

# THE KITEFLIER

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



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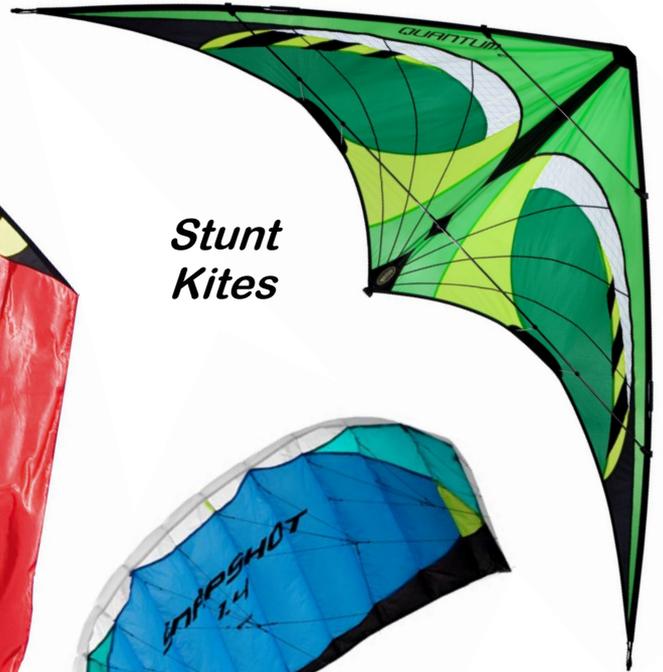
**Newsletter of the Kite Society of  
Great Britain**

# KITEWORLD

All The Fun Of The Air!



*Inflatable  
Kites*



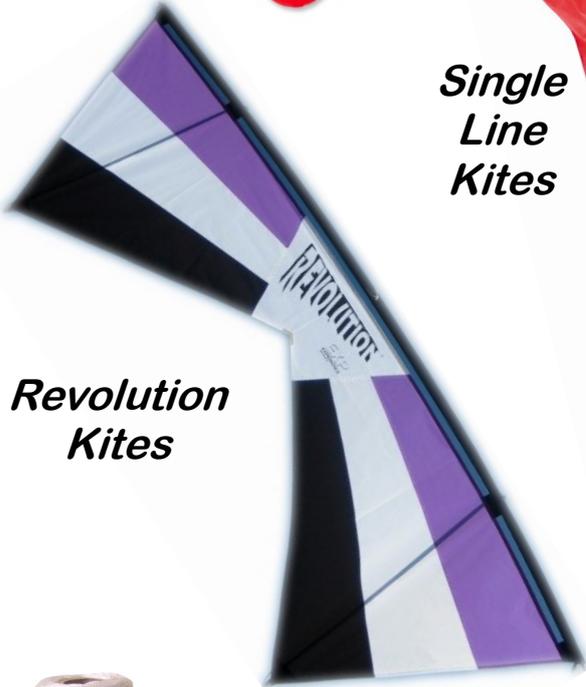
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## Editorial

The Magazine Future	4
Pothecary Corner	6
The Heksebeest	10
Event News	13
Portsmouth 2015	15
The 1970s Dual Line Revolution	16
Origins of the First English Kite	18
Bits & Pieces	20
Aerodyne	25
Events List	36

Dear Reader

A new year and we are still here. Thank you for the large response regarding the future of the printed magazine. As you can see from page 4 we have presented a selection of responses giving both sides of the argument. The conclusion being that a printed magazine will continue for another year. Whilst we are doing this we would encourage people to consider the electronic version of the magazine. You get it earlier, it is environmentally friendly and it saves us time!

### Front Cover

**Top: Classic Barnstormer Kite from the mid 70s.**

**Bottom: Record attempt to fly the most Barnstormer kites at once. Possibly Stamford Hall in the 70s.**

### Correction

In issue 141 page 17 the last line was inadvertently cropped.

It should read " What makes George such a professional commentator is that he is never unprofessional, ever."

Our apologies to John Dobson for this error.

There is also important information about the Portsmouth Kite Festival on page 15. In essence we have been forced to change the date of the festival to maintain its integrity. Please note the new date is August 15th & 16th. We hope as many of you as possible will continue to support the event.

We received a pleasant surprise through the post recently from Midlands Kite Fliers—an Award of Merit. See the picture. Many thanks to the MKF for thinking of us. It is nice to be appreciated.

Gill and Jon



Membership Type	Fee
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Household (Individual, Family, Senior)	£15.00
Overseas (Europe)	£25.00
Overseas (Rest of World Airmail)	£30.00
Overseas (Rest of World Economy)	£25.00

## The Magazine Future

Many of you will recall that in the last issue we raised the possibility of no longer producing a printed version of the magazine and moving to 100% electronic.

Surprisingly—to us at least—this raised the highest number of comments and responses we have had in a long time! Below is a selection of the comments received. As you can see the majority want to continue with a printed magazine.

•

"It would be a shame to lose the paper version, I'm not a great lover of reading things on the screen and prefer to leaf through the magazine, looking at the pictures then reading the articles that catch my eye first, with the remainder being read at the later date."

•

"I was devastated to read that you could be opting out of producing a printed magazine. After being a member for all these years I have to say that I enjoy reading the magazine and would not be averse to having to pay more for it to ensure that I continue to receive a printed copy. If you break down any increase to a monthly figure it is not a lot to ask. The printed magazine goes everywhere with me and I consider it vital that this method remains available."

•

"A reason for keeping the paper version is I don't have a printer so I would not be able to take my magazine out and about with me, and a surgeon at Milton Keynes hospital borrows mine, to tight fisted to buy his own!. If you sent it electronically would it be in office word format because I don't have that , and that is what the library use for printing documents off. I am having sleepless nights over this!!! life should be easier at 63."

•

"My vote on the magazine is to go for electronic, though I would much rather have the printed word in front of me, my local birding society has gone the same way with no choice."

•

"I have been thinking about your question regarding electronic vs hard copy. I much prefer to read hard copy than a screen and it's nice to be able to keep the magazine. When we have had interested people round it is so much better to hand them a magazine than to plonk the lap top in front of them.

"Flipping through the pages has a much more sensual feel than dizzying the eyes scrolling up and down and its much more relaxing to sit in the lounge or out in the garden with a drink and a magazine I can just pick up rather than unplugging, firing up and finding the best lighting conditions to view.

"When visiting festivals, club fly ins and Jolly Ups I have been greatly flattered to find that we have quite a fan base, mainly of older flyers who often say that mine is the first article that they look for. These 'older' flyers generally do complain though, about my references to web-sites as they do not have access to computers and you will undoubtedly lose their following if the hard copy should cease.

"However I do appreciate the benefits of the electronic version. Apart from the obvious cost savings and the lessening of the hard work you guys have to do to get to print - photos are much clearer and colourful and there is the opportunity to link to other web-sites even videos of events that I would love to exploit. You'll have to put in an over-rider separating you from and site that the user may link to of course!

"Losing the hard copy would be disappointing but I suppose inevitable - either way I will still contribute."

•

### ISSUE ONE OLD WARDEN OCTOBER '79

**IT ISN'T IS IT???**

**IT ISN'T IS IT???**

**YES FOLKS THIS IS IT. KON PRODUCTIONS PROUDLY PRESENT**

"This is how my collection of kite society mags start... it wouldn't be the same to read it on screen. So, my vote, for what it's worth, is for printed copies whatever the expense, even if it would give me more shelf space otherwise. I'm still, and always will be, a kite enthusiast, but don't enjoy festivals much. I do appreciate all the hard work you've both put in over the years to keep KSGB going, and UK fliers in touch, for which I thank you. However, if it would ease the burden greatly to stop printing and mailing, it's up to you, the world's revolving, nothing stands still, libraries are almost obsolete now, and I would accept your decision.....but I know which I'd prefer."

## The Magazine Future

•  
"In my humble opinion The printed sub is the way forward. I like the ease in which one can pick up the mag and travel with it anywhere, without carrying a tablet that at best could get damaged or attract unwanted attention to me whilst in public."

•  
"We do not have any computer gadgets. We still rely on the postman, and postwoman".

•  
"I look forward to the magazine dropping through my door".

•  
"I am unable to receive an electronic subscription. Still living in the dark ages".

•  
"Please continue to produce the magazine in its paper format. A lot of us are not online and besides reading from a screen is always a difficult task. Whereas a good printed paper copy is a delight to read."

•  
"The magazine is for me and many others the Kite Society and I hope it remains so. I am very appreciative of the effort involved. A visit to any large newsagent will show the vast range and popularity of the printed word. Several computer owners say to me that the precision of the printed matter is superior to the screen".

•  
"We prefer the printed version. However, we do appreciate the situation you are in regarding escalating costs so digital is probably inevitable. We are happy whatever the consensus is, just so long as it keeps appearing one way or another".

•  
"I think for many small publications the days of print are now well and truly numbered. The need for 'file copies' is diminished IF the archive can be maintained on line - what happens when you two finally decide enough is enough will be a challenge but I know you will make adequate arrangements.

"It will be a concern that some members may become 'disenfranchised' because they reject the use of IT based systems but then most of them have friends that can give them a printed copy.

"And quality can be higher. The copy we received of the current issue had a streak running through a page that made it difficult to read. Unless you can afford to invest in high end

printing that will become an increasing risk, one that doesn't exist for a purely electronic format. In summary, we will be sad to see the last 'printed' copy of the Kiteflier, but we think its inevitable."

•  
"In response to your question in the magazine about future costs of circulating the magazine we are very happy with the issue in electronic form – whilst it's appreciated that not everyone has the ability to handle it in that way, in this day and age we should all be conscious of saving the use of printing and paper as well as the ever increasing cost of posting. So yes an electronics version gets the thumbs up from us and the bonus is that it also allows for more colour content at no additional cost."

•  
Several people also stated they were willing to pay an extra to continue with the printed magazine.

### So, what are we going to do?

Based on the feedback we have received we have decided to continue with the printed magazine for at least the next year. At the same time we will continue to encourage subscribers to migrate away from paper to the electronic form. (To clarify this—as we have been asked—this version is sent out in Adobe PDF format for which a free reader is available from Adobe themselves as well as many PDF readers. It is also sent on the last day of magazine creation—so a minimum of 3 days before the printed version will arrive).

Unfortunately—as we said in the last issue—there is a cost to this which we can no longer justify subsidizing. We have also taken the reluctant decision to consolidate all subscription rates for the UK into a single price—this removes the discount for Seniors who subscribe.

Effective immediately subscription rates will change as follows.

Electronic (Individual, Family or Senior) - £5  
Household (Individual, Family and Senior) - £15  
Overseas (Europe) - £25  
Overseas (Rest of World Airmail) - £30  
Overseas (Rest of World Economy) - £25

We hope that you will continue to support us despite these changes.

## Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

### NEW KITE VIDEOS

I have been promising to get some new software and completely redesign the Close Encounters Kite Display team website for more than a year now.

This has depended largely on my acquiring a new Mac Computer, the funds for which keep getting redirected into other projects like kitting out a new utility room, upgrading the car (which is much better for carrying the kites) and generally making things around the house and garden more low maintenance to make life easier as old age creeps on but also give me



more time to fly kites!

I have not been adding a lot of videos or articles to the website primarily so that I would have something new to put on the new one although most of the kites I write about here can be found by typing "Close Encounters Kites You Tube" in to your favourite search engine.

However, given that our site receives around a thousand hits from all over the world each week I have now tidied up the front page and added videos of some of our strange and recent additions.

### FLYING BY EMAIL

We do get lots of weird and wonderful requests via our site and we always do our best to make a reply of some sort - even if it is only an acknowledgement - if someone has bothered to write my professional integrity dictates that I should reply.

One of the current little jobs I am undertaking in reply to one question took quite a few words to explain. It led to my thinking that others might want to do similar and.. Why waste all those words when I could use them here?

### Never Too Old

I had a husband and wife contact me from California, the guy could fly two line a little and his spouse not quite as

well as he. I believe that they are about the same age as us two. The audacious if not, presumptuous, question was along the lines of how many years practice and flying together did Marilyn and I do before we started getting invites to kiting events - and could we teach them to fly pairs?

The only pairs of kites they had in their armoury were Prism Hypnotists and North Shore Radicals.

### So this was my email...

OK - It's easiest for me if I assume that you know nothing because I don't know what you do know.

Lets start with the kites and general set up. The Prisms are fine in lower winds but are a bit too twitchy for my liking in 15mph +. I prefer to put the offset bridle line (Turbo setting) down to the same knot as the other two making it a three point or "Team" setting and leave all the other adjustments as they would have come from the factory - in the middle point.

The North Shores are a grand old favourite, tracking very straight and moving slow - only trouble is they do pull a bit for the lady in the team so best consider getting some brakes - the gauze kind that go between the lines at the tow point.

Just as important as the kites themselves is the line and line length. A good quality/no stretch is a must - we use Climax.

This next one is a DEFINITE MUST - Do *not* try to do anything in pairs on lines shorter than FORTY metres (approximately 125 to 130 feet) we use that now but we started on 156ft until we realised that it gave us more space in the competition arena on shorter lines. If you try flying together on the bog standard 100ft lines everything will happen much more quickly and you will have much less window to fly in - usually resulting in more expensive collisions than you would like.

This probably means that you will have to buy some line on reels and make up your own. We do use 100ft lines when we fly our Dream On (Sky Dog) kites but they are smaller. We like the Dream On because although smaller than a standard team kite, they do fly slow like a big kite and they don't generate a lot of pull.

### Experience Helps

The pull of a kite will be a big factor when flying with a female partner - it has been with us - which is why we eventually settled on using Airdynamics T5 kites for our routines when we do exhibitions although, as the skill factor increases this problem lessens. The T5 flies from very low wind (Lower than most other standard kites) right up to 18mph before the pull becomes such that you might want to start thinking about brakes.

We haven't bought any of the vented range because we have other vented and rarely use them - not at all for about 18 months now! - but we do have the mega light

## Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

“Cuban” which we use at exhibitions when there is zero wind.

Having a kite with good range like the T5 means that we are not forever changing lines or kites or adding brakes just in time for the wind to change again!

Of course when you start doing shows, competitions, festivals and other events you WILL need to have a range of kites that you can fly in any sort of wind the day will throw at you - and it's a lot more difficult doing things with the pressure of an audience than in the practice field, especially if the organisers have covered your expenses to get there or people have paid to get in.

### **Now for the Flying!**

Infinites! The Infinity is a figure eight on its side and is the basic figure around which most of your other figures will evolve. It is the holding pattern which all teams and pairs use when they are assessing the wind and, being a ‘follow’ pattern, does not need anyone to ‘call’ and the pair/team can hold a discussion on what went wrong or what to do next without the bother of landing/reset/take-off whilst, at the same time, keeping an eye on the wind speed and main direction.

Always fly DOWN the outside of the window where gravity takes the kite down and UP through the middle where the wind is strongest and will lift the kite.

Get your wife to fly infinites on her own walking forward when the kite is coming down the outside and backward when coming up through the middle.

Make the infinites as big as possible and when the figure is started ALWAYS go to the right hand side first. Each person should fly the figure whilst the other watches - if you always do this then you will have learned your first lesson flying as a pair - one knows what the other is doing.

### **Team Leader**

The team leader or ‘caller’ can fly at any position in the team but it should **only** be them that calls - if anyone else says anything the others should ignore - unless you like untangling lines and mending kites?

It would seem natural for you to fly at number one (on your partner's right) but as you are the best flyer and once you are both confident of the infinity you should first fly at number two standing just behind her left shoulder and follow her around the window - be prepared to quit at any time, then talk about it and regroup.

WHEN (not if) something goes wrong either party can call “Fire-drill” and then you both fly to your respective top corner, get your twists out of the lines and decide what to do next. When you think you have mastered following around the infinity changes places and have you partner follow you - be prepared for it to go wrong straight away! - STICK AT IT!

Talking of sticks that is another good idea. All team and pairs flyers use little kites on the end of sticks about a



meter long to simulate what they intend to do in the air - this is an excellent way of remembering your individual part and for the team leader to assess that everyone is all of the same mind

### **Figure it Out**

I recommend that you join an organisation such as STACK or a club which runs two line competitions occasionally, as this will help with the required disciplines of pairs/team flying.

You should also look at some of the single line figures and try them as a way of improving skills - you are then flying something to exact requirements rather than just flying about thinking “I'll just try this...” and then when it didn't quite work you just think that you meant to do that and that it doesn't really matter.

One easy figure to remember is “The Jump” where you have to have nice corners, straight lines at the same height (before and after) and keep the lines going up, and then down equidistant, with a nice curve at the top. Video each other doing it and then study how good against the drawing when you get home. Next time out try doing the figure side by side as a pair - and laugh when it goes wrong - don't get cross!

This should be enough to get you started; there is much more to come but one thing at a time. I wouldn't be too concerned about learning any of the pairs figures just yet - work out a few things of your own and get comfortable flying those in front of others with them first.

If, however you do want to get straight into figures then splendid animations of all of the ones I have heard of plus a few more can be found at [reddesign.co.uk](http://reddesign.co.uk)

When you start to fly pairs or team it won't be that long before you notice people stood behind watching. Most people (believe it or not) will have never seen the like and will be most impressed. You'll get a great buzz from your first, spontaneous round of applause and that will stay with you and spur you on to greater things.

Further down the line you can put some of the shapes you have learned together into a sequence called a precision routine, something that shows off your skill and technical ability, then, perhaps you could set something to music when the turns, corners, circles, stalls and landings

## Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

are determined by the accents and pauses in your chosen piece. This is much more difficult than flying solo when, if a mistake is made, you can simply carry on as if you meant to do it - that simply does not work with pairs or team flying!

### **Safe and simple**

Don't worry about tricks - you may pick up something simple like a half axel along the way but they are not important for routines until you get mega good - about three or four years down the line - depending on how many hours practice you get in each week!

However one good little extra to have in the repertoire is being able to turn the kite over without having to keep walking to it - I will do a video on it one day and put it on the site - if you can't do that yet I will either try to explain it later or speed the video along. The turn over saves a lot of time and defuses the frustration that comes whilst one person waits for the other to get ready.

### **Our Resumé**

We have had quite a lot of success in coaching teams and pairs. We have helped bring on a team and a pair who just recently have started doing short exhibitions of flying in the arenas - we even went out to Lithuania where we got several pairs and a team "coached up" and one pair in particular went on to compete quite successfully nationally and internationally - they also came and stayed with us for four days of "intensive" training.

We are always up for coaching wherever we can and the offer is open to anyone. If you want us to come to you then our expenses need to be covered but if you come to us then it's free!

We used to organise training days; we don't do that anymore but that is not to say we wouldn't be interested in helping if someone else wanted to set one up - we can even provide a few training kites.

Team/pairs flying takes a surprisingly high amount of concentration and can be mentally draining as the day goes on and that's worth remembering - but the buzz you get is better than any tablet you can take!

### **KITE OF THE YEAR**

I wrote about this kite early in 2014 knowing at the time it was good not only with it's velcro attitude and removable



tails in light to heavy wind but as an extremely reliable lifter in very low, gusty and changeable winds that we inland flyers often experience.

I didn't know how much we would be depending on it all through the year; we flew it far more than any other kite and it can often be spotted lifting something in our videos. I never break it completely down because I know that odds on I will be using it next time out so, after detaching the velcro at the bottom of the spine and divvying it up level with the others it is rolled up and goes in to the car front to back at an angle starting on the floor between the door and the passenger seat.

Having relied on this colourful design from HQ Invento so much I have no hesitation in making the Delta Jumbo Rainbow my "Kite of the Year"

### **THE TRILOBITE**

I am not going to look something up on the net and then spout off as though I know all about it; suffice is to say that Trilobites are a well-known fossil group of extinct marine arthropods - should you want to know more it does make interesting reading if that's your thing!

I first heard of this kite communicating with kiting buddy, Jim, in New Zealand. Of course there are much larger, very colourful ones available from the Peter Lynn stable.

I hope we are not going to hear of issues over the copyright of names such as the one a few years back when Prism were forced to change the name of what they were calling "The Mirage" to "The Hypnotist". But I suppose it would be like saying that you can't make and sell a bird kite because someone had already made a bird kite and this one looks something like it.

I was interested to read Peter's comments on this kite although somehow he managed to mistake it for a grasshopper even though I reckon this looks very much like the photos I've seen of the real thing. He commented on how we need to have more kites that can be light wind flown and easily re-launched and I can definitely agree on that one!



### **How Did it Happen?**

I often wonder how these very talented kite designers and makers look at something and think "That would make a good kite!" but the Trilobite readily lends its shape to a sled, foil or soft kite to good effect. Peter attributes the kite as "by Ma Qinghua from Shandong (China)".

I don't know much about this guy other than he lives in the same province as the producing factory and that he entered the Guinness Book of Records in November 2006 for "Most kites flown simultaneously by one person" -

## Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

whatever that means but apparently there were 43. What were the parameters? - perhaps someone can write in and tell us?

Back to the kite and this already looks a serious contender for our kite of 2015. It flies when most others won't (our HQ Jumbo still beats it here though) and being a soft kite it is incredibly light for its seven square metres and folds down very small (see the video on Close Encounters web site). Turbulent winds are handled extremely well due, in part, to the long tentacles/feelers, thingies which act in the same way as would a drogue or tail but look just so much better. There are only three lines to the bridle and no need at all for any daisy chain.

### Can't Help but Rave!

Excuse me as I over enthuse about this kite - it will always be in our bag - not only does it look good on its own but the lifting power is amazing too! I hear that there is a slightly bigger version at a heftier price about to find its way on to the market. I know a couple of guys who have an order in but I am not yet in a position to be able to report on that version as yet. Of course I will be trying to get my hands on one ASAP and will add my comments later.

OK so its ugly but you will definitely come to love it - this kite is so good that I can predict there will be a good few people sending their money off to China this year. "Oh Chinese" I hear you say and true, there have been some quality issues with some of the outlets there in the past but I found this one to be well made and trouble free and have no hesitation in recommending it.

I paid around £100 for it as part of a big, annual sale they were having and included in a deal with some other products purchased at the same time - I think that I got a bargain and thanks again to Jim for bringing it to my attention.

### NEW HQ KITE BAG

Without sounding condescending HQ really does mean high quality when it comes to this new kite bag. On the video Marilyn and I produced I called it a "Sport Kite" bag - but, of course, any kite can be transported.

There are two sizes of bag one measuring 170cm and the



other 130 cm both in a choice of red, blue or green. The shorter bag is useful, obviously, for shorter kites and for those who have the longer, full size team sport kites and prefer breaking them down to more comfortably in their car. We have the longer bag and will talk only of that from here.

The bag is made of heavyweight, tough materials, the stitching is good and the zip is a strong design with two pull tabs. It's more flat than round mainly because there are two shoulder straps that pull out from a hidden compartment making portage possible leaving both hands free to carry more equipment or even, dare I say - riding a bike!

*This is only a suggestion of what may be possible and should be undertaken with proper training, regards to other people's safety and entirely at your own risk - in other words, you might say, by younger, fitter person's than me!*

I don't know about others but I often find that when I have to carry my bag the longest distances I always seem to have packed it with the weight more at one end. A great little feature on this bag is that it has three handles spaced along the side to help compensate for such ineptitude.

### How Big?

Cavernous is the only word I can think to describe the holding capacity; whilst it appears no bigger than any of our other bags from the outside I effortlessly fitted fifteen kites inside (see the video) without having to struggle with the zip trying to get in an extra couple as I have often been seen attempting in the past.

I hate it when manufacturers add a pocket to the outside that impinges on the space inside the bag. The extra facility on this bag doesn't do that - it does give a place to put pegs and lines but my preference when I discussed new bags with the development team there a couple of years back was to have a much longer outside pocket able to contain spare rods and Revs such as the bag we still have (now in poor state of repair) that I had Chalky White make me about 15 years ago.



Nevertheless this is the best bag I have seen readily available on the market at the moment and one you will see us hauling our kites around in for many years to come.

...and finally - Happy New Year to everyone - Let's keep this thing going!

Allan and Marilyn Pothecary  
[www.closeencounterskites.co.uk](http://www.closeencounterskites.co.uk)

## The Heksebeest Kite—George Webster

I first remember one of these kite some years ago flying in choppy wind conditions. At height it would look like a box kite with add-ons and it was only later that I realised it was a delta development.



Picture 1

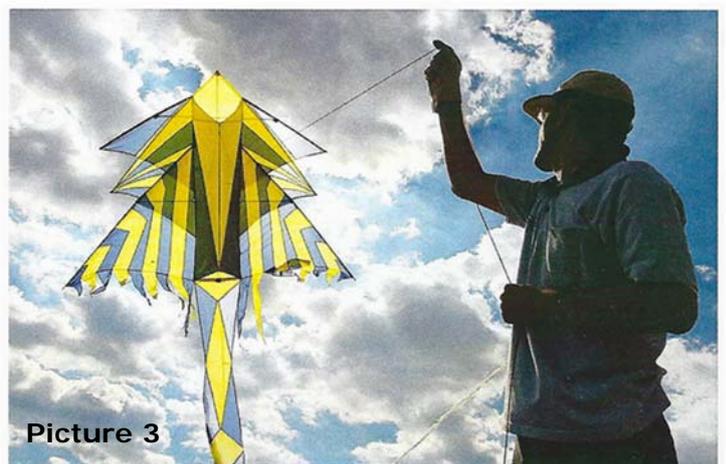


Picture 2

Soon after deltas became widespread in the 1970's, designers began to couple the delta wing with a variety of 'cores' - boxes, sleds or Conynes. The most inventive was Neil Thorburn who published SuperKites I in 1975, II in 1983 and III in 1991. His 1991 book mentions our own Jon Bloom for winning two competitions in a row with Neil's Pagoda — a triple Conyne delta. As a member of the Early Modern American group of makers he used super-market bags, square cut scrap timber and staples – not always easy to replicate in modern materials. However, it was Neil Thorburn who gave us the Stacked Deltas on a Conyne core, and I own one made by Gill Bloom.

In Europe the main delta development was the Pyrodelta by Frank Schweimann and Christine Schwarting which put long floating tails to the trailing edge of a delta and produced something quite new. Karl Robertshaw developed the idea as the single tailed Serpent (which is getting close to the Thai Serpent design). There followed several multi-tailed commercial variants of which I think the F-tail was the first.

The Heksebeest was invented and developed from 2003 by Henk Breedland, amongst whose early influences were the Indonesian dragon kites which he saw as a child. Certainly the original design does have affinities to Indonesian (not Chinese) dragons. But the structure of this kite is quite different. It uses 3 sets of delta wings but these are of differing dimensions and are superimposed rather than stacked. The spreaders to leading edge connectors are complicated using cords rather than pockets. Plan 1 is included to give you an idea of the complexity of the layout.



Picture 3

## The Heksebeest Kite—George Webster

Full plans are given in French in the Belgian NCB 166 and 167 (thanks Nest Lermont). Or try the website [breedland.deds.nl](http://breedland.deds.nl). NCB 168 has details of the Helkat — a lighter wind development.

Any Heksebeest has considerable presence in the sky as the mainframe is roughly 3m by 2.5m and, although tail arrangements vary, 15m is usual. The kite can look much more like its stacked origins in translucent materials (see picture 3).

A frequent modification is not to have 'ears'.

Then when the construction is in block colours the origin of the name becomes less obscure. Apparently a small boy looking up at the kite in Picture 2 exclaimed that it looked like a 'witch's beast'. (Not a broomstick as I once thought; I've now learned that broomsticks were pan-European transport arrangements for witches.)

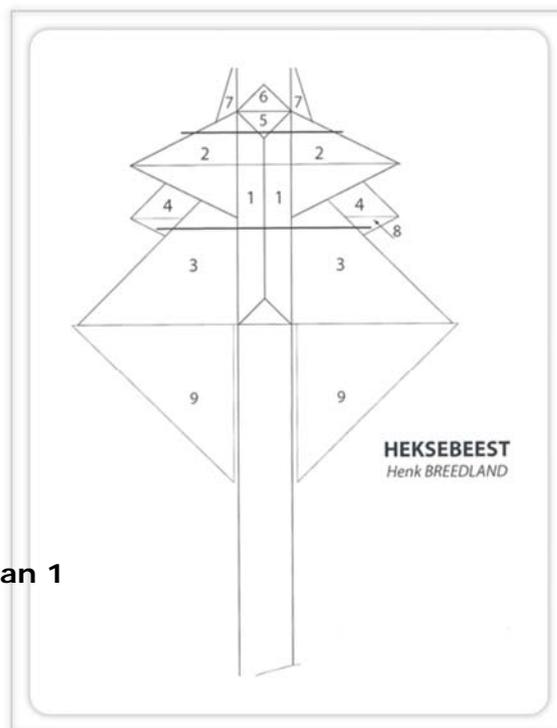
I got the name phonetically from a Dutch flier as 'hexembaste'. I now know that the correct spelling is Heksebeest. Almost any dark coloured version does look strange and perhaps threatening.

So we have Henk Breedland to thank for a good lifter and a 'first up last down' kite. A worthy addition to the other sparred kites which Dutch fliers have produced in the last 30 years: Knop Velthuisen's Genki, the late John Verheij's Double Parasled (which became the Power Sled, the entry-level kite hoist of choice), and Ton Oostveen and Helmut Schiefer's Circoflex. And we have Dick Toonen's boxes.

Acknowledgements: special thanks to Anne Gispén for Pictures 1 and 2, NCB for the plan and John Dobson for his editorial work.

*The following article about Henk Breedland and the Heksebeest first appeared in NCB 166 (October-December 2013), the magazine of the Belgian Kite Club (Nouveau Cervoliste Belge). It has been translated by John Dobson and appears with the permission of Nest Lermout, the editor of NCB.*

Henk Breedland was born and grew up in Assen. In the 1950's encountering a kite was



Plan 1

quite an experience in the neighbourhood where he lived. This was mainly due to the fact that Indonesians were established in this area along with their culture, including the concept of the kite.

Henk, as a 10 year old boy, had never seen such beautiful kites, ranging from small fighter kites to impressive colourful kites. It is easy to make contact with a different culture when you are a child, and he saw and learned how these kites were built. They used their own bamboo sticks and resin-coated rice paper which they brought from Indonesia or had sent to them.

Soon Henk started trying by himself to cut bamboo for assembling small fighter kites. After many attempts, he managed to make one that not only flew but was exactly what he wanted.

If the kite did not fly well, he turned it into a static kite by adding a tail or tassels. This amused him greatly and later he began to make snake or dragon kites. The head was made of ordinary resin-coated paper and the kite had a resin-coated crepe paper tail. He was flying kites with tails of 15 to 20 metres in length! Later, he made kites like this for his little cousins and neighbourhood children and his own children. "But to be honest," Henk said, "it was me who got the most fun."

## The Heksebeest Kite—George Webster

In 1991 he began to build kites again. Kiting was definitely in the air as there were many people who lived in Groningen who flew kites and especially stunt kites. He found it rewarding and bought a stunt kite. Subsequently, there were a lot of night flying kites to be seen at Kardinge [*a nature reserve near Groningen – JD*] where there were then no houses or small lakes. And information could be exchanged in the form of books and journals.

As Henk was into photography, his interest was sparked by a brochure about kite assisted photography. At one time, he had made a Tyvek delta which proved to be a remarkably stable kite even in strong winds.

He began experimenting and added a keel tunnel. As this made it fly even better he was very gratified. Then he began to stack the deltas; it was the “ne plus ultra!” It was a historic moment when three stacked deltas flew as steady as a rock in the sky. They gave the impression that they could no longer be brought down. However, getting them there was particularly troublesome. It was very difficult to position them correctly in the sky and sometimes that didn't happen.

Henk Breedland then had the idea of attaching the six wings to a single keel so that each pair of wings had its own spreader giving the kite a total of three spreaders. Spot on! Henk was very enthusiastic with this construction.

Finally, he had a perfect kite for photography, stable during flight in both low and high winds. Lastly, he changed the dimensions of the wings so that each pair of wings could catch the wind.

It is from this kite for photography that the Heksebeest was born because Henk Breedland had begun to work with colours and patterns and, of course, long tails. Small ears and eyes were also added and voilà: the Heksebeest.

There is a video [[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z\\_5pB\\_LsFMA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z_5pB_LsFMA) – JD] where you can see a prototype Heksebeest. This green version is now in the possession of Henk Landlust and is one of the first models with the adapted wings.

Heksebeest was the name was given by some children who seeing the kite, said: “The kite looks like a heksebeest (witchy-beast)”. Henk thought that the name was beautiful and suited it. He says: “When you see a Heksebeest in flight, you probably think it an Asian form. There is something oriental, mystical, about it. Perhaps it's because I subconsciously incorporated the model of the snake or dragon kites from Indonesia”.

Other kite fliers also were enthusiastic about this model and they soon began to build very rapidly so that a competition could be held at Kardinge in Groningen. During a kite festival at Groningen there could be seen five or six. Henk Breedland: “As there was a lot of demand for a plan of construction of the Heksebeest, I sent it to the magazine *Vlieger*.”

Thereafter it very quickly spread abroad; in Germany, there is a passion for this model, and also in Great Britain and Belgium. During a kite tour in Turkey in 2003, our Turkish friends caught the virus and begin to build their own. As ripstop is hard to find there, they use plastic to make their kites, which does not diminish the quality of flight relative to ripstop.

On Henk's website, you can see how many different models already exist in the world. What is nice is that there is no pattern or size imposed. You can choose your own colour, size and shape. Changability is what makes this model so fantastic. Henk had not thought it would be such a success. He is very pleased and feels some satisfaction to know that other people also have a lot of fun and that the Heksebeest has spread worldwide.

The Heksebeest is also known as the Breedland kite. The construction plan is available on <http://breedland.deds.nl/> . Its successor is the Helkat (cat from hell) whose plan is also on the website.

[*Note: the construction diagram given in NCB 166 is incorrect in a number of ways. For an explanation of this and a better plan see the correction in NCB 167. The plan on the website is the latest published version. — JD.*]

**North Hants Kiter's Jolly Up 16 — on April 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>.** 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). Fish and chips available on the Friday evening (via the zipwire!) from 6am to 9pm.

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 (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](mailto:roy@kitesup.co.uk)  
For orders: [hayley@kitesup.co.uk](mailto:hayley@kitesup.co.uk)

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

(The dates for this same event taking place later this year again are Aug 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>).

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

**Basingstoke Kite Festival, 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> June**  
At Down Grange Sports Complex, Pack Lane, Basingstoke. From 10am to 5 pm (both days).

Come along and help us to celebrate our 23rd 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 INVENTIONS 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 or Roy Broadley (Kites Up) 01256 812487.

**Teston Bridge Kite events. Teston Bridge Country Park, Teston Lane, Teston Nr Maidstone Kent. June 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup>**

This is only a provisional date as it is dependent on funding/sponsorship being obtained from businesses within Kent. Confirmation of whether or not it will be happening will be posted as soon as possible by latest end of March 2015.

**The Sumners Ponds Model Show 2015 (3rd Annual) Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June**  
Horsham, West Sussex.

I would like to formally invite you to join us at the third annual Sumners Ponds Model Show in which we invite all model types to exhibit or

## Event News

trade from *Model Boats, Planes, Cars & Trains to Helicopters, trucks, tanks and more!* We would also like to encourage Kite exhibitors & traders to our show to join our regular Kite group displaying on our site throughout the year. This year we would also like to encourage a row of craft stalls so please do contact me if you are interested in running a craft stall at the show.

Show times will be 10am-5pm. Entry price for the show are £7 for an adult and £5 for children and concessions. Last year we had over 1200 visitors to the show and we hope it will grow even more this year.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of you that came to the 2<sup>nd</sup> show which was really a fantastic step up from year 1 so thank you for helping push the show forward. I'd also like to thank you for your valuable feedback and advice. We hope to welcome more exhibitors, traders and visitors in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year and also work on ensuring the quality of the show is high and what we put on is unique and interesting for visitors.

We would not be able to do this without you and all the help and support you continue to provide. We hope that you may be able to spread the word to new clubs, traders and visitors again this year with the continued aim of making it a great annual model show in the West Sussex area.

Registration forms are also up on our web site ([www.sumnersponds.co.uk](http://www.sumnersponds.co.uk)) for anyone to download and apply. Please fill in as applicable and return.

Kimberley Events Coordinator, Sumners Ponds Fishery and Campsite | Barns Green | West Sussex | RH13 OPR. +44 (0)1403 732539. [events@sumnersponds.co.uk](mailto:events@sumnersponds.co.uk)

### Herne Bay Kite Day, Memorial Park, Kings Road Herne Bay, Kent. 28<sup>th</sup> June

Following on from the successful inaugural event last year, a second event has been arranged. Unfortunately due to the limited size of the flying site large inflatables are unable to be flown. Discussions are being held with the local community group behind these kite days as to

a more suitable site which would also accommodate camping, with a view to extending the event to two days.

Parking will be allow alongside the flying area (Dependant on weather). Entry to kiteflyers on production of car pass provided by Kent Kite Flyers. Contact:- Malcolm Ford, e-mail:- [malcolmf@kentkiteflyers.com](mailto:malcolmf@kentkiteflyers.com) or 07840086770

### Teston Kite Festival, August 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>

As in previous years this a two day event where kiteflyers meet up socially to fly kites, and interact with the public. Camping will be allowed from the Friday until the following Monday, with a minimum donation of £10 per unit of up to 4 persons. This is carrying on the tradition set for many years by Ron and Pat Dell of Kiteability.

Malcolm Ford, e-mail:- [malcolmf@kentkiteflyers.com](mailto:malcolmf@kentkiteflyers.com) or 07840086770

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## Portsmouth International Kite Festival 15th & 16th August 2015

Here is important information regarding the Portsmouth International Kite Festival 2015.

Due to the circumstances explained below the date of the Portsmouth International Kite Festival 2015 has changed to **August 15th and 16th**.

As many of you know last year (2014) the Victorious Music Festival moved from Portsmouth's Historic Dockyard to Southsea Seafront and Castle and utilised a small portion of Southsea Common—the location of the Portsmouth International Kite Festival.

We have recently (December 2014) been informed by Portsmouth City Council that their agreement with the Victorious Music Festival included a contractual option to expand the music festival across the rest of Southsea Common on the basis of the music festival being deemed successful and satisfying a number of PCC conditions.

The Victorious Music Festival organisers have decided to take up the option of expanding and have—for 2015—doubled in size. The Kite Society was also notified of this expansion in December 2014.

There were two options:

- 1 Relocate the event to another location within PCC's control on the same August Bank Holiday weekend.
- 2 Retain the location but change the date of the festival.

We visited the proposed alternative sites in December. However, taking into account a number of factors connected to these alternative sites which had not been considered by PCC we decided that the only viable option was to change the date. We have now received confirmation of the date change from Portsmouth City Council.

Other than the change of date and removal of the official free flying day on the Monday all other aspects of the kite festival remain the same. The only exception is a reduction in the number of nights camping available—see below.

We hope that all Kite fliers, Local Residents and those from further afield will continue to support this popular event and help secure the kite festival's future.

We would also like to thank Portsmouth City Council for their continuing support of the Kite Festival.

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The theme for this year will be announced on the festival web page and in the April edition of The Kiteflier.

**Free parking** will be available for KSGB members on request from us IN ADVANCE from April onwards.

**Camping** is not officially permitted on site by the council. We have maintained the number of slots for 2015 but we are unlikely to have camping passes available beyond specifically invited kite fliers. Once we finalise the guest list there may be some passes available to other kitefliers. The process and rules will be the same as for 2014. Please do **NOT** send anything now. We will publish details in the April issue.

One thing to note. **Camping will only be available from Friday 14th August 10am until Monday 16th August noon.**

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

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

## The 1970s Dual Line Revolution—Alex Kraaijeveld

If you're a regular reader of *The Kiteflier*, you will know that besides flying kites, I'm also interested in their history, especially the history of dual-line and quad-line kites. I've previously reported on my reconstruction of a late 19<sup>th</sup> century rescue kite (in KF #129) and of a pair of Garber Target kites, using modern materials (in KF #136).

Although there were a few dual-line kites on the market in the 1950s (think Francis Rogallo's Flexikite), and 1960s (think North Pacific Glite), dual-line flying didn't take off big time until the next decade.

The 1970s dual-line revolution started in the UK, and, within a very short amount of time, three dual-line kites appeared on the UK market, available to buy by the general public. As I've got original specimens of all three of these kites, I thought it would be nice to present them together here, and say a bit about their flying characteristics. Records are vague and contradictory as to exactly when each of these three kites first came on the market, so I'll stay away from that issue, and present them in order of my guess as to numbers sold, starting with the most common one.

And that most common one is obviously the Peter Powell Stunter. Frame was aluminium at first, and fibre glass later. Sail is made from plastic, and it normally sports a hollow plastic tube tail for added stability *and* effect. The Peter Powell Stunter needs a decent wind to fly properly; 10+mph at least, 15+mph is better. As long as it gets good pressure on the sail, it steers well, but it's clearly struggling when the wind drops. Peter Powell Stunters often pop up on eBay, and usually go for something like £20-40, depending on condition.



Next one is the Dunford Flying Machine, designed by Don Dunford. In kite books of the time, this kite was considered "the Rolls Royce of kites". Heavy cloth sail, wooden dowels as spars, and it most resembles a Conyne kite. Really a heavy kite for its sail surface area, so it needs a seriously strong wind: at least 15+mph, and it starts being really happy at 20+mph. Even in such winds, thanks to its small sail, it doesn't pull much, and is remarkably agile: it almost steers on a dime. As some of you reading this will know, together with my wife I form a kite display team (called 'Flying Fish'), and we managed to get our hands on two Flying Machines. They're not often offered for sale, and prices vary widely. I picked up our first one (new) for £25, and the second one (also new) for £30, but I've seen them being offered for over £100. Incidentally, if there are other kite display pairs having a pair of Dunford Flying Machines in their quiver, I'd very much like to know!



Which brings me to the third of the three kites that heralded the 1970s dual-line revolution: the Cambridge Leisure Combat (or Cambridge Combat for short). This kite

## The 1970s Dual Line Revolution—Alex Kraaijeveld

mostly resembles an Indian fighter kite. Plastic sail, and a frame consisting of wooden spars, together with some plastic and aluminium tubing. Like the Dunford Flying Machine, it has a control bar to which the bridle lines as well as tow points are attached. Again, a kite which needs some wind (10+mph). A very steerable, almost twitchy kite, and easy to fly (especially one-handed!).



Cambridge Combats appear to be very rare. I've only ever seen one new one on eBay (and you're looking at that one), which I managed to snap up for £25 as the only bidder! At the time of writing this, another Cambridge Combat, heavily damaged, is repeatedly offered on eBay, but hasn't attracted any buyer yet.

Given how rarely Cambridge Combats pop up for sale nowadays, my guess is that they were not as common in the 1970s as Peter Powell Stunters.

Following on from the success of especially the Peter Powell Stunter, a whole host of Peter Powell clones appeared on the market, on both sides of the Atlantic. To name just two: the Barnstormer in the UK, and the Trlby in the US. Interestingly, whereas Peter Powell shaped kites have never disappeared from the market, both the Dunford Flying Machine and the Cambridge Combat do not appear to have left any descendants ...



And talking of descendants, let's fast-forward some 40 years from the introduction of the Peter Powell Stunter: last year saw Peter Powell's sons, Mark and Paul, bring the Peter Powell Stunter back to the market, now in its Mk III version. And of course, as we already had a pair of Dunford Flying Machines, we couldn't resist getting a pair of Peter Powell Mk IIIs as well, customised with our 'Flying Fish' logo!

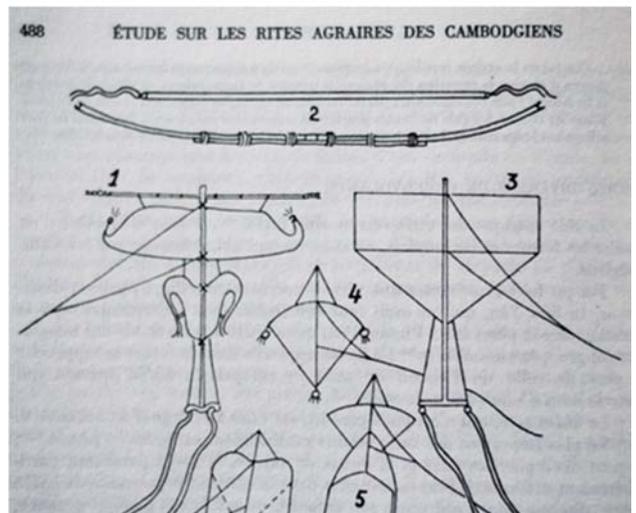
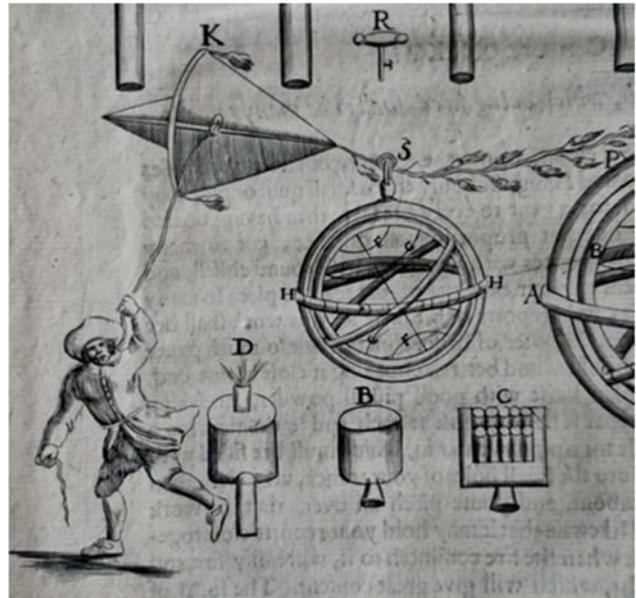
When talking descendants, let's not forget that today's modern dual-line delta kite traces its ancestry back, not to any of these three 1970s UK kites, but to the humble 1950s Rogallo Flexikite ...

*Picture credit of our two Dunford Flying Machines in the air: Roger Backhouse*

## The Origins of the First English Kite? — Paul Chapman

I suppose I am fortunate to have a modest kite library. Most of my books and papers are second hand and some of them are very old. One of the oldest books is all about making fireworks and was written by a Royal Navy gunnery expert called John Babington. He knew another fireworks enthusiast called John Bate and they both wrote books about fireworks and kites. I have these books in their original 1635 editions; Babington's book is "Pyrotechnia" and Bate's is "Mysteries of Nature and Art". They are amongst the oldest books written in English that refer to kites. The oldest book, however, is a translation of a Dutch book that illustrates kite fishing in the East Indies although it does not directly refer to the kites; this book was written by the brothers de Bry and the title is something like "Little voyages of the East Indies". The English edition was published circa 1603. Of course there were kites before 1600 but the books published before 1600 were mostly written in Latin; my English language version of della Porta was published much later in a book edited by Richard Read "Eighteen books on the Secrets of Art and Nature....etc." 1660.

But back to Mr Babington. His book is rather special as it contains a nicely defined drawing of his kite. He uses this kite to lift a Catherine wheel type of firework so it must have been a spectacular sight in the sky. In the illustration the firework is shown to appear under the rear of the kite, but that is only the firework in isolation. Given that della Porta never gave an illustration of his kite, and that the Dutch book shows the kites as an artistic schematic, we are left with the friends Babington and Bate. John Bate's kite is a simplistic diamond shape; I made one and it does fly, albeit with a long tail that should be festooned with exploding "saucissons". The Babington is altogether different and looks like a proto-Peartop.



I had always thought it strange that Clive Hart had never pursued this well developed kite. Did it have a long history as a peculiarly British kite or was it perhaps an import? Given the Dutch interest in the East Indies, could it have come via them? I had this thought in mind when I came across an old painting that purported to come from Cambodia. The kite in this painting is definitely like the one in Babington. And then I remembered my book by Poree-Maspero "Etude sur les rites Agraires des Cambodgiens", 1964. Ah! At last I had the answer. There is a drawing in this book taken from the kitemaker, In Sen Yang, who had made kites since infancy under the direction of his kitemaking father. The kite is now identified as a Cambodian Khleung Kanton. So obvious now!!!

But just identifying the kite is the easy matter. The difficult question is "why, when and by whom?". How was it that a Royal Navy gunner chose to use an obscure Cambodian kite in his book on fireworks in 1635? Had he been to Dieppe for the kite festival?



## The Origins of the First English Kite? — Paul Chapman



Dieppe? I was there in September 2014 so I asked the Cambodians. Cheang Yarin showed me the latest version of her book "Khymer Kites" (I have the two earlier editions) but, while leaning very heavily on Poree-Maspero, the book misinterprets the Khheng Kanton. And given that the Cambodians have made a spurious claim to my recently discovered Victorian Scottish Hunting Kites (1860s), even to them making a poor copy as validation, I really have to rely on other sources. Cheang Yarin did, however, identify the people depicted in my painting as Khymer.

In subsequent discussions I have learnt that the English East India Company was operating in and around the Khymer coast of Thailand and Cambodia in the early 1600s so it is probably not a great jump of imagination to suppose that a kite may have been acquired either by one of the traders, or by an escorting gunboat, and brought back to England. I have not been able to research this as thoroughly as I would like. Searching on the Internet tells us that Captain Benjamin Wood was the first, in 1596, to reach China by sail but his ship was wrecked on the way home and all were lost at sea. A rather more promising voyage occurred in 1637 when Captain Weddell sailed to Canton (Guangzhou) to initiate trading talks with the Chinese but again his ship was wrecked on the return journey; I don't know if there were other ships involved and whether these returned safely, maybe with a kite as cargo. And, of course, reaching China involved a rather longer journey. Perhaps the use of kites in association with fireworks is a bigger jump but, of course, the Orient has also a long association with fireworks too. It is therefore not surprising that Gunner Babington should include this curiosity in his equally curious book on fireworks! And, as if I needed the evidence, I was in south China in October this year where I

just happened to come across a local firework maker. It was so interesting to witness a technology that seemed to come straight out of the Baroque books by Bate and Babbington.



So what of the Khheng Babington? It looks like the Kanton in respect of the stubby nose, the triangular rear sail and the wing-tip tassels. The overall shape is the same. The principle differences are in the tail and the bridling. The Khheng Kanton is shown to be tailless and I would expect it to be so if the wing spar is to be made of flexible bamboo and the kite is to be lively. The Babington version may well have had a stiffer spar and would need a tail to steady it in the (probably) stronger English winds. The bridling is a bit more problematic. Babington's drawing shows it with a single point bridle, while the Khheng Kanton has a more conventional two leg bridle. It could be the illustrator's error or it could be correct. If correct, then the need for a tail would be an almost certainty. And this opens the question of whether the two leg bridle on the Kanton is a post 1600s development? Neither can be ruled out!



I am now curious as to whether the Khheng Babington is the grandfather to the English Peartop? It needs little imagination to see the forward triangular nose shrinking and the relatively straight wing spar being bent back by tensioning strings. It then takes another little skip of the imagination to use a broken child's hoop to make the cross-stick....and hey, fiddlesticks....we have the very English Peartop!

## Bits & Pieces

### Take off, dodge the cuts and fly high! - Red Bull Kite Fight 2015 is here

**Mumbai, 22nd December, 2014:** Come January and the skies become a playground filled with colours of festivity and the airborne wonders called kites. For some it's a tradition followed over generations in celebration of the winter solstice, but for most it is a passion to tame the wind and fly high.

Red Bull Kite Fight, the first-ever kite flying competition in India, aims to find the most talented kite-flyer in the country. Taking place in the vibrant city of Ahmedabad – home to a large number of kite aficionados, Red Bull Kite Fight 2015 celebrates one of Gujarat's most loved festivals, Uttarayan from 9th to 11th January 2015. This one-of-its-kind competition is supported by Gujarat Tourism.

So what's the fight all about? Each participant is given 5 kites and has to fight it out with his fellow flyers to survive till the very end. The top three winners from each day then go on to participate in the pre-final rounds. In the finals, the winners of Day 1, Day 2, and Day 3 compete for the title. The last-man-standing is crowned as the Red Bull Kite Fight Champion.

Do you think you have it in you to assert your authority over the skies above the city of Ahmedabad? If yes, register now for the Red Bull Kite Fight 2015.

More information on [www.redbull.com](http://www.redbull.com)

### Birds Eye Kite

This kite aerial photography site ([www.birdseyekite.com](http://www.birdseyekite.com)) is selling "Ireland from a Kite" Calendar 2015 Unique images of Ireland. Priced at £12. The description says "Our 2015 wall calendar of Ireland takes you on a journey across this beautiful island from a Kites perspective. Inside your calendar you will find 12 print quality aerial images of Ireland that can be enjoyed throughout 2015 and for years to come".

### Ellie Goulding's impressive 600ft dress created by Grappenhall designer

Singing sensation Ellie Goulding has never been one to shy away from a daring outfit choice in the past. So when the chart-topping popstar teamed up with London-based designer Carl Robertshaw, who grew up in Grappenhall, he knew it was going to be a tall order to create a

show-stopping dress for her performance on the Royal Variety Show. But after a month of careful meticulous design, the 42-year-old's hard work clearly paid off with the impressive 600 square foot garment inevitably stealing the show and hitting the headlines of national newspaper pages in the UK.

After seeing the dress for the first time on stage, the former Lymm High School student said he had one word to describe it - 'wow'. He added: "We were all very proud and thinking that this is going to be something special. We couldn't wait to see the reaction."

Carl, who studied graphic design at Central St Martin's School of Art and Design, worked closely with creative director Dan Shipton and video artist Frieder Weiss to make sure Ellie's dress was the talk of the show.

Ellie Goulding is not the first famous face the former Priestley College student has worked with and has worked on even bigger scale projects during his career. A quick look at his CV shows an impressive list of jobs which includes working on the Olympics opening and closing ceremony and Take That's Progress Tour and Circus World Tour.

Speaking about his love of design, Carl said his trusty sketchbook is never far from his side for the moments when inspiration strikes. "I always say my first language is drawing and my second language is English," joked Carl.

### Kite merchant asks 3 million rupees from government to bailout his ailing business

A kite merchant in the city has appealed to the central government for an INR 3 million bailout of his ailing business.

"It is purely on the public's interest that I remain in the sky and it is the responsibility of the government to bail me out," Mr. Mijay Varan, the kite merchant told Faking News. When queried about how his business had gone beyond the point of return, the kite merchant denied any reports of mismanagement. "What is there to mismanage in a kite business? It is simple, you know. You make a kite, sell to a kid or an adult, make sure it flies and take their money. What is so complex here? How can I mismanage this business?" a furious Mijay Varan yelled at Faking News.

**Bits & Pieces**

"An airline business too, similar to kite business, is fairly simple with a couple of additional steps. You buy an aircraft, fuel the aircraft, sell tickets to passengers, make sure the aircraft flies, and don't worry about money since you have already taken that from the passengers. Not that complex! But, most people are reported to have grossly mismanaged the business and the government goes all the way on bailouts in the tune of Rs.30000 crores. All I am asking is 30 lacs. The government must pay,"

Mijay Varan went on to draw a parallel with the Airlines industry, which is often the hot topic in bailouts. When queried about him, the merchant, seemingly quite wealthy in spite of his business being in troubled waters, rather in gloomy skies, Mijay Varan was as charming as ever in his retreat. "Kite is one of my many business interests. Tell you what? I have made more money than 30 lacs as my salary from the kite business in the last 5 years and also I have other business interests. That is none of anyone's business, you know. My kite business is in trouble and the government must bailout. Is that clear now?" a visibly exasperated Mijay Varan finished his retort not as charmingly as he started, with the smile on his face absent.

Faking News has learnt that Mijay Varan has ambitious plans to revive his business first with the bailout money and make his business literally fly after that. Sky is the limit for him and he has pre-ordered monster electric fans to kick start the kites if for some unusual reasons the kites don't fly over Ahmedabad skies.

Finally, when Faking News asked the difficult question about the staff not having been paid over several months, Mr. Mijay Varan nonchalantly admitted that most of his staff is in the kite business were for the joy of flying and not to make any money out of it. And unlike the other cruel airlines, which deny salaries as well as the joy of flying to their staff, Mijay's kites ensured all his staff got at least two kites of their choice prior to the shutdown of business.

"I am confident about the bailout from the government. The PM flies my kites quite often; not as often as he flies the aircrafts, as critically reported by the opposition. Nevertheless, I am in the business of kite flying and the public needs me up there, and it is the government's responsibility to keep me up there", Mijay Varan made the exit comment and denied further questions

on China Manja and most of his kites having been sold for high prices but advertised at low prices.

**Times of India**

AHMEDABAD: For people who want to soak in the Uttarayan festivities - where the skyline is dotted with vibrant kites - but couldn't because they do not own a terrace in the city. There is good news for people like Payal Vatsa from Bangalore. For two years, she wanted to be a part of the celebrations but couldn't without a terrace.

A portal has been launched that helps people like Payal. The portal by three youngsters - Jenil Malavia, an alumnus of DAIICT, Krina Prajapati, an MSU fine arts student and Harsha Chaudhary, software developer in a Pune-based IT firm - was financed by themselves. Kite enthusiasts can now find a terrace online at `MyTerrace.in` from among those available in various areas of the city. With Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) and Vibrant Gujarat Global Investors Summit (VGGIS) next month, a large number of people are expected to participate in the International Kite Festival. The two-way website connects terrace owners with kitists.

"For two years, my friends and I have been looking for terrace for Uttarayan away from our parents but could not find one. This led me to develop this platform," said Malavia. On the website, people can list requirements and get in touch with terrace owners.

The website has tied up with several terrace owners in Naranpura, Khadia, Paldi and Manek Chowk. "Last year I paid Rs 8,000 to rent a terrace in Khadia. With the website, I have more options," said Nirmal Parikh, a professional.

Anviti Patel, a student from Naranpura listed her terrace on the site. "Until last Uttarayan, I celebrated with my family on the terrace. This year my family members are out, I hope to earn some extra money," said Patel.

Currently, the website provides listings for free and plans to put in a revenue model by the end of next year. The platform lets a user to make quotes for rentals according to their needs. Krina Prajapati, who will handle the social media campaign on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram says that the trio will soon come up with a mobile application.

## Bits & Pieces

### Forward Thinking Museum

There is a section of the web site called Soaring: Kite Aerial Photography. The site says:

“Flying a kite brings out one’s inner child like no other thrill – with the possible exception of sending a camera along for the ride! Even without the direct experience of holding tight against the pull of a kite climbing into the sky, looking at an aerial photograph can easily recall fantastic and vivid dreams of being able to fly – dreams of soaring effortlessly, deliberately, and not too high, so people and objects on the ground can still be made out.

“All six artists featured in this exhibition present their work regularly on “Kite Aerial Photography (KAP)”, a group on the photo sharing site flickr, which also provides forums for trading tips on equipment and KAP practices. In recent years, as the price and weight of quality digital cameras have come down, KAP has grown in popularity and attracts not only recreational enthusiasts, but also kite photographers with a keen appreciation for the low impact in obtaining aerial images for environmental, archeological, and commercial projects.

“The physical separation between a kite aerial photographer and an airborne camera eliminates the chance to preview a composition through the use of a viewfinder or LCD screen. Overcoming this inherent challenge requires considerable skill, experimentation and persistence. It is no small feat to simultaneously steer the kite into a promising position, to approximate a camera’s required rotation and tilt and to trigger the shutter release – all to capture often spectacular aerial images. Perhaps the biggest gift from this small, yet internationally active community of KAPers to us all is a new perspective on the world we live on.”

Go to [www.forwardthinkingmuseum.com/exhibitions/group\\_KAP\\_intro.php](http://www.forwardthinkingmuseum.com/exhibitions/group_KAP_intro.php) for more.

### From the Billings Gazette Flying Buffalo kites come to Crow Agency for reception

The Little Big Horn College Library recently hosted a reception to welcome the Flying Buffalo Project kites and the artists who painted them.

Artists involved in the project are: Allen Knows



His Gun (Crow), Rabbit Knows Gun (Crow), Wendy Red Star (Crow), DG House (Cherokee), Frank Finley (Salish Kootenai), Daniel Long Soldier (Oglala Lakota), Alaina Buffalo Spirit (Northern Cheyenne), Ivan Long (Sioux), Jaune Quick To See Smith and her son, Neal Ambrose Smith (Salish Kootenai), Jon Cadotte (Blackfeet), Angela Babby (Oglala Lakota) and Dorores Purdy (Caddo).

Six others will soon add their work to the collection.

Flying Buffalo Project organizers Terry Zee Lee and Drake Smith take the kites to numerous buffalo jump locations each year and fly the kites so that buffalo soar into the sky instead of tumbling off the edge. This reminds everyone that the life blood of the western native nations were the huge herds that sustained the people year-round and especially through harsh winter months.

The kites will again be flown in 2015 at the Madison Buffalo Jump, the First Peoples Buffalo Jump, the Head Smashed In Buffalo Jump and the Vore Buffalo Jump. Exact dates will be set in January. Participating artists are invited to bring work for sale to the jump locations.

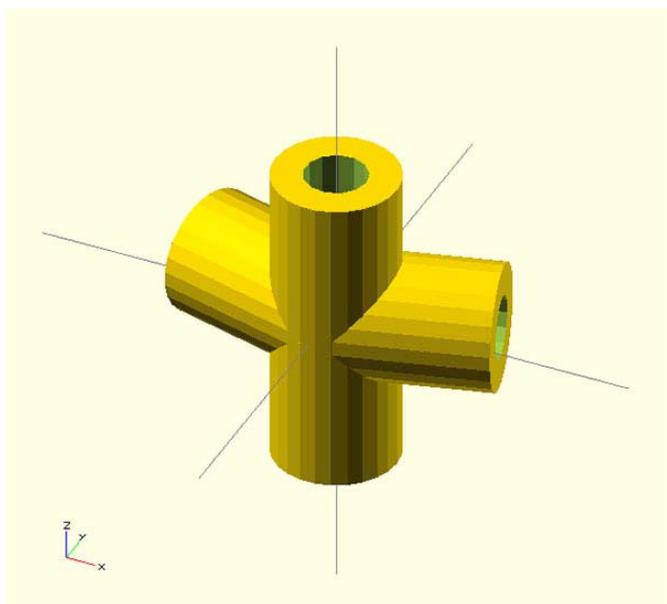
### Go Fly a Kite: Designer Offers “Polycon” Tutorial for 3D Printing Connector to Create Kites and More

Let’s go fly a kite! But wouldn’t it be more fun to sing a song about kites while flying a kite you actually made? According to Berlin-based artist

and engineer, Michael Ang, you simply need a little bit of time, a few rods, some fabric, and... a 3D printer.

The immediate thought of 3D printing a kite is somewhat daunting when you consider the time it would take; kites aren't known for being petite. Ang, though, has been working on a less time intensive "polygon construction" ("polycon") technique in which the 3D printed parts are connectors that attach to rods to create a larger structure. A kite was a perfectly simple way to start out on the technique, and Ang has provided a full tutorial of his process so you can build your own. For those who find the polycon technique viable and want to expand on it, Ang has further designs for some larger structures that have more than the one connector used in the kite.

The connectors are the key to the polycon design technique, exemplified in the construction of an Eddy diamond kite. The central connector is 3D printed to bring wooden rods together in the classic diamond kite shape, and the design will result in a 50 x 50 cm kite frame. The design is parametric so that changes can easily adapt to the rod sizes you actually have on hand for your personal kite. Its small size also makes it amenable to reprints, if needed, for different sizes or multiple kites.



The kite features a cross connector that holds the rod "arms" up at what's called the dihedral angle, which is why the Eddy kite has a propensity for flight. Getting it adjusted just right is critical, and the whole thing can be modeled

using the open source OpenSCAD program. The program uses basic programming, and Ang provides all necessary codes and suggested tweaks.

While Ang used a Prusa i3 Berlin RepRap printer and Cura printer software, he notes that any combination of 3D printer and software should do the trick. Once the connector design is adjusted and printed out, Ang uses it to connect the wooden rods. For materials, he purchased a one-meter-long, 4-mm-diameter wooden rod, paper, and string. The rod can be cut down into a 50-cm piece and two 25-cm pieces which will be connected via the 3D printed piece.



He instructs: "The center connector goes 10cm from the top of the long rod. For the "sail", paper does fine (cut to fit the frame, making sure that the sail is symmetrical), and you can just tape the paper to the rods. Tie a piece of string about 80cm long between the center connector and a point 4cm from the tail to make a bridle. To find the right place to tie on the long flying line, take the kite out on a breezy day and hold by the bridle, moving your hand up and down until you find a spot where the kite doesn't try to fly up too much, or fall back down. That's the spot to tie on your long flying line. If the kite is unstable while flying, you can add a long tail to the kite, but I haven't found it to be necessary (though it adds to the classic look)."

The kite is a great — and fun! — way to use 3D printing to get outside. Once on board with Ang's polycon technique, more extensive creations can emerge. Check out his "Chrysalis" design to get inspired about multi-connected pieces

## Bits & Pieces

### The New Sydney Airport



Although not yet built—or even started—there is controversy over the name of the new Sydney Airport in Australia.

Choices are currently between Lawrence Hargrave (pictured) and John Bradfield (a civil engineer).

The Abbott government backs the need for a second Sydney airport – but its name seems to be more contentious.

The prime minister, Tony Abbott, last week appeared on the front page of the Daily Telegraph calling for the proposed airport at Badgerys Creek to be named after John Bradfield, the civil engineer who oversaw construction of the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

But the treasurer, Joe Hockey, said on Tuesday he believed the airport should honour Lawrence Hargrave, an aeronautical pioneer and inventor. As a compromise, Hockey proposed renaming the wider Badgerys Creek area as Bradfield City.

Asked about the conflict of views, Hockey said. “Lawrence Hargrave was arguably Australia’s greatest ever inventor, one of the greatest inventors in history, and we haven’t properly recognised him in Australia.”

Hargrave’s early models were monoplanes, powered by clockwork or rubber bands, and from 1893 he began work that led him to invent the box kite, according to the Australian Dictionary of Biography, published by MUP.

“Corresponding with aeronautical experimenters in Europe and the United States of America, Hargrave was fired with the prospect of himself flying in one of his machines and, after a number of trials, on 12 November 1894, lifted himself from the beach at Stanwell Park in a four kite construction, attached to the ground by piano wire,” the biography entry says.

“When the first European aircraft were built, they too used Hargrave-type box kites for their

supporting surface.”

### Youtube Channel for Kite Fliers

A new resource for internet capable kite fliers has appeared on Youtube.com. Created by Ralf Dietrich this channel was originally only produced in German. However, because of the over whelming demand he has also produced the videos in English.

The channel is called Kite Builders and contains reviews of kites, historical information and so on. Well worth a look.

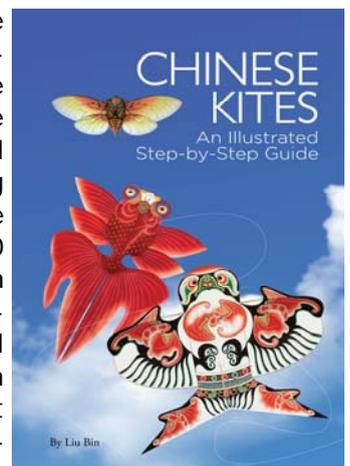
### Worldwide Kite Festival Web Site

Running for a couple of years this web site (<http://kitefestivals.vliegersport.info/>) has listings for main kite events across the globe. It may be a useful resource to publicize events and to check what is on if you are going on holiday.

### Chines Kites—An Illustrated step by step guide.

Available on Amazon.co.uk at £19.99.

Kites and China are practically synonymous, since these childhood toys were originally invented there before becoming popular around the world. For over 2000 years, kites have been a common sight in China, from the imperial court to the common people, and over that time period the craftsmanship of the kite has



been perfected; and includes a diversity and richness of styles. In Chinese Kites, you'll learn not only the history and varied forms of the Chinese kite, but also how to produce, step-by-step, a beautiful Chinese kite of your own! Learn how to: Create the kite's framework; Paint colourful designs; Master the techniques of putting the painted cover on the framework; Fly your creation! With Chinese Kites, you will be able to experience firsthand the joy of seeing a kite you made soaring across the sky.



# Not just monkey business

At the end of August, the Club held a workshop which was run by Robert van Weers. Here he shares his thoughts on how it went

When I was asked to do a workshop for this BKF lot, I was a bit apprehensive because of their reputation. Nothing bad of course - just, well, a different bunch. But let's say no more. You get the picture, right?

When I started the communications with a lovely representative of the group (who thinks I am an Australian citizen, yeah right!) I wondered what project they were after. One of my Idol fish perhaps? Maybe a monkey? But low and behold, the communication with the representative guy (who does not even know where kiwis live) got stranger and stranger: 'What if we



**continued on page 2** *Mike Houghton models his work in progress*

## Not just monkey business

continued from page 1

have various fish in your class?' he said.

'Oh no,' I thought, 'let's make it difficult shall we?' Their reputation was beginning to make itself known in my books. What else could make it more challenging for me?

Day by day, more people joined in the game and as the workshop approached there were three different types of fish to be made by that bunch, one a flaming beauty needing special attention (and no, not a blonde one, either).

But if you think that is not that bad, well, there was also someone who wanted a baby Ralph and, last but not least, someone wanted to make a monkey. So five various designs in one class. Yes, I was shocked to say the least.

I got started on cutting all the panels out and, just when I thought I had them all done, 'Can we please have a red one as well?' 'Will this ever end?' I thought.

Anyway, once I finally got to the class and met everybody involved, it all changed for me. Boy, how wrong



*Colin Marshall and Martin Weaver put their heads together on a fish that is flaming different from the others*

I was thinking they were a crazy bunch. It turned out they were more nuts than I thought!

No, now I am playing with you lot. I had a ball of a time. Yes, it kept me on my toes but I would like to say that it was one of the best, if not the best, class I have been honoured to do.

We were looked after very well by the lovely ladies who made lunch (no dark sauce though!). And tea and coffee were available all day long and, yes, with snacks as well. And it was all lovely home cooking.

I was also very impressed with the students themselves. A huge variety of experiences made for a

really great class. From immaculate stitching to 'that looks about right' - we are all differently skilled when it comes to sewing, and it made no wrong impressions on anybody. Even first timers had a ball and finished their projects.

The best part of all was when I found out all of the students eventually finished their kites. Heck, some even mysteriously appeared in the New Zealand tent at the kite festival held in Dieppe, France a week or so later. Great stuff people. I so look forward seeing you lot again somewhere, sometime, someplace.

Steady breezes and again, thanks for the great time I had before, during and after the event.



*Robert explains the next steps to Jamie Lund*



*Keith Boxall's baby Ralph - all finished bar the bridles*



*The maiden flight of Andrew Scott's Moorish Idol*



# Interview with a kitemaker

Sandra and Andrew Scott talk to kitemaker Karl Longbottom about what inspires him and what he thinks about the future of kite flying

SS: When did you start kite flying and kite making?

KL: I started kite flying about 24 or 25 years ago. We took the kids on holiday and bought a kite. It was a way to keep the kids quiet and something to do on holiday. Then the kids then brought me a book home from the library on making fighter kites. So we made fighter kites. Then one day Jenny and I went to a kite festival at Old Warden. We spent an afternoon lying in the sun, watching kites for about four or five hours. And that's what inspired me to really start kite making. I started building kites from that point on. Purely for our own use to start with.

SS: But from about 2000 you decided to go professional?

KL: I've always made kites for other people. People would ask me to make something, or I'd make them and give them away. Then, having been made redundant several times and having had problems with my heart, I needed to find a job that was low stress [laughs].

AS: Was kite making then very different to kite making now?

KL: There was a lot more interest in kites in general then.

We were just coming out of the era of things like the Morgan Star and Paul Morgan had published his first book. Fabric technology wasn't as advanced as it is now. We were using Carrington fabric which was interesting, particularly if it got wet. People were using dowel rather than carbon fibre.

AS: Is it easier to make kites now?

KL: The consistency of fabric is a lot better and the technology greater.

SS: But there's a lot more competition, isn't there?

KL: In terms of kite making and design, there's not that many people doing it in the UK. But there are a lot more companies mass producing kites now than there were.

SS: So, if you think about what you did in 2000, could you start up like that today?

KL: Yes. Because our intention was never to try to compete with mass production. We are producing kites for people who already fly kites rather than something that's very, very cheap that will sell at a festival. We're more expensive, more technical. It's a different kind of market.

# Interview with a kitemaker

AS: How do you know that what you're going to come up with will sell?

KL: You don't. I make what I like and what interests me at the time. Recently, we've been making box kites, trying to do something a little bit different. I'm very pleased with the result. Now whether people will want to buy them or not, is another matter. I won't know that until I make a couple of dozen in different colours and sizes, and see what happens.

AS: What inspires you? For example, tell us about the block heads. They won the Coup de Coeur at Dieppe a couple of years ago. What inspired you to make them?

KL: If you look at kite history, the Maoris had been making figure shaped kites. That's part of their culture. That's where it started.

SS: Like a lot of your kites, they're quite playful, aren't they? As are the pterodactyls. Where did they come from?

KL: That was an enquiry that came through Carl Robertshaw. He was commissioned to make a pterodactyl kite for a gift. I believe somebody else saw it and said they would like to sell them in their shop. Carl didn't want to mass produce them so he contacted me. So, I designed a kite that could be sold at a price. It's totally different to the one Carl made. It's a different size, different shape, different techniques. But Carl's kite was expensive. If you're making one-offs that's fine.



A train of blockheads

But if you're going to mass produce something, it's got to be easily made. Fortunately, the woman who wanted them didn't take them in the end but other people have seen them and bought a lot. We've made about 600 or 700 of them.

SS: They're a very versatile kite.

KL: It's a stable single liner, you can fly them when there's zero wind outdoors, you can fly them indoors.

AS: Indoor flying is very big in America. Have you managed to capture any of that market?

KL: Currently, Donna Wendt, the



Top: over 600 or 700 pterodactyls have been made; above: the pterodactyl's big brother - the jabberwocky

woman who's leading the AKA championships, is flying one of my kites. She's regularly getting first place in the competitions. So, there are people in the States who fly my kites. But, again, it's a very specialist market.

SS: Indoor flying is bigger in America. Do you think there's interest in indoor flying over here?

KL: It's still taking off, as it were. It's becoming more popular.

SS: Especially in the winter.

KL: Yep! As far as I'm aware, there are only two events a year and those are the ones we organise. We're trying to encourage people to get interested in it.

SS: Tell us about Wigsley Wings.

KL: Wigsley Wings was a group of three couples. We were all heavily involved with the Midland Kite Flyers. I was chairman, Doug Richardson was secretary and Bryn Baggaley was a very active member. We used travel the

# Interview with a kitemaker



*A collection of jellyfish*

country promoting Midland Kite Flyers, flying the club's display kites at different events to promote the club. And after three years of being chairman and of Doug being secretary, we decided that it was somebody else's turn to do all the hard work; we were going to go out and fly and enjoy ourselves.

AS: You bought some display kites for yourselves?

KL: That year in Bristol we met Peter Lynn and he had three kites for sale. So, we all bought a maxi kite each. I bought the octopus, Doug bought the manta ray and Bryn bought the big teddy bear. We enjoyed flying together and showing off what we do. And for me it was the next stage. Big inflatables were relatively new at that stage - it was the year 2000 - and not many people had them. They were in demand to be seen around the country.

SS: And that took you to all sorts of festivals?

KL: Yes, all over the UK. We didn't go abroad. But that was around the time I wanted to go self employed and start making kites full time. So, I dropped out of

it because I wanted to fly my own kites rather than promoting Peter Lynn.

SS: The show kites are very eye catching, aren't they?

KL: That's what drags the public in. And for a festival organiser you do need a certain degree of that, certainly. But I think they're overtaking festivals. People want to go bigger and bigger and bigger. And suddenly there's no space for anything that's unusual or artistic, small and hand crafted - they tend to disappear into the sky. It will turn full circle eventually. It all depends on the organiser and what they want to promote. You go to Italy, to Cervia and it's predominantly an artistic kite event.

AS: I've noticed a lot of the Italian kites seem to be about painting on kites.

KL: Yes, painting on kites and complex shapes and different papers and bamboo and that kind of thing. But if you're an event organiser, you put big kites up to drag in the paying public. Whereas, if you're not trying to finance various things you can afford to have a different style of kite.

AS: Are international festivals important to your business?

KL: International festivals? Yes.

SS: So there's a lot of talk at the moment about how festivals in the UK are struggling for funds and dying out. Is that something that is particular to this country? Is kiting bigger overseas?

KL: Kiting is bigger overseas, certainly. I think most of Europe is struggling for funding. But you go to parts of the far east and there seems to be plenty of money. They're not struggling as much as we are.

AS: Are there any festivals that you prefer to go to, or one's that are more important than others?

KL: Some are more important to me but I like different festivals for different reasons. Norway is a very special festival. The first day, you work with members of the public making kites and the second day you go and fly them. It's a real interactive thing with the public. I don't make any money there. I don't sell very many kites. It's the joy of doing it. But you go to somewhere out in the far east, there are huge great festivals with lots of

## Interview with a kitemaker

people watching. Sometimes I'll sell kites and sometimes I won't. I only ever sell to the kite flyers, not the public. But you have to be out there to be seen. You've got to show people what you do. So, international festivals are important. Whether it actually justifies the cost of the airfare is another matter.

SS: I think one of the things that perhaps is becoming more of a burden for festival organisers over here is health and safety. Is that something that is a concern overseas?

KL: Oh, some of the places you fly in there's no health and safety at all. And it's great. That's the joy of it.

SS: What do you think the future is for kite flying in this country?

KL: Currently, it's on the decrease. And the age range of the UK kite flyers is disappearing up into the 60s, 70s, 80-year-old people and there's very few young people coming through.

SS: Young people seem to be going for sports kites.

KL: Yes, that's always been the same. Ever since there's been two line kites. Everybody starts off with a sports kite. And as you get older and slower, you move onto single line.

SS: Do you think those youngsters will move into the single line flying?

KL: I hope so.

SS: As arthritis creeps in.

KL: That and alcoholism, yes. But I think kite clubs in general are dying out anyway because there isn't the need for them anymore. These days we have the internet. People communicate through social media so you've haven't got this need to have a core of knowledge within a club.

SS: If the clubs are going to survive they need to do something different?

KL: Without a doubt. The days of posting out a newsletter every few months have gone. Don't get me wrong, members are very pleased to receive it but that's not going to make new people join. So, how do you capture new people and get them involved? They don't have to



*Karl's new box kite design*

be part of a club but from my point of view we need to make them kite flyers. Publishing online is important. There's fantastic material online in terms of kite plans and information. So, you don't need the kite clubs to the same degree. But how do you bring people together to fly together now? That's the next problem.

AS: Traditionally many kite clubs run a festival.

KL: But that's so difficult now in the UK.

AS: There seems to be a movement away from doing a festival towards an event where members get together to fly for fun.

KL: And there's nothing wrong with that if you can attract new flyers to come in every now and again. It doesn't have to have the public there. What you need is people, a critical mass of kite flyers in the UK.

AS: But where do kite flyers interact with the public. Isn't that how you get new people in?

KL: That's what Doug, Bryn and myself were doing in the Midland Kite Flyers. We were going out to festivals all over the country and flying the big kites because they were spectacular and relatively new. People would come along and I think we doubled the membership in two years. So, it was a very important thing for the club to do, to be seen out there. But then you get the problems with clubs in how you finance that, who's going to do the work, and all the rest of it? It's very difficult. We need to get this mass of people interested and it normally falls down to half a dozen keen, possibly stupid people who go out there and work their backsides off every time.

SS: Thanks, Karl. Is there anything else that you think we've missed?

KL: Well, yes. Kites available at all times!

**For more information visit [www.longbottom.org.uk](http://www.longbottom.org.uk)**

# Weather-free kite flying

Indoor kite flying takes off at this increasingly popular twice-yearly event

**Karl and Sara Longbottom have been popularising indoor flying in the UK by holding indoor flying events twice a year in Swindon.**

The afternoon sessions, held in early spring and late autumn are a chance to fly lightweight kites regardless of the weather. There are opportunities to try different kites and flying techniques.

The next indoor fly will be on 15 February 2015. For more information contact Karl or Sara by emailing [karl@longbottom.org.uk](mailto:karl@longbottom.org.uk).



*Roy Martin prepares to test a lightweight kite of his own designs*



*Kites from left to right: a vented iflite, a plutz, a biplutz and an emong*



*Cuban fibre makes this distinctive Karl Longbottom kite extremely light*



*Alan Outram with an iflite in one of the new colours*



*A plutz in flight*



*Pterodactyl's can be fitted with a spreader spar to keep the wings stable*

# Dieppe Kite Festival

In September, Brighton members joined a host of international fliers at this biennial celebration of kite flying



*Above and top: the kite flyers parade through Dieppe on the first Saturday of the event*



*Andrew Scott unpacks a colony of frog kites which were made in a BKF workshop*



*Steve Brockett prepares to launch one of his dragon kites - a stunning design created using fabric paints on cotton.*



*Poppies on the beach*



*Fish in the wind garden*



*Preparing for a Cassagne-ring fly*



*An impressive spectacle as Cassagne rings and Brasington trains fill the sky*

## An award-winning kite

Taranis, a kite that was almost 15 years in the making and which was only finished midway through the Dieppe festival, scooped the 2014 Coup de Coeur awarded by the Cerf-Volant Club de France.

This remarkable kite was begun by Christian Baden-Powell at the end of the last century! He envisioned it being made out of three circles containing ten panels.

Taranis has gone on to win awards at the American Kitefliers Association including the Lee Toy Memorial Award, AKA Grand Champion and the 2014 Craftmanship award.



*Kent Kite Flyers fill the sky with stacked flow tail deltas*



*Helping hand: Robert Brasington and Peter Hulcoop put together an exhibition Lysithea*



*Christian Baden-Powell hand flies a huge yakko dako kite*

# North Hants Kitters' Jolly Up 16

25 - 26 April, 2015 - gate opens from 12 noon on the Friday

**It's nearly that time again for another fun weekend of kite flying for kite flyers!**

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 midday onwards (£8 per tent/camper for Fri and Sat night).

## Activities

There will be an auction on the Saturday evening. Donations for this will be gratefully received before or on the weekend (but before 4pm please, to allow time to set it all up).

There will also be a beer lift competition, wind permitting, same rules as at previous events.

Roy Martin is arranging another sled competition - please contact him

directly about this.

## Refreshments

Roy Broadley's refreshment tent will be open for business (normal rules apply).

High-flying fish and chips, delivered via zip wire, will be available on the Friday evening between 6pm and 9pm. There is a BBQ on the Saturday evening at a price of £7 per person. Tickets for this can be bought on the weekend. Please try to bring a plate and cutlery.

Once again there will be jacket potatoes at lunchtimes on Saturday and Sunday, and bacon rolls will be available on both mornings.

For further information about the event, please either contact:  
Roy Broadley on 07778 352825



*High-flying fish and chips*

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

You can pre-order your Jolly Up 16 tee-shirt, polo shirt, etc. Please email Hayley via hayley@kitesup.co.uk.

## Jolly Up 17

A similar event will take place later in the year on 1 - 2 August.

Please note that these are not buggy/boarding events.

# Basingstoke Kite Festival

6 - 7 June 2015, 10am to 5 pm (both days)

Down Grange Sports Complex, Pack Lane, Basingstoke

**Come along and help celebrate the 23rd Festival and join in the fun!**

There will be guests from home and abroad joining in. As well as the display arena, there will be the usual array of activities, along with various kite and food traders.

There will also be a raffle over the weekend with lots of donated kite-related prizes (donations gratefully received!).

The theme is INVENTIONS for those who'd like to fly theme-related kites.

On Saturday evening there will be the usual social get together in the marquee, and all are welcome. (There is a small fee for the buffet - tickets are very limited so please pre-book and pay the raffle team on the Saturday morning.)

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



*Brighton and Kent kite flyers were among the participants at the Basingstoke festival last year*

Come along and join in;h!

## Contacts:

Alan Cosgrove (Main festival Organiser) - 01256 421800

Roy Broadley (Kites Up) - 01256 812487

# Getting kids into KAP

An archaeological group in Scotland has been providing free kite aerial photography (KAP) kits for children, students and their mentors.

West Lothian Archaeology Group (formerly West Lothian Aerial Archaeology) is a collective of independent individuals in the UK and Ireland who have an interest in promoting KAP as a low-cost, inclusive and environmentally friendly technique for archaeological/heritage photography.

In 2012, terminally ill Group co-founder and former teacher, Rosie Wells, asked for some of her money to be set aside to fund a pilot project to investigate, and introduce cheap,

simple, low-level aerial photography techniques to children and students.

The project was initiated in May 2013 with starter and standard KAP kits being donated to a wide range of groups and individuals. Over 140 kits have been allocated, so far.

Their aim was to establish a reliable system for working with children and to encourage the progression to more interesting techniques, such as working in the near infra-red. To encourage feedback, the Group

initiated an annual photographic competition.

The Group developed a starter kit that included a 2m HQ delta and a micro HD video camera weighing about 18g attached to the kite with coat hanger wire. Still images are then extracted from the video using free VideoLan software. Their standard kit comprises a larger kite, a compact camera with an SD card and a Brooxes Simplex Picavet rig.

Having completed phase one of their project to photograph in the visible spectrum, the Group is moving on to near infra-red photography and is developing techniques to convert their starter and standard kit cameras.

For more information visit [www.armadale.org.uk/snaps.htm](http://www.armadale.org.uk/snaps.htm)

## Club Contacts

### Coordinator/chairperson

Simon Hennessey  
T: 01273 582309  
E: [simon@bkf.org.uk](mailto:simon@bkf.org.uk)

### Treasurer

Marian Reynolds  
E: [treasurer@bkf.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@bkf.org.uk)

### Areodyne/membership

Andrew Scott  
T: 020 8404 2274  
E: [decorahortensis@gmail.com](mailto:decorahortensis@gmail.com)

### Merchandise

Support the club and raise awareness of it by wearing t-shirts and hoodies with the club logo at events:

T-shirts and hoodies  
Marian and Alan Reynolds  
E: [tshirts@bkf.org.uk](mailto:tshirts@bkf.org.uk)

Badges and stickers

Simon Hennessey  
[simon@bkf.org.uk](mailto:simon@bkf.org.uk)

### Club Kites

Any member wishing to borrow club kites should apply via committee members

### Club Library

Dave Hollingsworth  
E: [library@bkf.org.uk](mailto:library@bkf.org.uk)

### Could you write for Aerodyne?

Send your contributions to Andrew Scott at [decorahortensis@gmail.com](mailto:decorahortensis@gmail.com)

Deadline for submissions:  
January issue - 1 December  
April issue - 1 March  
July issue - 1 June  
October issue - 1 September

## Write for aerodyne

Help us to make your newsletter a continuing success. Share your stories of events and happenings etc with other kiteflyers in our newsletter.

If you would like to share something, send your stories/photos/ideas to Andrew Scott at

[decorahortensis@gmail.com](mailto:decorahortensis@gmail.com)

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

## Events List

<b>February</b>		
15	Indoor Kite Event, St Joseph's Catholic School, Swindon	Karl@Longbottom.org.uk
<b>April</b>		
18-26	Berck International Kite Festival, Berck Sur Mer, France	
25-26	Jolly Up 16, Cliddesden, Basingstoke.	roy@kitesup.co.uk
24 - 3 May	Cervia International Kite Festival, Cervia, Italy	info@artevento.com
<b>May</b>		
2-3	Broad Haven Kite Fliers 'Rendezvous', Beach flying at Broad Haven Pembrokeshire	bill.souten@mkf.org.uk
4	Broad Haven Kite Fliers 'Rendezvous', Flying at Hilton Court Gardens, Roch Pembrokeshire	bill.souten@mkf.org.uk
16-17	Kites over Bewl, Location Bewl Water no Lamberhurst Kent TN3 8JH	malcolmf@kentkiteflyers.com
22-25	Margam Park Kite Festival, Margam Country Park, Margam, Port Talbot, South Wales	Margampark@npt.gov.uk
29-31	Exmouth Kite Festival, The Imperial Recreation Ground, Exmouth, Devon EX8 1DG	kites@exmouthrotaryclub.co.uk
<b>June</b>		
6 - 7	Mawddach Paddle Regatta and Kite Fly, on the beach opposite the life boat station, Barmouth, North Wales	Waine Hucker waine@barrikiteflyers.com
6-7	Teston Bridge Kite Festival, Teston Country Park, Kent ( Provisional)	Malcolmf@kentkiteflyers.com
6-7	Basingstoke Kite Festival, Down Grange Sports Complex, Pack Lane, Basingstoke	roy@kitesup.co.uk
20-21	Sumners Pond Model Show, Horsham	events@sumnersponds.co.uk
21	Streatham Common Kite Day, Streatham Common, London SW16 3DW	kiteday2014@gmail.com
28	Herne Bay Kite Festival, Memorial Park, Kings Road, Herne Bay Kent	Malcolmf@kentkiteflyers.com
<b>July</b>		
4-5	Prudhoe Kite Festival, Highfield Park, Prudhoe, near Newcastle, Northumberland NE42 6EY	john@johndobson.info
11-12	Brighton Kite Festival, Stanmer Park, Brighton, East Sussex	<a href="http://www.brightonkiteflyers.co.uk">www.brightonkiteflyers.co.uk</a> festival@bkf.org.uk
11-12	Annual Barmouth Beach Kite Festival, on the beach opposite the lifeboat station North Wales	Waine Hucker waine@barrikiteflyers.com
18-19	Leominster and Hereford Kite Festival, The National Trust, Berrington Hall, Leominster, HR6 0DW	bill.souten@mkf.org.uk
25-26	St. Annes Kite festival, on the beach, Lytham st Annes, near Blackpool, Lancashire	patmay8@hotmail.com
25-26	Dunstable Downs Kite Festival, Whipsnade Road, Dunstable, Bedfordshire LU6 2GY	Joe@projectzip.co.uk
<b>August</b>		
1-2	Jolly Up 17, Cliddesden, Basingstoke.	roy@kitesup.co.uk
8-9	Teston Bridge Kite Festival, Teston Country Park, Kent	Malcolmf@kentkiteflyers.com
15 - 16	Portsmouth International Kite Festival, Southsea Common, Portsmouth	Portsmouth@thekitesociety.org.uk
22-23	Bristol International Kite Festival, Durdham Downs, Bristol.	info@abc-pr.co.uk
<b>November</b>		
15	Indoor Kite Event, St Joseph's Catholic School, Swindon	Karl@Longbottom.org.uk