave dhkites@gmail.com

Some Perfect Days—Chris Mabon

Perusing Issue 131 of *The Kiteflier* recently, I was struck by the contrast across two adjoining pages. The 'Kuwait Kite Festival' report referred to 'a select few' having attended the event.

The opposing page was entitled 'A Perfect Day' in which one Nikki Biddle, who I do not know, and seemingly during some spare time, had walked to the local Moor and obviously lost herself in some hours of simple kite flying.

No corporate hospitality, no expense, just back to the basics. As Nikki said, 'I knew there would never be another day like this'.

This led me to think of a few of my 'Perfect Days'.

Perfect Day #1 - Porthmeor Beach, St Ives Cornwall

A typical Cornish day – damp and quite windy, such that the beach was virtually deserted. I simply had to exercise my trusted yellow REV 2. Flying started on the sand, but very soon incoming waves just had to be 'played' with. The inevitable happened and it was shoes off and into said waves to recover the kite.

A long launch (i.e. throwing the kite across and downwind with 70 foot lines – it was windy!) and I was playing again. Now in the water, I was able to 'surf' the kite on the incoming waves – I was in heaven.

It only seemed like a short while before I heard 'The Boss' calling (no, not Mr Springsteen) – 'how much longer was I going to be there, you've been down here almost two hours?'

Perfect Day #2 – Bristol Kite Festival

The daily visitors had departed, the wind was gentle and the evening sun warm. Four of us were flying 'L'Oiseau' (bird) kites in ideal conditions - not always the case at Ashton Court. One of the flyers was Ramial Tien, 'le Createur' of the kite. Ramial had kindly tweaked my beloved *L'Oiseau* and it was flying superbly – maybe a placebo effect?

Anyway, in being able to spin the kite just six feet off the ground I was feeling rather pleased

with myself. I then noticed that Ramial was able to get two more spins in after mine - *c'est la vie!* Be that as it may, with the accompaniment of gentle harp music drifting from one of the Trader's stands it was one of those flying sessions that will never, can never, be repeated.

Perfect Day #3 – Dieppe 2012

It was the Friday before the Dieppe *Cerf Volant* and we, like others, had set up camp on the seafront. The day started misty with a gentle off-shore breeze, but as the sun rose the mist started to gradually disperse.

By nine o'clock I was on the (pebble) beach with a vented REV 1.5 B2 - yes it does work in gentle winds, quite beautifully in fact. The wind, even with its passage across the harbour and the *Boulevard du Verdun*, was surprisingly smooth and one could almost fly one handed. Axels (yes, one can axel a REV), and multiples thereof, were easy to execute - the kite was almost flying itself.

By now, the sun was shining, the mist was rapidly dispersing via columns rising out of the sea. Accompanied, courtesy of an MP3 player, by some good music, including all twenty two minutes of *Supper's Ready* by Genesis, it was magic. Again, some two hours later I was called in by 'The Boss'!!

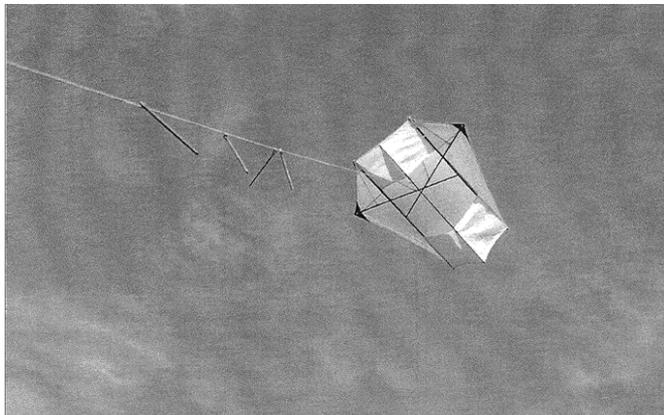
If this article does nothing more than to encourage others to share their own special flying experiences by way of a submission to *The Kiteflier* then I will consider it to have been a success.

I am certain there are many worthy stories out there – it doesn't have to be from an exotic location, your kite can be home-made or purchased, the weather doesn't have to be as romantic(?) as #2 and #3 of my 'Perfect Days'.

Also, it doesn't have to have been with a REV flown to Rock music – though that, of course, would help

Wheelwright Mechanical Kite Launcher—Jan Westerink

Originally published in the NCB (Belgian Kite Club) Magazine. Translated by John Dobson.



A little parcel received through the post

To be quite honest, I have to admit I was scared. The parcel had spent some time in the corner of the room because I was away. I had bought it through an auction site on the internet, but I did not know what was in it. I knew the bits that it ought to contain, but this...

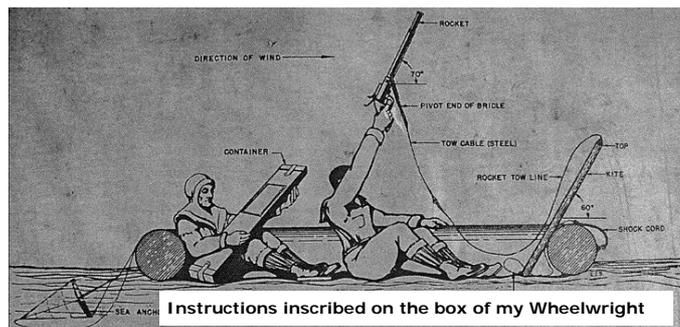
Instinctively I glanced at the thermometer which hung on the wall. Although it didn't work, it said 28 degrees. One of the five hottest summers since 1902. In my hand I held a rocket, what's more a charged rocket, and a metal tube holding powder, dated 1942. A war piece. In the box, formerly bright yellow but now quite discoloured, there were two more of them. For the shot, it seemed a single mechanism had been used, as if someone had tried just once. How I would have liked to talk to him and ask him what happened. I continued to unpack the box, carefully, and I discovered three kites and two more rockets, some firing caps (Winchester 24) and a heavy launching pistol.

It was hard to believe that all this had come to the Netherlands by post from the USA by air and delivered in his small van by the postman, whom I knew personally — "Dad, the man is here again with a kite for you". It had passed Customs easily, nothing special. Fortunately, no one had paid any attention to it at border control.

A mechanical kite launcher

The kite patented by Wheelwright which is launched is a folding kite rather like a Conyne, together with a launching pistol and a line as patented by Schermuly¹. This constitutes the lower end of a kite launcher for allied World War 2 pilots in difficulty on board a small inflatable dinghy. The system is designed rather like the famous Gibson Girl, the small elegant folding yellow box kite to send into the sky an antenna sending out a distress signal.

Why kites should be propelled, with all the attendant risks, and not simply released from the lifeboat into the wind, is still a mystery to me. Perhaps I have become more simple after trying it out for a day. The box which the seaman should carry in his boat is heavy enough, but nevertheless carries three complete launchers. The Gibson Girl is obviously smaller and lighter but contains only a single kite.



Handling the historical material

It is certainly very exciting on unwrapping a parcel to find a kite wrapped in the factory up to 100 years old which has been tightly rolled up and dried out and so become very fragile. But that is certainly the case here and it requires very responsible handling. Often the material is old and has become porous. In general it is very difficult to put it back in its wrapping after examination. Careless unwrapping risks losing information. In this case, the information that might be lost could provide the method to be followed in folding the kite so that it would open automatically after it has been shot into the air.

It is clear that I had here a single used kite (it had been crudely rolled up and the rocket, which is empty, had been discoloured by heat; the kite's head still carried traces of sand and grass coming from its hitting the ground) and two unused kites almost 70 years old. However, the unpacking of the used kite was performed with all the necessary care. The two unused kites were still in their original factory wrapping, and ready in their bags to be



The Secret Unveiled

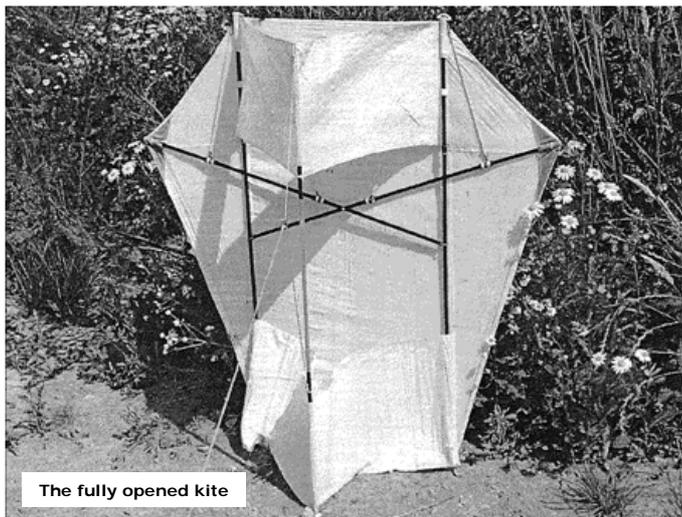
1. see www.cyber-heritage.co.uk/Schermuly for some interesting details about the inventor and his mechanism – translator

Wheelwright Mechanical Kite Launcher—Jan Westerink

launched. I again went back to the first kite and studied how it worked. Next time, when I have time and help available, I would carefully open one of the new mechanisms (1st phase) and record all the stages on video and photo, so that one could reconstruct the use of it all and even perhaps try to test its workings (2nd phase). I haven't enough time at present to try out the rockets. It might be possible to try a real shooting with a modern line launcher (3rd phase).

The Kite

The kite is not unknown to me. One of my friends, Ulli Draheim, has one larger than the one I now have in my hands. Ulli is an expert in the area of kite rescue. He has an enormous collection of Gibson Girls with all possible accessories. Ulli's kite is the only other Wheelwright which I have so far seen. The reader will readily understand that I would particularly love to get in contact with anyone who knows more about the system or has even made it work!



The fully opened kite

Ulli's kite is larger and has a framework all of aluminium. Mine has a wooden crosspiece in its framework and the sliding opening mechanism operates in a different way. Why was the arrangement changed, why two versions, why ...? These questions vex me! As the kite still seems intact, I have made a small film which clearly demonstrates its workings. It can be seen on the website www.firstkites.nl and on YouTube (see the references at the end of this article). What is splendid is that the kite is still intact after all these years, and it has a tale to tell about the single launch, successful or failed, and whether it was used only for amusement.

The kite is still in good condition and there are still two that are unwrapped. It might therefore be tested, very carefully. In a slight to moderate breeze, the Wheelwright rises with difficulty. Unlike the Gibson Girls, no adjustments can be made on

this kite. But it flies, although it has a tendency to veer to the right. Later, it will be necessary to try it again in a strong wind. The view in the sky of the



Ulli Draheim (Germany) and his big Wheelwright

crosspieces at the top of the line is unique. These crosspieces allow the opening of the cover which the kite deploys when, carried aloft by the rocket, it reaches its highest point. It is a pity that we are so ignorant of the use of the kite and of other rescue models in practice. This also calls for more experimentation and research. Action research: the best there is.

The shooting mechanism

In truth this is nothing more than a line launching pistol with a rocket. It was carefully taken out of the box and photographed without having been cleaned up. What an apparatus! And I think again of the Customs, the aeroplane and the faithful postman...

References

Video of the kite www.youtube.com/watch?v=LiNsRZhLohA

Original author's website: www.firstkites.nl

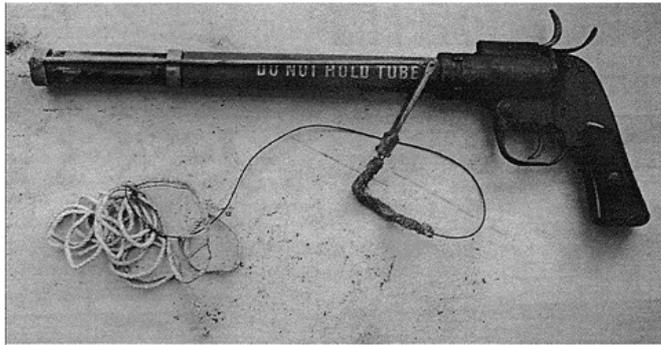
Original author's YouTube videos: www.youtube.com/user/firstkites

Patents

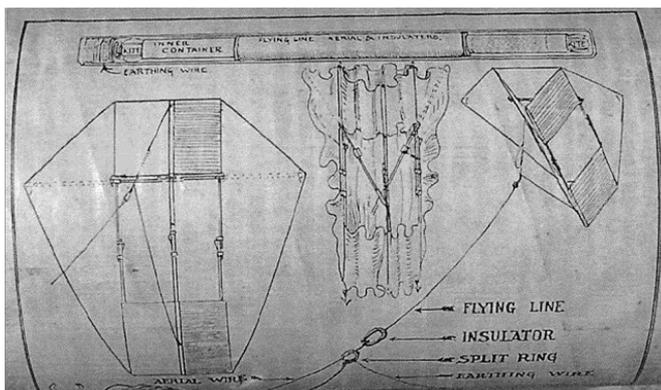
CA 422,725 (1944) and US 2.386.762 (1945)
Wheelwright kite GB 32.7369 (1929)

This article was first published (in French, translated from the original Dutch) in NCB 153 (the magazine of Nouveau Cervoliste Belge), July-

Wheelwright Mechanical Kite Launcher—Jan Westerink

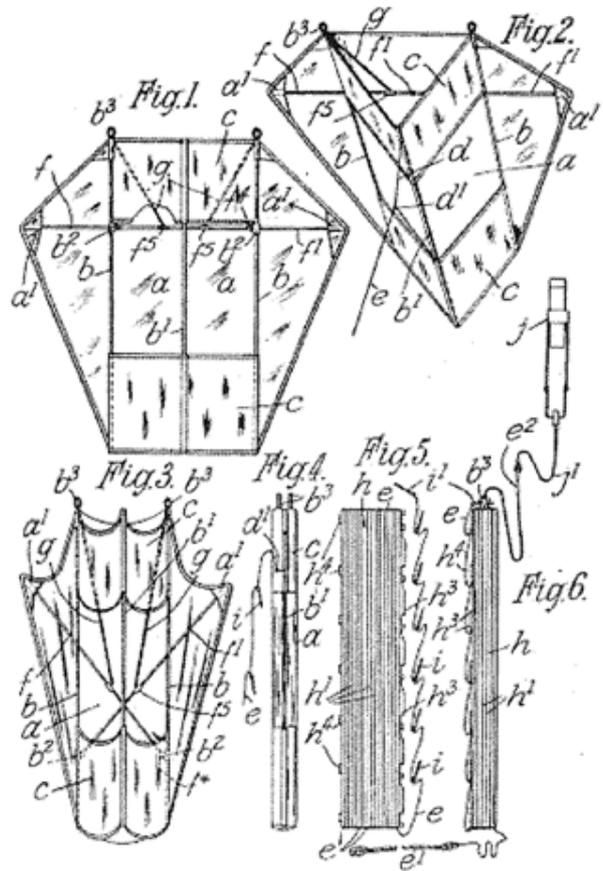


The launching pistol



Instructions on the tube (not the box) of Ullrich's kite

Oct. 16, 1945. J. S. WHEELWRIGHT 2,386,762
KITE APPARATUS
Filed Oct. 5, 1942 2 Sheets-Sheet 1



Wheelwright Patent Design

Inventor
JOHN SYLVESTER WHEELWRIGHT
By *Jan Westerink*
ATTY

September 2010, and is republished with permission. I am grateful to Nest Lernout for providing some corrections to my first version of the translation.

Afterword

This article was brought to my attention by George Webster, who writes:

At Dieppe last year, I was fortunate to be given a good run of spare copies of NCB magazine by the editor—and old friend of British Kiteflying—Nest Lernout. As it happens I had already bought issue 153 which contains the article about the Wheelwright kite.

Readers who have never seen one of these kites might not understand from the article that the procedure was to fire a tube containing the collapsed kite from which the cover was stripped away as the kite fully extended the launch line. The kite then spread open in a scissors motion caused by two springs attached to the verticals.

Jan Westerink has the first launch artillery known to me; I'm sure that by now he has made contact with Paul Chapman, who has photos of David Robinson's kite and one of mine.

Clearly, several versions were made. David's seems to be a prototype. Mine have a wooden leading spar to the Conyne section. Perhaps Paul might be able to pull some threads together? One of mine is flown occasionally and is stable but clearly designed for 'sea breezes'.

While I've heard of comic moments in tests (reaction to the shot causing the dinghy to fold up, premature firing blowing a hole in it), I've no information about whether the system was ever used.



Your chairman needs help he is looking a little over worked.

THE NEWS LETTER FOR THE BRIGHTON KITE FLYERS

35 YEARS AGO AND STILL GOING STRONG

Who would have thought, 35 years ago, that a small group of friends would start kite flying together, run an event for the Public to see what was involved in kite flying would end up as Brighton Kite Flyers and Brighton Kite Festival?

Well, that is exactly what has happened. Brighton Kite Festival is in its 35th consecutive year which makes it, we believe, the longest

running kite festival in the United Kingdom. Over these years we have had some luck with events where others have not. Such as Foot & Mouth almost cancelled all festivals for that year but we scraped in just and still ran a festival. Our venue has been forced to change on several occasions due to redevelopment of sites but we have found a great home in Stanmer Park, Brighton.

2013 Festival

With the sad loss this year of three of our members including one of the very early, if not founding, members of Brighton Kite Flyers as we know it today it seems only fitting that we put on some sort of special displays in the arena to commemorate their connections with the club. It has been discussed and the plan is we will hold a teddy bear drop to celebrate all the hard works done by John Barker (AKA the BOF) to promote BMISS for such a long time. So those of you that still have a bear that is not too old to drop or bear bunging rigs please bring them along and have some fun. We will also have a Spirit fly for departed kite flyers and friends especially remembering Alan Cragg and Chris Lund. Again if you own a spirit please bring it along and if not

why not fly one of the club ones.

This year for those coming please be aware of the following: - We will be requiring the normal on site security from Friday lunchtime to Monday lunchtime please e-mail us so we can have an idea of numbers. We will also be holding a raffle so bring along items that could go into this, and of course money to buy tickets. There will also an evening meal of Fish and Chips as we did last year and if you wish to join in please ensure that you let the information tent know what you want and pay during the Saturday. With it being our 35th year it, sounds like we need a Birthday cake for the evening do.

Anyone up for making it?



APRIL 2013 BRIGHTON KITE FLYERS AERODYNE

ITS HERE AND TO CONFIRMED ALL READY BE HANDED OUT.



Well 2013 Brighton Kite Festival poster / flyer has been designed and printed and ready to be handed out to the public and kite flyers. We will be planning to spend time around Brighton handing them out and are always looking for help in doing this or if you are able to hand out in other places please let us know and we will ensure that you get some flyers. As with all clubs that organise festivals we need your help to ensure that they run smoothly. If you are planning on attending and can help on the day or leading upto the event make yourself known.

W e a r e planning a few special events in the arena this year. As most of you may know that John Barker (AKA BOF) passed away so as one of our long standing members we will run a teddy bear drop in the arena and hopefully during the day as well. Karl Longbottom kites are on the poster this year so it seems only right to have a Karl Longbottom flight in the arena. With the success of our Frog flight at Portsmouth last year we will have ago at repeating the effect only better now we have more idea what we are doing. With the death of several members of the club this year we will have a very special spirit fly in their memory. So in other words if you have a Karl Longbottom kite, a spirit or a frog don't forget to bring them along to fly in the arena along with any other kites you have.



There will be the normal onsite security available to kite flyers. Please let the club know if you wish to take advantage of this so we can some idea of numbers.

13 - 14th July 2013 in Stanmer Park, Brighton, BN1 9QA
Organised by Brighton Kite Flyers

WHERE AND WHY DID YOU START FLYING

A few years ago now saw the demise of "Airbourne Kites" in Brighton, following the closure of its Bluewater branch in December 2008. This got me thinking how did we find out about kite flying and where did we first find out about kite flying as a hobby rather than just as a few days a year? The Brighton shop was where both Corinne & I brought our first real kites. Corinne a 6 foot Flexifoil stacker in Pink, Purple and Aqua and myself a Flexifoil Scorpion again in Pink, Purple and Aqua, both of which we still have (and will never get rid of them) and now and again get out to fly even though they are quite a few years old now and are showing their age from so much flying. We had been flying those cheap kites you get in garden centres and toy shops that just about fly for a few years and we had been along to, first a Brighton Kite Festival or two, then Blackheath, when it was held over the Easter weekend. While at these festival we saw some great displays and great kites and we got more into wanting to fly kites like those used in the displays at these events. This started with us looking around the stalls and thinking how much kites seemed to cost and not really being able to justify the expense.

We soon discovered a few flyers used to meet up at a flying site on the outskirts of Brighton called the Waterhole, (A site now ruined by a bypass, although still flyable nowhere near as good as it used to be) and often stopped to watch them on the way home from work. We soon took out our cheap kites and started to fly, after a couple of nights flying we got talking to the group of flyers who were there and they let us have a go with their kites. It was then we both realised that like most things the right

equipment made a job much easier and much more enjoyable to do. It was no different with kites and I found myself not wanting to hand the kite back, I think it was a Chris Matheson Sandpiper (as you get older your memory goes). From that point we vowed that we would save up for a new kite. I asked where they had got their kites from and was told Airbourne Kites in Brighton, a small shop at the edge of the lanes. It then I was discovered that two to the flyers were none other than Paul and Estelle the owners of Airbourne Kites.

Well Corinne and I started to save up, but every time we got close to having enough monies things happened and the fund was used for those little emergencies that always occur just at the wrong time. Finally we had the money, but as I am sure you remember those days when you are just starting off, on the property ladder and a newly married couple planning the future, you always tried to careful not to waste money. I knew Corinne really wanted her Flexifoil Stacker, and she knew I fancied the Scorpion but neither of us would spend the money on ourselves. Well with our first wedding anniversary fast approaching, we noticed that the first anniversary emblem was paper (as 25 years is silver). So to justify getting the kites we brought them for each other as wedding anniversary gifts. How do you get two flexifoil kites made of ripstop from paper well when you really want something you can work your way to get it and this is what we did. Traditional kites can be made of paper after all, and this started our interest, in kites with a vengeance.

So where and when did you start flying? Send you stories into aerodyne@bkf.org.uk

WHAT DO WE STILL NEED FOR OUR FESTIVAL THIS JULY

We have some kite traders organised, we have some food traders as well but in both cases we could do with a few more so it you know of any that may want to trade please let us know. We have some of the UK's best display teams coming but again if you know of anyone we may not have asked and think they might like to come please again let us know. The Park is booked for the weekend, the toilets, bins and arena pins are all ordered so you would think everything is going well, but we have now had a meeting with the council about funding for this year and future years and as you can imagine in the current situation it is being looked at very hard.

With this mind it is essential that we look at other sources for income. If you can think of anyone who may want to sponsor the event or have a way of raising monies that can go towards the festival we really need to know.

IS AERODYNE REQUIRED ANYMORE IN THIS ELECTRONIC AGE

Getting articles for the club magazine is getting harder and harder, if not impossible. First question you need to ask is, why is this? Is it because people wanting information instantly are passing on information via e-mail, forums, facebook and the like. Or because people now-a-days just don't have the time to put in the writing about events that they have been to. The second question, Is do people read it? We cannot say for sure on either but this is one topic that is being discussed at our AGM and depending on the vote this could possibly be the Penultimate or even the last Aerodyne published.

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Marian Reynolds
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Aerodyne:

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(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 who will give you forms etc.

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E Membership@BKF.org.uk

T-Shirts/Sweatshirts:

Alan & Marian Reynolds 9
E tshirts@BKF.org.uk

Pins/Badges/Stickers:

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

Thank you

The committee would like to say thank you to all those who made this issue of Aerodyne possible Marian Reynolds Simon Hennessey. We know we keep going on, but Aerodyne is only possible with your help with articles etc. So please do write an article as we can not keep the publication going without them.

So thank you again to those who help and to 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 years AGM. Please put pen to paper for the Spring issue. Dates for future articles are detailed below.

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

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

MARIAN'S KITCHEN

No. 11: Chocolate Caramel Shortbread.

Alan and I were first introduced to this as "Millionaires Shortbread" by one of Alan's work colleagues before we were married, and have enjoyed it ever since.

Ingredients for base:

4 ozs. butter.
6 ozs. plain flour.
2 ozs. castor sugar.
A pinch of salt.

Method.

Put butter, flour and sugar in mixer bowl and mix together until all stuck together (like pastry). Press into an 8" X 8" tin and cook for 30 - 40 mins at Gas Mk3 (160°C)

Exact timings depend on all sorts of things, but judge by colour - you know "brown but not....."

Ingredients for topping:

4 oz. butter or hard marg.
3 oz. castor sugar.
1 tbsp. golden syrup.
6 tbsp. evaporated milk.

Method.

Melt butter in largish, non-stick saucepan, add sugar, syrup and evap. and stir until dissolved. Simmer for approx 15 mins till like soft toffee.

Spread onto base (still in tin). When cold, spread melted chocolate (plain or milk or a mixture of both) on top - I use about 200 grms - allow to cool, then place in fridge for about 3 hours.

Turn out onto chopping board and cut into squares. It's known as "sickquick" in our family, so make them fairly small squares! This is one of my all-time favourites, so please make some & bring to kite event - perhaps one of our fly-ins?

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



THE BEAR FACTS



A very occasional news letter from the Ted Berets in loving memory of Roman Candle in the hope of easing the pain for those of us who loved it and not giving the po-faced the satisfaction of believing they have won.

The end of an era.

We found out in February that The BOF himself has passed away. There was only one John Barker and no one can ever hope to take his place. Most kite flyers have something about them that makes them take up the hobby and many of them become characters of their own. John stood out even amongst these people. Not physically perhaps but you always knew if he was about.

With his cockney accent and a turn of phrase that would embarrass a trooper he never pretended to be other than extreme right of UKIP. Starting in July 1981 and continuing over the next 30 years John produce 100 issues of Roman Candle, (The Journal of The Bearly Made It Skydiving Squad, The international Brotherhood and Sisterhood of Parachuting Fauna and The Ted Devils) that was published in Kiteflyer The BMISS was set up by John when a bear's parachute opened at the very last minute and some one was heard to say "*!###**!", that one barely made it" He intended it to be a joke but over 30 years it encompassed a great deal more than this including the rules for record drops that are widely accepted.

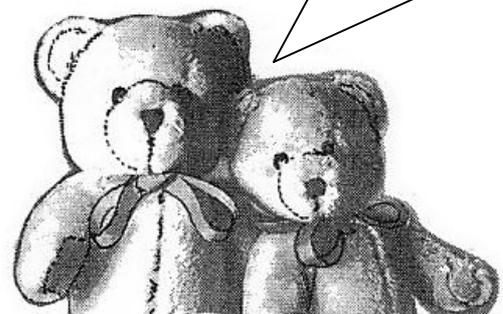
John also co-operated with Hugh Andrew to produce The Big Book of Parachuting Bears. This consists of 11 A3 pages of hand drawn sketches and notes that provides the most comprehensive treatise on how to parachute soft "cuddlies" (if it walks like a bear and talks like a bear.....) including plans for various sizes of parachute, material to use and detail of how to put them together with a backpack. Plus various lifting methods and releases

A favourite expression of John's was "the po-faced" frequently applied to stunt kite flyers but also encompassed any one who did not appreciate and share his views especially his idea of what it meant to be **English**.

I am proud to have been one of the recipients of the Fauna of the Year awards and I set up the BMISS web site with John's blessing. I shall keep it running as long as I can as a tribute to him. All issues of Roman Candle can be found here along with The Big Book.

We think this is probably the time to say good-bye. It's been a lot of laughs and we hope you have enjoyed it too. As John would have said keep on bear bombing. The Yuro-pratts can't touch you for it.

Keep B.M.I.S.S. alive by sending pictures, videos, record updates and anything else to be published at www.bmiss.org.uk. So that's it from Electric Arthur and The Ted Berets but please keep in touch via arthur@tedberets.co.uk or the good old snail mail.



Events List

April		
13-21	Berck International Kite Festival, France	Gerard Clement
20 - 1st May	Cervia International Kite Festival, Italy.	www.cerviainternationalkitefestival.com
27-28	North Hants Kite Jolly Up 12, Cliddesden, near Basingstoke, Hampshire	Kites Up
May		
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
18-19	Harewood House Kite Festival, Harewood House, near Leeds, West Yorkshire LS17 9LG	www.harewood.org
24-29	Margam Kite Festival, Margam Country Park, Port Talbot, South Wales, SA13 2TJ	www.margamcountrypark.co.uk/
25-27	Bedford International Kite Festival, Riverside Park, Bedford	
June		
1-2	Basingstoke Kite Festival, Down Grange Sports Complex, Pack Lane, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG22 5SN	alan@basingstokekitefestival.org.uk
7-9	Suffolk Kite Flyers 20th Big Birthday Bash and BKSA Championships Round 2, Rougham Airfield Nr Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk	Hank hank56@gmail.com 07708 809775 www.skfc.co.uk
8-9	Weston Kite Festival, Weston-Super-Mare Beach, Somerset.	kites@abc-pr.co.uk
9	Peterborough Kite Festival, Ferry Meadows, Peterborough PE2 5UU	G.O.K.F. Jill 01733 563958
16	Streatham Kite Day, Streatham Common, London (Postponed from 7th new date TBA)	bobcolover@easynet.co.uk
15-16	Southampton Kite Festival, Lordshill Sports Ground, Southampton	Mike Lowe secretary@solentkiteflyers.org.uk
29-30	Shropshire Kite Festival, Lacon Childe School, Love Lane, Cleobury Mortimer DY14 8PE	Sky Bums
July		
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
27-28	Kite Kamp, Location: Newlands Park, Bishops Cleeve, Nr. Cheltenham. GL52 3PE	www.gvkf.org.uk
August		
10-11	Teston Kite Big Weekend, Teston Country Park, Teston, Nr Maidstone Kent	Malcolm Ford, Kent Kite Flyers 07840086770 or 01843 224593
24-26	Portsmouth International Kite Festival, Southsea Common, Portsmouth	The Kite Society
September		
31/8 - 1/9	Bristol International Kite Festival, Ashton Court, Bristol (Provisional)	kites@abc-pr.co.uk
1	Layr Marney Tower Kite Festival, Layer Marney Tower, Nr Colchester, Essex CO5 9US	www.layermarneytower.co.uk