

# THE KITEFLIER



**Issue 145**

**October 2015**

**£2.50**

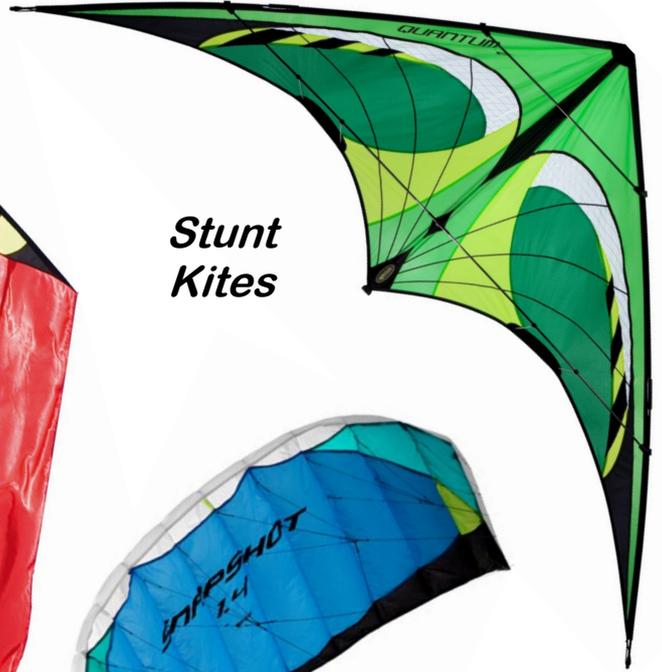
**Newsletter of the Kite Society of  
Great Britain**

# KITEWORLD

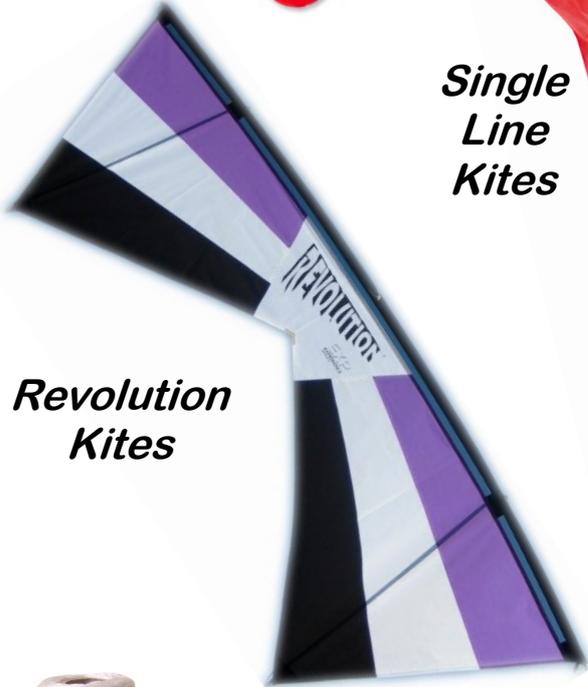
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## Editorial

Phil Scarfe	4
Khmer Belief in Kites	5
Tom Van Sant	8
How Flying Fish Started	11
Eurocup 2015	15
Portsmouth 2015	16
Pothecary Corner	22
Bits & Pieces	27
Evolution of Dual Line Kites	35
Events News & List	36

Dear Reader

It is now almost the end of a successful year which had various changes to well established events— both Portsmouth and Bristol changing dates plus Bristol changing location. None of which seemed to have adversely affected the events. Fingers crossed for 2016.

In August we heard the sad news about Phil “Flames” Scarfe. One of the old timers—our thought go to his family. We are sure he is looking down on all of us.

Talk about oldies. Bill Souten recently gave us a copy of this picture from York Kite Festival in 1987. Have fun recognising people!

### Front Cover

Two of George Peter’s kites at Portsmouth.

Photo: Tara Bloom



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## Parafoil Rigging—Phil Scarfe (15/03/1949—19/08/2015)

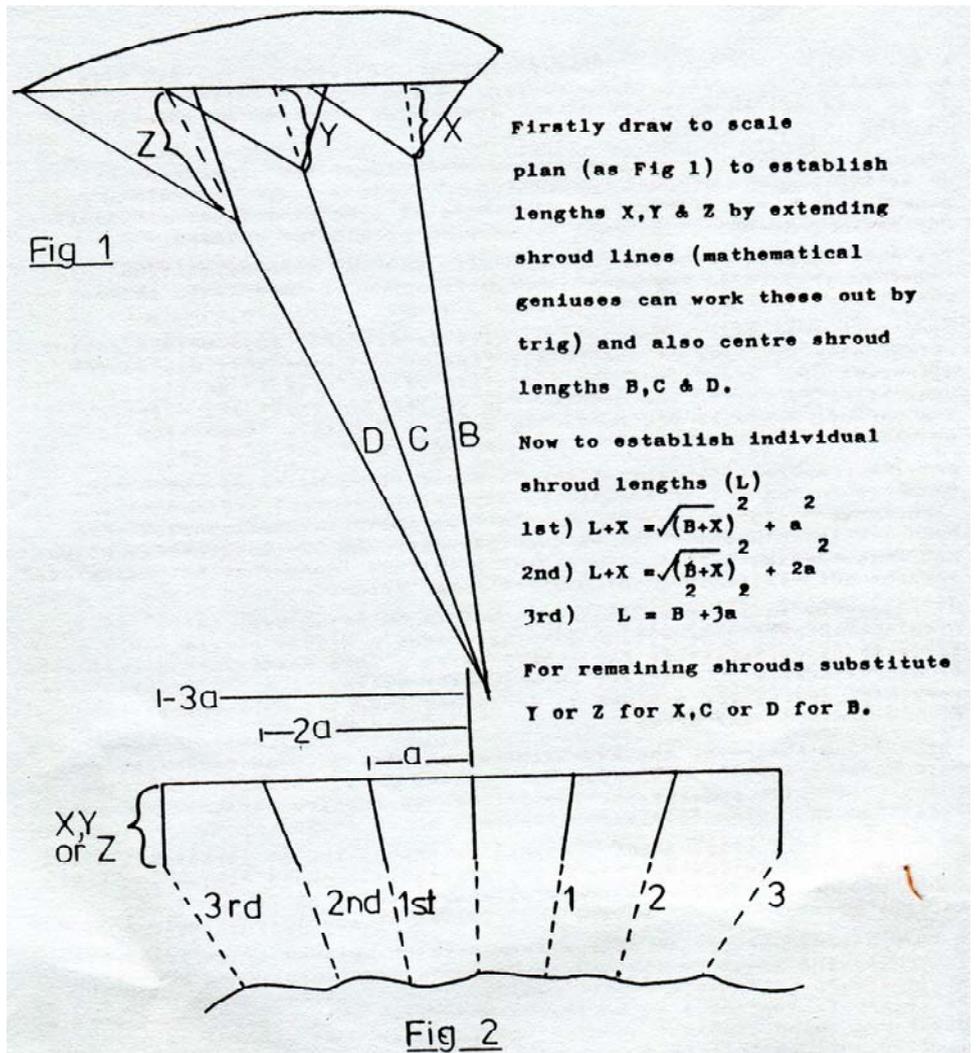
As many of you know Phil Scarfe recently passed away. He has been a staunch member of The Kite Society since the very early days of KON. Phil was well known for his Parafoil kite and we reproduce below is one of the articles he submitted way back in 1981.

I think I have come up with a reasonable system for bridling a parafoil, so there is a minimum of adjustment on first flights. After building two small parafoils and giving up in frustration after months of trimming to try to get them to fly reasonably, overhead as in Pelham and Kitecraft say they should (also Tsutomi Hiroi and every other kite book which carries the design) but nobody tells you how to bridle them.

Pelham is the best but vague. Hiroi has an excellent plan.

Firstly it must be appreciated that whilst an aerofoil can be curved through its spar, the chord must be flat and the 'wing' should not be twisted for it to work efficiently. SO if you can work out the bridling mathematically and you are reasonably accurate in your kite making and measurement of bridle lines you should be home and dry.

All the photos in various books show the inner keel taut and outer keel flaring. So working on that premise I worked out the following system. I did cheat by putting small lead lines to each group of bridles to facilitate adjustments to the angle of attach more easily.



## Khmer Belief in Kite Flying—Cheang Yarin

*Reproduced with permission of The Dragon Foundation*



This tonal Khheng Ek (pictured here in the Phnom Penh Khmer Kite Museum) won a prize at China's Weifang International Kite Festival in 2007.

### Introduction by Scott Skinner.

Cheang Yarin and Sim Sarak have proven to be very special kite ambassadors for their home country of Cambodia. After publishing *Khmer Kites* in 2003, and after countless trips to the countryside to teach kite making and ferret out lost Cambodian kite heritage, Cheang and Sim have now published an updated version of *Khmer Kites*. Illustrated with many more photographs, the new edition continues to shed light on the obscured past of Cambodian kite culture.

As in the first edition, contemporary Cambodian kite makers are featured in the book, with more detailed pictures and drawings of their kites. Cambodian kites fill a very interesting niche of South East Asian kite culture, and the efforts of Cheang Yarin and Sim Sarak provide a model for kite

preservation.

### Text by Cheang Yarin

Until recently, most Cambodian people's livelihoods were agriculturally based, and their main crop was rice. In the 1960s, Cambodia was even able to export about 500,000 tons of rice per year. As most of the people were farmers, their beliefs and festivals were related to farming. Today, Cambodian people are Buddhists, but their beliefs are a blend of animism, Brahmanism, and Buddhism.

Every month at least one festival is held. Cambodian people call these *Pithi Tvear Tuos-meas*, or ceremonies of twelve months of the year. These festivals have been consistently held from the past until the present. They are classified into two major groups: those organized during the rainy season and those in the dry season. This chapter briefly describes two festivals held at the beginning of the rainy season and two others in the first part of the dry season.

The two festivals performed at the beginning of the rainy season are the Royal Ploughing Ceremony and the Fete of Neakta. *Pithi Chraoat Preah Naingkorl*, or the Royal Ploughing Ceremony, has been observed for many centuries, and was held at



The Royal Ploughing Ceremony in Angkor, 2010

## Khmer Belief in Kite Flying—Cheang Yarin

the initiative of a Khmer king in the ancient times. This ceremony is held to pay tribute to the god of earth for her gracious favor in providing land to the farmers to cultivate their rice. It is actually performed in *Pisak* (May), the sixth month of the Khmer lunar calendar, and marks the start of rice cultivation.



The third national Kite Festival for Peace, 1999.

The Fete of Neakta (an animistic spirit or deity) takes place a fortnight after the Royal Ploughing Ceremony. Local ceremonies of this type are organized to invoke the spirits to bring rains for farming. The Khmers believe that Neakta or ancestor spirits would stay around to look after their children. Neakta are responsible for protecting younger generations from epidemic diseases, ensuring sufficient rains for farmers, and bringing prosperity for all in general.

Marking the end of the wet season, the Khmers have more festivals, including the Water Festival and the Festival of Kite Flying.

The Water Festival is held on the full moon day of *Kattik*, the twelfth month of the Khmer lunar calendar, which usually falls in October or November. It ushers in the final season of the year. The Cambodian people celebrate the festival to thank the earth and water for their gifts in the form of soil for farming. According to Buddhist belief, the festival began as a celebration of Bud-

dha's tooth, kept by the king of the Naga.

Exactly one month after the Water Festival, the Festival of Kite Flying follows and brings together kite makers to demonstrate their talents in the full-moon night of *Maksir*, the first month of the Khmer lunar calendar, which usually falls in November or December.

For Khmers, the festival means an occasion to pray for good weather, good harvest of crops, and a favourable situation free from destruction by floods or heavy rains.

### Buddhist Belief in Flying Kites

The locals also believe that they perform the festival in honour of the *Preah Chula Muni Chetdei*, a stupa (a structure containing Buddhist relics) at the second level of paradise where the Buddha's tooth was kept.<sup>1</sup> At the end of the kite flying season, the locals organize a ritual ceremony to offer a meal, gift, or contribution to the monks, and they dedicate these offerings to their ancestors and the former sage Thmenh Chey for his kind contribution of the *Pnong* kite to ancient China.<sup>2</sup> These days, not many people are aware of the meaning of this prayer.



The Water Festival in Phnom Penh in 2010

## Khmer Belief in Kite Flying—Cheang Yarin

### Hindu Faith and Cult of Flying Kites

As Hinduism inspired several religious cults and also became a dominant form of worship in the past, the locals flew their kites in honour of various Hindu gods, namely Shiva, Vishnu, Brahma, and other minor divinities, including *Preah Suriya* (the sun), *Preah Chantr* (the moon), *Preah Phiruna* (the rain), *Preah Mer Thorinee* (the earth), and *Preah Agki* (the fire).

The Festival of Kite Flying is also to express gratitude to *Preah Peay* (the wind) for giving us air to breathe, for blowing clouds that create the annual precipitation of the country, and for bringing no rain but dry weather to ripen crops.

When the rainy season is nearing an end, the southwestern monsoon brings strong winds, high humidity, and heavy rains. These torrential rains are accompanied by long and loud echoes of thunderclaps, which the locals call *Pkor Pdam Kdam Kyang*, meaning that the thunder is conveying its message to crabs and snails that the wet season is nearing an end very soon.

Sometimes rains continue after the rainy season and create havoc, but the locals are inclined to believe that flying kites can help prevent floods. Therefore, the locals try to get up to seven different tones out of the musical bow of their *Ek* kites in order to express gratitude to the divinity of wind. By doing so, they believe that the beautiful sounds of their kites can convince the northeast wind to blow huge clouds away and not create any precipitation.

#### NOTES

1 and 2: Eveline Porée-Maspero, *Etude sur les Rites Agraires des Cambodgiens*, Paris Mouton & Co. La Haye, 1964.

3 and 4: Statements of Nop Nen (kite flier of Kompong Thom province), Mang Yong (kite flier of Prey Veng province), Krong Nguon Ly (kite flier of Phnom Penh), and Eng Setha (kite flier of Kandal province).

For their part, a segment of local inhabitants of Pursat district in Pursat province tend to throw a dog into the water as an offering to *Ganga* (the water), hoping that this action can help prevent flooding while they harvest rice.

### Other Meanings

In Khmer folklore, the kite has always symbolized many things. A good number of locals hold the Festival of Kite Flying annually and wish for peace, freedom, and happiness for everyone.<sup>3</sup>

Others prefer flying kites to welcome the new year's goddess who should assume her responsibility for prosperity of the country toward the end of each dry season.<sup>4</sup>

It was formerly believed that if a *Khleung Pnornng* or *Khleung Ek* kite dropped down on to any rooftop, the house owner or his dependents would suffer a misfortune. Therefore, the kite flier would have to prepare a ceremony to invoke success and prosperity in favour of the house owner's family members, instead of leaving the house owner unhappy and resorting in a legal claim against each other.

The kite fliers performed these ceremonies because some of the people compared *Khleung Ek* to *Khleung Srak* (a type of owl, possibly *Strix flammea*) whose cry in a village or near a house is said to invoke a disease or to presage the death of a sick person.

Out of habit, people always chase *Khleung Srak* or *Khleung Khmoch* (ghost owl) away by insulting and cursing it. And people can also throw a piece of burning firewood or fish cheese at this nocturnal bird. Now in the countryside, this kind of belief is no longer as popular as it was in the past.

## Tom Van Sant: Close Encounter of the Third Kind —Chris Yuengling-Niles

*Reproduced with permission from The Drachen Foundation.*



*Artist Tom Van Sant displays the launcher for his "Jacob's Ladder," a structure with hundreds of segments that can reach a quarter mile into the sky.*

### Introduction by Ali Fujino.

In 2005 Scott Skinner and I had the good fortune to be a part of a *washi* paper tour of Japan, organized by the handmade paper goddess Hiromi Katayama. We travelled from Osaka to Kochi visiting traditional handmade paper makers and meeting the families involved.

Among the people that we met on that trip was American paper artist Christine Yuengling-Niles. One of the most creative individuals in the universe, she is an artist with incredible credentials who lives in Los Angeles. After ten days of traveling together on the Japanese paper roads, it was clear to us that we should not only savor

our new knowledge of handmade Japanese paper, but also NEVER lose sight of Christine.

Since that tour, Chris has been one of the Drachen family. We have invited her to participate in various projects all over the world, collaborating with her creative eye, her personal humor and wit, her ability to dive right in and work on a project (not just pushing it along, but contributing MORE to it), and her ability to work with very little definition. Of all of us who know Tom Van Sant, there was no better person to work with him in the archival documentation of his kite work. Chris shares her experience in this charmingly journalistic account of her interactions with Tom.—Ali Fujino

The day before the first Otis Kite Festival in Los Angeles, the invited kite artists meet at Tom Van Sant's studio and home. Tom pulls out sketches he had done for kite designs, as well as his "Jacob's Ladder" launcher. "Jacob's Ladder" is a structure with hundreds of segments that when launched can reach a quarter mile into the sky. This all prompts enthusiastic discussions of kites, kitemakers, and innovations that Tom utilized, such as fiberglass tubes and nylon fabric, new materials that enabled many Participants in the festival to make the kites they were to fly the follow-



*A cache of Tom's drawings showing designs for kites and decorations*

ing day.

Tom Van Sant: Close Encounter of the Third Kind —Chris Yuengling-Niles



One of several birds that grace Tom's workshop and studio

On festival day, Tom's "Centipede" kite is brought to the beach. Everyone pitches in and applauds as the 35-year-old kite lifts. Strong winds bending banners in the sand are too much for the fragile sails, and despite rapid triage and spot mending it is packed up and returned to Tom's studio. Other kites fly high, and thousands of children add their own creations to the mix of aerial art.

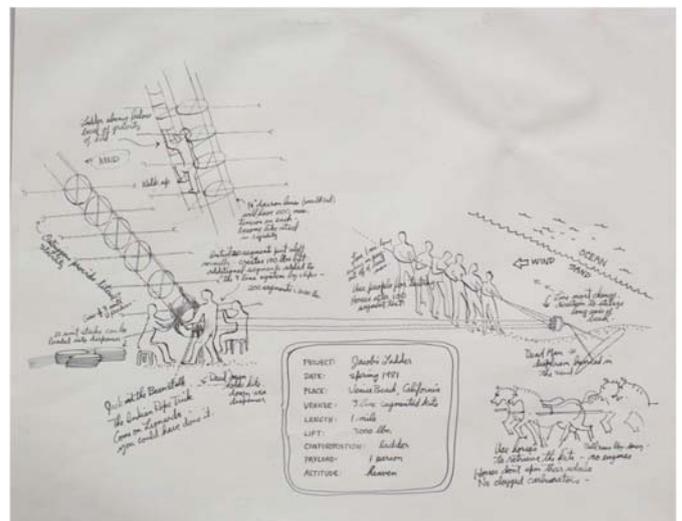
When next I visit Tom, he is quietly mending the delicate kites in his studio. I have come on behalf of the Drachen Foundation to assemble slides and acquire digital images of the many sketches that document his airborne structures built in the mid-'70s. As we go through the portfolio of images and binders of slides, Tom reminisces.

While looking at slides that have been tucked away for many years, Tom notices a number of familiar faces. A slide of a figure being lifted off the ground prompts a smile and the comment that she was "ready for anything."

With pride, he shows me a letter from the British Kite Flying Association that published the book *Kites: A Practical Handbook* written by Ron Moulton and illustrated by Pat Lloyd. In part the note reads, "The

book includes pics and data on your inspiring designs we saw during the memorable visit to Europe. That was really the beginning for all of us in the appreciation of rip-stop nylon and glass fibre spars and the ICA Exhibition was the most educational display we have ever seen. Thanks and keep flying. Ron."

In 1989, Tom decided to form the first real picture of the earth as it appeared from space. He purchased a computer the size of a refrigerator for \$200,000. Using his contacts at NASA, U.S. Geological Survey, National Geographic, and others, he gained access to satellite images. Following months of software development, they created a digital photographic composition program that would stitch together hundreds of mosaics free of clouds to create a totally unobscured image of planet earth. On April 15, 1990, the image was complete. For a time the room that I now sit in with Tom was filled with desks and a cadre of young workers manning phones to disseminate the image at no cost. It has been said to be the most reproduced image in the world. For the next decade, Tom continued work on the Geosphere Project. He conformed the map to a 6' 6" globe. Ultimately the Geosphere was equipped with an interior projection system that could study weather and migration patterns. A network of seven "Earth Situation Room"



A whimsical, mysterious sketch of Tom's "Jacob's Ladder" in action

## Tom Van Sant: Close Encounter of the Third Kind —Chris Yuengling-Niles



*Tom's studio/home for over three decades. Kites, drawing benches, and the "Geosphere" take pride of place.*

installations were placed around the world.

After graduating from high school, a young Tom decided to travel. He took a job on a freight ship, assisting in caring for the cargo: pregnant cows. The cows spent their days on deck in sheds to shield them from the summer sun. The days were long and hot. During a storm at sea, in the midst of heaving decks and lashing rain, Tom assisted in the birth of a calf. As a young man, he continued to travel as a correspondent to various locations. In Jordan, a trip through the desert at night produced a charming line drawing of a belly dancer.

Once a week, Tom now hosts a life drawing workshop in his studio. It is a loose collection of interested participants. Among the regulars is a cheerful senior former ballerina and an earthy woman interested in all things natural. My first night we use one of the sculptures found in the studio as a model. An owl poised, alert with deep eyes. Tom joins us and as he walks about encourages us to be expressive rather than worrying about making a realistic rendering of the model. His own drawing is full of energy and colour.

On the table Tom has piled a stack of drawings of a cartoon dragon. He had drawn these during his son's childhood – whimsical messages saying hello and letting him know what was happening that day. He is thinking of making them into a book.

I ask him about the owl sculptures scattered about the studio. He says he has raised several owls. He acquired a pair of young owls and put them in a space prepared for them. At first they kept as far away as possible from him, but as they became familiar to him they slowly moved closer on the perch stretched across their room. In time, Tom was able to cup their heads and gently scratch behind their ears as they leaned into his hand. Ultimately he freed them from the house into the woods outside his home.

Lady is his companion, a dog of pleasant disposition who wanders in and out hoping for a friendly pat or scratch behind the ears or across the belly. At last, sitting there is a semi-feral cat, white with orange spots, who in the midst of moving chaos is snoozing on a chair and politely submitting to strangers' attentions.

Tom was fascinated by the cargo culture. He has in his workshop an idol/icon made by South Pacific natives. During WWII, Japanese cargo ships would fly overhead and drop supplies for soldiers. Natives who had never seen airplanes before mistook them for beneficial spirits. They created images to invoke their return along with their perceived largesse.

At the next Otis Kite Festival, the centipede is brought back to the beach and flown to cheers. (See a video clip on the Drachen Foundation YouTube channel at: <http://youtu.be/6RiTIEgLDIc>.)

Tom Van Sant is a living national treasure, integrating the sciences, arts, and humanities within our ever-changing world. More can be learned about Tom and his projects at his website:

[www.tomvansant.com](http://www.tomvansant.com)

## How Flying Fish got Started—Lex Kraaijeveld

As Flying Fish, we've completed our 3<sup>rd</sup> full festival season, we've flown twice now at the National Championships, we're part of a larger team, called L-katz, and we're honorary members of the Airheads. But roughly six and a half years ago, we'd never even flown a dual-line kite! So how did we get to into kite-flying in general, and pair/team-flying specifically? The way I see things, there were three significant steps in the road to flying at a Festival, the first of which was getting our first dual-line kite.

Sometime during the Xmas holidays of 2008, I thought it might be nice to get ourselves a dual-line delta kite. We have Southampton Common, a large open park space, close to where we live, so wouldn't it be fun to have a kite, and fly that there when the weather is nice? Did some research on the web, and given that I didn't want to spend too much money on something I didn't know I'd like, I decided on an HQ Yukon. Not expensive, but still getting good reviews as a kite that's suitable for beginners to learn the basics on. Kite (in the 'Cool' colour scheme) was ordered and duly arrived, and off to Southampton Common we went in early January 2009.



Yukon was put together following the instructions, lines were laid out, and, after checking the instructions again, attached to the kite with this funny larkshead knot. Now remember that the only kite-flying experience we had was as kids, flying a cheapo single-line wood-and-plastic contraption that wouldn't fly properly and crashed to pieces very quickly. So neither of us had ever flown a dual-line kite. OK, the moment of truth was there, with me holding the straps, and Irma standing behind the kite. Pull, launch, crash. Hm ... Irma, can you put the kite back on its wing tips? Pull, launch, crash. Hm

again .... Irma, can you put the kite back on its wing tips? Pull, launch, crash. Hm x 3 ... Irma? Well, you get the picture ... This went on for a few more times. Every time the kite left the ground, it turned to the right and nose-dived to the ground (or 'lawn-darted' as we were to learn to call this later). Irma was starting to regard flying kites as maybe not a lot of fun ... And then it happened: pull, launch, **fly!** Kite went up and stayed up! Steered it a bit to the left, bit to the right, all very careful, but the kite flew and I could control it (well, sort of ...)! After flying the kite to the edge of the wind and letting it drop to the ground, it was Irma's turn. She must have watched my mistakes (i.e. 'playing semaphore', not keeping my hands together) and learned from them, because the kite flew up straightaway, and she could also fly it a bit to the left and a bit to the right. We alternated a few more times, and gained confidence in flying the kite from left to right and back again. This was **FUN!!!**

But a problem now was that one was flying and the other one standing around, waiting to fly. Easy problem to solve: another HQ kite (Bebop, in the 'Fire' colour scheme) was ordered the next day.



So now we could both fly at the same time, and start to learn the basics of dual-line kite flying. I still remember the first time I decided to try and fly a circle, started the move, and then backed out of it again: *too scary!* And the moment I persevered and actually flew my first circle!

Many kites on (we're abiding by the golden rule: "the optimum number of kites is one more than current"), we still have our first two kites, and use them to introduce others into the sport.

## How Flying Fish got Started—Lex Kraaijeveld

But they do feel like toys to us now! Things have moved on since those early days ...

The second significant step was getting our first pair of team kites. This happened after someone on the Fractured Axel forum (incidentally, the premier UK forum for anything having to do with dual-line and quad-line trick and precision kiting) posted a link to a German kite web-shop which listed two kites, designed by Joel Scholz and made by Goflyakite. The kites were in the shape of a fish and a shark, and the poster suggested that it would be great to see the shark chase one or more fish around the sky (no point linking to the shop, as they don't offer these kites for sale any more, and anyway, the kites are no longer in production). I very much agreed with the poster, and thought it might indeed be fun for us to order a pair, and see whether we might enjoy flying kites in formation, something we had never done before.

Irma agreed, and not long after, we had in our possession a pair of Fish & Shark (or Neptune & Jaws, as they're officially called) kites!



Getting the kites is one thing, flying them in formation quite another .... By that time, we had been to a few Kite Festivals, so had seen performances by kite display teams such as Team Spectrum and Close Encounters. What seemed to be one of their simpler moves is when the two kites keep following each other along a path resembling a figure-of-eight lying on its side (also called 'infinity'). So we decided to try flying such an infinity. Kites launched, Fish turned to the right, Shark followed. So far so good! Fish turned down, around, and then up to fly to the top left of the wind window, Shark followed. **The lines are crossing, what do we**

**do now???** Help!! PANIC!!! And the kites came crashing down ...



It took us a wee while to get our brains around the fact that it doesn't matter *at all* if the lines are partly wrapping around each other. Simply keep flying, ignore the crossing of the lines, it makes no difference. Once that 'clicked', we managed to fly our first infinities. Tracking was far from perfect, but we could now go round and round flying infinities without crashing!

So, a new kiting team was born! What to call the new team? Obvious: **Flying Fish!**

The third key step ultimately leading to our flying at festivals and competing came in



the shape of two people. To be more precise, it came in the shape of Allan and Marilyn Potheary, aka Close Encounters.

It must have been the second time that we met up with Roger, Tony and Neil at Stokes Bay that Tony mentioned a Better Flying Day, to be run by Allan and Marilyn at Stokes Bay in a week or two. Wouldn't cost anything, all you'd need to do is show up. That sounded like a good deal, so we duly arrived at Stokes Bay two weeks later. After introducing ourselves to Allan and Marilyn, and making clear that we had barely done any team-flying, Allan asked what kites we had. We had brought our Fish & Shark kites, of course, plus a few others, among which was

## How Flying Fish got Started—Lex Kraaijeveld

a Prism Hypnotist. Allan was, shall we say, 'underwhelmed' with the Fish & Shark kites, and pulled out a Prism Mirage to match our Hypnotist. But first, using two of their Eolo Over kites on 40m lines, he took us both separately through some pair-flying basics: infinities, ground pass, boxes; and how to call and react to calls.



And then it was practice time! Using our Hypnotist and Allan's Mirage, we tried out these basics with the two of us, which wasn't the easiest of things.



Also, we had to go back to our own 25m lines, as Allan needed the 40m lines for the next few flyers to be instructed. Going back from 40m to 25m really showed how important long lines were for pair/team-flying!



But we tried, and definitely showed improvement over the few hours we were there. We went home excited, and immediately ordered lines and related stuff to make ourselves two sets of 40m lines.



About a month after this Better Flying Day, Allan invited us over to one of their flying sites near Stonehenge for some more flying instructions. We had done some practicing in the meantime, and he first cast a critical eye on our flying progress, with us flying the Hypnotist-Mirage pair of kites again, but now on our own 40m lines.



Next up was flying in a team of three! Back to Eolo Overs. Main difficulty for us now was to keep track of which kite we were flying ...

And to make life a bit more interesting, Allan now started to throw in more commands, including for several patterns we'd not flown before, and were only explained seconds before execution!

But we survived without too many problems. And if flying in a team of three wasn't exhilarat-

## How Flying Fish got Started—Lex Kraaijeveld

ing enough, we then went to flying with all four of us. With more kites in the same area of sky, trying to keep track of what your own kite is and where you need to go next, and not crash into the other three kites, with all kites flying at speed, was a big challenge, but it also left us with a real buzz being able to fly in a team of four! Sorry, no pictures of the 4-strong team, as flying in a team of four *and* taking pictures at the same time was a bit too much of an ask ...



Since these early days, we have flown at kite festivals in Southampton, Brighton, Basingstoke, Portsmouth, Dunstable, Malmesbury, Weymouth, Exmouth, Streatham Common, and Herne Bay. Plus flown competitively at national

level twice, runners-up in the UK twice, and twice winners of the Experienced Class. But first, a **big public THANK YOU** to Allan and Marilyn. Guys, without your initial enthusiasm, support and motivation, we wouldn't be where we are now!



*Pictures of us flying the Hypnotist and Mirage were taken by Roger Backhouse. The picture of Allan critically looking over our shoulders was taken by Marilyn.*

## Kites: The art of Using Natural Materials by John Browning

Reviewed by George Webster.

John showed me his book at Portsmouth and it looked 'well worth having'. I ordered one which just arrived and it is very good.

John is solely concerned with his kites which he creates and crafts from natural materials. As he makes clear it is not a primer, not a 'how to do it' book but a communication of one man's artistic fixation to bring together what he wants to say and his ingenuity in using and adapting natural materials.

The main section of the book consists of a two page spread for each of his 124 kites in alphabetical order. Each has a photo of the whole kite and of a detail. Brief notes on every kite follow. There are photos of some in flight.

I have known John for many years from his 'Terrier of the Skies' days with fighters to his 'here is a new knot' times.

Opening the book at the foreword, for a moment I thought I had got the overseas edition which is all in French. We don't have much French here in Co Durham except ordering in our local French restau-

rant—but I felt that what are presumably interesting comments by two French speaking fliers would be worth translation. One appears to ask John if he is of Maori descent—I think we should be told.

Two further comments which may be down to the editor:

Indications of size would be helpful, I know that several photos show his Japanese red seal but possibly out.

Dating each kite would have been very helpful. Readers might like to know first/last and for how long.

I would have liked references to leaf kites and in particular woven Indonesian kites. Perhaps also to French makers who led the way e.g. Cottenneau and Anna Rubin, but this is asking for a different book—which perhaps John is now in a position to write or is he continuing with his amazing rate of output.

While the price (£50) is a deterrent, this is a one off if the funds allow. It is indeed 'well worth having'.

## Eurocup 2015—Lex Kraaijeveld



The 2015 European Sport Kite Championships took place on September 4-6 in Dunkerque. Unfortunately, because of work commitments, we couldn't go there and support our fellow flyers and teams. Hope we can make it to the next EuroCup (and maybe even compete one day??).

In the meantime, how did the UK competitors do?

First dual-line pair, 'our' category, Phoenix secured bronze, behind Courant d'Air (gold) and In et Out (silver). Courant d'Air retained their 2013 title.

In dual-line team, Flame took the bronze medal, silver went to Cerfs-Volants Folie, whereas the gold went to Start'Air (who retained their 2013 title).

The quad-line pair category saw Tall and Small end fifth. The winner was Now'Air, silver went to Gli Stuzzucaventi, and bronze to Kangaroo Tango Copter.

In the quad-line team competition, there were no UK competitors, Now'Air took the title, with

the silver going to SBananator. As there were only two entries, there was no bronze medal.

In dual line individual, Bryan Beasley came sixth. The competition was won by Matthieu Mayet, with Stephen Versteegh taking the silver, and Julien Lahyani the bronze.

Finally, Josh Mitcheson ended in fifth place in quad-line individual. Guido Maiocchi took the gold (retaining his 2013 title), silver was for Stephen Versteegh, and bronze for Loris Gerbino.

So France did really well overall, taking gold in five of the six categories, and snatching 9 of the 17 medals. Italy took one gold, and four medals overall, the Netherlands and the UK shared the remaining four medals between them.



Team Flame take 3rd place in the Dual Line Team Competition



Bryan Beasley, Ellie Eades and Josh Mitcheson waiting for the results to be announced. Photo: Barry Savell.



## Definitely Different, Portsmouth 2015—Hugh Blowers

We have a local 'steam fair' that has been running for yonks and it had started to get a bit staid with exactly the same stalls, engines, cars and even people in the same place year after year. Recently, the organisers have introduced themes and very different attractions to try and bolster support, but this year they were faced with the necessity to rebuild the event entirely as it has been forced to move some 40 miles south. Kite festivals are similarly placed, as it is easy to carry on as before, but again external forces have conspired to change this significantly and Portsmouth was no different in this respect. After 23 consecutive years on Southsea Common over the summer bank holiday weekend, the burgeoning popularity of the Victorious music festival and their desire to use the same site meant that Gill and Jon were faced with the very real possibility of having to find another site, lose the festival entirely, or a third option that happily worked to everyone's benefit, change dates. It was still not all plain sailing, as council budgetary restraints might yet have put the mockers on the event until Unbeatable Cars, The Hendy Group and Foster Portsmouth came on board as sponsors enabling the 24<sup>th</sup> festival to become the 1<sup>st</sup> Unbeatable Car Portsmouth International Kite Festival.

The difficulties were not over for Gill and Jon as a decision had been made to leave the huge stage and stands from the music festival that supported the Louis Vuitton races in July in place ready for the bank holiday. This meant a rejigging of the site with the main display arena moved west between a small kite area and the inflatable field. In my view, and others I spoke to, this was a much better layout, although the positioning of the commentary area meant George W could not see the small kites, which was a great pity as there were some wonderful displays during the weekend. This area also incorporated a space set-aside for banners, so no better place to start than with them.

It was a pleasure to have George Peters and Melanie Walker back in the UK and it never ceases to amaze us the huge quantity of banners, wind art and kites they bring with them on the plane. Setting up their avenue of banners does take a while, but it keeps growing throughout the day. One row comprised George's more traditional colours, whilst the second was black and white, a theme I will return to. Add to this a series of windmills, banner poles that had been individually painted and

assembled kites against many of the poles and there was a much admired and photographed display. Jan van Leeuwen's tulip banners are well known, but this year he has changed tack with a whole series of rectangular shapes, each with a black silhouette on a white background of a person standing, looking, peering, or in one case, walking their dog. Jan intends to end up with 20 of these images, and again many millions of pixels were expended on these over the weekend. The third contributor was Dave Ellison. Dave is expanding his kite designing and making all the time, moving into somewhat softer forms with the banners, which were very organic in their design, being akin to leaf skeletons or cell formations, but were actually Cicada wings, primarily black and white, but each with a different splash of colour. Not quite so mind altering as his usual designs.



Dave had also been busy producing a train of six 'twist' or 'helix' shapes, each with a glittering and flowing tail made from an exotic industrial material. On Saturday he had these as a train with alternating blue and mauve kites, which glistened beautifully in the sun.



Yes, sun, although all those present on the Friday would hardly have believed it. It mizzled all Friday until around mid afternoon until it took on monsoon proportions for an hour or so. Happily, that was the last we saw of the wet stuff, so another advantage of swapping from the Bank Holiday. Indeed, with the sun and wind from very early on, the pilots were up before

## Definitely Different, Portsmouth 2015—Hugh Blowers

breakfast, bit like towels on sun loungers, but in the sky? All this before the flyers meeting as well. After a very short briefing the formal arena programme got underway, which is all about us, the flyers, putting on a show for the crowds, and unusually for a Saturday morning they were there. George W usually jokes that the altitude sprint is for the benefit of 'one man and his dog', but this was not the case this year. The presence of real wind, meant just 45 seconds of letting out line after which Bob Cruickshank was declared the worthy winner.



Those of you that are well acquainted with me will know that that when it comes to Sports kite routines I fall somewhere between a BOF and a GOG. I am of the opinion, not shared by all, that if the audience can relate to the music then the performance will be all the more enjoyable, possibly the reason why Mama Mia is such a raging success and the Spice Girls version was not. It also gives the watchers a clue as to when the routine is over and they can applaud, not always so obvious nowadays as many of us found to our embarrassment on Saturday. The sports kite section started with Flying Fish, Lex and Irma from Southampton and a lovely lyrical ballet and associated music showing how far their flying has developed in such a short space of time. Revs were there in abundance with a total of fourteen from Flying Squad, The Decorators and augmented by the prodigious talents of Lisa Willoughby. Carl and Brian Wright ran

through their normal series of demos, although a nice twist was the use of twin tails on wingtips during the pairs routine. Carl really had his work cut out later in the day with his three-kite routine when the wind softened, but he did get it through. Congratulations to Carl and Georgina on their forthcoming nuptials (fitted in between kite festivals).

New to the UK was a team from China who appeared to have a variety of names but were billed as 'Crazy Kites' in recognition of their frantic style of flying. In order to compete in Berck next year they are having to work hard on their figures, so it was a pleasure to see them doing some precision work to Steven Hoath's commentary, although one suspects Steve was commenting on what he saw rather than them reacting to what he said, given the language barrier. The precision gave way at times to some synchronised tricks and I found these impressive as getting fades and recoveries or axels so they are together is not easy, and it is so horribly obvious when they are not. Now, although I 'likes what I likes' when it comes to team flying and was patently no good at it, it is still an area of kite flying that I enjoy and appreciate, so it was great to hear that two of our respected and elder statesmen of the kite flying world are combining to produce a retrospective on the development of team flying and those involved. It also led to a chance encounter on the steps of Tesco (don't ask) where I posed the question to one of the collaborators, 'which was the best team you ever saw'? Difficult I know when spanning so many years, styles of routine and rapid development of kites, but we await the publication with eager anticipation.

Public festivals are now dominated by inflatables as they do make a statement in the sky, in size, colour and recognisable shapes and whilst there are numerous 'old favourites' there is always something new amongst them. Particularly attractive were Bernhard Dingwerth's 'Maple Leaves' as a train in a range of autumn colours. Cat Woman was much in evidence although more modest in the display of her assets than the Mermaid. Jan's soldier stood guard on the left flank of the area all day watching the inevitable chaos as pilots went 'walkabouts'. Featured event of the day, and probably the most spectacular seen at the festival for a very long while was the 'Blaze of Dragons'. This was due in part to the first visit by Rolf Zimmerman for

## Definitely Different, Portsmouth 2015—Hugh Blowers



twelve or so years who came up with the concept of the inflatable dragon and then spent so long in refining it. Since then ten have been sold with two residing in Southampton and another in Brighton, so how many could be flown in the arena at the same time? Thanks to 'Dragon Master' Tim Rohn, Genoveva Martinez, Brighton Kiteflyers and Rolf, the answer was five, in a variety of colour combinations. This was an amazing sight by any standard, as it had never been attempted before and the crowd were enthralled by the spectacle and there were a goodly few flyers that were impressed as well, especially with the choice of background music. It had been hoped that two more could have been tracked down, but the current location of these is not known, how amazing would that have been? The segment was for all dragon related kites though so there was a blood red Steve Brockett sparred version, and a couple of appliquéd designs on flat kites, although poor Llefelleys was somewhat overawed by his inflatable cousins.

Following on from the dragons was 'myth and fantasy' although these did seamlessly morph as there can be little more mythical than a dragon and Llefelleys came under both headings when joined by Merlin although he did reignite the debate as to whether the 'man' concept originated from Steve Brockett or should be attributed to George Peters? Of the art kites, it was not what was in the arena that provided the greatest impact, but a combined display in the small kite area, and I will return to that later, but for now it was time for lunch and another very welcome change for the festival. As

usual, there was a range of catering concessions, but this year they all seemed to be larger event style organisations and the quality on offer was so much better than we have experienced in the past. The barbecue alone was on an industrial scale and it is rumoured that there were bread rolls and baps that were actually made of bread? The 'made to order' pizzas were pretty good, if a little messy and it is easy to see where the 'vesuvio' name came from, and that was without the chillies.

It is odd that when an invited flyer is asked to showcase their kites, others who do have work by that maker sometimes feel intimidated and unable to join in and this happened with Rolf when he hoisted a 9-metre version of the Owl, along with a Rat and a Scorpion. Although there were plenty of other examples about, only the prototype Owl 'Betty' made it into the arena. Is it size envy one wonders or the wording in the programme that puts people off? We know not, but if we've got one, we'll fly it.

Other programme items appear more regularly so that Robert Brassington kites dominated the cellular kite display, although none of his more complex designs were evident this year. Jan had a cunning variation on a drum box that was a single cell but with unequal length spars so that it was trapezoidal. Easy when there is a set of spars each end, but not when all spars come from a single central boss. Art kites is another staple for painted, appliquéd, dyed or printed images, and again there were a whole range of kites from the artists present and invited flyers that have these treasures in their kite bags. As I mentioned earlier, throughout the weekend, we were all treated to an incredibly striking display of vivid images by courtesy of George, Melanie, Dave Ellison and his son Mark. Dave made a series of rectangular kites with long tails in complimentary black and white pairs that were likened to 'dazzle' camouflage on warships. Black is the dominant colour on one and white on the other with each piece of appliqué being the opposite colour on the twin. He had also made another pair as a commission that together with his own were incredible against the blue sky. Now, George Peters has also been making kites in black and white and again with lots of circles, so add these into the mix and there was a sky full of impact. A lovely subtle touch was added when a single bright red Circoflex joined the formation, black, white and a splash of red, colour perfection.

## Definitely Different, Portsmouth 2015—Hugh Blowers

In due deference to the wind direction, the rok fight was cancelled to bring the day to a finish with a rolling display of two and four line flying, film crews much in evidence. The evening bash owes a lot to the hard work of a number of flyers and club members, as does the auction for donations. This year, George W and Paul Reynolds had to work exceedingly hard for every penny as a lot of people were sitting on their hands for much of the evening. Only a couple of items made serious money and it was a jump bid from Paul on the rostrum that secured an experimental kite from George Peters for a quite modest sum, how times have changed?

The festival really was one of two days as the forecast for the Sunday gave little indication of any wind until mid afternoon and the prospect of a sea breeze and we are all well aware of what that entails. Long launches, pumping, running and walking back to do it all again, and so it transpired for much of the day. Some reckoned the altitude sprint could have been for ten minutes rather than one, and there were kites only feet of the ground after the allotted time. The sprinting turtle would have done OK under northern rules, but was back on the ground before the kites had settled under the southern procedure. The winner was.... no, not Bob Cruickshank, but another name appearing more often in this discipline, Alan Pinnock from AKF.



Flying Fish did a great job in putting on their routines and graphically demonstrated the art of backing up and making ground. The Revs seems to have an inexhaustible supply of ever-lighter versions of their kites to enable them to carry on in the almost windless conditions. Cel-

lular kites are not at their best on these days, so even though several were in the air, none of them 'flew' with the exception of Paul Reynold's Brassington that did stay up for a while at the expense of a lot of hard work. The art kites did fare a bit better, as many of these are flat with relatively few spars including Dave Ellison who was well equipped for the light wind with another two complimentary black and white images or 'Migraine Kites' as they are sometimes unkindly referred to, but this time on Ghenkis. I did suggest to Dave that he must spend much of his time at work thinking about his designs and then even more at home making them as he has produced a fantastic range of very different designs in a relatively short time span. Both he and George P have kites covered in appliquéd circles, and again one must wonder at the time involved in stitching and cutting these all out. Paul was flying his new aquisiton while Natalie had her lovely Steve Brockett Chameleon, which needed significantly more wind, as did the other Brockett kites. Caterina Cappeli's kites were well suited to the light wind and showed off her artistic talents to the full, so different to the images created by 'dad'.

Myths and fantasy was also something of a lottery in the light wind so Karl-Ulrich Kotel from Germany had produced a murder of crows for flyers and representatives of the sponsors to fly and these worked well in the conditions and thanks to Paul and Natalie for their help getting people involved. It also served to highlight that kite flying can be inclusive with wheelchairs and mobility scooters in the arena. As Jim Rowlands once pointed out, very few kites need more than 12lb line making flying eminently possible. Don't try this with a 'Boomer' though as I was shown the aftermath of one of the worst 'line cuts' I have ever seen, courtesy of one of these beasts. If the light wind had been a problem up to now, it certainly was going to preclude the 'Blaze of Dragons', or was it? Well, no as Rolf had a 9m pilot way up and was prepared to hand anchor a dragon in the arena. Aided and abetted by Ulrika and Tim, the dragon was inflated with what little wind there was and then hauled up into the air. With so little wind, it would not stabilise, but undaunted Rolf had it dragged back for more flights. The second Welsh Brockett dragon Llud could not handle the lack of wind, but a small Chinese version flew well along the crowd line. Apart from Rolf along with Antonio and Stella from Italy who were flying very large kites from hand there

## Definitely Different, Portsmouth 2015—Hugh Blowers

was not too much else happening on the inflatable front as it was all the pilots could do to stay up, so it was definitely down to the smaller kites for much of the day.

It is a very long while since George Peters was at Portsmouth, so there was a treat in store for everyone as he and Melanie Walker combined for a display of their kites. Melanie has a very different style to George, concentrating on printed images on flat, rectangular kites. It was these that were put into the air first, happily the wind had started to fill in a bit by then so they all flew well. While I am not the greatest fan of printed images, some of these were fun, such as the octopus and the mackerel whilst others were a bit more challenging like the scrap pile of car exhausts. It is very much about the art, rather than the kite with Melanie, which does stretch the mind. George Webster was treading on dangerous ground when he pointed out that women were flying five of these kites. After a suitable period to appreciate these images, they were joined by the more traditional Cloud Birds, Spider, Buzz Bee and George's new 'man kite' 'Cycle Man' with even more circles on it. This session segweyd into the sea theme and the zoo with Marco Cassadio's hammerhead sharks joining frogs, birds, and a variety of other bugs and animals.



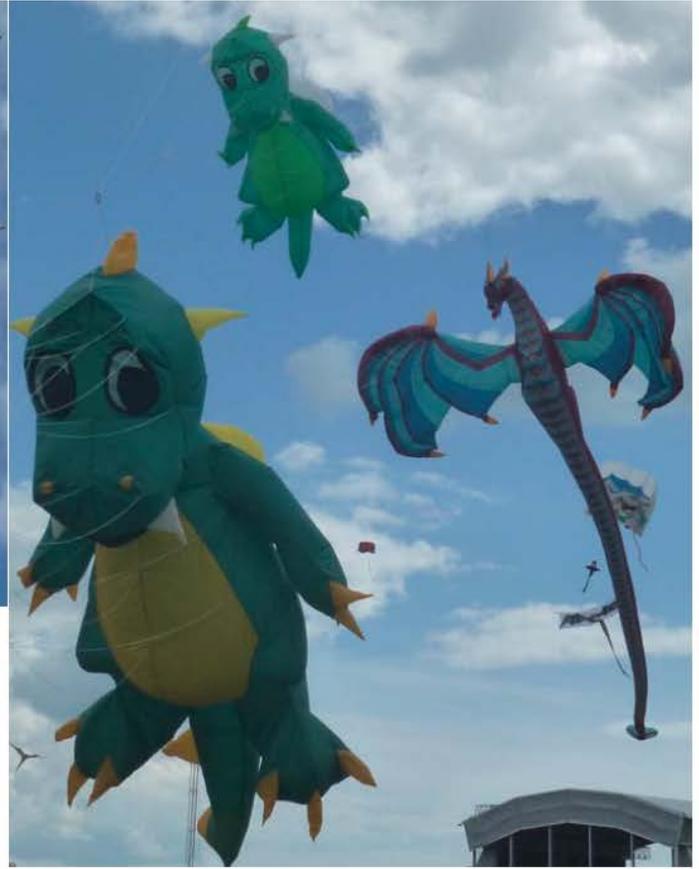
As has become tradition at Portsmouth, the single line displays conclude with Nick James Angels and Martin Lester Spirits and a chance to reflect on all those who have left 'empty spaces in the sky' and whilst the Angels handled the light winds admirably, the spirits definitely struggled. The wind conditions also allowed a rok fight to take place with a small but select

band of combatants, which the 'old fox' TC Cartwright won. How many individual and team contests have fallen to him over the years one wonders?



Inevitably the wind was at its best for the final round of sports kite action bringing the 24<sup>th</sup> or 1<sup>st</sup> Portsmouth festival, depending on how you look at it, to a close. Many of the invited flyers had worked extremely hard all day on Sunday to put on a show as it is relatively easy when there is wind, but an entirely different ball game when there is minimal puff, so thanks to everyone that put kites in the sky or banners in the ground, to Gill and Jon for not giving up, and to the sponsors for enabling them to put on a festival for us all to fly at, and fingers crossed for that it can happen again for the 25<sup>th</sup> time next year? It appeared to the untutored eye that the public were there in even bigger numbers than usual, especially on the Saturday so on all fronts the festival was a huge success and a pleasure to be part of.





## Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

### Kites on Holiday

I spoke in the last edition of our upcoming three week trip to Southern Spain. We normally take our holidays after the schools go back and I always find time to write up some of my usual prattle, helping to keep this magazine going and that some may find my prose interesting, amusing or useful.

Not this time however! We took 40 kilos of kites in two bags with us fully intending to take advantage of the good flying area on the beach no more than 150 metres from our front door!

OK, so it cost us an extra hundred quid to take them but we've paid more than that in fuel and accommodation to visit a cold, rainy and no wind festival on more than one occasion in this country and thought nothing of it!

Its amazing how many inflatables (including two of our dragons) can be squashed in to an extra-light suitcase and the sport kites were folded down, put into a protective card board box (rescued from a kite delivery) along with two large octopi in a slightly longer bag which had been used for kite transportation in previous years.

Most days we decided on what we would fly and it was squeezed in to the suitcase and, along with a shopping trolley borrowed from the accommodation and with the sport kites slung over my shoulder in a lightweight HQ bag we trundled off for the day.

We had bought a couple of cheap fold up chairs, borrowed an umbrella from the house and finished up each day at the waters edge watching the sun go down with a beer - and people ask if we had a good time?!!

### Coaching

When we were there three years ago a guy (now a kiting friend) called Chris was very interested in what we were doing and we kept in touch with me sending him a kite and trying to teach him to fly via email. Chris usually goes to Fuengirola the same time each year so we met up again only for me to discover that his slow progress in learning was due to all of the bad habits he had picked up and had been ingrained to his muscle memory. Getting this put straight proved to be quite a task with me asking every time he crashed "Where were your hands when

you lost control?" Even poor Chris's non flying family were shouting at him to "keep your hands down!".

We were getting there at the end and he has now made a major step up and at least analyses what he did wrong if unplanned landings occurred.



Jane was one of my success stories, she was the manager of the house we rented and had expressed her desire to learn to fly a kite. We took a couple of our old training kites with us and she did so well and was so pleased to have acquired new skills that we left a sport kite and a single line delta with her to enjoy.

There will be videos shortly of our Spanish kiting escapades and they are sure to include snippets of Jane skillfully flying with tails and a pairs session with me. As usual, I was as chuffed to have successfully taught as the pupil was pleased to have learned.

### Good lifters

The wind wasn't always strong enough for much of a display without a good lifter kite that would launch in next to nothing and yet still have the power to lift some line laundry; we took two such lifters.

## Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

The first was the Peter Lynn single skin lifter which weighs very little and packs down very small but develops amazing power once you get it airborne. The kite does has a sharp cut off on its lower limit and once it starts to descend will continue to do so all the way down unless you are watchful and manage to dress it in time. I have seen it self re-launch when a sufficient gust comes through but I suppose for a kite of this size this is as much as we can hope for - in a steady, low breeze the kite was nailed to the sky however - a video I took of it looked liked a photograph or as if I had slowed the frame rate!

Our second lifter was our pink Tadpole.



I am unsure that anyone would guess that this is a tadpole from its shape and the only way I as going to get one (as those of you that are aware of Marilyn will know) was if it was pink! This kite is made from a familiar, three main cell structure seen in another Chinese design, the Trilobite as shown in an earlier edition and it works extremely well!

The Tadpole will launch and stay aloft in all but the very lightest of moving air once the cells have been inflated. In a stiffer breeze it will pull like a train (It broke a 300b line on the point of an ordinary handover knot but more about that later) but when the wind gets too strong it tends to be unstable and time to use something else like the 6m HQ Power Sled (more later).

Again this kite weighs next to nothing and takes up little space in the bag.

Always be careful when packing away inflatables to push the air back out of the vents from which they filled. This prevents putting pressure on both sail and stitching causing them to stretch and become less tolerant to holding air in flight. I have, I know favoured a few Chinese kites recently and, in fact most of them are not copies of more expensive, much better made kites.

Kites like the Tadpole, the Trilobite and our Dragons are all of excellent quality but some of the kites we have acquired, particularly the sticked, single line kites, worse still the bags they come in and, very particularly, the multi coloured tubes are not something I would personally recommend at all. We used up half a tube of superglue sticking a tube back together because of all the rips and frays where it had not been cut out properly and if we were overweight coming back, that would have been the first thing I would have thrown away!

In many cases I have found that customer services severely lacking in many areas particularly in communication. Generally my advice is to look out for the lack of professionalism, things like them always saying that you are their best friend and messages of wanting to do long term business with you.

### Ask

True, I have had some wrongly sent or bad quality of finish items replaced after a struggle but then that replacement was of equal quality to the original. Just because you may have seen a video on our web-site it doesn't mean to say that the quality is good - it's there because it looked good at the time of filming. If you want recommendations of anything you have seen us fly or on the site then please ask.

### Kite of the year?

Last year, *our* kite of the year was the HQ Jumbo Rainbow Delta and this time around I don't

## Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

think that there will be anything to take our attention as much as yet another delta and again from HQ - Hoffmanns Jumbo Tail Delta.



Some people have said that around £160.00 this kite is expensive but I don't see what comparisons they are making. It fills the sky more than most kites ever will and the massive, ever changing, 110ft long tail creates fantastic movement that is awesome to watch.

It takes a discerning eye to appreciate the subtleties of this design, a welcome break from the bold colours often favoured by HQ Invento.

### Where to stand

I have taken many photos and videos of the Jumbo Tail Delta and have yet to decide which is the best angle - take a look at the videos and you will see what I mean - it is equally very pleasing to look at from front, rear, sides or directly underneath and especially good against a matching blue sky with the odd white fluffy cloud. I say in my video narrative that the tail appears to fly the kite and, if you look just by the opening of the tail, the kite seems to be constantly trying to escape whilst the tail pulls it back again.

### Complementary

The delta is unstable on its own and will not stay up for long without the tail. An element of doubt as to whether the kite will launch is there at first but as the tail inflates the whole caboodle raises majestically skyward and you can immediately see all the heads of fellow flyers and passers by turning toward it. The tail will almost fly on its own but just needs the kite to guide it and likewise the kite with the tail - a perfect match in my estimation!

We did a second video of the jumbo showing our experiments with adding other blue or white tails to the line and wing tips. It is difficult to add anything without distracting from the original beauty although I think we managed to put on a satisfactory alternative in one shot using

some tubed tails that we have had for ages - I knew they'd come in useful one day!

### Marmite!

Not particularly well known for this type of kite HQ Invento have gone with what can only be described as a Marmite kite; you either love it or you hate it - The Red Devil.

It is quite easy to dismiss this kite with "I hate it" and move on but - hold on there a minute and I think you might find that it grows on you after a while - again, take a look at our video. We joined the gang down at Stokes Bay the other Sunday (Thanks to Lex and Irma from Flying Fish for their assistance) and ours weren't the only cameras clocking and whirring away as this quite large inflatable (3 metres X 8.4 metres) unfurled itself in to the sky.

Quite a long drogue off the tail keeps the kite pretty stable and it develops a pull good enough for line laundry - an feature we fully intend to employ at a later date thanks to an idea from Irma.

The Red Devil can be flown as line laundry or independently. The kite and bag are very well made and not likely to fall apart at the first excuse. There are three sets of good quality bridles joined to the tow point so a little care should be taken when daisy chaining up at the pack away stage - we also daisy chained the drogue.

Once that job is done undo the zipper to let out the air and it is very quick and easy to put away - we are getting very good at that now with inflatables!

We are warming to this BIG little devil it is great fun to fly and raises a smile from the lookers on - it will be out again soon!



## Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

### Giants in our Midst

This great passion we share is not only the greatest of levellers but provides a vehicle to create many friends around the world.

Once such friend, were it not for kites, of whom I would never have had the pleasure of acquaintance, is ex-pat, now resident in New Zealand is man of many kites and kite videos, Jim Nichols.

To continue in the mode of 'hands across the sea', Jim has sent me a short narrative on one his kite buddies thousands of miles from him, yet only a few miles down the road from Marilyn and me.

*Deep in the Forest of Dean, in the village of Bream, lives a kite-builder with a mission to build not just kites, but really BIG kites. Graham Vaughan is an engineer and a pilot with his own small aircraft, but his passion these days is to create kites which really make an impact. His latest is a triple delta conyne, no less than 24ft 6in wide and 9ft 4in high.*



*An enormous amount of work went into this, and was all carried out meticulously by this man who believes there's only one way to build something, and that's to do it perfectly.*

*The latest kite had its maiden flight from the Bream rugby field recently, and performed very well. His previous monster kite was a sled measuring 20ft by 9ft, powerful enough to lift a small elephant. His friends and admirers are waiting to see what Graham comes up with next.*

*Search for Graham Vaughan on YouTube if you want to see his monster kites in action.*

### Conynes

Talking of Delta Conynes we have recently been enviously admiring Jim's Rainbow Alpine Conyne from Into The Wind Kites.

A chance meeting at Basingstoke festival with David Poole, a new returnee to the world of kites who had been communicating with us through our You Tube channel put us on to a Dutch KAP company who had a batch of "Only flown once" up for sale. Too good an opportunity to miss the Kite Kitty was raided and we now have one of them in the collection.

As with all videos, you do tend to see all the best bits and some of the flaws are not shown or talked about. This kite is advertised as "Flies when nothing else will" and certainly soars in



very little wind. However, it does tend to fly right overhead and, on the inevitable turn or complete, falling-stall is not the best at recovery; so not one to trust whilst you concentrate on your sandwich!

I have been experimenting with tails but they, of course, need a little more wind and, I have naturally been trying various bridle positions - even adding weights at the bottom - although not yet too scientifically at the time because I didn't have my kit with me and was relying on pebbles held on with the rubber bands I always have in my back pocket.

I think this is a really beautiful kite and fully intend to take the time to get it flying perfectly. I will report back in due course but if there are any proven ideas out there for this particular kite then please get in touch. Just one other question - is it pronounced co-'neen' or co-'nine'?

### Sparkles?

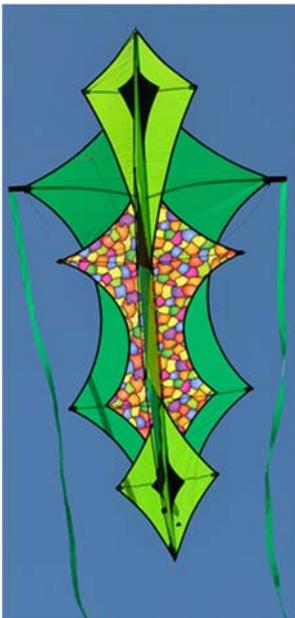
The Sparkling Xelon from HQ is the third of its generation and after some wait, is now available. We found this to be quite an active kite (rather than unstable) moving about considerably in the sky but not coming down.

Part of this would be due to the rather horizontal position the kite assumes when flying - more

## Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

so than I remember of the previous two. This was a view shared by friend Jim in New Zealand who points out that its predecessors came with a tail. Jim attached a drogue he happened to have with him and that calmed the kite considerably.

This is not the sort of thing I would expect to do with a new kite if it were crashing but, as said, mine didn't and we all like to play around with our toys.



The "sparkling colour" part of the kite is where multi coloured fabric is used; it is not reflective as you might imagine from the description and again I agree with Jim in that it is only effective when correctly positioned with the sun.

However this kite is well made and reasonably priced, it is fairly large, easy to assemble and makes a welcome addition to our collection.

These days we are very much in to flying our inflatable kites and sometimes need a reasonable amount of power to lift them. We always take our Jumbo Rainbow Delta for its reliability in low winds and similarly our 9 metre (Blue) HQ Power Sled which also lifts in fairly light winds.

A problem we have had this year is that although the 9 metre has been good at the beginning of the day, as the wind had increased we were experiencing some difficulty in getting it down. We decided therefore to acquire our fourth kite from this range - the 6m (we already have the 3m, 9mXL and 15m XXL).

I believe that HQ have brought out a 25metre but we won't be going there! I think that this is the most attractive of the four we have. Probably because of the lack of sail area by comparison, just a tiny bit more puff is needed for successful launch, but there is a marked difference when it's time to pack up.

There are a number of similar kites on the market but we trust the quality and reliability of

HQ. The kite comes in a good bag which can be turned inside out and used as a sand anchor.

When I started writing I wrote down a list of topics to cover. I am halfway through. If I carry on I will miss the deadline.

We have had a brilliant summer of flying, more of which I shall write about next time when, no doubt, I will be looking out of the office window at the cold and damp of another British winter - roll on 2016!

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

### For Sale

We bought this giant panda from Kevin Appleton of Cascade Kites when he gave up flying.

To be honest it does need just gentle breezes to maintain its shape - it doesn't like the gusty, choppy winds of Salisbury Plain and we never get the time to fly it.

We paid £100 plus carriage and are looking to pass it on for the same if anyone is interested?

Call any day 9:30am to 9:30pm 07858 077 008  
 or email [closeencounterskites@virginmedia.com](mailto:closeencounterskites@virginmedia.com)



### Worlds Greatest Kiting

The web site [www.worldsgreatestkiting.com](http://www.worldsgreatestkiting.com) looks to be interesting when it launches in November. November sees the first episode of a live broadcast on iTunes Radio. They state :

"Our goal is to provide the most inspiring, fun, and uncensored interviews with the biggest and smallest names in kiting! Discover flying tips from the masters, stories from on and off the flying field and get the real scoop on the latest kite gear from the worlds greatest kite designers, makers, flyers & supporters!"

Not sure how easy it will be to get the content from the UK but you can email them [info@thekiteguys.com](mailto:info@thekiteguys.com).

### From The Statesman—Kites missing from the Delhi Skies

*"Throw your dreams into space like a kite, and you do not know what it will bring back, a new life, a new friend, a new love, a new country"* - Anais Nin

And they did year after year. The beautiful kites coloured the blue Delhi summer sky so beautiful ahead of the Independence Day every year. This time around, things just turned more innovative as sources say that kites with photographs of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Barack Obama is set to brighten the city skyline ahead of the 69th Independence Day celebrations. While two pictures of Modi are titled "Mahanayak" and "Acche din", one has pictures of Modi and Obama together. It does sound exciting.

However, walking down the lane of Lal Kuan Bazar, the scene takes a different hue. The stalls sit pretty with colourful kites, waiting for customers to fly them in open skies. This year, their wait seems to have been longer than usual. From the multi-hued kites to the ones with cartoons and latest movie characters, they all lie there at the shops as probable buyers stay away from visiting and purchasing these kites. The story is the same for almost all the kite sellers at the wholesale market in Chawri Bazar.

"Fifteen years ago, we could see kites of different colours in the blue skies. It's August! Look up! Can you see any now?" Md. Zaki, a kite seller remarks, pointing at the sky, as he

speaks to few buyers who have lined up at his store.

Although the number of kites visible might be very few, the designs, colours and patterns have multiplied over the years.

"Chhota Bheem, Shin Chan, and Baby Doll are new varieties. Besides the traditional colours and types of kites, we keep these varieties to lure young kids who are our prime customers," Shannu Hussain says as he tries to keep his spirits high in spite of the poor sales record. He owns Shop No.1862-Katra Sheikh, Chand Lal Kuan.

"We aren't doing good business since the last few years. Everyone is worried, mainly because this year the situation is very sad. Sales are at an all-time low," Hussain adds. He also sends his kites for sale at the Palam and Gurgaon markets.

Here, at Chawri Bazar, the kite sellers open their shops in April. They continue to sell their kites till August 15 every year.

"The sales have picked up in the last two days. They will go up from now onwards," another seller Kallu Bhai, who hails from Rajasthan says. Echoing similar views, Sachin Kite Store's owner, Sachin Gupta says, "The sales will go up a day or two before Independence Day. Till now the sales were okay."

The many shops lined up in Chawri Bazar sell kites ranging from Rs.2 to Rs.300. The kites that are sold the most are the ones that fall in the range of Rs.5 to Rs.7. Then, there are the Chinese kites that are huge and made up of cloth with a starting range of Rs.30. They, however, don't find many takers due to the high rates.

"We generally check the quality, paper and thickness of the bamboo sticks while buying kites. The kites look similar in every shop, but the qualities differ. We prefer buying the kites that cost around Rs.5," says Sanath Kaushik and Gaurav Goel, Delhi University students who fly kites as it's their favourite hobby.

Well, like Sanath and Gaurav there are only a few other Delhiites who consider flying kites as a hobby and frequent this market to buy good quality kites now.

## Bits & Pieces

Trying to explain the reason for the lack of interest shown by the city's people, Shakeel Hussain of NH Kite says, "Mobile phones, internet, unfavourable weather, high prices have all added up, so people don't like flying kites anymore."

"In the pre-cable era, a day or two after Holi, you could see patang (kite) markets everywhere. But, now people fly kites only on the Independence Day. It seems kite flying has become a one-day festival," says Zaki who has been selling kite for more than 25 years now. He adds, "Previously people used to say that flying kites help improve eyesight. Now, people have stopped believing in all these old sayings."

As India gets ready to celebrate the 69th Independence day, the residents in the nation's capital, it seems, are leaving behind the old practise of flying kites that used to be a favourite in the days gone by.

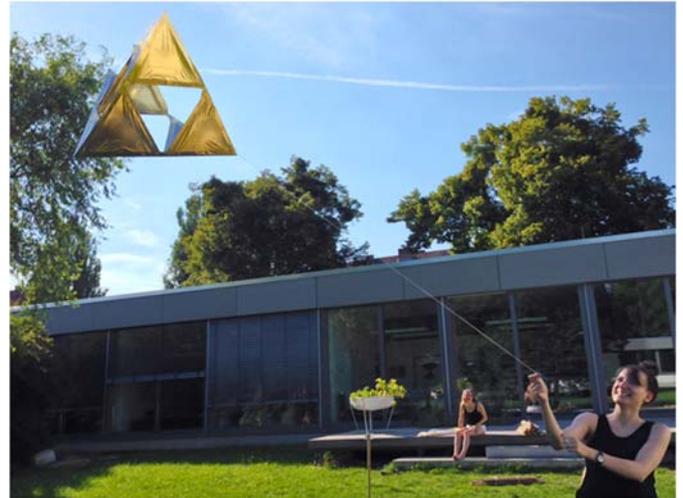
The open skies, hence, remain devoid of the delightful kites. But, one can never undermine the Delhi sky and the mood of the citizens. The excitement may be only shimmering to burst forth on the big day. So, take the lead, let loose the string and throw your dream of a colourful Delhi into the sky, it might bring back your dream of a "new life, a new friend, a new love and a new country".

### German Student 3D Prints an Entire Triforce Kite—3Dprint.com Eddie Krassenstein

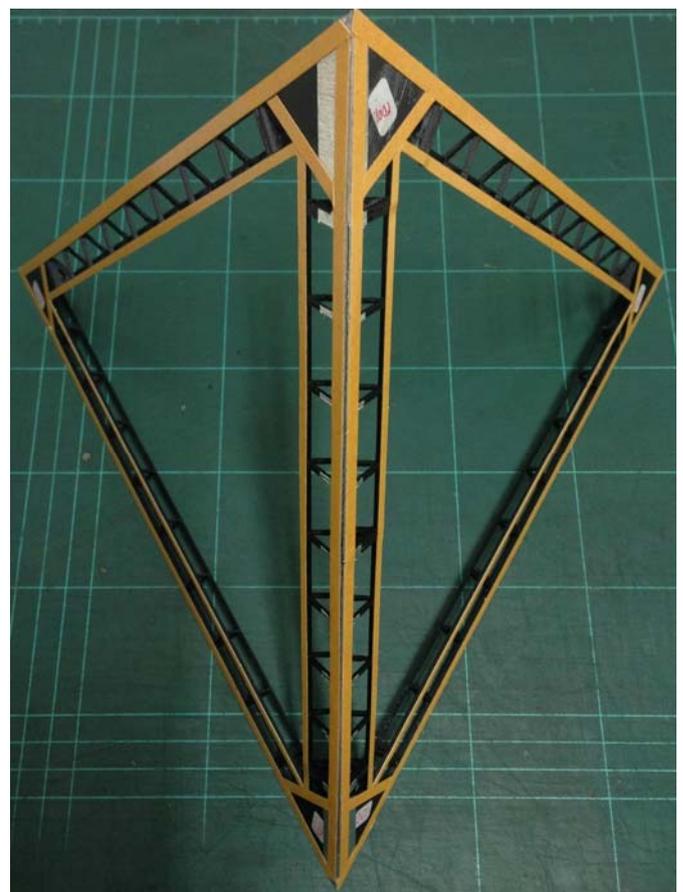
It is rumoured that Benjamin Franklin proved that lightning was caused by electricity simply by flying a kite during a thunderstorm, when a pointed wire on his kite drew the "electric fire" from thunderclouds overhead. While no one knows for sure if Franklin ever actually performed this experiment, it is a fact that he did propose it in a publication he wrote in 1750. Regardless, kites have been used for all sorts of things over the past 1500 years or so. For me, I remember going outside on a windy day, flying my superhero-themed kite with my brother and dad in an open field across the street from our home. Boy was that a ton of fun.

While my kite was one of those cheap plastic versions purchased at a local Walmart, it did the job in keeping me busy for hours on end. For one German maker, named Sergej Bekauv, the recent Thingiverse 'Catch the Wind' Chal-

lenge enticed him to create his own unique 3D printed Triforce kite. (See [www.thingiverse.com/thing:952737](http://www.thingiverse.com/thing:952737) for details of the 3D printing and construction).



As a child, Bekauv remembered how much of a pain in the neck it was to assemble and dismantle his kites, so he set out to create a better method. He began by drawing and prototyping various designs, before coming up with one that he thought would work best. He came across a 3D printed parametric hinge design on Thingiverse, created by a man named Benjamin Morgan, and decided that it would be perfect for the creation of his kite.



Using Rhino 3D version 5.0, he designed all of the various frame parts, before 3D printing all 27 of them on his CTC 3D Printer which he purchased about 2 months ago. In all, it took him about 2-3 days to print and assemble all of the pieces, which are glued together using a two part epoxy adhesive. For the sailcloth that goes around the frame, Bekauv used a gold/silver rescue sheet, and double-sided tape to hold it on.

As for how the kite flies, Bekauv, who is currently studying Product Design at the University of Kassel in Germany, tells us that it does an excellent job as long as there is “a steady, but not too strong wind.”

In the meantime, anyone interested in replicating Bekauv’s unique 3D printed kite can download all of the necessary files for free from Thingiverse and fly their own love of the Legend of Zelda’s symbol in the sky.

**Taipei Times Kites to mark fight for Kaohsiung park**



The campaign to save a 100-year-old railway park near Kaohsiung Port iculminated in an Aug. 22 event, at which hundreds of kites were flown in an effort to persuade the Taiwan Railways Administration (TRA) not to sell the land.

“We are determined to preserve this site of cultural value, and we will fly 822 white kites at the event to highlight our demand that the TRA abandon its bid to sell the nation’s cultural and historical assets,” event organizer the Go Hamasen Alliance said.

The park was built on the site of what was the Kaohsiung Port railway station, Go Hamasen said.

It has received numerous awards, including the LivCom award in 2013 and the national public landscaping award this year, it said.

It has become a place for people to fly kites and it reminds residents of the history of the city when the port and the railway formed the city’s main commercial artery, the alliance said. This public space is in danger of being sold to corporations by the TRA to be used to build corporate offices, the alliance said.

Kaohsiung City Government Municipal Urban Regeneration Office Secretary-General Kao Chen-yuan said that the proposed railway park development had been criticized by conservation groups, and that the intended buildings — hotels and malls — might not be compatible with the area’s unique cultural landscape.

**Data-driven method provides simple means of calculating aerodynamics of light, 3-D objects**



Amongst a lot of information about Disney Research (a network of research laboratories supporting The Walt Disney Company) this tool (OmniAD) has been used to construct light weight kites.

Using 3D printing for joints, carbon tubes for spars and cling film a few dif-

ferent constructions can be seen in the video on [www.disneyresearch.com/publication/omniad/](http://www.disneyresearch.com/publication/omniad/). These include 2 and 3 cell box kites, an asymmetric set of box kites and—what they call—a Heart Kite (two box kites with a plastic heart between them and one modelled on the Stanford Bunny kite).

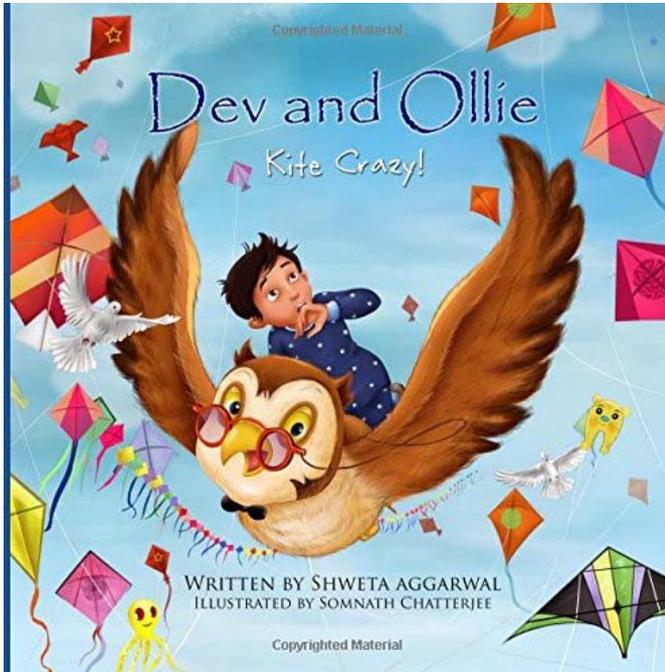
Using this modelling tool the team created “Kiteshop” which supports the user in creating 3D kites by visualising various components of flight (lift, drag, torque and string tension) in real time.

The full publication (at the same link) makes interesting reading.

Bits & Pieces

Kite Books

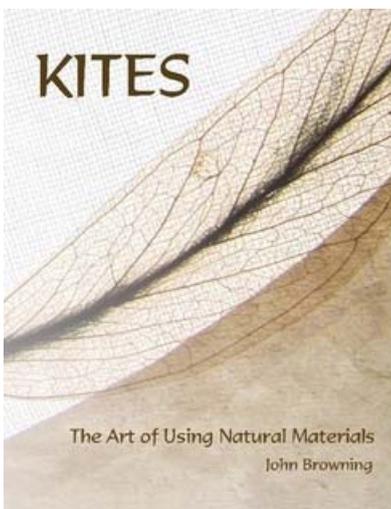
Some kite books have come to our notice recently. The first is a story book for children and the second a little bit more serious.



Dev and Ollie: Kite Crazy by Shweta Aggarwal and Sommath Chatterjee. ISBN: 978-0993232800. 32 Pages. Aimed at the children’s market this cute little book features Dev’s introduction to kites—in the form of Indian Fighter Kites.

“It’s Dev’s birthday and his favourite present is a cool new kite. But there is a problem - he doesn’t know how to fly it! Grandpa claims to be an expert and promises to teach Dev tomorrow but Dev is too impatient. ”

Price £5.99 through amazon.co.uk.



Kites: The Art of Using Natural Material by John Browning is the second book. In this book John Browning shows the use of natural materials to make beautiful kites; kites that fly.

There is a balance of the visual nature of the materials

used and the kites themselves. Full of colour images (at least as far as we can tell) the kites use a variety of natural materials from leaves, plants, trees, paper through to bamboo.

It is priced at £55.94 at present and available through Amazon. See the review by George Webster elsewhere.



KITE WORKSHOP HANDBOOK  
GLENN DAVISON

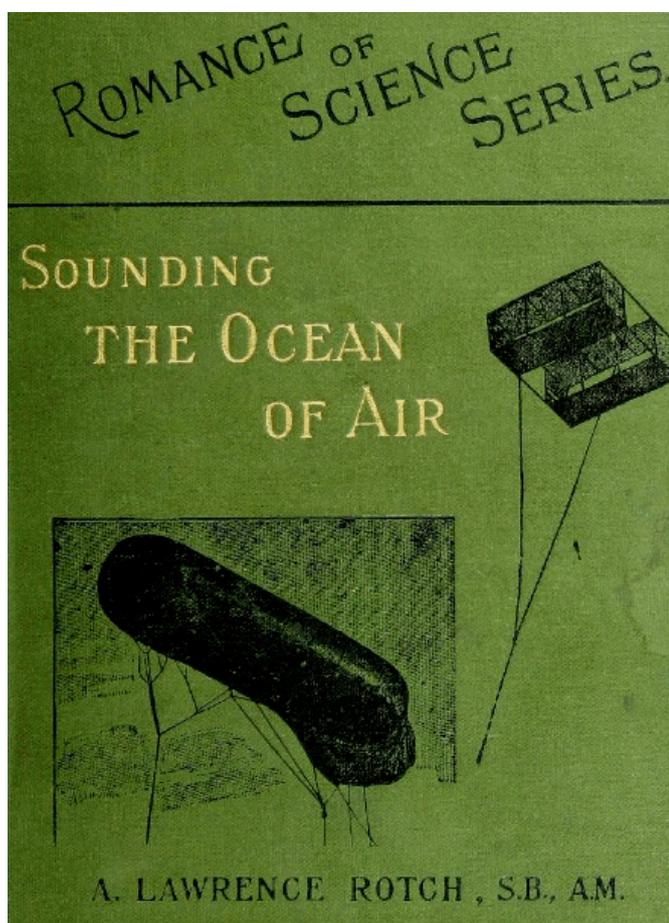


The third book is available as a Kindle download or paperback. Called Kite Workshop Handbook it is described “This handbook gives you the opportunity to spread the joy of building and flying kites with a quick result even if someone has never built a kite before. Your biggest reward will be the smiles on the faces of your students when they see their kite in the sky. You’ll have all the resources you need to begin. This book describes how to speed preparation, how much to charge, how to advertise, and where to find the best materials and kits. Seven different kite plans are included with detailed instructions about how to build each kite”.

The kite plans range from a simple sled kite to a more complicated box kite. Although written for the American market it can almost certainly be tailored to fit any workshops being done in the U.K.

Price £1.99 for Kindle and £5.09 for paperback (Amazon).

Project Gutenberg—for those who do not know—is a place to obtain some 49000 free e-books in multiple formats—like Kindle, ePub and so on.



One book that we saw recently is *Sounding the Ocean of Air* by Abbott Lawrence Rotch. It is a series of six lectures by the director of the Blue Hill Meteorological Observatory. The one which we liked most was (obviously) all about the kites—one titled “Kites—History and Application to Meteorological Purposes at Blue Hill and Elsewhere and another Results of Kite Flights at Blue Hill—Future Work.

Worth a look if you can. [www.gutenberg.org](http://www.gutenberg.org).

### Your chance for Fame?

My name’s Rosie, I’m an assistant producer at a CBBC production company called Airmageddon Productions. I was hoping there would a way in which we could reach out to the members of The Kite Society, in the hopes that some of your members might be interested in taking part in this exciting new series. Or similarly, if you have any parents / grandparents in your clubs that might like to pass this opportunity on to their children / grandchildren.

The new series is called Airmageddon and is a major new Drone-based, entertainment series from the makers of Robot Wars. We are now searching the country for fearless and active children, to take part and show off their robot design / flying skills in our large studio arena - in the ultimate test of aerial skill!

Each ‘pilot’ will be joined by a friend or relative of any age who will become their Wing Man or Woman and will provide an extra pair of eyes and tactical support as they navigate the flying circus. Perhaps some of your members would like to take part as a Wing Man or Woman?

You can find an application form and more info on the CBBC website here: [www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/joinin/airmageddon-2015-be-on-a-show](http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/joinin/airmageddon-2015-be-on-a-show). Applications close on the 23rd October.

Rosie Knott | Airmageddon | Assistant Producer  
T: 0207 841 2739  
E: [Rosie.knott@airmageddon.co.uk](mailto:Rosie.knott@airmageddon.co.uk)

### From The Irish Times

*Kite technology increases Defence Forces surveillance power.*

The kite-base technology being developed will change the way drug smugglers are caught.

Existing technology such as radar, telescopes and wifi to operate radars will be attached to large platforms cradled under the kites. And when elevated into the sky – even a couple of hundred metres up – the range of the technology increases vastly.

It means vessels such as the *Lucky Day* – some of which transport guns with drugs – will not go be able to stay out of reach as easily.

Only when suspicions about a vessel are con-

## Bits & Pieces

firmed – by sending an unmanned drone for closer surveillance – will the need arise for a Naval Service vessel to set out for it.

The kite-based innovation could also be used for ground-based operations.

### From The Met Office

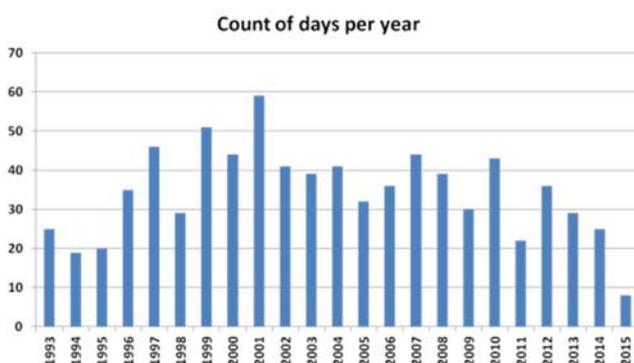
Has 2015 really been that windy?

The Met Office recently published a blog regarding how windy it has been in 2015 (first half of the year anyway).

“We’ve recently had several questions from the public asking whether this year has been particularly windy compared to others and if there’s any explanation for this. There’s lots of ways at looking at these questions, but the quick answer from our National Climate Information Centre is that – yes, it has been windy this year and a lack of high pressure seems to be to blame. Here Mike Kendon, climate information scientist at the Met Office, takes a detailed look at the questions.

One way of looking at this is to consider how many days there have been which have not been windy – i.e. calm days – and how this compares with the historical record. The bar chart below counts the number of days each year, for the UK overall, where at least 20 weather stations have recorded a maximum gust speed of 10 Knots (11 mph) or less. This is equivalent to, at most, a gentle breeze, while 20 stations would indicate such conditions fairly widespread for at least 24 hours.

2015 thus far has seen only 8 such days; this being the fewest number of calm days across the UK for at least 20 years – but bearing in mind this covers less than 7 of 12 months of the year so far. However, more notably none of these days have fallen in May, June or July so far.



For more information see the full blog posting at [blog.metoffice.gov.uk/2015/07/24/has-2015-really-been-that-windy/](http://blog.metoffice.gov.uk/2015/07/24/has-2015-really-been-that-windy/)

### Flying field renamed to honour kite guru

From The Enid News.

American Kitefliers Association on Tuesday dedicated the flying field in Enid to a past association president and kite aficionado. The field behind Autry Technology Center, where kites can be seen flying all week, has been named the Richard Dermer Memorial Flying Field.

Marci Jarrett, director of Visit Enid, said Dermer impacted everyone he met. “We were blessed to have had a man among us who had a great sweet spirit and every time I hear someone laugh holding a kite, I think of him,” she said. “Richard Dermer bought us together and will always be with us every time we see a kite in the sky. On behalf of the city of Enid, Visit Enid, Autry Technology Center and the American Kitefliers Association, we have renamed the flying field.”

Dermer, who bought Hideaway Pizza in Stillwater in 1959, died in 2014, his wife, Marti, said. They have always played with the wind, she said.

“We used to sail,” she said. “But sailboats are a hole in the water into which you pour money, so we switched to kites.”

Marti said she doesn’t know how many kites she owns.

“I couldn’t tell you,” she said. “They mate in our garage. I have them on the walls at the Hideaway so other people can enjoy them. Kites are like potato chips: you can’t have just one.”

Kiting lifts your spirits, Marti said. “They get you outside looking up,” she said. “They put a smile on your face. I’ve had people in wheelchairs who flew kites and said it gives them a sense of freedom, since they can’t run or walk anymore.”

Marti has been kiting for more than 20 years, and Richard served as AKA president for three years, she said. “It’s added a lot to my life,” she said. “Because of my husband’s position, we had to go to England, to Japan, India, Guadeloupe to fly kites.”

## Khmer Belief in Kite Flying—Cheang Yarin

*Reproduced with permission of The Dragon Foundation*



This tonal Khheng Ek (pictured here in the Phnom Penh Khmer Kite Museum) won a prize at China's Weifang International Kite Festival in 2007.

### Introduction by Scott Skinner.

Cheang Yarin and Sim Sarak have proven to be very special kite ambassadors for their home country of Cambodia. After publishing *Khmer Kites* in 2003, and after countless trips to the countryside to teach kite making and ferret out lost Cambodian kite heritage, Cheang and Sim have now published an updated version of *Khmer Kites*. Illustrated with many more photographs, the new edition continues to shed light on the obscured past of Cambodian kite culture.

As in the first edition, contemporary Cambodian kite makers are featured in the book, with more detailed pictures and drawings of their kites. Cambodian kites fill a very interesting niche of South East Asian kite culture, and the efforts of Cheang Yarin and Sim Sarak provide a model for kite

preservation.

### Text by Cheang Yarin

Until recently, most Cambodian people's livelihoods were agriculturally based, and their main crop was rice. In the 1960s, Cambodia was even able to export about 500,000 tons of rice per year. As most of the people were farmers, their beliefs and festivals were related to farming. Today, Cambodian people are Buddhists, but their beliefs are a blend of animism, Brahmanism, and Buddhism.

Every month at least one festival is held. Cambodian people call these *Pithi Tvear Tuos-meas*, or ceremonies of twelve months of the year. These festivals have been consistently held from the past until the present. They are classified into two major groups: those organized during the rainy season and those in the dry season. This chapter briefly describes two festivals held at the beginning of the rainy season and two others in the first part of the dry season.

The two festivals performed at the beginning of the rainy season are the Royal Ploughing Ceremony and the Fete of Neakta. *Pithi Chraoat Preah Naingkorl*, or the Royal Ploughing Ceremony, has been observed for many centuries, and was held at



The Royal Ploughing Ceremony in Angkor, 2010

## Bits &amp; Pieces

Marti said she didn't know they were going to dedicate the field to her late husband. "Marci had said they should rename the field for him, but I didn't know they were going to this," she said. "I thought it was going to be temporary for the week. I think it's marvellous. This would have put a smile on his face if he was here, and I know his spirit is here. I guarantee you, he is here with us today in more ways than one."

**Kite Tour.**

*It may be a bit late for 2015 but it would be worth contacting them for 2016.*

Los Barriletes Gigantes,  
The Giant Kites of Sumpango  
Special 3 Day Cultural Immersion Tour  
Oct. 31 - Nov. 2 2015



Over 600 residents of Sumpango come together every night and every weekend for over four months to create remarkable kites -- some as large as a six story building. Even up close it is hard to imagine that they are not paintings but rather are made entirely from the most fragile of papers. Tradition in Sumpango says that the kites both keep away evil spirits and carry messages to the ancestors. Thousands of people from around the world come to Sumpango's Giant Kite Festival on November 1st where the kites are displayed for the first and often the only time. With master barriletero Julio Asturias and experienced guide Louise Wischild, The Giant Kites Cultural Tour takes you behind the scenes of both the Giant Kites and the other traditions surrounding the Day of the Dead in Sumpango.

On Oct. 31, we head to Sumpango, for three amazing days of experiencing this Maya Kachikel Maya pueblo's tradition of Giant Kites to

honor the Day of the Dead. The group stays two nights with a friendly family in Sumpango gaining a unique insight into life in the pueblo as well a chance to attend Day of the Dead festivities that other tourists don't see. This includes visiting the special Day of the Dead market, watching the kitemakers put the finishing touches on their giant kites, being welcomed as participants in the shamanic ceremony of blessing the kites, arriving at the festival early, before the crowds, with premium seating, able to enjoy the whole day without hours of traffic. On the third day, each participant makes their own 8 sided Guatemalan kite to fly in the traditional way, in the cemetery, with Julio and his family.

Contact [info@brightfutureglobaltours.com](mailto:info@brightfutureglobaltours.com) for more info or look at [www.brightfutureglobaltours.com](http://www.brightfutureglobaltours.com)

**From The Telegraph**

A traditional art form takes off as economic life-line for Chinese town

Some of the facts from the above article.

At peak season, this workshop makes 10,000 kites a day. One worker can make between 400 and 600 kites a day,.

Last year, one factory had sales of 1.5 million yuan (£154,400). Sales for the first six months of this year totalled 2 million yuan.

Only about 20 per cent are destined for export.

87 workshops, covering an area of a few square miles, make 80 million kites a year between them. About 2,200 of the 4,600 people who live in Wangjiazhuangzi are in the kite business.

**A History of the World**

A BBC Radio 4 Series had as one of the objects a Japanese Kite.

It is thought that kites were first introduced to Japan by Buddhist monks who came from China in the Nara period (710-794 CE). Kites were used for practical purposes, such as lifting materials to workers during the construction of tall buildings, but they are mainly associated with religious festivals and thanks giving ceremonies.

There are many different styles and types of

Bits & Pieces

kite, with each region of Japan having a characteristic shape. The decoration often depicts characters from Japanese folklore or have some religious or symbolic meaning.



This kite depicts Sasaki Takatsuna, a samurai commander in the Genpei War (1180-1185 CE). In art, Takatsuna is often depicted riding the Shogun Yoritomo's white horse, Ikezuki, racing to be the first to engage in the battle of Uji. The animal head in the bottom left corner of this kite probably indicates that this kite depicts this scene.

This kite is unusual because it was made by a female kitemaker, Asako Kato, one of only three women kite makers working in Japan in the early 20th century.

**French Kite History Book**

Recently seen a newish kite book by Dominique Cotard. Les Aéroliers Cerfs-volistes.

Military History of Kites and Balloons over the centuries. 257 pages. Paperback. ISBN 9781291658248

£13.79 from [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com)

**From Ebay**

Rare Antique Bamboo Fighting Kite Spool, Reel, Winder India  
 India is well known for recycling / repurposing, therefore I "assume" the paper on this kite reel

is recycled. As seen in our photos, and from my research : CLUETT PEABODY Inc. USA / Dating back to 1901 MILL Co. AHMEDABAD / Dating back to 1928, but could be older?

Overall condition of this Antique, and rare reel is EXCELLENT, and it's very usable, as well as a work of art. As seen in photo's there is one small break in the end of one of the bamboo spines. So next time you go kite flying at East Hampton, take this baby with you! ;-)  
 The string on this reel is very strong, and most likely was dipped in glass ( hence the traditional "fighting" kite sport.)

Priced at a very reasonable \$2,200 plus \$64 postage.

Happy buying!



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 WhatsApp Viber Like us on FB Twitter  
**07960 056 678**  
 EMKAY Kites  
 Sleaford  
 Lincolnshire  
 Kites  
 Windsocks  
 Inflatables  
 Kite Lines  
 Accessories  
 Glove + Finger Puppets  
 And More ...  
 Visits by appointment only!

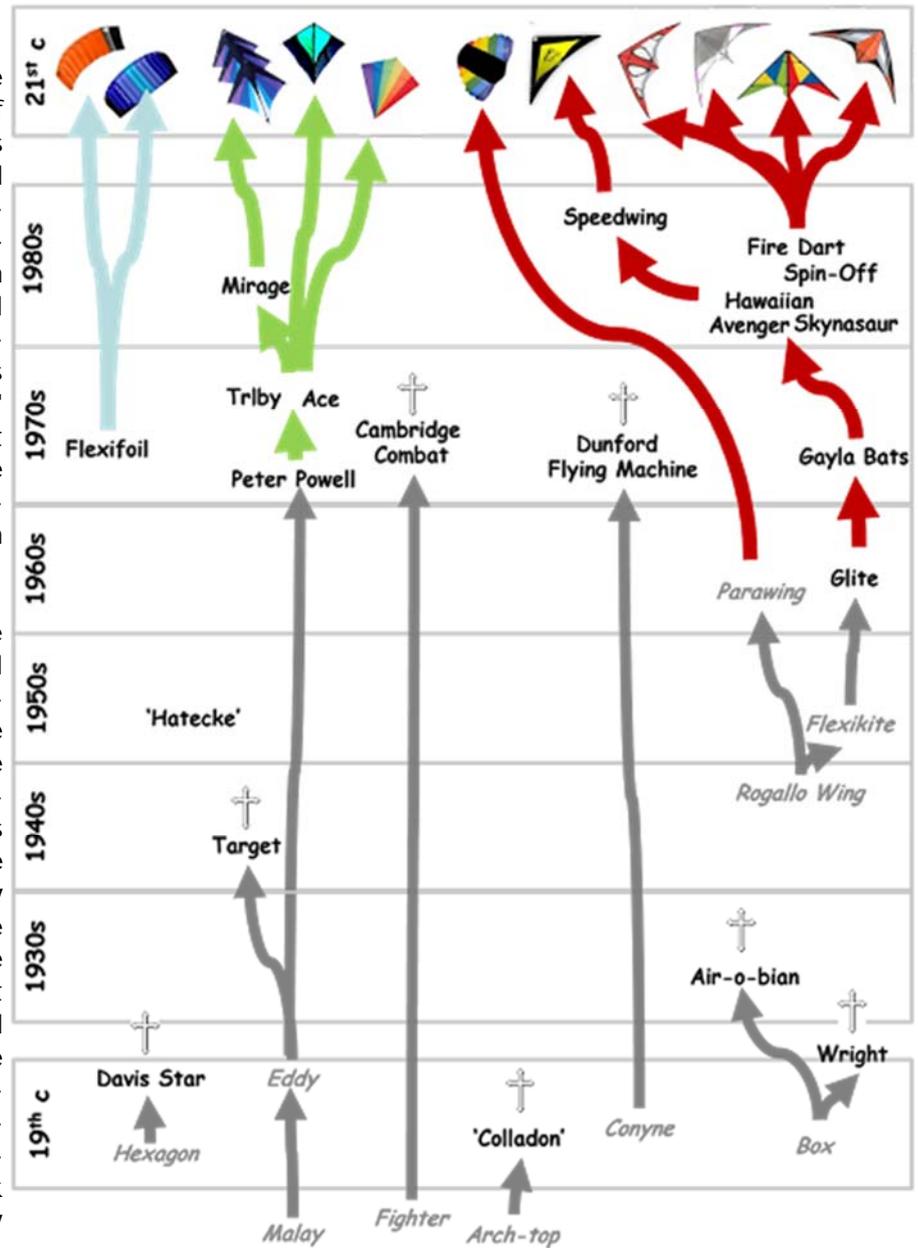
## Evolution of dual-line kites—Lex Kraaijeveld

From the Flying Fish Blog.

It won't be a surprise to those of you who have read most of my blog posts, that, besides flying kites, I'm also interested in the history of kites and kite-flying. One aspect of kite history I'm especially interested in is the origin and spread of dual-line kites. As I'm an evolutionary biologist in real life, it's second nature for me to 'see' evolutionary trees, so I've put together the information I've collected so far on early dual-line kites in such an 'evolutionary tree'.

Most of you will probably be familiar with the Peter Powell Stunter, which really popularised dual-line kite-flying in the early 1970s, but things were happening before that! For instance, the Rogallo Wing was invented in the 1940s, and the vast majority of present-day dual-line sport kites can be traced back to this kite. The 1940s also saw the Target kites, invented and designed by Paul Garber. And in the 1930s, a rather strange dual-line box kite, called the Air-o-bian, briefly caused a sensation. Going even further back in time, the late 19th century saw several rescue kites, controlled by two lines.

Because of my interest in these early dual-line kites, I have built reconstructions of Francis Rogallo's Flexikite, and of J Woodbridge Davis' Rescue Star .



For the new year, I am going to keep my eyes open for early dual-line kites, and especially for those which could be flown in a pair routine. I already talked about my project to build a pair of Target kites, and about trying to find a second Dunford Flying Machine. Two Trlby triple stacks would also work great in a pair routine, and how about a pair of Gayla Baby Bats, converted to dual-line flying as suggested by Richard Radcliffe in 1978? Also, I wouldn't say no to a pair of Cambridge Combat kites, or even to a single one.



## Event News

### 24th & 25th October. 1st Bognor Regis Kite Festival, West Park, Bognor Regis, West Sussex

Saturday 10am -10pm Sunday 10am-4pm

A very late in the season event, that I have been asked by the organising committee to take over running the kite flying side, sadly due to them being let down.

Situated at the West end of Bognor seafront, directly opposite the sea, the locals have been busy arranging things before my involvement.

Craft Stalls, Licensed Bar, Face Painting, Stage with Live music (after 5pm), PA System from Life Entertainment, Saturday Evening Firework Display (TBC), Kite Workshop by the Air Scouts Kite Trader - SkyBums, Raffle Prize - kindly donated by Kiteworld

Camping will be available, but I realise it may be a bit chilly for a tent, so possibly just caravans & motorhomes (Please email me for details).

I have had willing support already from fliers, and is a nice change to have a potential new festival for the calendar, and hopefully will be held a lot earlier next year.

Please bring along any LED kites you may have for the Saturday evening. Hoping to get some flying before the fireworks.

The BKF are hoping to attend, likewise members of Kite Weekenders, Solent KF, and the KKF are also hoping to be there for the weekend or on individual days.

Team Flying Fish and L-Katz are going to perform some displays for the public.

Please support this event if you can.

Dave Mitchell, dave@kiteweekenders.com  
Mobile: 07841 456494  
www.brkf.org

	2015	
	October	
24-25	Bognor Regis Kite Festival, West Park, Bognor Regis, West Sussex	www.brkf.org
	2016	
	April	
9-17	Berck sur Mer International Kite Festival, Nord-Pas-De-Calais, France	www.cerf-volant-berck.com
21-1/05	Cervia International Kite Festival, Pinarella, Cervia, Italy	www.festivalinternazionaleaquilone.com/web
	June	
25-26	Barmouth Annual Beach Kite Festival in conjunction with the Mawdach Paddle Reggata, on the beach by the lifeboat station Barmouth	waine@barrikiteflyers.com
	July	
8-9	Brighton Kite Festival, Stanmer Park, Brighton (Provisional)	www.brightonkiteflyers.co.uk
16-17	Leominster & Hereford Kite Festival, Berrington Hall, Herefordshire HR6 0DW	bill.souten@mkf.org.uk
30-31	Dunstable Kite Festival, Dunstable Downs.	www.dunstablekitefestival.co.uk
30-31	St. Annes Kite festival, on the beach, Lytham st Annes, near Blackpool, Lancashire	www.stanneskitefestival.co.uk
	August	
13-14	Teston Bridge Kitebility Kite Weekend, Teston Bridge Country Park, Teston Lane, nr Maidstone, Kent ME18 5BX	Malcolmf@kentkiteflyers.com
13-14	Prudhoe Kite Festival, Highfield Park, Prudhoe, near Newcastle, Northumberland NE42 6EY	john@johndobson.info