

THE KITEFLIER

35th Anniversary Year 1979 - 2014

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

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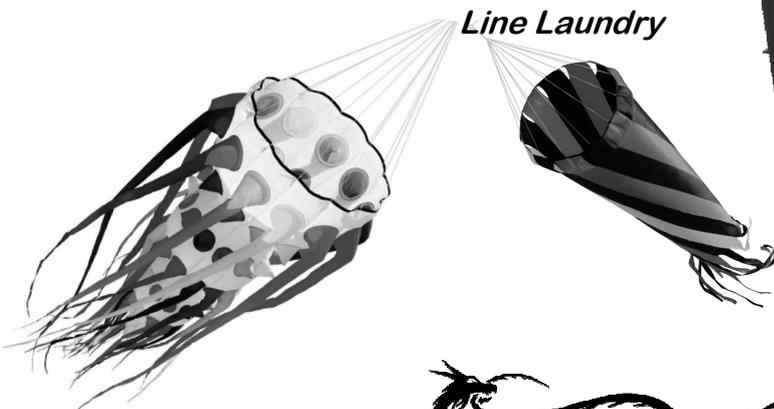


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Front Cover

Guatemalan Kites flying over volcanoes, Sumpango Sacatpequez.

Photo: Paul Chapman

Late Event News

Teston event in June is cancelled.

Brighton Kite Festival is set for 12th & 13th July.

Dear Reader

The kite season is starting to kick off—there may be a few gaps in the events this year, mainly down to cuts in budgets from the supporting Local Councils. Please support the events that are happening.

There are also a number of well known kitefliers no longer with us—Ron Dell, Richard Dermer and Charlie Sotich—our thought go to their families. On a personal level Joyce (Granny) Fennemore passed away peacefully at home as she always said she wanted to do - on the 13th March. She kept going until the end - driving, knitting and gardening - it was just her time.

Then again after 89 years she had a full and active life leaving all of us with happy memories and good times together. I am sure many kitefliers will remember her manning the stall at the kite festivals - and who can forget the cakes! WE would also like to thank people who sent cards and thoughts—it was a comfort that people thought so much of her.

Barry Pitman has written an article about the anniversary book we suggested at the end of last year. Maybe it will inspire a few other people to send us contributions.

Finally— a note from The Midland Kite Fliers. CONGRATULATIONS. It's hard to believe that the after the initial ramblings of a few people in a pub in Old Warden, Bedfordshire that the Kite Society of Great Britain should, after thirty five years, still be going strong. It's down to the hard work and endless hours that Gill and Jon have put in that we have be truly thankful. Cheers guys.

By the way the Midlands Kite Fliers are also 35 years old this year... thanks to everyone past and present that have kept the club going. Bill Souten, Chairman of the Midlands Kite Fliers



Gill and Jon

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KSGB—The Book—Barry Pitman

I was somewhat taken aback with the mention of being the only person to respond to Jon & Gill's call regarding a possible photobook to celebrate 35 years of the KSGB. As a working photographer I have often mused on the nature of photography, why we take photographs, what we take photographs of and what do we do with them once we've taken them?

Photography has always been one of the ways we document and record our changing world and the events that take place in it. We might take photographs as a record of our children growing up, to celebrate a family occasion such as a birthday, a family reunion or a wedding. It can also be a way to communicate something we've seen and want to share, reportage photography. Maybe it's a form of creative expression, an art photograph or perhaps a way to understand a process, for example through the use of time lapse photography. Whatever the reason, photographs need to be seen, and what better way than in a book? A photographer who I much admire, and who writes for B&W Photography magazine, said recently *"There's no point in taking all those lovely pictures if we don't show them off to their full potential"* He makes a good point. How do we show them off?

I've always been amazed at how a photograph has the power to evoke memories and feelings for events that happened. Talking of memories, Gill and I started looking at her family photograph albums when her father was diagnosed with Alzheimer's. She was surprised at how little she knew about the people or events depicted and set out to try and add some details whilst her father, once a keen amateur photographer himself, might still recall them being taken. It was as you might imagine a difficult process and remains an incomplete record to this day. We have though used some of those family photographs to help stimulate his memory. He has good recall of his mother and grandparents, but not necessarily any recollection of anything that has happened at other times in his life or within the past few years. There is often a narrative tied up with the taking of photographs that get's lost when there is nobody left to tell the story.

I spent an entire morning recently, looking for one particular image. I know I have it somewhere in the archive, but so far it has eluded me. The photograph I'm looking for is of Ron Moody. I can picture it in my minds eye as I write. It was an image I wanted to put a personal recollection to after Ron passed away. At the time I had an idea to write a small article in support of the Alzheimer's Society and Dementia UK and hoped that the kit-

ing community might consider them charities worthy of support. In the meanwhile, I'll continue looking for it; when I find it, I'll contribute it for possible inclusion in the book.

The photograph therefore, clearly occupies a unique position, often becoming the means by which we recollect an event in our lives. Oscar Wilde once said that *"memory is the diary we all carry around with us"* Perhaps that diary has been superseded by the camera phone? Digital cameras have led to each and every one of us becoming avid collectors of images that we hope to share when they're uploaded to Facebook, Flickr or "the cloud". And those uploads run into millions each week. We're back yet again to who sees them or how often will we look at them. How many of the images that get uploaded have any significance to anyone other than the person who took the photograph?

What we photograph often has little or no significance at the time we took it, and I've found this to be true of my photographs. The passage of time can sometimes give them new significance which wasn't apparent at the time the photograph was taken. I was asked a while back to be a guest curator for the Brighton & Hove Photographic Collection www.photosbrightonandhove.org.uk. As a result I put a number of photographs onto their website, adding to their collection. One of the images was of a crowd of people waiting for an activity to commence. The activity was in fact a **C o m m u n i t y B o n f i r e** (www.photosbrightonandhove.org.uk/kemp-town-community-bonfire-i.html) I photographed back in the 80's, when I was involved with a Community Arts Workshop in Kempton, Brighton. What is apparent looking at the photograph now, is the lack of people with cameras. I was I recall the only photographer present. Nowadays though, pretty much everyone has a camera or a Smartphone with a built in camera and will record an event as they watch it.

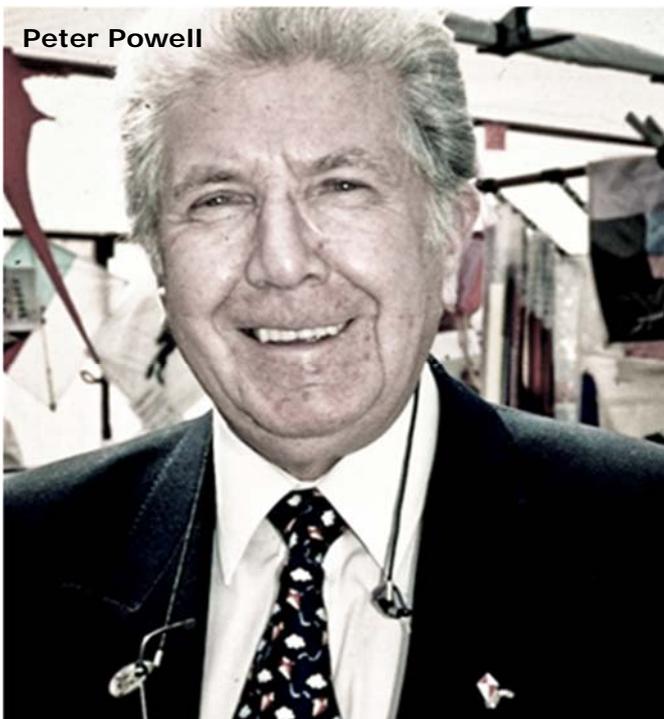
My personal photographic archive extends to some 15,000+ negatives and transparencies and some 40,000+ digital files. Not all of them related to kite flying I might add. I'm slowly working my way through the digital archive trying to edit and make sense of things I've photographed and find ways to get them seen.

My website (www.pixelsonapage.com/?page_id=633) is just one of the avenues I'm exploring as a way of showing material. In particular a selection of images from kite related events I've participated in over the years. Publishing is definitely something I intend doing more of myself.

KSGB—The Book—Barry Pitman

I've played around with a couple of book ideas and very much see it as a way to collect and show bodies of work once I have explored and edited suitable material. Especially as I'm often being asked by Brighton Morris (www.pixelsonapage.com/?page_id=283) "So when do we get to see the pictures then?" I guess I need to practice what I preach.

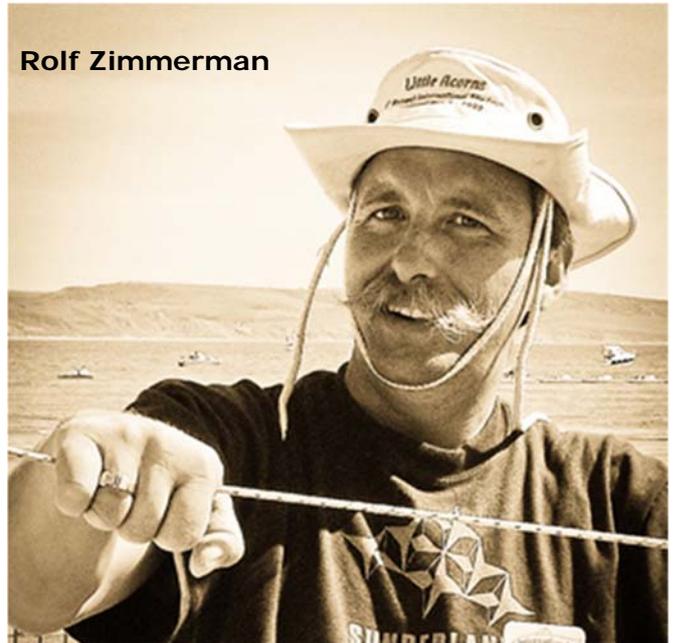
I was saddened recently to learn, as many of us probably were, of the unexpected and sudden death of Kelvin Woods. I don't have any pictures of him; I never felt the need to take one. Because I suspect I always thought I would get around to it one day, and add to my ever growing collection of kite related images. But I do have some pictures of his kites; he was indeed a larger than life character and a fine kite maker and will certainly be missed by the kiting community. My enduring memory now is of the conversation we had over breakfast at last years Bristol Kite Festival. Sadly I don't have any photographs of John Barker either, and that's something I regret. Why did I never take any pictures of such a memorable character who was dear to many of us? I do though have a



Peter Powell

collection of pictures that I've taken of other kite fliers. And it is those that I want to put forward for consideration should the book idea ever get off the ground, (no pun intended). So here are the first two I have dredged from the archive.

Thirty five years is a long time and much has happened during that period which should be acknowledged, in my view. For example develop-



Rolf Zimmerman

ments in kiting from single line, to two and four line. And I seem to recall there was a three line kite somewhere in the progression. And of course all the variations on traditional and historic kites made by some creative, innovative and visionary kite makers & flyers. We should be celebrating this and the KSGB have offered us that opportunity. The ability to produce books on demand in small numbers offers us a way to tell our story. Collectively we must have an amazing library of photographs capturing aspects of kiting in the UK and abroad. Let's grab this unique opportunity and celebrate our passion for flying kites.

As Magnum photographer, Martin Parr said "the great thing about books is people don't throw them away, how can you ever put them in the bin? Whereas a magazine comes and goes, a book, it has to stay forever. If you don't like it, you'd have to take it to a charity shop; you couldn't put it in a bin"

And it's true; you'll look at it, cherish it, enthuse over it with others, discuss it, and maybe pass it onto somebody else. In the longer term maybe it will end up in a charity shop, as Martin Parr suggests. Perhaps somebody else with an interest in kites will discover it and might even be inspired to start their own journey of discovery into the world of kiting, the history and origins of kites, and find out about the people who created some of the iconic kites we've had the privilege to buy, see and occasionally too fly. And the cycle will begin again. So come on dig through those photographs you haven't looked at since you took them and send them to Jon & Gill. Let's celebrate 35 years of the KSGB.

A 4x4 Tour of Indian Festivals—Bob Cruikshanks

January is traditional the pilgrimage to India, particularly Gujarat, for many fliers around the world. Having been 5-6 times before and with the possibility of Team Mangalore (TM) having their bi-annual festival I thought that 2014 could be my last. However, following contact with TM back in November they advised that with the lack of a major sponsor they likelihood of a festival was unlikely so I contemplated winter kite making – again.

However, early in December Ashgar Belim a fellow flier/maker, who is Jodhpur based, sent a message on Facebook regarding his festival, which was being held after the infamous Ahmedabad International Kite Festival (IKF) normally organised by Gujarat Tourism. I informed him that it was unlikely because I could not justify the cost of airfare for a 2-3 day festival plus I was not planning to join the cattle-truck fiasco that Ahmedabad IKF had become over the last few years; yes, I took part in 2012 and recalled many hours sitting on a bus with little flying in between each venue.

Then, a week or so before Christmas I received a call from the organisers of the Vokatta IKF. They were due to hold their first IKF in Kolkata and – believe it or not – my name had been suggested; guess I still have some friends out there ☺☺ They could not fund international travel but would take care of local travel, accommodation and meals etc. Decisions!

Again, just like buses nothing seen then a convoy – Bhavna Mehta, a long-time friend in India and the first lady in India to win a kite making award in Ahmedabad, mentioned an IKF in Delhi towards the end of January and said that she could put my name forward to the organisers. Decisions, decisions!!

Diary out and various exchanges between UK-India, I set about planning 4 weeks in India. Just need a visa and an airline ticket, simple.

Tour 1 - Flying into Delhi on 3rd January the Vokatta organisers had kindly provided the ticket for onwards to Kolkata plus the excess for 10kgs of baggage. The latter is almost essential now because most if not all Indian domestic air-carriers limit you to 15kgs, so if you want to take any kites and the odd bit of underwear, you need more than 15kgs.

Held on the 5th January the Vokatta IKF was held in a paved car park at the edge of the Kolkata Eco Park. Also present were fliers from Belgium, France (although Nicolas Chorier lives in India), Malaysia, Netherlands, Singapore, USA and several Indian teams. The wind was up and down but



everyone did their best to put on display for the massing public, who at times, had to be pushed clear to give us space to move around. Given all the effort on the part of the organiser 2 days may have meant more kites could have been flown/displayed. As a thank you the organisers treated us to a 'Sundarban Safari'; a 3-day trip in the Sundarbans, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that includes a tiger reserve. No, we did not see any big striped pussies but the river cruise around the reserve was very relaxing and warmer than the UK.

Tour 2 - The next stop on my travels in India was Ahmedabad. Their festival tour had started on the 6/7 January but I had told Gujarat Tourism that I could not arrive until the 10th, which meant I missed - thank goodness - the cattle tour. That said, there was a one-day trip Vadodara. The main festival in Ahmedabad was on the 12th and 13th on the Sabarmati Riverfront, albeit a different section of the river than in previous years. Previously organised by Gujarat Tourism the event had been handed over to an events agency. Putting on DIY, car makers and business exhibitions is one thing but a kite festival takes a particular understanding, suffice to say they failed. One of the other differences for Ahmedabad in 2014, they were not paying for any international fliers. I have my own view on this which I will leave to the end but the upshot was that only a handful of fliers were available to fly. To save face the organisers drafted in 300 hundred exchange students from 50 countries, which were bussed/flown around the events to wave flags and fill the gaps with not a kite or kite flier between them.

Because of the lack of understanding on the part of the events agency security around the site was poor which enabled the locals to strike with their manja cutting line. This resulted in several kites being cut and some totally lost plus kites being

A 4x4 Tour of Indian Festivals—Bob Cruikshanks



damaged by the manja.

Even after speaking with the organisers little changed so many elected to keep their kites low or not flown at all. The number of Indian teams was also down on previous years and the feeling amongst those present was not all sunshine. There were many rumours going around after the festival and supposed adverse reports in the press but time will tell. I can say that as always, the roof-top flying on the 14th had the same buzz and the lack of international fliers meant more room ☺ One change that was very evident in Ahmedabad, on the night of the 14th the sky was full of Chinese lanterns. Supposedly banned, we saw many being sold at the kite markets and from our hotel roof-top the view was truly amazing, there must have been thousands in the sky.

Tour 3 – Originally scheduled for 16th-19th Ashgar then told us, in Ahmedabad, that Jodhpur IKF had been changed to 21st/22nd. With the change in dates and several other arrangements some fliers could not and/or were not happy with the uncertainty of Ashgar's information so opted not to go. Most went to the Belguam IKF, who offered to pay for domestic air-travel and, from reports, had a good time with a bonus trip to Goa. For me, having never been to Jodhpur and being flexible, what could go wrong??

Starting with an 8-hour ride on a sleeper-bus from Ahmedabad to Jodhpur, arranged by Ashgar. Anyone that has been to India will understand that drivers use their horn to indicate, warn other road-users/dogs/cattle etc to move and generally if they haven't 'beeped' for a few minutes they will to check if it's still working. What this means is the word sleeper does not apply – well not to me. Throw in the odd pot-hole; we complain about our roads but the UK roads are smooth in comparison, you may be able to visualise what I mean about

sleep-less.

Our hotel (budget) was located close to the markets and downtown, which was very useful, plus the hotel roof terrace/dining area gave a great view of the traditional blue coloured houses in the city and being at the foot of the Jodhpur Fort, which looked great when illuminated at night (until 9:00pm☺). With time to kill we were able to visit the fort in Jodhpur and then headed for an overnight desert safari and the 'Golden City' of Jaisalmer. The 5 hour journey to Jaisalmer was by way of 2 vehicles driven by suicide drivers – thank you Ashgar, the undie stains have now been washed out.

Back in Jodhpur the festival, their 1st, was held in the Barkattulla Khan Stadium. This was a large cricket stadium used for internationals and so, understandably, the centre pitches were protected with barriers and guards as no-go areas. Able to seat thousands in the tiered stands this the rest of the flying area was screened from the wind with high walls. Being mid-week the only spectators appeared to be bussed-in school kids or family members and friends of the sponsors/organisers. All in all, with little/no wind and no public it was very difficult, frustrating and almost pointless being there.



Finally, with the lack of communications and trust and a requirement to get to Delhi for their 3rd IKF, which was due to start on the 24th, we couldn't leave quick enough.

Tour 4 – As a result of last minute - again - travel arrangements we had to leave straight after the Jodhpur festival on the 22nd, catching the overnight train – only 11 hours to go. Arriving in Delhi at 7am we spent the next 90 minutes trying to contact people for transport, which had been previously agreed. The hotel appeared good but sadly one hour away from the festival site and nowhere near to any sites or shopping centre. We were joined by fliers from Malaysia, Korea (whose kites failed to arrive) and several Indian clubs/teams. As with Ahmedabad, Delhi Tourism had handed the festival organisation to an agency.

A 4x4 Tour of Indian Festivals—Bob Cruikshanks

The festival site, the Golden Jubilee Park, was located on a ring-road bypass that did not lend itself to easy access ie, on foot of public transport, so most if not all of the spectators arrived by car.

Coupled with the journey to/from the site, the daily night-fly meant that the festival days were very long. The most memorable part for me was meeting with a 90yr old gentleman, Bhai Mian, a highly respected kite maker/flier from Delhi whose nephew, a member of the Delhi Kite Club, had shown him pictures of Karl Longbottom's Doves that I had been flying the previous day and he wanted to see for himself and, if possible fly. Without hesitation I gave Bhai one Dove, due to the low wind,



and then the pair on a link-bar. Clearly he had not seen, let alone flown, this type of kite before and the expression on his face as he sat on a chair flying the Doves was truly heart-warming and an honour for me to make this gentleman so happy. Thank you Karl for producing such an eye-catching creation that still, after many years, has the cameras clicking.

With one day left in India myself and Barbara Meyer (USA), a fellow traveller and string-puller from day 1 in Calcutta, spent the day touring the city. However, being a day after a public holiday most of the sites and museums were closed - ha ho, such was my time in India in 2014. So, after 4 weeks and 4 festivals with good, bad and some ugly memories it was time for home. In summary, India never ceases to amaze me. From the first time when Karl L offered to share his ticket expenses to the 6-7 times since.

If you are a member of the American Kitefliers Association (AKA) Barbara Meyer put together another good overview/summary of each festival with lots of photographs, which was printed in the recent Spring 2014 issue.

After this report would I recommend going to festivals in India ie, Ahmedabad? As I say to people "I never say never". You will see, smell and experience things that only India has to offer, particularly roof-top participation. One thing that became apparent during this trip was the offer by some individuals to get you invites to other festivals with repayment for your troubles/ticket. Beware,

they are looking to 'act' as agents and get payment from organisers, which can and will fail once you are there leaving you potentially in the lurch. So if you decide to go only deal directly with official festival organisations, expect to be tired but above all enjoy yourself.

Do you, Don't you

This brings me to the touchy subject of reimbursements for attending festivals? Many have asked me how, as a 'hobby' non-professional kite maker/flier I am invited to overseas festivals. I guess it stemmed from that first time in India; you have to **be** seen to **get** seen. Couple this with a good selection of kites, whether made or purchased and particularly if there is something unique about them or possible in my case my appearance. Stand fast kite makers/designers who solely do their own thing and stand out in their own right.

Of the 6-7 times that I have been to India I believe that I have only had my airfare (international) paid fully twice. Then a couple of half/one-way tickets which leaves the remaining trips self-funded. Generally, once there the organisers will kindly provide accommodation, food and transport etc. As I said, being seen and meeting other international fliers greatly helps when it comes to other countries.

Again, on many occasions I have funded myself to get places ie, Malaysia and Thailand but every now and then there is an offer of re-imbusement which I thank my luck stars for. However, there are many people – both home and abroad – who I know will not travel unless fully funded. That said, some claim to or say that they are not as fortunate as me. For me, kite flying is my hobby and passion and I appreciate that in order to get to most out of it and hopefully please – some would say perform for – others, I have to spend money albeit on kites or travel.

Offer me the opportunity/funds to do my hobby in a different part of the world and I will pull strings all day and all night if needs be. Thankfully, I now have the time and an understanding wife – she did buy me my first kite in 1992 – that enable me to pursue my hobby.

So, how do you get to overseas events? In my personal opinion, become a renowned kite designer/maker or accept that it could cost you money.

Altitude Record Attempt?

A recent series of postings on KiteBuilder.com forums has been discussing setting Kite altitude records. The following are some extracts which we thought you may find interesting.

Firstly the letter that triggered the discussions.

Dear Bob,

My name is Karina Ersov an I'm working for a Tresor Television, a TV Production company in Germany. While I was researching I came across your amazing website, that helped me a lot!

We are currently working on a TV show concerning Kite Flying and if it is possible to break the current Guinness World Record by Richard P. Synergy.

I read about your several attempts and think that you have a really great knowledge regarding kites!

Since I'm at the beginning of my research and I still have troubles understanding the processes and techniques that are involved in kite flying, I'd be very very thankful, if you'd help me out and if you could answer some questions. Since I'm not a physicist I'd be great if you could explain everything as simple as possible.

We were wondering, if it is possible to get a kite to 10 000m? Do you believe that this could be possible, if we'd have all perfect engineering, technology, technique, money, the perfect weather etc.? In a perfect situation: is it possible to get a kite to 10 000 m?

- What do I need in order to get my kite to the highest altitude?
- How big should the kite be? (length, diameter)
- How thick/long can the line be?
- Which fabrics should be used?
- Which locations are perfect for an attempt? (mountains, valleys, deserts (Nevada?), windy places, sunny places)
- Other important informations?

Thank you very very very much in advance. I hope you can help me with my research.

Responses from R Moore.

Thank you for your interest. Our kite has flown to 14,188 ft above ground level, an unofficial single kite record. I will try to answer your questions comprehensively but as simply as I can.

The type of kites we use were chosen after trials of several designs and mostly were selected by impressively high flying angles and high line tension. Cost, ease of assembly and transport are 3 other factors. Although we use the Dunton-Taylor deltas (DT del-

tas) because of their simplicity, ease of assembly, efficiency and excellent flying characteristics, there may well be better designs or enhancements to current and old designs that could reach record altitudes. These would be needed to be designed, built and tested. This is very time consuming and probably would be a full time exercise best using industrial design facilities and wind tunnels. They are made from Ripstop nylon skin and a fiberglass tube from. The total weight is 3,000 gm without instruments and 3,500 gm with. The Ripstop nylon commonly comes in 2 grades, 0.75 and 1.5 wt. We use the 1.5 w.t because of strength and durability. The kites are constructed professionally by Mike Richards of Kite Magic who is also one of our team members. The DT delta kites have proved very robust and have withstood 55 knot (110 kph) winds. The older designs such as those used by the German Weather services at Lindenburg have merit and could be suitable for a single kite record if built with modern materials such as Carbon fiber spars and Ripstop nylon skin flown on modern super strong braided line. A train of 8 of these kites still has the absolute record of 31,955 ft set in 1919.

Parafoils have greater efficiency than our kites but do not recover after collapsing in turbulent or gentle winds.

The line we use is the thinnest, strongest for it's diameter and weight and is affordable for an amateur team. My line is between 180 lb (86 kg) and 300 lb (141 kg) braided Dyneema. The diameter is from 0.65 mm to 0.8 mm. We were sponsored with Dyneema fibers from DSM Dyneema in Holland and manufactured by Cousin-Trestec in France. We use 12,000 meters of Dyneema braided line per reel but so far our maximum length released on a flight is about 9,000 meters. In my opinion, Ultra High Molecular Weight Polyethylene line, such as Dyneema or Spectra braid, are the best lines to use for high altitude flight because of high strength, low weight and most importantly, low aerodynamic drag. They do have to be handle carefully as they have relatively low melting temperatures. They are also too slippery to handle with anything but a winch and reel.

To verify and track the kite at high altitude, GPS telemetry is needed. Telescopes and binoculars are helpful but only with no clouds.

The size of the kite is a compromise to some extent. In theory, the larger the kite the better the ratio between line drag and kite lift. However, larger spars kites become proportionally heavier and so negate some of the line drag to lift area advantage. Parafoils, or kites that have no spars (solid tubes) do not have that problem but still have potential unreliability of inflation and unrecoverable collapse in turbulent or very light winds. We chose our kite size based on calculations and estimates of how high we could fly a non-factory built kite with readily available materials.

Altitude Record Attempt?

Another consideration is the larger the kite, the greater the pull, the bigger the line, the bigger the winch, bigger motor, bigger inverter, bigger generator. A larger kite is more expensive, more difficult to launch and harder to transport. My calculations indicated a 12 sq meter kite would break the record of 14,509 ft and in ideal conditions, fly as high as 22,000 ft above ground level.

To fly a single kite to 32,500 ft above ground level would require a 30 sq meter kite and 300 kg line plus ideal winds of course. It is difficult to find consistent winds from ground to 20,000 ft and above. To find the type of winds that would support high altitude flight needs expert advice from weather scientists or time consuming research on sites such as Wyoming University. Any of the sites that have the daily balloon soundings will provided the data. Windy sites for normal kite flying won't often support flights over a few thousand feet. Any "calm" zones thicker than 1 - 2,000 ft will effectively provide a barrier to higher flights. There is a range of winds that will support kite flying but it is narrower for our kites because a high altitude kite has to be heavier and stronger to withstand higher winds. We need winds from 6 - 20 knots at ground level and at 15,000 ft, because of lower air density, about 10 - 35 knots. At 30,000 ft the air density is only 20% of sea level so the wind needs to be 50 knots + to support a kite and all the line weight plus drag which is the most important force limiting kite altitude. Locations such as desert and any open area including oceans would be good for launch and up to 10,000 ft. Above 10,000 ft it depends more on the latitude and time of year as to the prevailing wind direction and speed. Once the kite and line issues are resolve it is the wind that determines record altitudes or not. Given unlimited money and resources than I could break the record within 12 months. Another issue is regulation and bureaucracy which has to be overcome in any developed country.

Further Questions.

Thank you very very much for your help and the great explanations! I have another questions concerning Carbon nano tubes. I read that they might be very helpful when it comes to Kite constructions. Could you explain me why and if you use them as well?

What do you think is the best location for Kite flying? I read about the Christmas Islands?

The response.

No, we don't use Carbon Nanotubes (CNT) products and I will be unlikely to in my lifetime. My understanding of Carbon Nanotubes is that they are at an early stage of development into products. The range of useful forms of this technology is very limited although industrial engineers, chemists and scientists

are working constantly to expand the range of CNT products forms. In theory CNT can be made into long fibers that then can be made into very long, thin and extremely strong string and rope. It has been proposed to be so strong that it can support over 350 km of a uniform diameter line and so an object in 100 km earth orbit could be tethered to earth by it. In theory it is more than 100 times stronger than the current synthetic fibers. This high tech line is only one theoretic use for CNT and it will be some time before CNT products will be common place in our consumer world.

At the moment the strongest fibers for high altitude kite flying line are made from Ultra High Molecular Weight Polyethylene (Dyneema, Spectra). Line made from Kevlar has similar specific strength but is 40% heavier. There is only an automatic weather station on Christmas Island and no weather balloon flights to measure wind as far as I know. It is difficult to say if it is a suitable location for high altitude flights. It is a similar latitude to Broom on the northwest coast of Australia and from the few soundings I have seen, is not particularly noteworthy for suitable winds. Christmas Island may well have good steady ground winds but that is only good for launch and is not an indicator for suitable winds throughout the target height profile. I have investigated a number of Southern Hemisphere locations including the Cook Islands in the South Pacific but although this location has excellent trade winds, they usually only penetrate to 10,000 feet above sea level then winds have reduced velocity that will not support higher flights.

Anywhere adjacent to the "roaring forties", a zone south of Africa, Southern Indian Ocean, Southern Australia and South Pacific would be subject to strong steady westerly winds. In choosing a location, the winds need to be studied over a protracted period using weather station balloon data from ground to high altitude. Too little wind and the kite won't rise. Too much wind and it is damaged or won't fly well. The northern hemisphere may have an equivalent zone to the roaring forties.

I don't actually want to fly in winds of the roaring forties but adjacent to them where they are not so violent.

Northern Europe seems to be a good prospect for high altitude flights, after all, that is where the 31,955 ft record flight was made in 1919. Holland is good for wind sports and may well have ideal winds to 30,000 ft +. There are thousands of sites world wide that have steady winds for regular kite flying and other wind sports but there is are much fewer that have the right wind from ground to 35,000 ft. Conversely it is of no use to have perfect winds above 1,000 ft if ground winds are calm. At my location in far west NSW, Australia, 10% of days have ideal wind to 15,000 ft, 20% are marginal and 70% will not result in altitudes above 10,000 feet and many days will not have winds strong

Altitude Record Attempt?

enough for launch. There is also an ideal wind range for our conventional kites and they have one of the widest wind ranges of any current designs. This range is 6 knots minimum for launch, 10 knots minimum ground equivalent for sustained flight, 15 knots ideal, 25 knots ground equivalent maximum and 35 knots maximum before damage risk. Our kites have tolerated 59 knots with minor damage but this is way beyond the point where efficient flight is possible. So I look for 12 - 20 knots ground equivalent as an ideal wind range. The allowable wind range will increase with altitude because air density drops as you go up.

For instance a 20 knot wind at sea level has the same energy as a 40 knot wind at 18,000 ft. Similarly a 20 knot wind at 18,000 ft has half the energy of a 20 knot wind at sea level. This is because the density of air decreases by 50 % by 18,000 ft above sea level. Suitability of locations for conducting high altitude flights are also governed by air space regulations and proximity of flight paths.

In summary, I cannot say if any particular location has good wind unless I study the wind data (if it exists). I doubt Christmas Island has good winds for high altitude flight but it may well have good winds for flights to 5,000 or 10,000 ft but I am not interested in those altitudes. Mountain waves can also be used to boost glider altitudes and potentially kite altitudes as well. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lee_wave

This site has world wide weather data from balloon flights: <http://weather.uwyo.edu/upperair/sounding.html>. Unfortunately high altitude kite flying is not so simple.

Another question

I have another question concerning your winch. You wrote on your website that you use winches, because it is difficult to handle the lines, which are made out of Dyneema. Do you think it is still possible to handle a kite with bare hands? For example 6 men, that handle the kite with the help of something like a harness?

Have you ever tried to do it without the machines? Did Synergy do it with machines as well?

How many people are necessary to hold a kite at the altitude of 10km?

Is it necessary to bring the kite down again, in order to beat the world record? I mean, do we have to get the kite down at all or is the old world record beaten, as soon as the kite is higher than Synergy's?

If we'd have several groups who would compete against each other: how big should the location/area be? How big should the safety distance be between one group to another? (1km – more or less?)

You said, that you'd be able to beat the record within a year, if you'd have an unlimited budget. How much

is an "unlimited budget" approximately?

We're currently looking for people and teams, that would be interested in taking part in our show and we're looking for experts like you and your friends. It's an international event with many teams from all over the world. We are still researching and trying to understand the complexity of kites, but I think that your team is great and believe that you have an amazing knowledge.

So would you guys, hypothetically, be interested in a show like that?

The response this time.

The maximum pull of the line was measured at 60 kg. While it is possible for one person to hold this force for a few minutes we are talking about 12 hours. Even 20 people would get tired after a few hours of holding 3 kg. However it's not so much the line tension but this Dyneema line is very very thin and slippery. It would be almost impossible to manage by hand. It is essential to use a reel and winch. I have flown small kites using Dyneema and Spectra but not the large kites as they are almost impossible to be held by gloved human hand. I made a mistake once and wrapped a gloved hand around Dyneema line then a sudden gust of wind and I was in danger of losing my fingers.

Experts who fly very large kites at festivals tie the lines to an anchor (400 kg+ sandbag) and then launch the kite. They don't handle the line during flights apart from bringing the kite down but then they have a method of depowering the kite.

We use a winch system because of the difficulty of handling such long line lengths. The line is stored under low tension because have line wound under high tension may cause a storage reel to collapse from accumulated pressure or line damage. Richard Synergy used a winch system similar to mine with storage reel and capstan. For multiple high altitude kite flyers, 200 meters lateral separation would be enough. An unlimited budget would be \$1 million. Plenty would be \$200,000. Just enough would be \$100,000. That is, to achieve the record within 1 year and set it above 20,000 ft for a single kite.

It has take me 9 years with limited time and money and we missed 3 years. I have valuable support from a number of companies. It's not just money but the luck of wind conditions. If I could camp on our flying field for 6 months I am sure we could break the record unequivocally. Time is money.

Jesse Gerensen, a guy from the Czech Republic, now lives in the USA. He is actively attempting kite altitude records and can give a different perspective of high altitude kites. Hypothetically we would be interested.

Single Skin Single Line Kite—Peter Lynn

NO STICKS, NO TUBES, NO RAM AIR INFLATION, NO TAIL, SINGLE LINE. THE SSSL (SINGLE SKIN SINGLE LINE KITE) IS COMING TO YOUR KITE FIELD.

Late last year I had a very serious discussion with myself about an in-house equivalent.

It wasn't easy; it's always difficult to get grumpy old men to part with their hard won time and money and I can be really difficult to convince sometimes, especially when I'm wrong.

But eventually I agreed with myself that a single skin single line (SSSL) kite might be possible and would be a useful thing, so I allowed myself to give it a try.

The advantages such a kite could have over ram air inflated styles are; requiring less wind, more pull for size, cheaper and easier to make and no internal spaces to collect water, snow or ice. Its advantage over framed kites is scalability (even carbon fibre framed kites become too heavy- or too fragile- above about 10 square metres).

The disadvantage is that its angle of attack will need to be uncomfortably high so as to hold the leading edge shape against wind pressure in the absence of either rigid struts or inflated spaces. As a consequence of this, its centre of pressure will of necessity be almost at the centre of gravity, making stability difficult to achieve.

A bonus is that kites with completely rigid leading edges can use highly cambered sections without showing any luffing tendencies at all while kites with span wise rigidifying elements in their leading edges (CQuads, parafoils and LEI's for example) luff* uncontrollably when they have highly cambered profiles. I belatedly noticed this when developing the **Skin** four line traction kites last year, but evidence for this (NPW's for example) has been out there for at least 30 years. The **Skin** has this desirable characteristic, as will the high performance (but complex and expensive) single skin traction kites that I expect to be available from various manufacturers soon (Flysurfer's **Peak** is on the market now).

I don't know why single skin kites have inherent luff resistance (lots of theories though, some of which have been covered in the patent application I made for the Skins last year), it's counter intuitive, but there are two very considerable advantages for the hooked- down leading edge profiles that can be used with single skin kites as a consequence of this characteristic: more pull for size (at least double), and lower stall speed (they fly in less wind).

SSSL Prototype 3 flew well in steady onshore Nelson winds in January, but its leading edge wouldn't hold

form above 25km/hr. After this I sort of wandered off into the wilderness with the next 9 attempts, hopelessly lost and under notice from the angel investor (me) that second round support was not secure. Fortunately, 13 put the series back on the road to the promised land and hallelujah! 14 is unequivocal proof that single skin single line kites (sans tails, ram air spaces and rigidifying elements) are practical.

Good wind range, excellent L/D, astonishing pull, but only adequate reliability so far when flown tailless. It's not quite of the style (sled) that I'd been striving for, but hey, I'll take the low hanging fruit for now and keep working away on other types.

Along the way I did get a single skin Arc style kite to a marginally useable level, but as for all the sled style attempts, tip collapse was always a lurking problem.

In the usual San Fran style, I'm not exactly sure what the applications for this great idea are yet, but I'm boundlessly optimistic that there will be some:

Probably pilot and lifter kites.

And possibly wings for soft theme kites such as aeroplanes, dragons, birds, butterflies and etc- and maybe soft kite versions of Asian Wau type kites. Ram air inflated wings for all these styles have not generally been successful because of their unstoppable tendency to overfly the body and wrap around the kite's nose. Single skin wings won't do this.

At the least, SSSL's will be a new creative opportunity for kite artists (excuse me for a moment, I just have to go and wash my mouth out with soap).

And, of course, I've learnt some things that will further improve the **Skin** (4 line single skin traction kite).

PETER LYNN, SATUN, MARCH 1, 2014

*Luff; when a kite's angle of attack becomes suddenly negative and the line(s) go loose.



Portsmouth 2014

Portsmouth International Kite Festival

Despite imposing some budget cuts Portsmouth City Council continues to support the kite festival. This year the festival will take place Saturday 23rd & 24th August, with Monday 25th August reserved for free flying at Southsea Common, Portsmouth. One thing has been noted in recent years—the limited number of kite fliers who fly kites on the Monday. Whilst it is understood that people have to travel—particularly if they have come a long distance, those who are more local (and you know who you are) plus those who are camping need to utilise the area on Monday and fly kites.

The theme this year is going to be Historic Kites—focussing on the period up to and including the Great War—as 2014 is the 100th anniversary of the start of the conflict. We will have an exhibition tent and ground display area for original and replica kites (or modern day versions). We are looking at new guests for the festival who have historical kites, as well as an exciting collection of returning and new kitefliers. Watch the web site for details.

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 name and car registration number. please note that each pass will be specific to you and NOT transferable. Your name and registration number will be printed 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 main festival site but once unloaded, you MUST move your car to the car park. The car park is located on the right as you enter the site from the Clarence Esplanade, near the War Memorial. The entrance will be manned enabling 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.

Camping is not officially permitted on site by the council. This year the festival is again being run in conjunction with Seafront Services but unfortunately, they are being pressured by local residents and councillors to reduce the number of campers once again and as such we are unlikely to have camping passes available beyond specifically invited kite fliers.

Please understand both their and our positions on this. It is an unfortunate fact that the participation of the campers is not, over the past few years, what it could have been and when local

councillors walk past and make comments like “all I saw was people sitting around all day, talking and generally hanging around in the campsite and from my point of view, not flying kites”.

Once we finalise the guest list there may be some passes available to other kitefliers. The process and rules are:

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

A ballot will be used to allocate any spare passes. Therefore anyone who wishes to enter the ballot **MUST** request a pass from us together with the vehicle registration number. Seaside Services also require the **size of the unit**, so please include this information.

All requests for camping must be with us by **31st May**. We will notify both successful and unsuccessful people by the **8th June**.

It is important to note that this concession is only between **Friday 22nd August 10am until Tuesday 26th August noon**. You will be moved if you arrive earlier or stay later. Please do not abuse this concession.

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

If you are one of the keen ones and already sent your request—please send it again with the additional details requested above..

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.

The nearest alternative camp site is Southsea Leisure Park, Melville Rd, Southsea PO4 9TB

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.

Event News

North Hants Kiter's Jolly Up 14 April 26th/27th
Gate open from 12noon on the Friday

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 Cliddesden, just south of Basingstoke (not far from J6 of the M3).

On-site camping is available from Friday mid-day onwards (£8 per tent/camper for Fri and Sat night).

The Saturday evening food will be the BBQ, tickets available on the weekend-(£7.00 and please try to bring a plate and cutlery!) Once again we will be doing Jacket Potatoes for those interested at lunchtimes over the weekend, and Bacon rolls will be available on both mornings.

The Auction will once again be held on the Saturday evening, and any donations gratefully received before or on the week-end (*before 4pm please* if possible to give us time to set it all up)

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.

(The dates for this same event taking place later this year again are Aug 2nd and 3rd)

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

Basingstoke Kite Festival 7th & 8th June

At Down Grange Sports Complex, Pack Lane, Basingstoke. From 10am to 5 pm (both

days)

Come along and help us to celebrate our 22nd 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 WILDLIFE for those who'd like 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 pre-book and pay on the Saturday morning, from the Raffle Team as available numbers are very limited!)

Camping is available on the Friday and Saturday evenings for £10.00 (payable on the weekend). You will be able to get onsite from 1pm onwards on the Friday, no earlier please! (Council stipulation) There are Showers and Toilet facilities on site.

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

Contact: Alan Cosgrove (Main festival Organiser) 01256 421800

Roy Broadley (Kites Up) 01256 812487

29th June—Herne Bay Kite Festival, Memorial Park Kings Road Herne Bay, Kent
From 11am to 5 pm

This is a joint venture with the Herne Bay Projects Group in regard to a one day event in the town. The Herne Bay team are looking at this being a long term project, developing into a two day festival with additional funding being provided.

There will be access to the flying area and parking for cars, but all attendees will need a pass. There will be no camping allowed on

the park overnight, but there are local campsites.

Due to the limitations of the park although a good size, it will not be appropriate to fly large inflatables.

With the decline in kiting events due to sponsorship issues it is important to support any initiative to commence a new event

Contact Malcolm Ford, Kent Kite Flyers mob 0 7 8 4 0 0 8 6 7 7 0 e - m a i l malcolmf@kentkiteflyers.com

The Ron Dell Kite Festival at Teston Country Park, Nr Maidstone 9/10th August

After the sad passing of Ron Dell who raised the profile of kite flying with his wife Pat and Kiteability, it has been decided that the Big Kite Event at Teston be renamed in celebration of Ron and his contribution to bringing people into kiting over the years.

As usual and continuing on from the many years the event has been running, it is a time for kite flyers to socialise and intermingle with the public and encouraging them into kite flying. In Ron's words it is about "Sharing the love" which he did to every-one he met.

Camping will be a donation of £10 per pitch of up to 4 persons. Camping again will be from Friday morning 8th August, until the following Monday morning.

As for the June event a provisional date had been set for June 14/15th. Many will have noticed that the event has been cancelled in the various kite calendars, which was down to lack of sponsorship and also to the Country Park being declared not fit for heavy use due to the effects of the winter rains. Although not fit for an event, there is hope that there will be informal flying over the week-end of June without any camping or parking on the field.

Contact Malcolm Ford, Kent Kite Flyers, mob. 0 7 8 4 0 0 8 6 7 7 0 e - m a i l malcolmf@kentkiteflyers.com

Bristol Kite Festival 2014

Organisers behind the Bristol International Kite Festival have confirmed the event will be taking a break this year. The festival will return in 2015 to coincide with the European Green Capital events and will be held every two years from then on. The move comes in a bumper year for festivals in the city, with more than one per week planned for the spring and summer.

The renowned kite festival has been running for 28 years, taking only two fallow years – one due to the foot and mouth outbreak in 2001 and one for the Queen's Jubilee and the Olympics in 2012. By taking another break this year, Avril Baker, one of the festival's organisers, said the event would return stronger in 2015.

She said: "Following a highly successful festival in 2013 the organising team has, after much consideration, decided to give this year a miss and instead to focus our efforts on planning for 2015 which will also mark Bristol's year as European Green Capital City.

"As many of you will know the festival is still run by a core team of hard working friends and volunteers and has become a major event to organise on top of family and full-time work commitments.

"We will also not be running a festival at Weston Beach this year for the same reason.

"By running the Bristol event every two years in future, like some other major festivals, it gives us more time to plan ahead and manage these other commitments.

"Kites will still feature in around Bristol this year and we are looking to participate in other events over the summer by offering activities such as kite-making workshops and displays."

Barriletes Gigantes—Paul Chapman



We were somewhere south of the Yangtze river; south of Enshi in a wilderness of old Maoist villages where some of the houses are built on stilts and many have the portrait of the Great Helmsman fixed proudly in the open hallway. We had trundled into one of these villages when I shouted "STOP, stop, stop!" Of course it was a few minutes before the cry was translated and we stopped a little way beyond an amazing house. It was amazing because I had seen the same sight at Dieppe in 2001. Here was a traditional Chinese village house covered in the Giant Kites of Guatemala. But we were not in Guatemala. The great paper and bamboo disks were covered in bunches of brightly coloured paper flowers. "It is for a funeral; it is better not to photograph here because it would upset the local people, and anyway we do not speak the local language. It is a tradition that we thought did not exist any longer". It was true. The local people were wearing white. White is the funeral colour.

Houston is a problem. I spent an unnecessary night in Houston as the airport immigration people were having a party and probably 300 people missed their flights. The local hotels did well. Guatemala City is rated as one of the most dangerous places in the world but there was no problem. I was met by my Maya friends and bundled into an ancient Chinese Wulan mini-bus and trundled out of the city, past the volcano and into nearby Sumpango

Sacatepequez. I later found out that 2,000 people had died in Sumpango when the earthquake had knocked down the town about 15 years ago. It is a breeze block village now. We stopped at Sara and Vincent's house and this is where I lived for ten days. A villa with secure walls; a view from the roof of the volcano quietly erupting; Vincent climbing the guava tree for fresh fruit and serenading me with Maya gospel songs over long and enjoyable breakfasts. Sumpango was no problem. Julio had already informed the police.

Julio. Julio is a Happy Boy. He had been with the group that called itself "Happy Boy's" and is now the Treasurer of the Comite of the Barriletes Gigantes of Sumpango Sacatepequez. He is a maths teacher and knows everyone. Julio was my host.



Barriletes Gigantes—Paul Chapman

My idea was to make a photo-documentary of the giant kites, not just attend the Day of the Dead Kite Festival. They make the kites at night, when it is dark. Photography is a challenge. We would set off in the evening and visit the kitemakers. The town hall has a huge auditorium and had been mostly taken over by Happy Boy's who were making the components of their big kite. Other groups operated from the town hall too, some upstairs and one group had commandeered a side room. Another group was working from what I thought was a bedroom, but was actually the family living accommodation that must have also functioned as a temporary chapel. Yet another group worked out of a bedroom and when we left the house we had to walk quickly and quietly because someone might see us. One evening we left the town hall after midnight and Julio took me across the street to the police station. We were assigned two policemen (one was actually a pretty tough looking woman) and they donned flak jackets, picked up their machine guns, deposited me in their armoured Jeep and took me back up the lighted main street to my fortified home. Sumpango was no problem, or it wasn't for me.

They take three months to make the kites. I was there for ten days. The youth groups are really



gangs. In times past, when the Maya genocide was taking place, the Maya were hit pretty hard. Villages disappeared along with the people. When it stopped the young people had very little work, but a strong gang culture. They had an idea in Sumpango...they had always flown kites. Julio's father had taught him to make kites and his father had taught him and so it goes on. These kites were made of *Papel de China*, Chinese tissue and the sticks came from local reeds. There had been kites in Sumpango for ever. The idea in Sumpango was that the gangs should become youth groups and that they could make big kites together. And now these young gangs make enormous kites out of *Papel de China* and stick them with bamboo. The Happy Boy's kite was going to be 22 metres tall! That is a lot of paper, a lot of designing, a lot of organising. I met Carlos. He was the team leader, although the teams don't have formal leaders. Carlos led by his brilliance and respect. The team comprised about ten teenagers aged from 11 upwards. The young ones did the cutting out and then they stuck the bits of tissue onto white tissue backing which itself used a paper template as a guide. The various parts were pre-assembled. I have one of the templates for one of the angels. It is about 12 ft long and comprises sheets of used medical document papers stuck together. The template is printed on



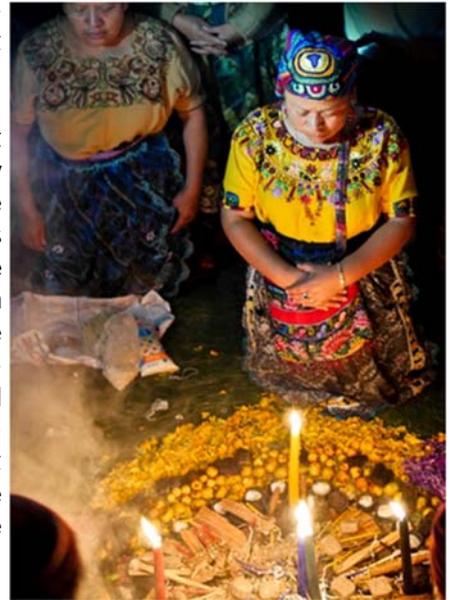
the blank side. It was done in CAD! In the case of the Happy Boy's, the design is of the Maya butterfly that takes the spirits to the heavens. Grandparents look out of the wings while the central figure is a giant Christ like figure robed in the traditional Sumpango attire. The Maya ladies will inspect the textile decoration later in the competition. Two rather robust angels act as escorts and the winged Maya Griffon flies above the dying pool to protect the dead. Perhaps not unsurprisingly most of the participants seem to be beautiful maidens; it is a boys club! And below the dead slinks the subterranean serpent. The kite is full of Maya significance. All of the

kites were. Julio told me that the theme for this year was a celebration of life. It is all to do with celebrating the ancestors, respecting the elders and, along the way, learning about teamwork, co-

Barriletes Gigantes—Paul Chapman

operation and just having a lot of fun. There were, not unsurprisingly, a lot of local girls at the festival so being a *barriletero* is not unrewarding.

On the evening of the day before the *Día de los Muertos* we went to the cemetery. I had been there before when people were busy painting the tombs and whitewashing the graves; yes, white is the Maya colour for the dead. The sun was setting and the view across the surrounding volcanoes stunning. Behind me there was the sound of a penny whistle and a big drum. The procession led to an arbour where the women laid out the white sugar circle on the ground, surrounded it with special pine firelighters, candles representing the elements, special food for the dead (as in China) and laid a wreath of marigold petals around the whole lot. The ceremony was accompanied sometimes by the whistle band, but mostly it was a monologue accompanied with smoke and fire, while outside the continuous sheet lightning silhouetted the volcanoes. There was no rain.



They would not let me go to the forest to gather the enormous poles to be used to support the giant kites. It was too dangerous because it had to take place in the dead of night. The poles were later sunk into the football field.

Julio and I went first to the cemetery to meet his family at the grave. The whole town were there. Everyone was looking smart and the women beautiful in their local colours. We walked up the hill following teams of *barrileteros* carrying massive bundles of bamboo.



The kites are only made for one day. On the 1st of November the bones have to be assembled. The kite skin is rolled out under the bones, face down, and then attached to the bones. It is done in public and under the watchful eye of the village girls. The bones are enormous so they get to see the strongest young men. Then the kites must be erected. Ropes are thrown over projecting sticks on the support poles and attached to the kite. There are rope men and kite guides; the scene is frenetic. It is hard work pulling the kites into place and there is much cheering. Hearts are broken. The kites are arranged with the big ones at the back (where there is a sharp drop to a gully making it extremely hard to get the mechanical advantage for the erection) and several rows leading to the youngsters' kites. The small ones are only about 2 metre across. They only fly the kites that are less than 6 metres because of the chance of mass destruction; it is, after all, a dusty football field with 50,000 spectators.



I missed the gust of wind that blew out a lot



Barriletes Gigantes—Paul Chapman

of the big kites. I was on the hillside with the families enjoying the day out, sampling the local food and being offered incredible bargains. I returned to see a sight of carnage. Torn and ripped *Papel de China* that had taken three months to assemble was being hastily taped back together. Spirits rose, as did the kites and most of them stood again. But the skinless bones of some must have meant that they missed out on the competition. The competition comes in several categories according to size, with the Happy Boy's having the biggest kite. The marking also came in categories which meant that the non-fliers missed out on the flying points. They scored elsewhere.

The field was black with people so watching and photographing the flying was a bit tricky. On the other end of the field from the wind break of standing kites was a small cliff. It was crowded with people. It was about a metre wide. Just big enough for someone to sit with their feet dangling over

the precipice while others stood with their backs to the wall. There was a half person gap in between. I must have dislodged a few of the sitters into the melee but no matter. The kites were rising up the cliff face and we would do a Guatemalan Wave as the cloth tail would clip our heads. The field below was small, and with the windbreak. Beyond that there was a marvelous view of the volcanoes. The kites were set up for a long launch but there was nowhere to run. Only a few escaped the wind break. The others would go up, the crowd would retake the launching space and then the kite would wobble for a bit. The *barrileteros* would fall down exhausted and the kite would dive into the crowd. Then the cheering started.



Later on I was hit by a kite. It was a small one, only about 4 metres across. It swept in sideways quite fast. I put up my hand to protect my face and pushed it away. It was on the ground with a head-sized hole in the skin. Three months of work for one flight...but what a flight! After that I stood by the football posts.

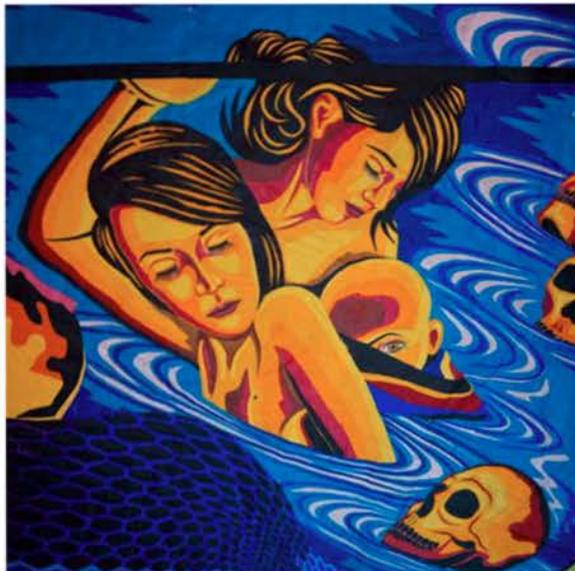
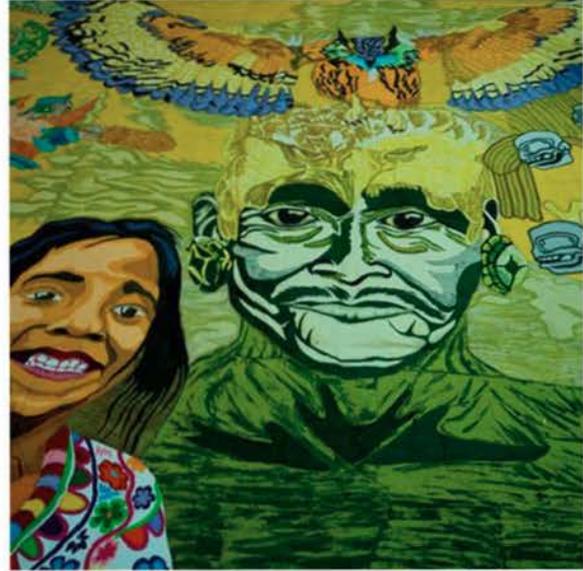


Thanks to Julio I had a wonderful time. The kites, the volcanoes, the kite workshop in the town on the edge of the most beautiful lake in the world, itself an extinct volcanic caldera fed by waterfalls cascading down the hillside. I was kept safe, sometimes by armed guards and sometimes by skilful driving as we narrowly missed the night-time rock falls and mudslides on the tortuous Pan-American Highway. The Pan-American! We stopped the van so I could take a photo of the volcanoes. I had my back turned. Turned around and there were four machine-gun toting heavy policemen

who were rather hoping that they would rescue me from my hostage takers! They posed for their photo though.

Julio helped me to do what I had wanted. The photo-book can be seen in BobBooks under the title *Barriletes Gigantes*; it is an expensive process so I suppose only Julio and I will have copies. More photos appear in my Guatemala album on Facebook and there are a few on Flickr. In some ways the experience confirmed what I had suspected. That the *Barriletes Gigantes* have their origins in South East Asia; that they carry stories and culture from Polynesia and that somehow they have been successfully subverted into the Spanish Christian festival of All Saints Day. It was no surprise to find that Sumpango Sac was one of the original Spanish fortified towns and that alongside the volcanic lake was the smaller volcano that provided the gold for the Spanish to plunder. Sumpango's festival is, of course, a recent event; a restorative response to the genocide.

Barriletes Gigantes—Paul Chapman



Heart (Valentine) Kite—Johan van Eeckhout

The best way to make a valentine kite is with a shower cap but shower caps are difficult to get and always too small. So I made a rip stop version. It takes about 60 min to make this kite and if you are fast +- ... 40 min.

The tail is +- 5cm wide and +- 5 or 6 M long. It's my first kite plan ever so sorry if not complete. For info about making this kite please mail to jova@skynet.be or indiankiteflyers@gmail.com.

Please make this kite and comment on it ... so I can learn ☺

The modeling balloons you can buy in a retail or toy store.

09 02 2014 www.kitesarefun.be

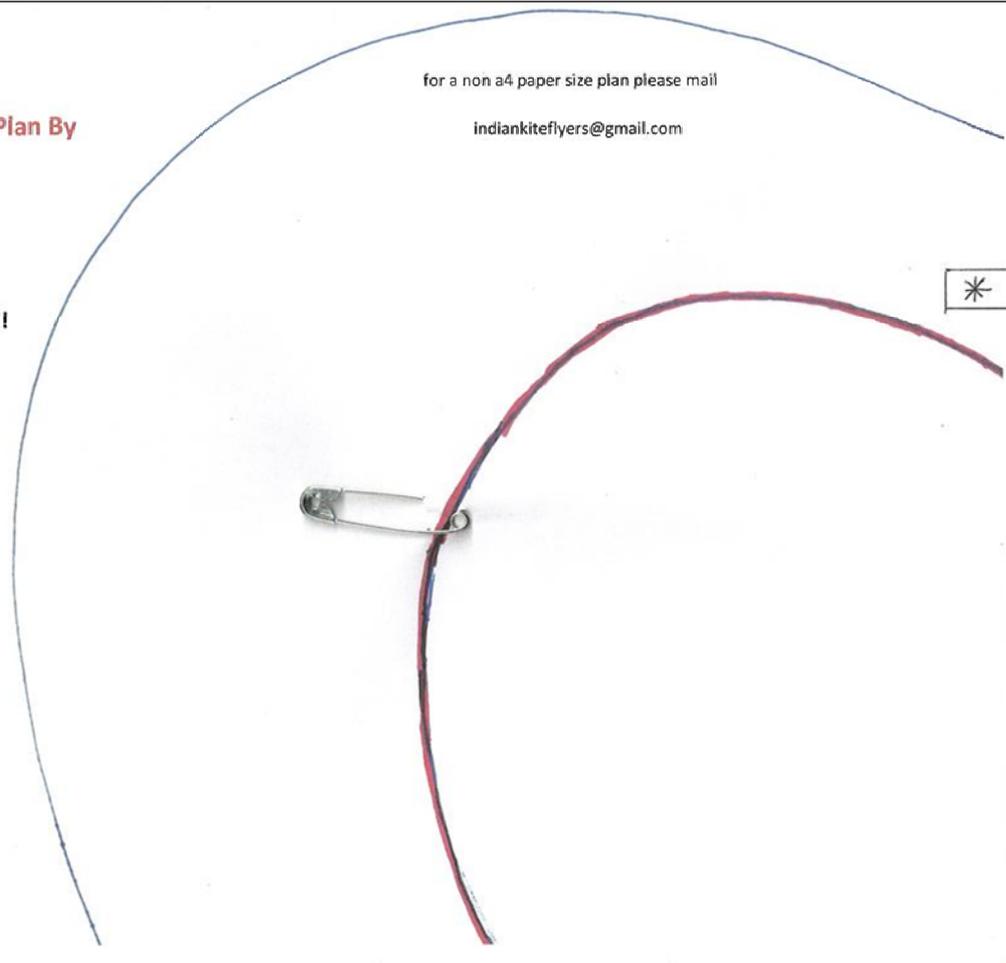
for a non a4 paper size plan please mail
indiankiteflyers@gmail.com

Spinnaker Valentine Kite Plan By Johan Van Eeckhout

A Valentine gift to all our kite friends around the world!

Needed materials

- 1) A Printer
- 2) Scissors
- 3) Spinnaker Tissue
- 4) Sewing Machine
- 5) A Modeling Balloon
- 6) A Little Pump
- 7) Safety Pin
- 8) Some Kite Line



VK 1

www.kitesarefun.be

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Johan Van Eeckhout

A Valentine gift to all our kite friends around the world!

Needed materials

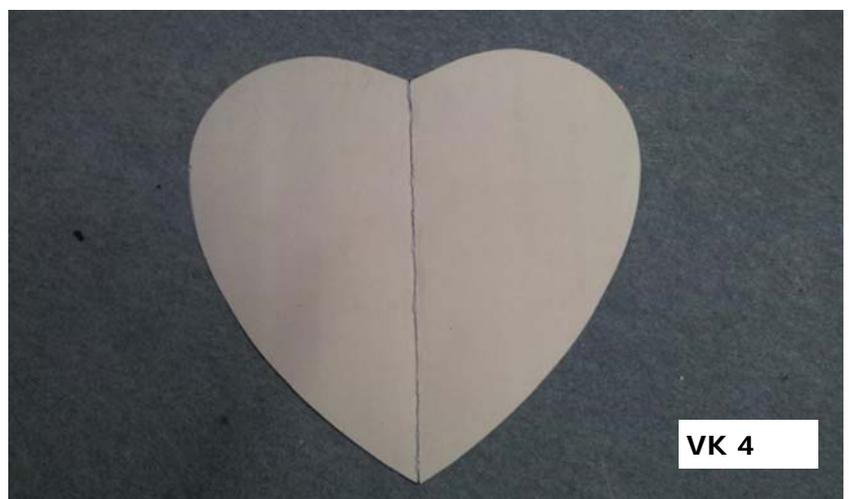
- 1) A Printer
- 2) Scissors
- 3) Spinnaker Tissue
- 4) Sewing Machine
- 5) A Modeling Balloon
- 6) A Little Pump
- 7) Safety Pin
- 8) Some Kite Line

Construction

- 1) Print VK2.jpg
- 2) Print VK1.jpg
- 3) Connect VK1 and VK2 together
- 4) Cut half of the heart template
- 5) Also cut the keel out
- 6) Transfer the template on double spinnaker
- 7) For the front part make 3 air seams
- 8) Put the keel between the seams
- 9) See rest of pictures ☺

*If you don't want to cut a keel then trim
The top and bottom with ~ 80 cm of rope

VK 3



VK 4

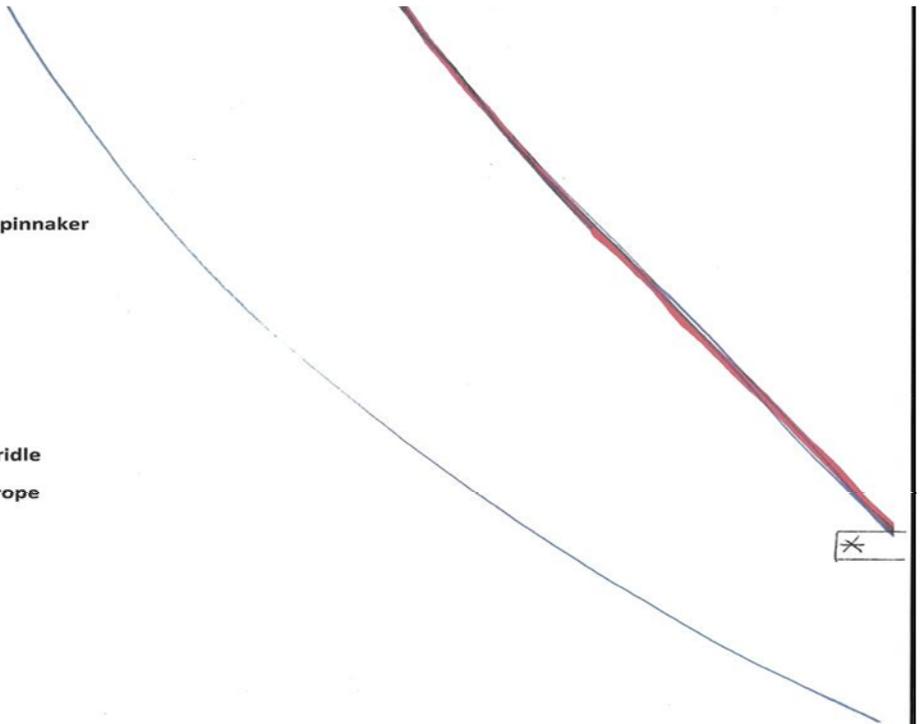
Heart (Valentine) Kite—Johan van Eeckhout

Construction

- 1) Print VK1.jpg
- 2) Print VK2.jpg
- 3) Connect vk1 and vk2 together
- 4) Cut half of the heart template
- 5) Also cut the keel out
- 6) Transfer the template on double spinnaker
- 7) For the first part make 1 cm seam
- 8) Put the keel between the seam
- 9) See rest of pictures ☺

* If you don't want to use a keel then bridle
The top and bottom with +/- 80 cm of rope

VK 2



From The News on Sunday (Pakistan).

Women mean business.

Home-based women kite makers need government's acknowledgement of the industry's export potential.

Women in the kite-making sector usually have zero growth in their productive activities primarily because of their lack of access to skills enhancement and competitive growth opportunities. They usually do monotonous work without diversifying their skills in line with changing market traditions.

Kites are still being produced, but in smaller numbers and a bit secretively. The markets, these manufacturers say, are cities other than Lahore and abroad. One such destination is the United Arab Emirates (UAE) where a man of Pakistani origin, Haji Amin, has been organising festivals for many years.

While the kite-flying ban is very much there in Lahore, the former kite dealers of the city say it is more lax in places like Muridke, Gujranwala, Faisalabad, Karachi etc.

Khawaja Basharat, a trader at Mochi Gate, says his family had been into kite business for ages but since 2005 they have switched their field of trade. A visit to Karachi reveals that kite sellers do their business openly and it is from there these goods are exported to other countries like United Arab Emirates (UAE). Kites made in Lahore and around also reach this port city.

Another regular customer of kites from Lahore is a community centre in Sunnyvale, California, US with the name Pakistani American Cultural Centre (PACC). The members of the centre are mainly the Pakistani IT professionals working in Silicon Valley and their families. Thousands of miles away from their homeland, they have access to the *manja*-coated thread and paper kites which have become a rare sight in Lahore. The Pakistani community in Silicon Valley has already started its planning for this year's Basant mela.

Keeping in view the huge demand in countries like UAE, USA, and the UK, talks have already been generated on exporting kites abroad and directly linking the HBWs with international markets and with subsidies for women. Talks with the Export Promotion Bureau and Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry are underway.

During the project period, strong advocacy with media and parliamentarians had been carried out. The consultation with the parliamentarians and sharing of the findings of the baseline survey on

women kite makers had very positive impacts on initiating talks on lifting ban on flying, thus paving way for getting work for HBWs in the kite-making industry.

On the Virgin.com website.

The History of the Kite.

Richard Branson is involved with the creation of a ground breaking documentary "With a Kite" where he narrates the inside look to his favourite sport—Kite Surfing.

Adam Boozer and Tim Tewell's self-funded film follows the thrills and spills of some elite riders, but also traces the roots of kitesurfing. Here you can watch a beautiful watercolour cell animation that illustrates the history of human flight via kite. It's a stunning piece of film, and also a fascinating yet simple insight into how flight works. (Search for History of the kite on virgin.com).

Auction News

As part of Eastbourne Auction Rooms two day fine art and collectables sale.

British military interest kite stamped `Britannia` to the wings, possibly a British issue signalling kite, the case also stamped `Britannia`, approximately 5ft. Estimates £40—£60.



Dancing with the Wind, Traditional and Modern Chinese Kites.

Running from 8th March until 8th June.

Traditionally made of silk or hand painted paper over a bamboo frame, kites are a significant part of Chinese culture. For hundreds of years kite flying was thought to bring good luck, prosperity and to ward off evil spirits. Today kite flying is a healthy pastime enjoyed by many. This vibrant collection represents both traditional designs and modern adaptations.

This exhibition has been developed in partnership with the Confucius Institute at the University of Central Lancashire.

Museum of Lancashire, Stanley Street, Preston PR1 4YP.

Bits & Pieces

WW1 Kite Proaganda.

Sent to us by Nicolas Wadsworth.

Intelligence report no. 14 in unit war diary WO 95/1822 reports incident on 8/9th July 1915 of a brown paper kite that was found in the trenches with a message from the Germans which was translated as follows:

"You can fill your trenches with devils – we Germans fear nothing in the world [...] Englishmen, how badly you shoot! [...] You Englishmen – we have wine, sausage, and meat – your Englishmen are hungry and thirsty..."

The quote is from:

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documents/second-batch-first-world-war-diaries.pdf

The Guardian report adds after "...fear nothing in the world, and we Germans await victory.. and ...how badly you shoot! You will be served as the Russian".

The Times of India

This paper published a piece in January titled ! Indian Cinema and Its Kite Content".

The age-old tradition of kite flying is interestingly now emerging as an important component of some major blockbuster and award winning films. Kai Po Che, Patang and Gattu with varied metaphorical inferences have their plots or part of their plots (songs) based on kite flying. Even as colourful kites of all shapes and sizes dot the sky around Independence Day and Makar Sankranti every year, filmmakers find kites to be as attractive as part of the plotline and sometimes dramatic sequences or song shots in the flicks...

Gattu, 2012

Kite flying also forms the ground for Gattu, a children's film directed by Rajan Khosa. He pans the camera around the story of a young boy who wants to win over a mysterious kite in the sky and goes out of his way to achieve this dream.

Fukrey, 2013

In the movie there is a song where young boys send kites over to the girl's terrace with 'Kya tu mujhse friendship karegi?' scrawled on it.

Matru Ki Bijlee Ka Mandola, 2013

The film got mixed reviews, while some called it an electrifying entertainment; others felt that director Vishal Bhardwaj failed to impress. But that didn't stop lead actors Imran Khan and Anushka Sharma from promoting the film, and they did so by flying kites (as part of Makar Sankranti celebrations when the film released).

Patang, 2011

Apart from the title of the film the story starts in Ahmedabad with six people who are taken on an extraordinary journey during India's largest kite festival, Uttarayan. Each year a million kites circle the skies of the old city. This is a story of healing and renewal amid beauty and pain.

Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam, 1999

Sanjay Leela Bansali's epic romance starring Salman Khan, Aishwarya Rai and Ajay Devgn was filmed in Gujarat and was one of the most colourful depictions of Gujarati culture. The song Dheel De was a typical high energy song where a big, fat Gujarati family celebrate Uttarayan as love blooms between the main protagonists

Kai Po Che, 2013

A typical bromance directed by Abhishek Kapoor, Kai Po Che, shot primarily in Gujarat, was based on Chetan Bhagat's The 3 Mistakes of My Life. Kai Po Che is a Gujarati word used when two kites clash and one of them cuts the line of the other. It's a call of victory and the film celebrates the triumph of friendship in turbulent times

Yeh Khula Aasmaan, 2013

Directed by Gitanjali Sinha, Yeh Khula Aasmaan, which is inspired by a real life story focusses on kite flying and revolves around a young boy protagonist's (Avinash) experiences including an extremely challenging phase of life due to academic failures. Avinash feels an immense vacuum which unfortunately his busy parents are unable to fill. In desperation, he visits his grandfather after several years. Being the best kite flyer of his era, his grand dad uses the kite to subtly impart the lessons of life to Avinash.

Kites, 2010

This romantic thriller film directed by Anurag Basu, starring Hrithik Roshan and Barbara Mori in the lead might not have been a BO success, but the story line revolves around star-crossed lovers who want to be free like kites in the azure sky and had its heart warming moments.

1947 —Earth, 1998

A 1998 drama directed by Deepa Mehta, based on Bapsi Sidhwa's Ice Candy Man, Earth was set in pre-1947 India. The song Rut Aa Gayi Re depicts a kite flying scene where Aamir Khan and Nandita Das shared some close moments.

Kati Patang, 1970

Shakti Samanta's romantic classic Kati Patang dealt with the trials and tribulations of a woman, whose life becomes like a directionless kite until she meets the man of her dreams...

From The News on Sunday (Pakistan).***Women mean business.***

Home-based women kite makers need government's acknowledgement of the industry's export potential. Women's equality has made positive gains but the world is still unequal. International Women's Day celebrates the social, political and economic achievements of women while focusing world attention on areas requiring further action.

Inspiring Change is the 2014 theme for our internationalwomensday.com global hub and encourages advocacy for women's advancement everywhere in every way. It calls for challenging the status quo to win equality for women and inspire positive change.

Women in the kite-making sector usually have zero growth in their productive activities primarily because of their lack of access to skills enhancement and competitive growth opportunities. They usually do monotonous work without diversifying their skills in line with changing market traditions.

The women groups from Jhang are being registered as members of HomeNet Pakistan so they are members of a national level network which provides services required by the women enterprises. Several local members have initiated training opportunities for women groups.

In case of alternative businesses by the women folks, HomeNet Pakistan assisted them in selecting the partners and linking with retailers and suppliers. In a few cases, it was the local or community-based member organisation of the network of HomeNet which provided the facilitation. The most important factor in getting the facilitation is the "network and networking" among membership based organisations.

Capacity development activities for the workers in kite making have been conducted around human rights, women's rights etc. The objective was to sensitise them on women's perspectives and issues involved in the whole value chain.

Kites are still being produced, but in smaller numbers and a bit secretly. The markets, these manufacturers say, are cities other than Lahore and abroad. One such destination is the United Arab Emirates (UAE) where a man of Pakistani origin, Haji Amin, has been organising festivals for many years.

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Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary



As you will probably know Weymouth Council have withdrawn funding for kites festivals. There has been much debate surrounding the wisdom of this decision and the short to long term effect this would have upon the prosperity of the town - how soon before it went the way of Clacton or Margate?

Fortunately, some members of the carnival committee saw this event as a possible way of raising money for local charities and a committee was formed. I was asked to stay on in the advisory role I had taken on three years ago and off we went.

The new committee have never been to a kite festival before and have no concept of all the different types of kites and the requirements they demand, nor those of the flyers - and this doesn't make things easy.

All of the things we took for granted before like anchors in the single line arena, barriers, marshals, snacks, signage and even getting the mayor to come along and the social evening all has to be sorted and paid for - even the handouts at the pilots' meeting and the commentary bus itself.

Car passes are another casualty - the council allot twenty per event!

We have, however, managed to get a good deal with the council for the purchase of car passes

There will be three day passes on sale at our pavilion desk for a fiver per ticket - normally it's eight quid a day so five quid for three days ain't that bad!

We have been working extremely hard this year to try and get the things that people have been asking for - including making it more difficult for just anyone to get a beach pass.

Another idea is to try holding the altitude sprint later (11:30) to give people more time to get there and enter. We know about the hold up in rewinding after but we will simply ask all participants to walk forward to the edge of the arena at the end so that the next demo can set up ready.

We even have a different commentator this year!

I'll be travelling down there for 3:00pm on the Friday to meet the JCB who will be placing the sandbags - I welcome suggestions or anyone else coming along to help and advise.

Most flyers have been extremely upbeat in supporting what is basically a new event - old faces returning and new ones staying over the whole weekend - we have a very full main arena program and are looking forward to seeing lots of displays in the single line arena too.

There are some very decent trophies and many categories in which they can be won - Particularly look out - and enter if you like - for the "Weymouth's Got Kite Talent" open trophy.

The guy that takes overall responsibility, Michael McManus, has done amazing things in raising the money and will continue to do so through raffle tickets, program sales and other forms of sponsorship.

There is so much to say but I'll stop now because you can find all the details on the updates page.

The easiest way to get there is to type in [Close Encounters Kites](http://www.closeencounterskites.co.uk) then use the link to the page.

Flying sites or sights

I think I mentioned how the awful weather was stopping even us hardier flyers - those used to going out in all weathers because they had a competition looming - or those just too daft or impatient - getting out there and enjoying our battles with the elements.

However even when it stopped raining and the sun eventually shone it was to be some



weeks before some of the favourite sites would be inhabited by kites again.

This photo by Roger Backhouse shows one of our favourite sites at Stokes Bay near Gosport, once the excellent home of the European Championships, sometimes the practice field for world champions The Scratch Bunnies and the main training ground for the L-Katz team and for Flying Fish.

The water had subsided somewhat by the time Roger went there but seems to have stuck at this level; odd when the beach and the Solent is only metres away. This is a nice site to fly if ever you fancy a drive out and you are sure to find like minded people especially on a Sunday - just give it a few weeks though!

The Vector

For one who doesn't do fiddly I think I coped remarkably well with this conception of Austrian kite enthusiast Arno Gradwoh and produced by HQ Invento.

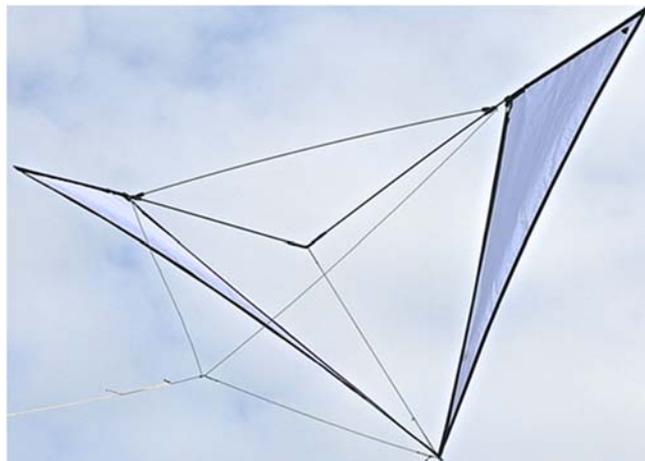
Arno started out as a two line sport kite flyer before he started to visualise the possibilities of simple new designs using the basic guidelines of flight in single line flying. I wonder about how long before he takes his imagination back to multi line flying and the possibilities there. I have mentioned here before other kites from this stable - the Tilt Box, The Viper and the much favoured Krah Krah (Crow Kite).

Simple but effective

Along the same minimalistic lines of the Viper this is an enthusiasts kite that works. What I

Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

mean is that there are adjustments on this kite and, for a change I feel, you can really notice the difference when you tweak them and the kite can be set up for varying conditions. There are only two, the tensioner of



the centre line and another on the lower tow point connection which will alter the angle of attack.

My big problem though was the tangle of bridle lines upon unfurling from the bag and then working out how the whole thing, simple as it first looks, goes together!

It's a man thing!

Needless to say that without looking at instructions, I got it all wrong and by the time I decided to check them, either they had blown away, or there were never any in the bag!

I decided to slow down and use common sense - there was a label on the kite - labels always go on the back - there was an HQ motif on it and a quick check of the photo attached to the bag showed that it was in the top right corner. Looking at the picture it was one of those things where the spars could have been pointing forward or backward, depending on which way you twisted your brain.

Although a novice might think that the Vector wouldn't fly or at least only if a gale was blowing, once it's together it's just so apparent that, indeed all the dihedral elements are there and it will get aloft, in fact very nicely too!

I was most surprised that with a bit of adjusting here and there how steadily the kite sat. In a lower wind it may be better to get assis-

Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

tance from a partner with a longer launch because any amount of over pulling will cause the kite to nose in to the wind and glide forward at a speed faster than the flyer can reel in and keep any tautness in the line to regain control. Anything over about 7mph however allows an easy launch from standing still. At the time of writing I have not tried the kite in a really strong wind but would be pretty confident that it would cope well - after all they don't come much more vented than this one do they?

Any colour you like - as long...

Marilyn questioned why it had to be in white - she's not a fan of white kites and true it does make them difficult to photograph unless it's a sunny summer's day. We did some video whilst we were testing and hopefully it will be on our You Tube Channel and possibly our web-site by the time you read this.

Just one thing another owner of one of these might find themselves doing, as did I, would be to add some tape to the spars where they join at the nose because it does come apart far too easily here and back then to sorting out the simple but infuriating bridle as it twists around the loose rods.

Overall, at just under forty quid I would recommend this as a kite that the true enthusiast will enjoy because it is not one of those kites that comes out of the bag and flies and all you have to do is turn up - you have to make it fly and when you have it set for the current conditions, it does just that - and rather well I thought!

Delta Jumbo Rainbow



There must be another version of this kite I saw last year, maybe not as big and certainly not as forgiving as this one in a turbulent, direction changing wind because my memory of that one was it crashing at speed with no sign of recovery once the descent had started.

We took this kite out on such a day to our site on Salisbury plain with the wind coming from it's worst direction and rolling over the woods at the edge of the field.

Video

Again we will have videos up on our usual places so those with access to the net will get a much better idea than I can describe here. Sorry, as in the picture here for getting myself in the frame again but the reason is to give some idea of the size and proportions of the kites and what you would be getting for your money.

A lot of kite

This is a big kite, make no mistake, and I like the way that some thought has gone in to the



fact that it will be flown in and reacting to low to very strong winds. 460 cm wide is fifteen feet in old money and 230cm high is much taller than me at seven and a half feet I didn't measure the taffeta tails but I am going to guess at about twenty feet.

The tails definitely play a part in the kite's behaviour when a sudden wind change causes the kite to go off to one side because they immediately gave our model stability as soon as it hit the new centre of the window by dragging it around so that the nose was pointing upward again. We were in gusty winds of about 12 to 15 mph but I felt quite confident with a 300lb line.

Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

Visible and strong

The bright rainbow colours continue across the keel and make this kite highly visible and likeable from all angles. Framed in 10mm carbon + fibreglass I was particularly pleased to see the reinforced joining system (similar to our Lithium sport kites from days gone by) on the cross spreader which itself is made up of one longer section through the middle and two shorter sections at either end giving an



assurance that you are not waiting for the "snap" when the kite hits a hole and suddenly re-tensions itself on one of those rough, inland flying days.

Confidence too on the lifting prowess because the kite doesn't allow constantly changing wind to boss it about too much and there is sufficient lift to take even the heavy laundry aloft! Its versatility doesn't stop there however, in lighter winds, because the tails are held on very strongly by velcro they can easily be removed but not quite so easily replaced in a strong wind. This gives a justifiable claim of a wind range of 5 to 22mph although you might feel more comfortable with something heavier than 300lb line at that higher level. HQ say that this kite is for adults only but at just over two hundred pounds only a flier experienced enough to know not to let youngsters get too close would be investing.

Do I think it's worth it? - Yes!

Peter Powell Returns

When you are so used to hearing people say that their first kite was a Peter Powell, all these years on it's a bit odd to hear anyone say that their latest new kite is a Peter Powell. News is just circulating about the return of the Peter Powell kite after sons Paul and Mark got together to reproduce the original without letting Dad know what they were up to until they were ready to show him on the very day that the Olympic flame passed through their town.

Wow!

Peter was said to be "astonished" but very pleased at their efforts although much more testing was done before they were ready to unleash the kite once more on to the market. Peter had deep reservations in his heady days about selling his kites and people unwittingly injuring themselves and so the warnings about being sensible and safe and not flying near power lines etc are prevalent - even written on the kite itself.

Having spoken for some time to Mark Powell the enthusiasm is infectious as he relates his dream of making the kite as famous as it was back in 1976 when it won the toy of the year award.

Back then I think I was the wrong age to get bitten by the latest craze - called kite flying being too wrapped up in my music (I was a long haired drummer in a pretty good band at the time) and also just about to buy my first house.

Anyway I didn't like the Peter Powell name because I thought that he was a radio disc jockey with a false mid Atlantic accent that I hated and blowed if I wanted anything to do with him - OK wrong again Allan and look what I missed!

Land of Hope and Glory

I didn't really catch up with the legendary kite until, as a member of the Solent flyers I bought some from a dear departed member's collection - Bill Baulch. Close encounters tried to bring a bit of nostalgia to the festivals by flying two black Peter Powell's to a background of Elgar's Pomp and Circumstance one at each end of the arena then with a stack of

Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

four rising to join them as the music reached a crescendo.

The last time we tried this Marilyn flew at one end and Gill Bloom the other on the last Margate festival to be held on the grass but as I launched the strong wind proved too much for the bridle of the first kite and the kites piled back down.

These were all aluminium framed kites with thick plastic sails and they were not lasting the rigours of setting up and breaking down and being carted about between performances at festivals. These early kites were great for what they were intended - painting pictures in the sky and providing immense enjoyment to the flyer in a reasonable wind but they went flat and unrecoverable far too easily and we needed stronger and more precision in the performances that we were trying to put together and the outings got further apart.

It came to pass...

I read somewhere about how Peter had come across the idea of two line flying - he did not sit down and think "I must invent a two line kite" but as many wonderful inventions he slowly realised the potential by accident and by trying to improve on something else.

Peter was in to single line flying and had tried famously to set a new all time height record. It was whilst flying one of his single line creations that he became annoyed at the way his kite kept flying to the left. He attached another line to the right side so that he could pull to correct the positioning. By pulling just a little too hard the kite swung right, came around and then looped back up again. Can you just imagine the adrenaline rush he must of experienced as he tried that again and again?

OK, with the main single line in the middle still tight he was looping to the right what if he attached another line to the left side to make it loop that way. There must have been some careful launching using just the main line whilst trying not to create a tangle but eventually there were three lines on the kite and Peter able to make the kite turn first one way and then the other - fantastic! All

that remained now was to lose the middle line and the first two line controllable Peter Powell kite was flying above the Gloucestershire countryside - how did he sleep that night? - You can imagine how he felt but not yet realising how much fun he would bring to so many and how his life would change forever.

New Toy

Our first new Mk3 kite arrived in a splendid heavy cardboard tube - very impressive but I



can see cost change to the more favoured flat cardboard made in to a triangular 'Toblerone' shape will be on the cards soon. We slid the kite in its red bag out and were immediately aware of comprehensive instructions laid out in the old fashioned way of assuming the new owner knows absolutely nothing and explaining through text and diagrams how to assemble and fly the kite with in and lots of warnings about the don'ts of kite flying.

Ours was, not unexpectedly, red with a blue tail and the handles, moulded to the shape of Peter's hands, they say, one red and one blue making it easy to remember which hands they go in. The sail is now made in a decent ripstop and the spars and tubes from sturdy white GRP.

Assembling the kite is quite simply pushing the two spreaders in to the centre T. Quite hard to get in but this keeps the sail exceptionally tight - something I see as a modification to the old one.

Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

There is no leading edge protection as the one piece sail is looped over the rods and nicely sewn in a wide hem. Already you can see the difference in strength and how far easier it is to disassemble and put back in the bag than the original. The tail is identical to the old tails, made from a heavy, plastic tube which hampers the performance in a low wind but fills with air (tied at the end) so it fills "Like a sausage" and dutifully follows the path of the kite held on by velcro. It's hard to say when you are re-creating a gem from the past just how much you should modify it to get a better performance yet how much you should leave it alone so as not to spoil the party.

The tightness of the sail combined with lighter material has helped in the way the kite flies because it does not now flatten out and become unrecoverable on its way to the next crash - and if it does crash it is far less likely to suffer.

However, where an unplanned visit to a thorny bush, barbed fence or a tree, or an attack by an unruly animal might still render the sail useless, replacement sails and other spares can still be obtained much as they were in the old times, except you can contact the supplier on-line these days!

Fun or precision?

Don't think that you will go out and make this kite perform like the modern-day deltas - it is still very much a fun kite, reasonably priced at under forty pounds and you are still able to link them together to make powerful pulling machines creating a wonderful display.

I found that the lines were far too elastic for good control and the difference was immediately noticeable when I used my own, much more expensive, low stretch lines. The elasticity is not as noticeable in a strong wind when nature helps to keep the line taut but again I found it easier with low stretch lines to self launch the kite by teasing the kite in to the air by pulling firmly but smoothly on the top line when the kite is on either edge.

You can of course give the lines a good pre-launch stretch which will help a little.

If you buy a stack of three kites I am told that they come with Climax lines - the ones we always use and recommend.

However, they still come with handles and thinking about the pull that three kites can generate, I would advise to be safer by using straps - and padded ones at that!

Grrrrr!

One of my pet hates with the supplied line...

We always advise that when line is supplied on reels or handles to always let the line fully out to exactly the same length. However these lines are quite long - one was 150 feet long and the other fully 156 feet long - an annoying fault which could easily be corrected at the production line.

If I were to use the kite again in exhibitions it is far easier to get out and assemble but I would tie pigtails to the loops and larks head the lines to those rather than the suggested, more old fashioned method.

Measuring up

At about Four feet by four feet, the Peter Powell is still a big kite on the ground and has great presence in the air with the included tail.

however it is a windy day kite as you need at least eight miles an hour to get it launched and it flies best with not too much pull at about 12 to 15mph.

There are a range of 10 colours to choose from and bespoke designs are available at a slightly higher cost.

If you have never owned one of these kites but have always just missed that bargain purchase somebody else just made of an original - now is your chance to add a bit of nostalgia to your collection.

There will be a stall selling these kites at the Weymouth Kite Festival in May with both son's, Mark and Paul hoping to be demonstrating on the beach.

Rumours that you might hear of Peter's attendance might turn out to be true but remember he's past the big eight Oh now, so he'll be keeping a low profile!

Ron Dell 15/09/1940—02/02/2014

From Maurice Sawyer It seems to me that the kiting fraternity owe Ronald, and just as much to his wife, Pat, a huge debt of gratitude for getting kite flying off the ground. (excuse the pun) they were formative years for British kite flying and Kite Festivals. Pat and Ron both put in a tremendous amount of work for around 20 years in probably the most useful kite stall that ever appeared at a kite festival. From this stall they showed thousands of us what was needed to build a kite and advised on how use the staff to build a kite. Advice on flying kites would follow. And Boy, was it needed. But the really great thing was that Pat and Ron's stall was equipped, with great devotion, to be able to actually supply us with those hundreds of tiny bits and pieces which were very hard if not impossible to find anywhere else.

Since the stall closed no other has taken up the challenge in such depth, with such enthusiasm and hard work. Let us also remember too that it was through Ron's good graces that have the nicest kiter's meeting of the year at Teston Bridge— even though its continuity looks a bit precarious now.

Keith Boxall All the colours of the rainbow, with Fun, Laughter, Happiness and Love in abundance. A truly lovely man, who will be missed by all who knew him, but remembered every time they fly a kite. Haddock and Chips on a Friday night – Ron and Alan would go down to the Fish and Chip shop on the Friday Nights of Teston, thoughts of the wonderful times we have had there, the people we have met, the fun we have had and most of the friendships, that have been made possible due to Pat and Ron Dell. We all owe them a great debt of gratitude for making it all possible. Ron has brought such Love and Happiness into our lives. I just hope that some of his kindness, understanding and tolerance has worn off on me. Ron I will miss you, but you will be forever in my heart.

Alan and Anne Outram In memory of a good, kind and funny man whose presence will be sorely missed especially his summer puddings!!! Teston will not be the same without Ron's limp and hooter hidden in his pocket as he did the rounds with Jane.

Peter Hulcoop. I remember Ron and Pat from my 'part 1' kite flying days over 30 years ago. In those days carbon and fibre glass were a rarity and Ramin was the order of the day! Money was tight and kites were something that could only be afforded on rare occasions. There were so many more festivals and kite events in those days and it was at these that I would always pick up materials.

Wandering among the various stalls you'd always know when you'd found Ron's and he was always worked off his feet keeping the customers happy, not just the avid flyers but the general public too. Not even the smallest child with the most meagre amount of pocket money would be ignored. He worked tirelessly to make us all feel special and to 'Share the Love' he had for life.

He put me on to '*Pelhams Book of Kites*' and started my days of making my own humble kites. He always had some 'thingy' that would get around a problem, bales of ripstop and line at very reasonable prices and a steady supply of Ramin.

My 'part 2' kite days started about 4 years ago and I was overjoyed to find that of the few remaining links to the old days, Ron was still around. He was still the same old Ron, slower and in pain but still with the sparkle in his eyes and a deep love for Teston Bridge which MUST remain his enduring legacy...it will for me!

I miss having such a source for kiting bits and pieces, I will miss Ron when I fly kites but will always have him in my heart.

Malcolm Ford Ron was the master of informality and engaging every-one in conversation, whether he had only just met them or had known them for years. Although I had met Ron many years ago, it was my misfortune not to have really got to know him until the last few years. I remember meeting him for the first time some 20 years ago before I had become involved deeply in kite flying, meeting Pat and Ron at Teston, with their Kiteability Shop. It is a regret that will stay with me that I did not get to know him better from all those years ago. I will truly miss his humility, humour and laid back attitude. He is with the angels now and with Pat flying in the sky.

Roy and Hayley from Kites Up. It was sad news indeed to hear about the passing of Ron Dell. Uncle Ronald as I would call him (and sure I wasn't the only one) was the first Trader we met at the Kite Festival way back in 1990. Always helpful, always had the time of day to just chat and always smiling. We have fond memories of time spent with him at the Middle Wallop and Berrow events, not the type of Festivals you'd associate him with, but he and Pat always joined in with the "socialising and silly games" that took place!

We would receive a Christmas card from Kiteability each year, and have kept them all, a lovely memento and good reminder of all the years that we were fortunate to have known him.

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Tony Baker. When I started trading as Cotswold Kite, Ron & Pat immediately took me under their wings at Blackheath. Since that time we have been firm friends and used to have many a laugh together over the years. If it had been a quiet festival, trading wise, Ron would offer to write me a note to take home to Annette explaining the reason for small takings.

We also used to vie for the "Last Sale" of the day, this would usually be when packing away was almost complete and somebody would approach and ask for some small kite part, generally this would have been packed first and therefore at the bottom of the van, this was obviously more of a challenge for Ron & Pat as they had a bigger van than my car, but we would always try to meet the challenge and then brag about it later. We also used to report to each other on the "Festival Nutter" this was the person who hung around the traders for what seemed the entire festival just looking at stuff, picking it up, then putting it back again, but never, or seldom buying anything.

They were a lovely and caring couple known to so many of us, and now forever fondly remembered as "The Dells".

Arthur Dibble. The first kite I ever made from rip stop was a bright orange hexagon and I went to Garfield road to collect 2 whole yards. Oh where have those years gone? I still fly this kite. The second memory was when I was trying for the BMISS record and wanted 100+ teddies, Ron sourced these for me. Have you ever opened a box with that many teddies ready to jump out? Never did go for the record, any one want the remaining 40 bears?

My final memory was when they gave up the shop and how sad Ron was to give up all the last material and accessories when I bought them from him. I know I had a picture of the Kiteability tent with all the signatures when we signed it, Was that at Wallop? And I am proud to still own a "Smile with Kiteability" badge.

Ray Bethell. Ron was a good mate and very much loved by all of us, that is great that the Dolphin Banner will be flying along with my body, soul and heart. He will be surely missed by all, but it is in the cards that we will all meet up again.

I was only looking at pictures with Dolores the other evening of some of the best days of our lives, it is awesome that seeing the pictures and reliving those great times again in our minds, all of our memories are in the past there really is no tomorrow only yesterday.

Kenny Knight. Ron, a lovely person whose heart was so big, shame the other parts could not keep up. He had the driest of humours and always had time to talk and bring a smile. Kites were but only one side of this wonderful friend who inspired many and is fondly remembered.

Robert and Heleen Valkenburgh Brother in Christ, Brother in the Sky.... Both Heleen and I feel saddened by this loss. The only comfort we have, is that Ron is now with his Creator, for ever happy and in His Grace... We will meet him again, I know so.

Still, the hurt will stay with us a while longer, but luckily after a while, only the wonderful memories will remain. AND, he will live on in our hearts, until the day when it is our turn to be called Home by Him, who is our true Father.... Then we will be reunited for all eternity.

Nick James. Ron was the first to sell my kites in his Kiteability tent all those years ago. He sold my kittiwake kites on his stall, enabling me to buy materials to make more kites. I remember going to his house to buy ripstop and he had to rearrange the living room to measure out the fabric. He was a lovely man.

I am afraid I could make it to his send-off, but was thinking of him on the day, and am very pleased to hear that my angels were there to stand in for me.

Jane Gilbert Ron introduced me to everyone that camped at Teston Kite Festival. When we walked around the site on a Sunday morning collecting the camping fees his little hooter was tooted to announce our arrival. Such a jovial, helpful, considerate and kind man.



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Heather Town (Gerty) I first met Ron and Pat as I returned from a very hard day at work when one of my clients had taken just his life. I happened upon the kites flying at Teston as I passed by on my way home from work and pulled into the car park. Pat persuaded me to buy an octopus which immediately flew so well that I bought all of the colours they had available and I was hooked.

"Welcome to the Kiting Family" said Ron.... and the rest is history!!!! Pat and Ron supported several events in Kent particularly Bewl and at Teston to support the work of The Samaritans. When Ron and Pat retired and went on their travels and they left Teston in the hands of Malcolm and myself. Thousands of pounds were raised that year for The Samaritans through the June and August festivals in the days when KCC allowed us to keep half of the car park takings and anything else we managed to do on the field. This included a tea tent and bacon sandwiches for kite flyers and fishermen on the river!!!!

My personal special memories of Ron are of the many moments when he would squeeze my arm and say "This is what it is all about" whilst watching the families enjoying the magic of flying their workshop and/or recently purchased kites. Thank you Ron, for introducing me to the "family" of kite flying.

Paul Chapman. Pat and Ron Dell went to the York Festival of Kites in May 1988. Ron bid for, and bought, five metres of ripstop at the auction for £6.00. An advertisement appeared in the October 1988 Kiteflier "*Making your own kites! Then contact us. All your requirements; from Ripstop (at competitive prices) to Ally Rings*". Pat and Ron advertised under the kite banner...well, a sort of long banner tailed square kite that announced "KITE PARTS". KITEABILITY had yet to appear.

I don't know if the five meters was the starting point for KITEABILITY, but it must have been close (see the P.S). After that Pat and Ron would pop-up at all the kite festivals with their stall. I loved rummaging and there was so much to rummage.

You could get everything and anything, mostly ends-of. Ends of line; ends of ripstop; ends of tape. End over end of glassfibre tubing of all sizes and lots of dowel. Ferrules? There was nothing they didn't have. And then there were the boxes. Boxes of fittings; boxes of ally rings; boxes of almost anything, and all of that was instantly transferred from their boxes to my boxes. It was all Very Useful Stuff and I still have a lot of it.

The great thing about Pat and Ron was that they

were not a kite shop Yes, they sold stuff but it was much more on the basis of friendship, a few wisecracks and then setting them off on a challenge. Around that time I was Cody making so they provided the ripstop but then there was the problem of the edge tapes. "Leave it to us" said Ron after I explained what was needed. The next time I saw them there was edge tape of varying widths piled up the stall. Another time it was sourcing the 1.5mm end caps for the carbon spars of the mini-Codys....no problem.

Do you remember the poetry of it all?

*"The spring has sprung,
The grass has ris,
The snow has gone away,
Time to get your kites out
And all come out to play.*

*What's that I hear, a broken spar,
A sail you forgot to mend,
So a call to KITEABILITY
Our list to you we'll send...."*

Pat and Ron lived at Ponders End....sort of fits...

Of course all great enterprises have a finite life and, following the very sad death of Pat, Ron was heartbroken and decided to close up shop...after all it was always Pat and Ron. After that we saw more of Ron, but this time mostly with a cup of tea, chatting and with one eye on something high in the sky. Next time I am at a Jolly Up I'll sit out with a cuppa and keep my eye on them, really high in the sky.

P.S Just found a note in the January 1988 Kiteflier that Pat and Ron had taken over the stock of D.I Kites who had ceased trading and would be doing mail order....ripstop at £1.75/metre and dowel and fibreglass.

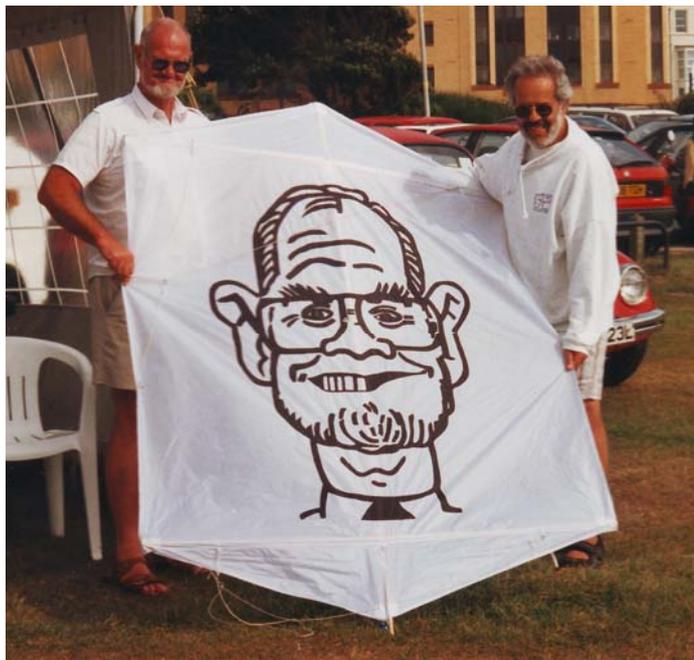
Big John and Janet. Do, do, do you remember?

Back in the day, when camping was not permitted at festivals we had to camp off site - Ron and Pat had the Kiteability stall but did not have a camper and as such they stayed in local bed and breakfasts. Ron came up with a solution to our camping dilemma and asked us with a glint in his eye if we would like to act as overnight security for his stall and park our camper near to the Kiteability stand and of course we jumped at the chance, over the next 5 to 10 years Ron and one or two other stall holders ended up with more onsite security than there were stalls

In return for this favour I set up and freely hosted

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the Kiteability web site) on my servers, Ron a total Luddite eventually sweet talked Richard Nourse into designing and managing the site and as such Kiteability were dragged into the 21st century, today of course there are considerably more campers than stall holders at kite festivals and you can put that phenomena down to Pat and Ron.



Seeing the many benefits we enjoyed with our camper Pat and Ron subsequently decided to invest in a camper themselves and asked our advice on what sort of camper to buy and the outcome was that they bought an over cab Luton similar (but newer) to the one we had and the first time they used it for the purpose it was bought for was at Portsmouth.

Ron by this time had started to get to grips with the WWW and he had found on one of my web sites the cartoon that ended up on the ROK kite they presented me with for helping them and a picture of same is accompanying this letter. I still have the kite, it has always been far too precious for me to fly simply because both Pat and Ron put their love and expertise into this kite and to make sure it never gets damaged I just get it out from time to time for display purposes.

How many of you reading this still have the original "Kite Flyers Smile" badge Ron and Pat created - I still have mine and that means with said kite and silly tin badge Pat and Ron will live on - isn't it strange, the older you get the closer your bladder gets to your eyes - it is a good job I am typing this rather than using pen and ink or you would

not be able to read it

As our memorial to Pat and Ron we have commissioned a small coppice of broad leaf English oak trees to be planted in Brede High wood near Hastings, if you pass by the wood in your travels say a quick hello to Pat and Ron's trees, they will hear you. With love and fond memories

Dicky Nourse. Ever since the kite bug bit me, back in 1995, and I got hold of my first copy of Kiteflier, I wondered at the inspiration behind the "Odd Odes" that appeared so regularly therein.

Well, over intervening years I got to know Pat and Ron Dell quite a bit, and I am still not much wiser. All I learned is that they are two of the nicest people you could ever wish to meet. Generous in spirit, patient and forgiving, I hope I have learned a small amount of those qualities from their shining example. I think I may guess what lies behind those quirky verses, and that modest facade - I believe it is real love - not only for each other, but also love of the joy of kiting, and love of sharing that joy. There are so many, many examples of how kites bring joy to our lives, and to the children who stumble, bemused and starry-eyed into this dazzling world of billowing colours and things that fly and float and make us smile so widely. There is not space nor time enough to do them justice here - if you fly kites, you know what I mean.

I just want to say a heartfelt **Thank You** to Pat and Ron for all the help they have given me - help to see the joy of living life to the full and seeing beauty all around me, mostly up there... on the end of a line... or two... or even four! And Ron - only you have ever called me "**Dickums**" bless you!

We must also be forever thankful to Sally, Janet and Danny, for embracing the rest of us as part of Ron's extended "family" - and to Tina for nursing Ron so lovingly through these recent difficult years. What Pat and Ron started at Teston was wonderful - we will do our best to do him proud on that lovely site, over the coming years.

I will continue to maintain the Kiteability website for as long as I can - it seems the perfect place to record the ongoing fun and games at Teston <http://kiteability.co.uk/>

"Share The Love"

Events List

April 2014		
12-21	Berck International Kite Festival, Berck-Sur-Mer, France	
24 - 4th May	Cervia International Kite Festival, Italy	info@artevento.com
26-27	North Hants Kiter's Jolly Up 14, Cliddesden, Basingstoke	Roy 07778 352825, Colin 07770 338419
May 2014		
3-5	Blyth Kite Festival Weekend with NEKF @ Meggies Burn Field, Links Road, South Beach, Blyth, Northumberland NE24 3PH	www.nekf.org
3-5	Weymouth Kite Festival, Weymouth Dorset	Michael McManus 01305319469 07403598887
3-5	MKF Kite Fliers Retreat, Broad Haven, Pembrokeshire SA62 3JH	bil-ly.souten@btinternet.com
10-11	Ostende International Kite Festival, Ostend, Belgium	www.kites-oostende.be/nl/home/
10-11	Western Lake District KiteFest 2014 in assoc. with the NKG, Millom Rugby Union Club, Wilson Park, Haverigg, Cumbria	kiterdave@btinternet.com
24-26	Margam Kite Festival, Margam County Park, Margam, Port Talbot South Wales SA13 2TJ	margampark@npt.gov.uk
31 & 1 st June	Barmouth Kite Festival, on the beach opposite Lifeboat Station, Barmouth, Mid-Wales	waine@barrikiteflyers.com
June 2014		
7-8	Basingstoke Kite Festival, Down Grange Sports Complex, Pack Lane, Basingstoke	Alan Cosgrove (Main festival Organiser) 01256 421800, Roy Broadley (Kites Up) 01256 812487
21-22	2nd Annual Model Show here at Sumners Ponds Fishery & Campsite, Barns Green, West Sussex	Kimberley Pratt events@sumnersponds.co.uk
29	Herne Bay Kite Festival, Memorial Park King Street Herne Bay, Kent	Mal-colmf@kentkiteflyers.com
July 2014		
5-6	NEKF Kite Festival @ Souter Lighthouse, Coast Rd, Sunderland, Tyne and Wear SR6 7NH	www.nekf.org
12-13	Barmouth Beach Kite Festival, opposite the lifeboat station Barmouth, North Wales	Waine Hucker, barrikiteflyers.com
12-13	Eastbourne Extreme , East Sussex	jayne.howard@eastbourne.gov.uk
19-20	Leominster & Hereford Kite Festival, National Trust Berrington Hall	Karl Longbottom, School House, Dorstone, Herefordshire, HR3 6AN
26-27	Dunstable Kite Festival, Whipsnade Road, Dunstable, LU6 2GY	Joe@projectzip.co.uk
26-27	3rd St. Annes Kite festival, on the beach, Lytham St Annes, near Blackpool, Lancashire	patmay8@hotmail.com
August 2014		
2-3	North Hants Kiter's Jolly Up 15, Cliddesden, Basingstoke	Roy 07778 352825, Colin 07770 338419
9-10	The Ron Dell Kite Festival, Teston Bridge Country Park, Maidstone	Mal-colmf@kentkiteflyers.com
9-10	Shropshire Kite Festival, Lacon Childe School, Love Lane, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire DY14 8PE	kites@skybums.com
23-25	Portsmouth International Kite Festival, Southsea Common	The Kite Society
September 2014		
6-14	Dieppe International Kite Festival, Dieppe, France	infos@dieppe-cerf-volant.org