

# THE KITEFLIER

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



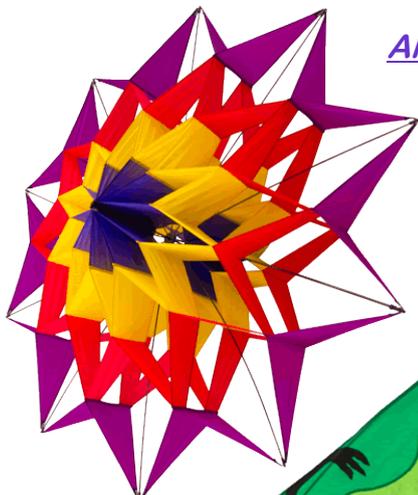
**Issue 148      July 2016      £2.50**

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

# KITEWORLD

All The Fun Of The Air!

All Shapes  
&  
Sizes



New Designs  
For  
2016

Peter Lynn  
UNIQ  
Beginner Range



Kite  
Accessories



Windsocks  
&  
Line Laundry



Great Range  
Of Line  
Winders



Classic  
Designs

**Visit our website**

[www.kiteworld.co.uk](http://www.kiteworld.co.uk)

01255 860041



Pothecary Corner	4
Berck 2016	12
Bits & Pieces	19
Conversation with Malcolm Goodman	21
Far Horizons	25
Bedford 2016	26
Portsmouth 2016	30
Events News	31
Events List	32

**Front Cover**

**Two creations by Bruno Cocandeu one of the new guest kite fliers at Portsmouth.**

Dear Reader

To quote from the recently received 'Cowpat Hill' - the newsletter of the White Horse Kite Fliers—"This now brings me back to the age old problem; The Magazine is only as good as what goes in, so it is up to you to provide some content." This is essentially what we were going to say. As you can tell the magazine is only 32 pages long—it has been a very long time since it had so few pages.

If it was not for Hugh Blowers and Allan Pothecary, this magazine would be even smaller. So we, and you, owe them a big thank you for their continuing hard work and support.

If you want the magazine to continue then you need to contribute to the content. It does not matter what it is—as long as it is kite related. Surely people have opinions, have bought/designed/made/flown a new kite, been to a kite

festival. Why are you kite flier? What do you get from the magazine? What is missing or under represented in the magazine?

Even writing in to answer the above is a contribution!

On to Portsmouth—we hope to see many of you to help celebrate the 25th anniversary of the festival. We have a great line up with lots of interesting kites and kite fliers. There are plenty opportunities to fly your kites. Please support the event as there are not many kite festivals remaining that give you an opportunity to interact with the international kite community.

See you at Portsmouth

Gill and Jon

**For Sale**

Pristine, late 90's Benson Phantom (Rainbow) with sky shark rods - £95  
Benson Fusion (Original and signed) £45  
Large white (Ghost kite) flow tail - £55 with fibre-glass spreader.  
.We will be looking for sensible offers on...  
Obsession 2 (Two of - One flown once and one never assembled)  
Two HQ Japanese Sodos - Samurai and woman in Kimono - sold only as a pair.  
Carriage/delivery will be arranged and paid for by the customer.  
Please contact Allan Pothecary through [www.closeencounterskites.co.uk](http://www.closeencounterskites.co.uk) "Contacts" page for further details including videos and/or photos of the kites for sale.

Membership Type	Fee
Electronic Subscription (Individual or Family)	£5.00
Household (Individual, Family, Senior)	£15.00
Overseas (Europe)	£25.00
Overseas (Rest of World Airmail)	£30.00
Overseas (Rest of World Economy)	£25.00

## Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

### Carry over

There is still much to talk about that I started in the previous magazine.

My concerns of late were the demise of numbers of active kite flyers but I am now beginning to think that the interest level is on the rise again. We have found a more local flying field and certainly there seems always to be someone else flying a kite of some description each time we visit.

A few have come over to enquire about our Chinese inflatables and intriguing creations from HQ kites.

Touching on another point raised, one was interested in KAP, another in power - (and now pairs flying), a couple of others with a mix of single and dual line and the odd one or two that had been drawn in from afar after seeing our large kites up at the maximum 200 feet. Just one of these had heard about the Basingstoke Kite Festival even though it was only a couple of weeks away and we are in the next town!

Every one of them turned up after I told them!

So, come on you organisers and supporters you are doing a great job but you need to let more people know about your event. I have offered free space on our web-site as well as splashing a few leaflets about and no-one is taking up the offer.

### Basingstoke

As it turned out Basingstoke was well attended on the Saturday and on the Sunday, you were lucky to find a space to sit and watch on the edge of the arena in the section where the traders were also having a busy time.

The queue to the ice cream van was just stupidly long!

I thought the running of the arena was one of the best I had seen for years -

very smooth with no long gaps between demonstrations and both general public and other fliers were well entertained with a big variety of well polished performances featuring unusual, interesting single line kites, pairs and teams.

So well done to Simon Dan for that but not forgetting Alan Cosgrove and his team.

I had a busy weekend, I have never shown so many how to do a Larks Head knot or spent so much time teaching people the basics of how to keep their kites in the air.

The interest and enthusiasm from those I had close encounters with were intoxicating - and I never went near the beer tent!

### *What now?*

I now have raised hopes for the future; truly, the atmosphere was electric, everyone I shared a conversation with came over as yearning to experience more - even one lady keen to hold a similar event in nearby Andover!



Their aspirations weren't high - they marveled at the crazy but stylish wide range of single line kites, the singular flying skills of Chris Goff and Carl Robertshaw, the harmony of Flying Fish, the incredible precision of British team Champions, Flame and the wonderment of Team spectrum including the solo magic of Carl Wright and knew of the long road to be half as good - but some

set goals to try and others to return and watch again.

Of course I told them of the upcoming events I knew of - I just wish I had more to give them - I only knew the dates for Portsmouth but they will be visiting our web-site.

Most already have!

I do have a short video on our You Tube channel of some of the Basingstoke festival highlights - apologies to those I missed, I was too busy enjoying myself!

### ***Blue 16m Trilobite***

I gave our 16metre Blue Trilobite its first big public outing at Basingstoke and you can see friend Aditya flying it at the end of the video - he then decided to go order one for himself!

This amazing kite will fly when most others won't and is a spectacle in it's own right as well as an excellent lifter.

Each time we launched it there were gasps of "WOW - look at that!" followed by a flurry of questions from spectators - It still tickles me when someone asks if I mind if they take photos of it.

I have liked the Trilobite from the beginning and am not surprised to see its popularity spreading with many people now owning more than one.

... and that brings me sweetly on to ....

### **Portsmouth**

In my previous article I mentioned that a group of Americans had beaten Jim

## **Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary**

Nichols and friend Carl's, 'Tribe' of Trilobites totaling nine in all, flying at the same time.

They were claiming ten kites but cocked a deaf ear at requests from Carl for video evidence.

It seems that on May 1st this year a tribe of varying sizes from 7m to 32m was flown on the same, Ocean City Beach at the Maryland Kite Exposition but not necessarily all together!

Therefore we aim to put things right and bring the world record to the UK by knocking that figure in to the park.

Friends Quintin Bekker and his pal Evert de Blanken are bringing their kites over from Holland and I am hoping that the Trilobite owners around the UK will be coming or at the very least sending their kites too.

These kites, designed by Ma Qing Hua are without spars and will not, therefore, give the same awesome spectacle of the mass launch of the Robertshaw flow deltas.

Indeed we will be looking for experienced flyers to help at one end or the other for the more gradual and sporadic launch as they fill with air.

### ***Menu for fun?***

It sounds a little like a recipe for disaster but I am sure it will be great fun to do and/or watch and hopefully will have the services and guidance of the world's best field director in the shape of Tony



## Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

Cartwright to make sure we are all in the right place at the right time.

The assuring factor about these kites is that they need very little wind and, in my experience, are always very stable.

I don't believe this will be a Guinness book of records verified event but rest assured we will be shouting loud and clear and there will be video and photographic evidence to back up our claims. Please come and join in the fun.

### Frog

Again from the last magazine I am due to report on a similarly styled, three cell soft kite but this time a frog - backwards!



Our friend Jim, in New Zealand, had assured me that the 7metre frog flew at an acute angle and was a good, powerful lifter kite.

Unfortunately the manufacturer, Kaixuan, were out of stock and sent me the 5metre instead.

We were currently lifting one of our Dragons with an Ultrafoil 30 (more about that later) and decided to use that as a comparison test.

How disappointed we were when Marilyn and I pulled it from the bag - it looked just like a kiddies kite and had no chance of succeeding in the task we had set it.

Nevertheless, it was attached to the other kite's line and duly launched. We turned around and, WOW!!!

We first looked on the ground to see how much, if at all, the dragon had moved only to see it shooting skyward with no effort at all.

This was fantastic - How could a kite at first so feeble looking, work so well!??

This Frog is a great design that is so simply, yet cleverly, engineered. Keeping beach holidays in mind, I always look for stability and there were no worries here.

### *Customised*

I am told that the frogs are available in custom colours and I did suggest that just a plain kite built on the same system but labelled purely as a lifter might have more appeal to the serious kite flyer who prefers not to let the pilot kite distract from the laundry or just doesn't like character kites!

Way back when I tested and reviewed the first of the Trilobites I foretold that this style would be utilised in future and so it has!

I have a ten metre ladybird that I have not yet flown enough to comment and also a revamp of the tadpole which I will mention later but first I want to introduce the next kite...

### **Ultrafoil 30.**

This is an American designed kite that didn't exactly hit these shores with a bang due to the low level of marketing this side of the pond. Hopefully this article will help boost it a little but I will add that the designers flatly refused to sponsor me in any way.

## Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary



The kite is the brain-child of Ray and Jeanne Merry who are living the dream in their New Jersey shop selling and flying kites.

Old timers may recognise Ray as the extremely nice guy, (so was Jeanne the several times I spoke to her - and extremely knowledgeable too!) being once a partner of Flexifoil who went on to start up Cobra Kites.

The kite also comes as an Ultrafoil 15 and a prototype 60 is already flying as I type.

The 30 has been described as two 15's sewn together - but of course it's a bit more sophisticated than that!

The Ultrafoil 30 came very neatly packed in a strong, sort of neoprene pack (that's the best I can do to describe it) and I challenge anyone to get it back in as neatly on a windy flying field.

The photo says it all about the colour and tail of this kite - amazing, especially against a blue sky - I had no trouble in persuading Marilyn to let me buy one.

I think that it is a little highly priced especially considering the strength of the dollar at the moment and the fact that

you will get hit for shipping and duty on top of that too.

Fortunately my son was in the states recently and bought me one as a gift - he had it shipped to his hotel because Cobra ship free, (domestically).

It was a lovely experience sliding this completely soft kite from the bag and undoing the long, sturdy bridle from its daisy chain.

Because of the long tail and the style of kite and with its long tail of almost 30 feet, we did a long launch and it floated gracefully in to the sky - beautiful.

### *Versatile*

There is a claimed wind range of 5mph to 30 mph which is great because I am short of kites that I trust at the upper end although I'm not sure I'd feel safe at over 25mph.

The kite has a high aspect and the angle at which it flies allows the wind to pass through and combined with the attractive tail lend enough stability for it to be promoted as suitable for ariel photography.

### *Numpty*

There was a label stuck to mine suggesting that it should be flown on 250lb line. This may have been because someone had suggested 100lb was good enough. The kite measures almost six feet by about five without the tail - I'll take the designer's advice thanks.

This is a kite to fit easily in to the travel bag on our holiday - small, light and will lift large laundry like our dragons but being a spectacle in its own right floating in minimum winds without laundry too!

Being soft (the kite as well as me) I will have no fears of flying it on a beach, were it to come down unexpect-

## Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

edly, when spectators had moved underneath (as they do!).

As I understand it, the kite was designed and is manufactured by Ray and Jeanne but marketed and sold by Into the Wind so I suppose that means they design it, produce it, sell it to someone else, buy it back and then sell it? - Oh well!

Coming back to this side of the Atlantic and over to Germany and HQ Invento I want to re-visit the Rainbow Sport Delta single line.

We now have two of these the same size and decided to stack them.



I produced a video of the results and in a very fickle wind they floated well, drifted apart and then locked back in place when the wind picked up.

I just used a single line to join them attaching a carabiner through the loop on the back and around the cross spreader.

This, rather loose arrangement, as proved, will work fine in a steady wind and the uniqueness and bright colours against a vividly blue sky and odd white fluffy cloud felt like those balmy summer days we remember as kids. This was an inexpensive way off having a bit of fun and setting up something worthwhile in the sky.

## Young at Heart



Talking of inexpensive kites and mainly those to create an interest with youngsters there are a number of kites based more on the unusual and away from the standard, more reliable sled or delta single liners which have quietly sneaked in to the market.

Cleverly I think the designs are to attract the adult (with the wallet!) who are tempted to spend just a couple of pounds extra on something more intriguing. After all, it will be the adult who takes over in about five minutes after the kite first comes out of the bag!

Here are just four that caught our imagination all ranging from about seventeen down to thirteen pounds.

The Fox head has been one that caught my eye and was pleased to get one to try it out. It could have been the gusty wind because of the approaching storm but the amount that it flew from side to side was more than I was expecting - just sort of annoying thing somebody

## Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

launches next to you at a kite festival and thinks it's normal behaviour to take everyone else out of the sky.

I have reported this back to HQ and they took their usual line and immediately launched an investigation. Over the years I have reported one or two faults (mostly before the kites have hit the market place) and they have always diligently rectified them.

### *Personal Preference*

Quality and, above all, customer service is the priority with this company! Anyway, I undid the knot in the bridle that serves as the tow point and re-tied it closer to the tail by about a centimetre and that made the world of difference - not bad for someone who doesn't do fiddly!

I did make this adjustment on one of the other kites too - just a bit of instability that niggled me but something others might have enjoyed as the kite danced about in the sky.

The kite is quite large and the attached fuzzy tail helped to give it good presence in the sky. Any grown up (more likely the males) would be pleased to fly this after the little one has retired to the swings or gone off to make sand castles.

### *What a hoot!*

Now a kite with more feminine appeal but not necessarily restricted to the ladies was definitely the HQ Owl. Somebody is going to put me right here but it seemed reminiscent of something I had seen in a story book in my early childhood - I was quite young at the time!

Just the easy single bridle again so nothing to get tangled and rods easy to work out and unlikely even for the clumsiest of people to damage the kite during assembly (I did say unlikely - it's not a challenge!)



Again simple to launch this one requires little wind and will float away to the content of the adult who is happy with a standing despatch or the child, almost all of which seem to have it ingrained on their minds that you have to run around with it - Oh well they'll soon get tired and I can have a go!

### *Dragonfly*

I think I am right in saying that the dragonfly is one of the few, if not the only flying insect to have two sets of wings. The second set carefully interact with the airflow coming from the front set to aid stability.



This is not quite the case on the HQ Dragonfly as it is the most unstable of this trio. It is the noisiest of the three HQ kites here as it flaps about but definitely the most fascinating and I am pleased to see the designer taking the

## Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

trouble to make each of the wings independent instead of just screen printing on to a shaped sail even though that will not aid the stability.

There are velcro fastenings on each of the wing tips which should burst open and save breakages if it were to crash, heaven forbid!

### *Buddies*

Whilst I favoured the Fox head, Marilyn's choice was definitely the CIM Donkey sent to us to try by our friends at Kiteworld.

This kite comes in four varieties under the name of "Buddy Kites", the Donkey, Zebra, Wild Hog and the blue, Bull.



These are easy flyers in a wide wind range and are cheap enough to collect the whole set.

The only downside is that there are quite a lot of spars and care needs to be taken that you don't lose any although they should be cheap and easy enough to replace using a little ingenuity if you were so unlucky (I'm being polite - I really meant careless). Assembly is a cinch and flight is easily made from a standing position.

All four of these kites come with their own lines and I was pleased to note that HQ are using reels. I have noticed that young kiddies are put off by the feel of wrap around winders and have difficulty in stopping the line paying out.

We recently lost a cheap Chinese kite using a winder as opposed to a reel when our granddaughter was unable to hold it back and, guess what, it wasn't tied to the winder. After going several houses deep into the estate beyond the field we managed a retrieval from the roof of someone's garage.

There is a video of the Donkey on our site but I am sorry to be a little behind with transfer some of the videos from our You Tube channel.

### **Tadpole**

Do heed a word of warning when you buy directly from some of these far off companies including America, New Zealand and China.

The shipping companies, I can't say who but particularly one my ex is fed up with, are likely to charge you import duty no matter how the vendor has labelled it and by law you are supposed to pay this tax and could face a penalty if you are found to be making false representations.

A few issues back I did a piece on our pink Tadpole from the Kaixuan Kite Company Ltd.

## Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

We flew this in nothing on the beach in Fuengirola last year - I couldn't feel a thing on my back and I just don't know how it stayed up there!

Up to about 8mph the pull is strong and at 16mph + I broke a 300lb line because I hadn't used the figure of eight knot when I made the loop to attach to the tow point.

The problem with this kite was that when the wind does get up it will wander crazily about the sky taking everything nearby with it. Then, friend Jim in New Zealand told me that Kaixuan had modified the kite including bridle and getting rid of the series of buckets used for the tail.

I am beginning to realise that the secret of this three cell shape has a lot to do with the what happens to the wind after

it has travelled over the top of the kite and the turbulence it creates as it exits. You need to observe and compare the various versions of these in action to follow my reasoning, you'll get the idea even if, like me you would probably get bored with any detailed explanation over about twenty words.

### *That's better!*

We have just received an orange version of the modified edition of the Tadpole and can report that the stability issue is solved. This is great because the kite is a powerful lifter and can be seen from a long way off, the almost fluorescent colours standing out well against a blue sky and even better (for a change) against the looming dark clouds we are so used to in the UK (as shown).

It's great to have a kite that performs well in the lowest of winds lifting anything as heavy as we have - probably our 10m HQ Turbine and knowing that you aren't likely to see it roaring across the sky and then bouncing on the ground the moment a gust comes through.

Its incredible how small some of these new inflatables compact especially now those made with the new ripstop nylon we are seeing more of.

### *Material facts*

Not being a kite maker for reasons well documented previously, I have never pretended to be anything of an expert on the different types of sail cloth. However I will make some investigation and perhaps be able to report back in the next issue.

Any contributions or if you've anything else to tell me, please send them to our website via the 'Contacts' page. All the best - see you at Portsmouth don't forget to bring a Trilobite please.

Allan Pothecary

[www.closecounterskites.co.uk](http://www.closecounterskites.co.uk)



## 30th RICV, Berck sur Mer April 2016—Hugh Blowers

Photos Lynn Blowers and Karl Longbottom

Incredible, phenomenal exceptional, just some of the long string of adjectives that Mayor Bruno Cousein, speaking in English, used to describe the 30<sup>th</sup> event at Berck. In truth, he was over egging the pudding somewhat as anyone transported to the festival would not have seen any differences from the previous few years. Those of us that can remember back to the Millennium event with the tableaux, cars, dancers and flyers all joining in will realise that celebrating this milestone was an opportunity missed. That is not to say that it was not a superb festival, but in many ways a repeat rather than special.

David Gomberg was at pains to point out that we were now 'old stagers' with few others still there from the early days when there was but one arena, a tent with a flap and bar for hospitality and very little happening on the week-days. In the 20 years we have been attending, not only has the festival grown out of all proportions, but the town of Berck has undergone major changes as well. The constant fight against the sand goes on with the first floor of the very first apartment we stayed in now level with the sand dune and the front of the house buried. At the south end of the promenade, the steps lead nowhere as you can walk straight on to the beach and many thousands of tonnes of sand had to be removed to recreate the flying areas and uncover the sea wall and stairs. Every available space is now under development or being cleared and most of the Hospital Maritime where we used to debark to on a Wednesday to fly has been torn down for new apartments. A building that won't be missed is the old Bellevue hospital, which in the pre Grinder app days was a magnet for all sorts of nefarious activities. Now the punters just disport themselves in the dunes with all sorts of unmentionable bits dangling! Finally, and lagging behind somewhat, France got HD TV on the 5<sup>th</sup> of April.

Using George Webster's checklist a successful festival needs a good site - check, flyers - check and good wind, and this is where there was something of a question mark. Perfect wind on some days, some mornings, some afternoons, but periods of nothing, a bit of a lottery for the sports kite championships and a couple of afternoons rain that brought everything to a halt. However, the good outweighed the bad by a very considerable margin, so how did it all go? The only noticeable change from last year was that all flyers had to sign to commit to flying until close of play on the final Sunday to avoid the embarrassment of DFS (Disappearing Elyer Sndrome) that blighted the last day in 2015. The registration forms also included a commitment to fly in the vol du nuit but all that was in the future. Day one is all about getting estab-

lished and carting gear. We still do it the old fashioned way without a fitted trailer, and they do seem to be getting bigger and more sophisticated. The usual suspects filled both the large kite arenas and our area was almost an exact repeat of last year with the exception that most were there for the duration, including the massed ranks of Vulandra. Karl and Sara Longbottom along with ourselves and Bob C occupied our normal billet but representation from across the channel was very sparse again this year.



Saturday had the worst of the week's wind coming across the town, so it was very long pilot lines and a lot of tangles. Very obvious was the total lack of 'Boomers' this year with everyone reverting back to flow forms, parasleds or PL style pilots. What was even more obvious were the incredible crowds, both on the beach and the promenade, and it stayed like this throughout the week, repeating the pattern of last year. Parking and getting in or out of town was even more problematic than usual with stories of three-hour queues in both directions. Even at nine in the evening the roads out were gridlocked. Once again, the main route across town was closed for campervans to park up and it was jammed as was every other available space.

Saturday is also the first opportunity to gauge who and what is there and AWITA, who always try to do something different, now have several strings of long and colourful tube tails, something of a double edged sword when it rains like it did in the afternoon. Did not seem to put the

## 30th RICV, Berck sur Mer April 2016—Hugh Blowers

crowds off though as they hunkered down to watch the programme of sports kite flying. In the far arena we also spied the latest creation from La Sens du Ceil, a large, inflatable Millennium Falcon with attendant X wing fighters. Rather than grey it was white and although large and an accurate representation, in the kite stakes it left a lot to be desired as it would not pressurise and wallowed constantly. It was however declared the 'kite of the festival'.

Saturday ended with very wet kites and an opening ceremony with so many long speeches that we missed out on any liquid refreshment. Not that we are creatures of habit, but it was the Grand Bleu again each evening, tickets or no tickets, and here again was a change in procedure. As well as the Gala on Friday, meals were provided in the tent for all flyers on Monday and Wednesday, with the suggestion that it might be extended to every night in the future, mmmm, not sure about that.

Sunday morning gave us all a chance to get kites dry before the parade, yes it had been reinstated as Gerard considered it important, and again the crowds lining the route were unbelievable. The parade was led of by a pedal powered bar, urged along by 12 enthusiastic 'drinkers' who most kindly passed out refreshment to those of us marching. Even more bizarre was that the jazz band were also on a multi seat bike, pedalling and playing at the same time, not easy with a piano accordion or a Sousaphone. For once the more typical French organisation was not in evidence so we moved off on time, trundled round to huge applause and ar-

rived back well before lunch, unheard of. What was something of a problem though was the Grand Maree, exceptionally high tides in the middle of the day that limited the depth of the arenas until the Monday. It also allowed the public to roam into the flying areas, as there were no seaward boundaries. To avoid the incursions Jurgen put up a long rope barrier of his own, much of which was removed by another flyer and then by himself as he hoisted much of it into the air caught on a kite. Later the arenas would be extended significantly and the sea side lined with banners, and therein lies a couple of tales as well.

Michel Boucard has added to his already impressive display with a jungle scene, predominantly green, which again has to be set out in exact order as does the wave and desert, but here he had something of a self inflicted disaster. Not entirely paying attention he was hammering a stake in but left the frog between his thumb and forefinger on top of the stake as he whacked it with aforesaid hammer. On realising what he had done he promptly passed out, luckily just as a pair of Savetuers were passing by. Suitably repaired he eventually lined both the display and our arena with banners. The other large kite arena had an intriguing set of flag banners each covered in coloured spots above a cityscape. These reignited the debate about printing, as this is how they had been produced as opposed to Michel's appliqué. Large amounts of work compared to a large investment in printing costs. This debate, which will run for a long time as yet, was added to by a well known maker, renowned for their very in-



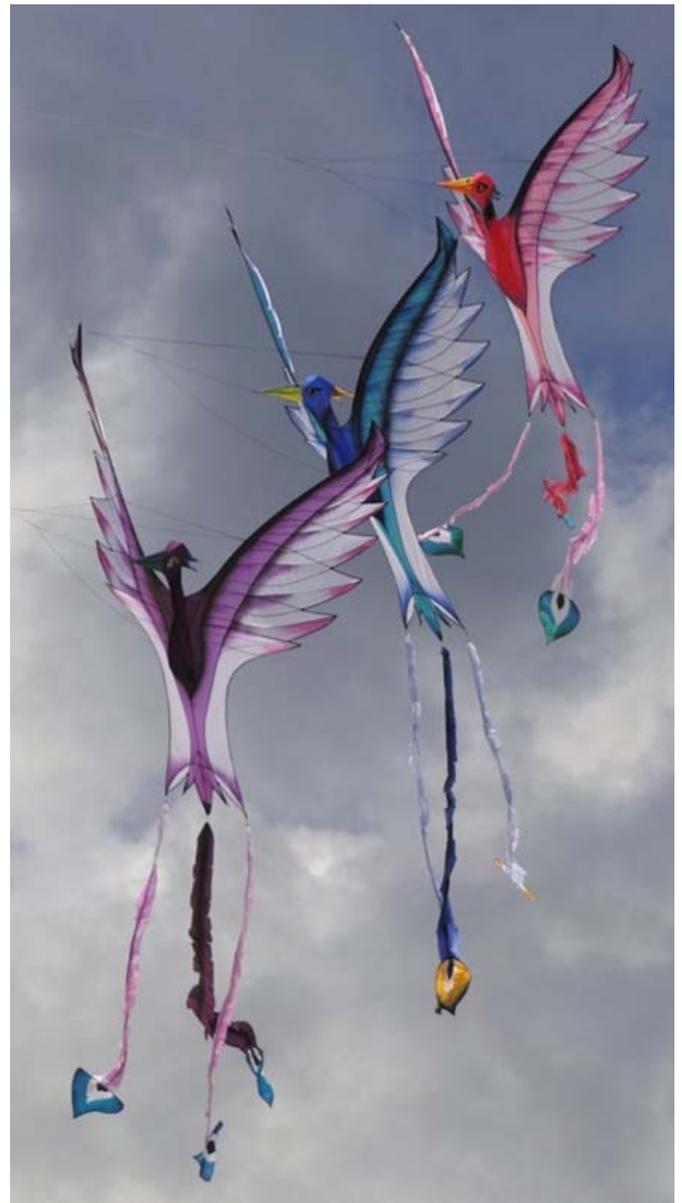
## 30th RICV, Berck sur Mer April 2016—Hugh Blowers

tricate and tiny appliqué who had bought pre printed material of a similar design And then incorporated it into a kite. Carl Robertshaw was clear on the validity of printing but also that artwork, graphics and design must now be the key factor as that is what is being looked at, not the method of production any longer.

New sparred kites are now rare and ones that impress me so much even rarer and here Karl Longbottom has managed both with his Phoenix. I did comment about this design in the Bristol report and how Karl had so effectively made the leap from kitemaker to kite artist, but here was a chance to be more closely involved, and truth to say, I was even more impressed. Karl had brought three pre-production versions to fly and so stable were they that they could be flown with one in each hand and the other with the reel in the teeth. Not only were they incredibly reliable and controllable, but with the coloured panels that had been spray shaded as well, so attractive. The wings extend way above the head as if reaching to the heavens to reflect the legend of the Phoenix, and to be part of flying three kites on several occasions provided another in the list of memorable experiences. Not only was it memorable for us, but it also introduced us to the power of Facetube where images of these spectacular kites were soon circulating getting positive comments from all round the world. Rene Meir had also kapped the kites from above making another spectacular photo for all to admire. A photo soon appeared in a shop in the town as well, indicating just how attractive these kites are, especially with three flying in very tight formation for several hours.

Monday afternoon it all went a bit pear shaped as well with heavy rain that did defeat the crowd this time, primarily because there was no wind either. For the second time, the programme was abandoned, although we were not aware of this until we found ourselves on a deserted beach. As we put the kites into their wet accommodation for the night, there were two perfect octopus shapes in the dry sand. Wet Berck sand does have a wonderfully abrasive quality and gets the hands really clean though. Apart from an hour at Saturday lunchtime, that was the last of the rain during the day. One hundred years ago it had rained a lot in the area as well and a trip to the Somme the previous weeks reminded us just how sticky the soil was there and that was without the devastation caused by the battle. Why were we there and why is it relevant, well it is down to the fact that my paternal grandfather was a commander of one of the very first tanks used in WW1. In September 1916 he set out from Delville Wood towards Guedecourt in his tank Dolphin and through detailed research by the late Trevor Pigeon we were able to walk almost every me-

tre of the route Dolphin took. After advancing 4.5km grandfather was way ahead of the infantry so turned back towards Flers where a German battery took offence and blew up his tank, a post in the middle of a field marking the exact spot. That I am sat here typing this is down to one of the many quirks of fate that shape our lives and the fact that Grandfather Blowers survived, unlike others in the crew and fought his way back to his own lines, winning the MC in the process.



This story gained even more poignancy the following day when Sara Longbottom asked if we were up for a challenge? Rene Meir often sets out his hearts on the beach in a random fashion and Karl and Sara had suggested that this might be possible with their doves. Armed with spades, lots of winders and a large pack of doves Karl, Sara, Bob C, Lynn and I along with

## 30th RICV, Berck sur Mer April 2016—Hugh Blowers

Daniella, Gerhard and Rene set of down to the waters edge to set up.



There were 23 white doves in all, eventually flying on short lines in a totally random pattern. Against a dark sky and sea they looked absolutely superb drawing untold numbers of spectators. Doves are a bit skittish but with all the helpers they were kept in the air for an hour allowing plenty of time for viewing, apart from one poor lady who walked all the way from the town just as we brought them down. Again, Rene and Gerhard took some remarkable images that were soon spread around the world by the power of t'internet. This was a second memorable kite flying experience in just a couple of days.

Despite a move by some to take it to foreign parts, the World Sportskite Championships returned to Berck for the 10<sup>th</sup> time with 13 teams from all round the world. Sad to relate that Britain could only raise Flame again, but they have the distinction of being the only team to have been at every WSKC event so far. Perhaps though we could claim a half share in Four-CE with Mark and Jeanette Lummas making a welcome return to competitive flying. They were to have something of a torrid week as one of their number was taken ill and ended up in hospital, something of a dilemma, but with a bit of stick practice and a couple of runs through, a certain Steve Hoath stepped into the breach, Sky Dance reunited.

In many ways the championships were somewhat low key as well. The early impression was that the standard of flying was not good, confirmed to us by one of the judges. The Saturday and Sunday demo spots seldom sees competition routines revealed, but in general the spacing and timing was not as crisp as we had come to expect. Two teams did stand out, Cerf Volant Follies for their seven person ballet and Start'Air for their precision. I am even more convinced that techno music and ballet routines do not go together. If the audience cannot relate the mu-

sic to what they see in the sky, something vital is missing. Mind you, some of the routines and music are so old that the judges could probably now fly them as they have seen them so often. As the Chief Judge says, 'that's lazy flying'. The iffy winds in the early afternoons did make the ballets a lottery and several wind breaks were called involving many change of kite with some getting it totally wrong. On the final day, the start was delayed with a view to waiting for the wind, but in the end this was not necessary and the competition was concluded with a day to spare.

In the final analysis the results seemed to find agreement, CVFs ballet disappointed as there was too much following and boating about for half the time but it lit up for the second half with a seven person 'razzle dazzle' and kites going every which way, truly choreographed chaos. The team leader said to us that 'we almost shut our eyes and hope at that stage'. We have been spoiled in recent years by Airex, Kite Force and the three time winners Scratch Bun-nies, so it was good to see a new team lead by Ramlal Tien practising all week, augmented by a certain Carl Robertshaw.

If the two line kites have stood still, then the Revs continue to astound, where will they stop in evolving their routines? Apart from one team that is, who are still wafting to the same music two decades on. FLIC are back to their best with a really sharp and punchy routine using cues from the music but also carrying the mood and style from very quick changes of position to slower and more dynamic sections. Now'Air also produced routines that were a delight to watch using similar changes of speed and style and large portions of the sky. Flying Squad with the two Steve's, Helen and Gary were on the money as well with their fully choreographed ballet. The massed 'grid fly' assumed spectacular proportions by the weekend, but whereas the sports kites play follow the leader until fed up or disaster brings the mega team to an end the Revs continue to expand the repertoire of shapes and manoeuvres, but it does require practice and callers with strong vocal chords and the ability to work in English. It also requires a basic understanding of left and right and remembering which column and what number you are, again with instructions in English. Combine four sports kites and three Revs though and there is something completely mesmerising. We saw Panam'Air and Now'Air fly their combined routine last year, but now they have honed it to perfection, which requires some fancy flying on behalf of the Revs to keep up and the ability to totally stall a sports kite to hold position.

Seldom does a Berck go by without a windy day, but this time there was just the one and

## 30th RICV, Berck sur Mer April 2016—Hugh Blowers

not particularly strong at that, but it did give a chance for the bols and turbines to come out of the bags and an interesting little vignette. Onto the beach came a Pompier in full fire fighting rig for a photo shoot. Here we are more used to muscular fireman in next to nothing but he had everything including balaclava, helmet and vizor, which were to prove his downfall, literally. He was being asked to pose by turbines and bols, not realising that each is held to an anchor by a series of rapidly rotating bridles that he was unable to see and hence he walked straight into the lines of Jurgen's biggest turbine, which promptly bowled him over and roughed him up somewhat. From then on he gave the business ends a wide berth but continued to pose, but for what purpose we know not. It also gave a chance for the 'human ascension team' to get their Saconey kites into the air. UV degradation had meant new kites to make the train safe for lifting and to get round the very non authentic system of having the victim dangling from a climbing harness they had produced a proper and period basket for the passengers.

Throughout the week Gerard Clement had tried to impress the importance of getting as much into the sky as possible for the town, the crowd, the sponsors and the council, who pay for it all. Luckily, most took heed and seemingly put everything they had into the air. The southern arenas were packed with an incredible array of inflatable in small, medium, large, over large, and super over large variants of every shape imaginable, and some not so imaginable. Talking of large, the Al-Farsi team had brought their flag that, on a perfect southerly wind, had the longest and most stable flight I have ever seen. There were a couple more of these quilt kites in much smaller sizes. Adding to the general colour in that area was Craig Hansen from New Zealand and PLK most noticeable for his helmet with horns and large axe through his belt, belying his Norse ancestry. It is fascinating to see how trends in the inflatable world change, Kiteapillars are definitely in fashion as are whales, rays and dragons, but other designs have gone out of favour with only the odd example of many old favourites. As with our 'poppers' a few years back, the reintroduction of a classic design will be new to many, which is just as well when we look in the cupboard. Bodes well for Portsmouth and the 'retro theme'?

The 'Jardin du Vent' is now firmly established in its new location and each participant had been asked to produce something to recognise the 30th anniversary. We were saddened on the first day to see the pett bottle man Jean Claude without his wife and cat, but our inability to communicate meant it was a couple of days before we discovered that she has been diagnosed with leukaemia and had a session of chemo the

day before the festival. Amazingly though, she arrived down on the beach on the first afternoon and was around for most of the week, although a bit shaky. We wish her well. Wendy and Peter Thomas had taken the anniversary and theme of recycling to a new high with a magnificent birthday cake made from Actimel bottles on a rotating stand amongst a sea of figures also made from recycled plastic containers. Joel Goupil had produced another major piece, this time a fan powered 'Mutascope', what we might know better as a 'what the butler saw' machine. His was little less risqué with a kite-flying scene. All his other magnificent creations were in evidence, including the golf ball helter-skelter that had the kids loading the balls as fast as they were arriving at the bottom.



I realise I have banged on about this ad nausea, yet it still rankles and I imagine Gerard must have felt the same at the briefing for the night fly. He reckoned that there were 550 flyers registered, which he equated to a similar number of kites in the night sky, yet despite all flyers signing to say they would participate, if there were a tenth of that number in the briefing then that was all. There are still far too many people taking the envelopes yet not contributing anything, which became all too evident and embarrassing on Saturday evening, but that is getting ahead of the story. Even more hopeful was the French kitemaker who demanded a cool 5,000 Euros to attend, an offer that Gerard found easy to refuse. Inevitably, the final weekend sees an influx of flyers and others including a dozen or so from Britain, although some of these only made a brief appearance. Guy Reynolds had the latest of his 'super heroes' with a Superman to add to Batman and the rather shapely Catwoman with his lovely polar bears and hefferlump as a ground display. Gill and Jon Bloom took up residency with a set of beautiful, mini, flower banners adding to the colour around the arena boundaries.

## 30th RICV, Berck sur Mer April 2016—Hugh Blowers

So good was the flying that all too soon it was Friday night and the gala and here it nearly all came apart at the seams and that was too close to the truth for comfort. The tent was absolutely packed and took a while to get everyone settled for the speeches and presentation. It soon became evident that, out of nowhere, a severe gale had blown up that was giving the tent, and anyone that needed to visit the toilets, a real battering. Much earnest conversation between the organisation and phone calls ensued, with the real prospect of the evening and tent having to be abandoned, but in the end it was decided that it was safe and everything continued as planned. The Mayor surprised everyone by doing his introduction and much of his speech in English, including the string of adjectives that summed up the relationship between the town and the festival. He finished with 'Berck loves the festival', and to a rousing cheer 'do you love Berck' and to an even bigger cheer 'do you want to come back to Berck'. Not a dissenter was heard to that question, and in introducing Jamilla, the long time PR stalwart, he said he hoped that she would 'continue to do PR for the next ten years' so the festival seems secure for the time being.

Jamilla then gave a long speech that was not translated so we have no idea at all what it was about before the usual film and then the very long drawn out presentation of medals and cups for the World Championships. Although the top five are known, the order is not, but there was no doubt, even within the teams, that Start'Air and CVF would be first and second, separated by just 13 points. Exceeding expectation and overjoyed by that were Team Silat from Malasia a further 31 points behind. For the first time each of the teams on the podium was presented with a bottle of Champagne and I discovered the downside of being immediately beside the stage as they each proceeded to emulate Nico Rosberg and soak us all with a very sticky shower. Lynn had very strategically withdrawn to the 'facilities' at that point and remained dry. Finally it was down the food, and those that had not stoked up beforehand were definitely getting peckish. Another excellent spread and service from the student of the FPA, who put us to shame with their command of the English language. They had done a sterling job all week, especially with the huge queues that built up in the latter part of the week. They were assisted, if that is the right word, at Saturday lunch by David Gomberg and Gerard Clement, both in full FPA uniform, David on Gravy and Sauce and Gerard on roast beef, which it has to be said was exquisitely cooked, but probably not by him.

There then followed a short film of the Kuwait flag kite being launched, flying and then having its main line tripped to bring it down. A perfect

flight so little to film really other than it all being loaded back into its box by Andrew Beattie on the forks of a forklift truck, elf and safety, never heard of it. Finally it was the piece(s) de resistance, two huge birthday sponges with thirty mighty roman candles burning merrily, all brought out to 'happy birthday' in French and English. These extremely sweet and creamy confections were soon cut up and pudding served at the customary eleven fifteen. I knew last year was an aberration! Two cakes were never going to be enough and more kept coming out of the kitchen. The pastry chefs must have been on overtime at the college? It was getting a bit late by then and with the wind still very much in evidence it was the car rather than shank's pony that took us back to our waiting cat. Yes, she is still around although a bit creaky, and it took her about 45 seconds to root us out after a year. How does she know, and how come she is always waiting outside the door in the morning?

Friday and Saturday are always long, long days, but such was the quality of flying that it did not strain us too badly for a change. The manager-ess at the Neptune told us on Tuesday that there would be a *une pue pluie* on Saturday and so it transpired but as it was over lunchtime and we had taken stuff down as a precaution it did not matter too much, at least not to us. The other two arenas were something else as it was a sea of wet and sandy ripstop, yet the sun and wind came back drying everything out in short order. It was a pleasure to be able to fly through to the evening with every prospect of good wind for the night flight. Unfortunately, Gerard's concern about the number of flyers in the briefing was confirmed by their paucity in the arena. He had moved all the sports kites out to make more room, but to no avail as the fifty people at the briefing probably equalled the total number of kites in the sky. Team Longbottom had three UFOs and two large gold deltas with plenty of space to fly.

You do have to feel sorry for organisers. Firstly Gerard's appeal had fallen on deaf ears leaving a very thin spectacle for the immense crowd and then what started of as a perfect wind slowly dropped until keeping kites in the sky was hard work. Half way through it then dropped completely as if a switch had been thrown and everything dropped to the ground leaving a sky empty apart from the helium filled fish and their eggs floating slowly away. I suspect at this stage that a slight panic set in and Gerard pressed the button for the fireworks to start, and what a display it was. The sky was filled for the best part of twenty minutes accompanied by continuous concussions that shook us all to the core, and still it went on all against a deep blue, moonlit sky. The lack of wind meant the smoke did not drift away so

## 30th RICV, Berck sur Mer April 2016—Hugh Blowers

there was a backdrop of trails in the sky to add to the drama, it also meant that for one year only, no kites were hurt in the course of the show. The applause at the conclusion was indicative of the scale of the display and also where a lot of the budget must have gone. Wearily we made our way back to the tent for a well-earned beer before the walk home, essential given the total lack of movement of traffic.

So to the final day, and what a day it was, one of the most perfect days for flying imaginable. Yes, some of the flyers had departed, but most had heeded Gerard and DFS was not evident. It was a chance to get anything and everything up in the air, and most responded enthusiastically. There could not have been a spare inch of space, but such was the wind that what was flying was there for the day. It would have been an impossibility to list all the different pieces in the air and probably exceeded the huge number Peter Lynn counted some years ago. Gill Bloom had her della porta train, now up to five kites with long flowing fluffy tails, way up in the sky looking as if it was set forever.



A train of astronauts and a very happy cow with floppy ears attracted Lynn to the extent that she borrowed Karl's camera. It was not her only 'borrow' of the day. The shortage of pilots was no problem either as one of our number took to kite bombing. Lynn was seen attaching small inflatables to any unguarded line, much to the amusement of all and sundry. Gerard's partner Dominique Weill also achieved something of a first for her as one of her 'underwear' kites flew high over the arena for hours at a time on one of our sand bags. Just how stable everything was can be judged by the fact that we flew the three Phoenix back across the whole arena and through all the lines as 'wine o'clock' called. It was one of those days that you don't want to end but soon the programme in the main arena



was winding down with a very special finale from the follies. Everyone was well aware of the trauma that the Clement family suffered in the terrible events in Paris so it was gratifying to know that Chloe was at the festival for the last few days. The air banner spelling out 'friendship' in French though was a fitting backdrop to how the combined might of the Follies and Les Madamoiz'Ailes closed the festival.

The Follies had flown seven in their ballet and with Dave Morley back in line and Les Madamoiz'Ailes made eleven kites in all. Their entire contribution lasted something like fifteen minutes, starting with all eleven and then dropping three to complete an eight person choreographed routine. At the conclusion of this they picked up the three again to fly through to the official closure and beyond. They were still all in the sky as we pulled down our final kite and dragged everything back to the car. Was it really nine days ago we had taken it all down? We had achieved our ambition, helped by the weather, of flying everything we had brought. As we walked back from the bar for the final time, Karl's three Phoenix were slowly being walked towards us, an aerial euphemism putting the events of last year into a true perspective.

One posed picture on Facetube gave the world the impression that Berck was a cold and miserable place to be, soon backed up by similar comments from those that were not there. Sorry but we had a fantastic time, sure we got wet twice and had a few frustrating hours, but set against the rest of the week and the superb flying, no contest, bring on RICV 31, but the vol du nuit might need a rethink.

Bits & Pieces

**Seen on Ebay**  
**Antique 1903 "Kite Time! Playing Cards.**



Only 51 cards in the pack—in good played condition. Plus no box.

If it is not clear—it has a boy and girl flying a kite.

For the collector?

Set up as a Buy it Now at £21.95.

**Kate Bush 'Kite' Vintage Metal Enamel Badge 80's Original.**



For those still collection enamel badges with a kite related theme.

Size 1.5" - never used, been in storage for many years.

No bids when we saw this £4.99 plus £1 postage.

**Kes—Kevin Smith Original 'Enchanted Crocodiles' Cartoon: Kite Gets Blown Away**

Original cartoon drawing by Kes. This cartoon is drawn in ink on A4 size cartridge paper, and is an original cartoon drawing from my book 'Enchanted Crocodiles' - which was published in 1993 and is now out of print.



WHEN YOUR KITE GETS BLOWN AWAY.

Listed at £30.00 Buy it Now.

**Dickensian Charles Dickens Solid Sterling Silver Figurine Victorian Boy & Kite**

70's realistic and highly detailed figurine of a Dickensian Victorian character, a boy with a kite.

The figurine is in solid sterling silver and not resin filled. Fully hall-marked.

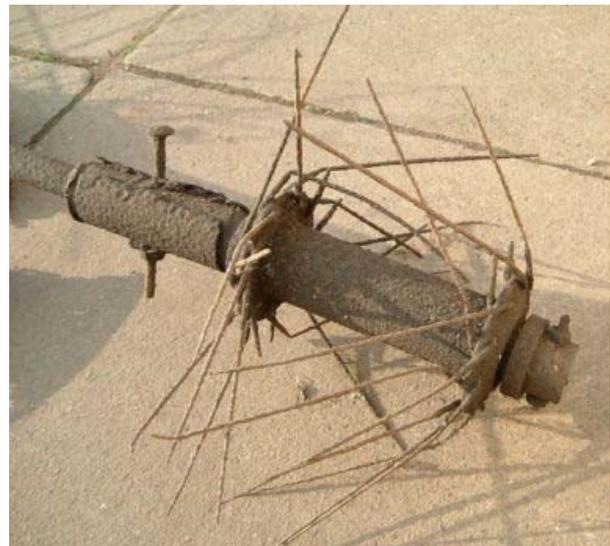
Hallmarks: London Sterling fineness 92.5%.  
Maker: SMC  
Date: 1976  
Dimension: 5.1cm tall  
Weight: 32.5g

Excellent condition without damage or repairs.

Buy it Now £99.00



**Cody V Axle & Wheel Remains from the 1912 Military Trials Winning Airplane**



This is believed to be the largest "& possibly the only" part that survives from the original Cody V Military Trials winning aeroplane.

The aeroplane that is on display in the Science Museum, is the 2nd one made, and was built AFTER the 1912 Military Trials.

The axle etc. was acquired by my uncle, from Cody's great grandson, and confirmed by the FAST trust at Farnborough as being the genuine article.

As you can see from the photo's, it is in quite poor condition, however the axle is very solid despite the corrosion.

Not sure what the carriage will be on this item as it is quite heavy, but will look into it should the successful bidder want it shipping to them.

## Bits & Pieces

Would also be willing to exchange the axle etc for WW1 aircraft instruments etc.

### Super Villain

Kite Man (Charles "Chuck" Brown) is a fictional character, a supervillain in publications from DC Comics.

Kite Man first appeared in *Batman* vol. 1 #133 (August 1960), and was created by Bill Finger and Dick Sprang.

Fictional character biography: Charles "Chuck" Brown is a man who armed himself with kite weapons to be used to commit crimes. He flies with a big kite strapped to him. He also uses a barrage of kites to overwhelm his enemies. He has run afoul of Batman, Robin, Hawkman, and Hawkgirl on different occasions.

In his first appearance, he uses kites for a variety of crimes, including helping criminals escape prison. Batman uses kites of his own to defeat him. This appearance is reprinted in *Batman Family* #3 (1975). Kite-Man returns again, now sporting a visor. He hires several men, whom he betrays. Batman again defeats him with his own kite. Len Wein brings him back in a story about payroll heists. The gimmicky kites were not used.



Hawkman, Hawkgirl, and Zatanna confront him again, in *Hawkman's* title. His real name is revealed, as well as a childhood fascination with kites. He is defeated and crashes into a tree.

As a boy, he was obsessed with Benjamin Franklin and attempted to recreate his famous kite-flying electrical experiment. However, he

failed to take adequate safety precautions, wore metal braces, and stood in a bucket of water. The subsequent electrical shock psychologically traumatized him and forced him into a life of kite-centric crime.

### High Flying

A police helicopter landed on an area of Bristol parkland to order a high-flying kite enthusiast to bring down his craft. The helicopter swooped on Durdham Down at about 14:40 BST on Sunday, with air crew reporting the kite was soaring 1,000 feet (300m) up in the air.

No action was taken against the man, who was told the flying limit was 240 feet (73m). The pilot said the kite endangered small aircraft from Bristol Airport.

Paul Chapman commented on this—being on site at the time.

I was aware of the police helicopter before I got to the Downs. Parked up and joined Alan; too windy for me. Alan pointed out a kite well up and alongside the Avon Gorge .. clearly too high, especially with the helicopter around.

Then the helicopter came over us so Alan dropped his stuff...and it landed a hundred yards away. Police helicopter. Of course we went over to see and, we were right, it was the kite. Two airborne coppers legged it in the direction of the kite while we admired the helicopter (not surprisingly since I used to design these airbeaters). Anyway the pilot said they had clocked the kite at 600 ft and not only was that illegal (over 60 metres), the gorge is often used as a light aircraft route (minimum height 500 ft). At the same time the pilot said there was no danger...although there could have been.

He was ok about it, other than the kiteflier needed a warning. A bit later I spoke to another policeman who told me that the kite was at 1000 ft and that the cable could bring down the helicopter...I questioned the height...he backed down, and the cable (wire or kevlar?) but he did not know. So I then hiked off to see the kiteflier. Nice, friendly man out in the sunshine with his family. He had made a kite for his children like the ones they used to fly in Jamaica....I took some photos...and he had no idea that he was doing wrong. I checked the cable...which turned out to be a cheap poor quality nylon line, probably about 30 lb breaking strain. He might.. I hope so.. but he was clearly shaken by his inadvertent run in with the law. Great pity since we are always delighted and intrigued when people bring kites from far away places....recently from Chile, Sri Lanka, China.

## Interview with Malcolm Goodman—Scott Skinner

*Reproduced with permission of the Drachen Foundation—www.drachen.org*

Goodman Collection photographs and descriptions by Malcolm Goodman.



TOMOE DAKO 1

Made by Matsutaro Yanase of Shizuoka Prefecture.

Kindly given to me by three young kitemakers who took me and my wife Jeanette sightseeing and to visit kitemaker Mrs. Kato and view Mt. Fuji in 1997.

**Can you tell us how long you have been involved in kite flying and about your life in England before kites?**

My attraction to wind and flight began early in childhood. Like many of us, I recall making and

flying brown paper diamond kites with my father, but the pastime did not grab me and I put it aside, as in my early teens I was more interested in crystal sets and short wave radios.

I left school at 14 without any qualifications. I was diagnosed later in life as having dyslexia. I became an apprentice at a radio and hi-fi shop and at 19 was headhunted to be the Service Manager/Engineer for a chain of camera, hi-fi, and TV shops where I was trained in electronics by Sony, Bang & Olufsen, and many other well-known brands.

**You have a background in land sailing don't you? Do you keep an eye on more extreme forms of kiting: kite surfing, kite buggying, kite sailing or energy generation?**

In the 70s I became seriously interested in land yachting, racing and competing across the United Kingdom, and I also went to Northern Ireland where I won the Class3 Championship.

Like kiting, land yachting is a wind-dependent sport and I realized that when waiting around for the wind to pick up I needed something to do.

The answer: Peter Powell had just introduced his stunt kites, but as I couldn't afford to buy one I found a cheaper two-line kite from America called a "Barnstormer." This was similar to a Peter Powell kite but made from thinner plastic and wooden dowelling. It was made by Mattel, the toy company.

I also became interested in hang gliding. I progressed well, but after a serious crash I switched to parascending. Once again it was the serious accident of a close friend that made me give up this hobby and concentrate on kiting and keeping my feet on the ground!

I take a keen interest in any new developments in wind energy. Wind energy is now being harnessed, but there is a long way to go!

**Can you talk about your kite collection and the international travels that helped form it?**

In 1976 I went on a holiday to San Francisco and Seattle, and near Pier 39 I saw people flying single-line kites. I was so impressed with them and while in Seattle I joined the local kite club (West Coast Kite Fliers?), mainly to receive information about kiting developments. I also bought my first "oriental" kite from the Kathy Goodwin kite store.

When I returned to England I made a simple kite and happily for me it flew the first time.

## Interview with Malcolm Goodman—Scott Skinner



YAKKO DAKO (MEDIUM) 1

Made by kite master Mikio Toki who is recognized around the world as one of Japan's best kite artists. He cuts and shapes the bamboo frame and beautifully paints the decoration onto the washi paper.



NAGASAKI HATA DAKO 1

A Japanese fighter kite beautifully made by kite master Seiko Nakamura, one of the best *hata* kitemakers in Japan. He won Kite Master of the Year with this kite.

## Interview with Malcolm Goodman—Scott Skinner

In 1982 I read in the Seattle club newsletter that Dave Checkley was arranging a trip to Japan to visit the Hamamatsu and Chiba kite festivals. I wrote to the club and asked if I could join them. They said yes, so I re-mortgaged my house to pay for the trip. While the trip was being planned the group was invited to China by the Peking Kite Institute, as kite flying was re-starting after being banned during the Cultural Revolution. They wanted to know about western kites and the materials we used.

This was my first trip to the Far East and I fell in love with the kites and the people. I also realized that most of the kite masters in both Japan and China were getting old and had no apprentices to carry on the traditional skills. That's when I decided to start collecting oriental kites so that future generations would be able to see these beautiful works of art.

Tal Streeter was also on the tour, which made it even more magical and educational. I returned home after six weeks with many oriental kites that I still treasure to this day, and I felt that my life had changed forever.

Since those early days, my wife, Jeanette, and I have been lucky enough to travel extensively throughout the Far East and have amassed a comprehensive collection of oriental kites.

**With the recent passing of stunt kite maker Peter Powell, can you talk about any early interactions you may have had with him and how you view his role in international kiting?**

I met Peter around 1978 at kite festivals in the south of England, and I invited him to many of the kite festivals I organized in the north of England. He was a true "showman," always immaculately dressed in a suit and tie. It didn't matter what the weather was doing, Peter was always able to put on a wonderful performance.

His best trick was being driven around the arena in either an open top car or him standing on the back seat of a car with his head and shoulders through the open sun roof flying a stack of three kites.

I think Peter more than anyone else was responsible for introducing so many people in the western world to kiting and making it acceptable for adults to fly and make kites and kites not to be thought of only as a child's toy.

**Any others who are recently deceased who you think formed the landscape of English kiting?**

Jilly Pelham, Alec Pearson, Ron Moulton, Clive Hart, David Turner, Peter Powell – there may be

others but I knew most of the above personally.

**Talk about your involvement in kite festivals and your opinion of the health and well-being of festivals in Great Britain.**

After returning from a kite festival in 1986, I did an interview on local TV. Shortly after I received a call from an Arts Center that was organizing an Anglo/Japanese Festival. They asked if I could organize a kite festival as just one part of the event. I said yes, and it was a great success with kitefliers from all corners of the world attending. Over the next 20 years in which I was involved, it became known as the Sunderland International Kite Festival and regularly attracted over 50,000 spectators. The public and kitefliers alike thoroughly enjoyed the festival.

I have organized many more festivals in all parts of England, Scotland, and Ireland, but sadly due to the economic situation over the last years it has been very difficult getting sponsorship for kite events. Two or three international festivals are still going and hopefully as the economy picks up there may be more. There are a few smaller festivals and sometimes the odd new one pops up for a one-off event.

**Are there any young stars making an impression on the British kite scene?**

In the North of England we do have a few promising young kitefliers who make and fly single-, two-, and four-line kites. I'm not sure what is happening in other parts of the country

**How do we 'old guys' recruit young people to the international kite flying movement?**

That's a difficult one – kite workshops, talks, visiting schools, kite exhibitions in museums and art galleries, kite festivals, and spectator participation for youngsters. Press, radio, and TV programs.

**Are you involved in social media to promote kiting or your collection?**

Yes, I built my own website ([www.kiteman.co.uk](http://www.kiteman.co.uk)) about 16 years ago to promote and show the fascinating world of kites. Sadly I have never had the time to update it, but over the years it has had millions of visitors and I still get many enquiries from it.

The pages visited most often are those on kite history and my oriental kite collection.

I have recently photographed my complete Japanese collection, which will be available to view on Flickr in the near future. More of my collection to follow when time permits.

### Interview with Malcolm Goodman—Scott Skinner



ABU DAKO

*Abu* means horse fly. The sleeve

**What is it about kites that has kept your attention for so many years?**

From those early days, kites have become a big part of our lives. Over the years we have participated at kite festivals in many exotic places. Jeanette and I married at an American Kitefliers Association Convention in Hawaii in 1989, and throughout our travels we have met many wonderful people, some of whom have become very good friends. We are lucky to have had so many magical experiences which have left us with unforgettable memories.



BUKA DAKO 1

Size 40 cm x 26 cm. Bamboo and washi paper.



UNFINISHED FUKUSUKE DAKO

By Semmatsu Iwase of Aichi Prefecture. *Fukusuke* is a large headed dwarf, a symbol of good luck and prosperity. Given to me by Semmatsu-san when



ME WITH TWO NAGOYA KORYU DAKOS

Made in Nagoya. The old bamboo used will have come from the roof of a very old house. Over the ears the bamboo was turned a beautiful brown. These kites are very rare as they take a lot of skill and time to make and are never sold.

## Far Horizons—Amy Johnson Festival



### Far Horizons

An exhibition of kites from around the world  
Saturday 9th—Friday 30th July  
Monday - Saturday, 10.00am - 4.00pm  
Free admission  
Artlink Centre for Community Arts, 87 Princess Avenue, Hull HU5 3QP

Kites can come in all shapes and sizes, and this exhibition shows some of that amazing variety. Pauline Taylor of Infinite Arts (who has created Far Horizons International Kite Weekend at Beverley Racecourse – see below—has been collecting, making and flying kites for many years.

Her kite collection includes kites made from feathers and leaves as well as those made in the traditional way from paper and bamboo. Modern day kites from rip-stop nylon and carbon fibre complete the collection, which has been drawn from countries in Europe and beyond.

Alongside the kites, there is a chance to see the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES) exhibition Colourful Kite Tales, giving a fascinating insight into the history of kites and capturing their beauty and diversity.

### Far Horizons - International Kite Weekend

Saturday 30th & Sunday 31st July  
11.00am - 5.00pm each day  
Beverley Racecourse, York Rd, Beverley HU17 8QZ

Supported by Siemens Wind Power and East Riding of Yorkshire Council.

Bring the family and enjoy a great day out, where the sky will be filled with spectacular flying displays from around the world, including breathtaking artistic creations and synchronized musical sport kite routines.

On the ground there will be a chance to see our exhibition of amazing kites from different



countries - fly one, buy one or even make your own in the kite-making workshop while enjoying trade and community stalls, a fun-fair, Hull Carnival Arts, entertainment, refreshments and family-friendly picnic area.

World-leading kite-makers and fliers who've confirmed their attendance include Ron and Baew Spaulding from Thailand, Gerhard and Daniela Zitzman from Austria, Rene and Franziska Maier from Switzerland, Stafford Wallace and Mehul Pathak from India.

From the UK we welcome Malcolm and Jeanette Goodman, Paul and Natalie Reynolds, Mike and Fran Goddard along with world famous stunt flying team The Decorators!

Look out for details of our free Far Horizons kitemaking workshops across Hull and East Yorkshire throughout July. Participants who attend the kite-making workshops will be able to get 50% discount on the entry price to the Kite Weekend.

### Admission prices

Adults: single day £6, weekend £10  
Under 18s: single day £4, weekend £6  
Family: single day £15, weekend £25 (admits 2 adults and 2 children or 1 adult and 3 children)  
Children under 3 years: Free

### Travelling to Far Horizons:

By bus: From Hull, Market Weighton, Pocklington or York, catch EYMS Services X46 or X47. There's a bus stop right outside the racecourse. You can also use this bus to get from Beverley Town Centre. For bus times and details see [www.eyms.co.uk](http://www.eyms.co.uk) or ring BusLine on 01482 592929 (open 8am-6pm, Mon-Sat).

By car: Free car-parking

## Celebrations, Bedford Kite Festival 2016—Hugh Blowers (Photos Lynn Blowers)

Given that most of us remember the festival in 2012 and the inadvisability of holding the event at the same time as a royal celebration, having this year's festival coincide with Lizz's birthday bash was tempting providence somewhat. The weather gods seem to conspire so that she and Phillip get a drenching, and by definition us at Russell Park as well. Having said that and being all too aware of the Met Office severe weather warnings for both days at Bedford, weren't we lucky? Saturday stayed dry throughout, and most of the rubbish passed to the north and south on Sunday leaving us with a few showers only but nothing that dampened the spirits too much.

If the country was celebrating Liz and Phil's birthdays, much of the weekend for us was celebrating the marriage the previous weekend of Ludovico Bertozzi and Jayne Edwards. Indeed, they had rearranged the date of the wedding to allow them to come to Bedford, now that is enthusiasm. Sunday was even more of an emotional occasion as we were all able to welcome Carolyn Swift on her first appearance after such a torrid and traumatic nine months of illness and recovery. Jerry has used the time to train his moustache so that there is now no confusion in my mind between the Colonels Cody and Sanders. Lovely to see them both.

A rather noisy post-wedding disco at the Park Hotel made socialising on Friday evening difficult and the price of the limited range of ales ensued a relatively abstemious night for most. The drink prices were not the only shock as we were all relieved of a fiver a night for the privilege of parking in the Hotel's own car park with no refund. No wonder we are known as 'rip off Britain'. Not the end of the shocks unfortunately as Baz and Sarah found to their cost when they arrived in the said car park to find their side window broken and a bag with all their reels nicked. Gives a wonderful impression of the town, doesn't it?

With all this and the dismal forecast it was a fairly depressing day in prospect, but it was not to be, as the Met office appeared to have got it wrong again. It was dry, and sunny, as a few red noses and arms would attest to and there was a bit of wind too and mostly from a helpful direction. Sufficient wind in fact for a trio of pilots and some large inflatables from Wolfgang Schimmelpfennig, Ludovico and first time Bedford visitor, Guy Reynolds, even if commentator George Webster was having difficulty distinguishing Batman from Catwoman. Fairly obvious really George!

Ludo and Jayne had variations of their sharks, this time a number 46 in blues and white, instantly recognisable to all Moto GP fans as a tribute to 'The Doctor', Valentino Rossi, with the

Yamaha team colours, crossed tuning forks and a VR on the tail.



Downwind, spars were much in evidence especially in the Beccles Bunch camp with Hugh putting his 'Navigator' together and George his Brassington, 'Deepwater', a plethora of carbon in each. Dave Ellison had made the trip from Totnes with a car full of his now trademark black and white images on all manner of kites, including a lovely train with lovely flowing tails made from brewing filter mesh. Dave claims the great advantage of this over Chiffon is that it does not need hemming.

Dave puts a great deal of thought into the imagery on his kites, especially the 'Escheresque' pattern of black and white birds. Like Michael Goddard, the explanations can often be a bit mind bending and hard to follow, but Dave has produced some lovely pieces of work. After having had a master class in the 'shades of black' from Fritz Jansma and the subtle use of a small piece of white from Robert Brassington, one wonders what a tiny spot of colour might do to Dave's images?



Doug and Linda Richardson had filled their van with sparred kites, and when I say filled, I mean it. There were some real gems and blasts from the past that kept coming out, some of

## Celebrations, Bedford Kite Festival 2016—Hugh Blowers (Photos Lynn Blowers)

which have not seen the light of day for years, if ever. Similarly with Lynn Blowers' host of Nick James' angels, three of which flew happily, whilst the fourth refused to play, no matter what was done with the bridles. There was also the start of a herd of Zebra from Malcolm, Jeanette and Baz. The original Gosselin version has been retired with larger, ripstop ones taking their place. Multiples are always visually interesting so Jan Van Leeuwen's train of split malays was fascinating. All white, the first has a clock face on it, whilst subsequent kites have differing gear trains in pale colours, very effective.

The hospitality extended to the kite flyers at Bedford is second to none so the lunch vouchers were much appreciated, except last year's dire experience with the concession stalls was repeated whatever the option chosen. There is some expectation that if a stall styles itself 'gourmet baguettes' then what was on offer should be just that. Well, they were baguettes if long woolly catering rolls can be termed that, but gourmet, never. How do we get it so wrong at these events, and charge so much? Even the fish on offer had never seen life as a living species having been reformed into neat and regular triangular sections. The cider was good though.



On the command the kite has to be launched without the line touching either sensor. Representative teams from each country drew lots for the kite they would use, each built by Mr Cao, and then given fifteen minutes to tune them. Each kite is a different colour and represents one of the five elements and there is a long story involved that George did not elaborate on. It seemed an impossible ask to get the line through such a small gap, but Wolfgang and Bedford 'new boy', Bernard Dingwerth proved it could be done to take first place. Second place was decided by whose kite would fly the longest, but by this time the wind was sufficiently strong that night would have fallen sooner, so it was resolved with who could get their kite down first.

For the last couple of hours the sky was impressive and enough wind for Iqbal Husain to fly his pizza inspired Chinese dragon. It was something of a relief to find that Malcolm had left his giant Malaysian version at home this year. Instead, he had brought his 'Air Banner' pre-rigged to celebrate Ludo and Jane's marriage, and happily the pilot pulled all this lot out of the bag and into the air. This was all a leap of faith for Malcolm and Jeanette as there was no way it would ever have worked if the forecast had been accurate.

In the end a far better day's flying than we could ever dared have hoped, so it was back to the hotel for a much needed shower and change ready for the Mayor's reception, this year in the Howard Room at the Corn Exchange, just a short walk away.



The better than expected weather certainly brought out the crowds, and with the regatta on the river everywhere was packed. For the afternoon, Mr Cao from Vietnam had organised a much more detailed version of his kite games that were trialled last year. Instead of four line kites it would be with traditional, single line 'flute kites' although the two vicious looking sickles that are normally used have been replaced by similar shaped electronic sensors and sirens. The kite line lies between the two posts with the gap at the top no more than six inches.

Early attendance had been commanded, as there was a football match in the offing, and we all know how that ended? We were greeted by Dave Hodgson the Mayor, and Leisure and Culture boss Sarah-Jayne Holland with the news that Dave had been awarded the MBE in the Queen's birthday honours, another cause for celebration. After the lunchtime experience, the food was welcomed by one and all, especially the Italian pastries. The celebrations carried on with the entry of a three piece wedding cake and an impromptu resume of the happy cou-

## Celebrations, Bedford Kite Festival 2016—Hugh Blowers (Photos Lynn Blowers)

ple's time together through snippets of well known songs, even the 'birdie song', now how did that get to Italy?

Back to the hotel and the first taste of light rain, but forewarned and forearmed after Friday, we were well supplied with enough wine to see us through the evening. This time it was far more sociable as the event at the hotel was a different class altogether and much quieter, although the 'cabaret' will be well remembered by all those who saw her. Something that has been commented on more and more recently is the decline in the 'social' aspect of festivals. Those of us that were left recalled the many nights (and often into the mornings) at festivals that are now no more than a memory. Is it advancing years or that flying at festivals is now much harder work? Sarah Bindon provided one possible explanation as her FitBit watch revealed that she had walked 6½ miles on the field at one event recently and over 8 miles at another.

It would be nice to report otherwise, but Sunday was payback time, wet and windless for much of the day, although such is the nature of the Bedford festival that flyers worked non-stop to get something into the air. What little breeze there was didn't become evident until well above the trees, but by dint of hard work it was possible to get a light kite up there and have a relatively trouble free fly. My Didier Ferment inspired, Gressier butterfly probably had more air time in one day than ever before, the celebration theme continuing as two more joined in the fun to acknowledge that it was also Michel's birthday.

Inevitably George Webster started the day with a sprint, although the name flattered to deceive as all manner of ruses were used to get height, ineffectively in most cases. My money was on Iqbal and his plastic film Nishi Byashi compound delta/bird that had been way above the field for much of the morning. Add to this a Korean fighter reel and it was not much of a competi-



tion, especially under 'Southern rules' where it is the highest on the buzzer, no time for settling or pulling up.

The site is far from ideal for sports kites yet the 'bonny lads' of Fusion from the north east had been on hand all weekend with their Revs, but after their experience on Hadrian's Wall recently they were more than equal to the challenge here. Chris and Vince were much in evidence flying single line kites as well when not on team duties as space precluded the team from flying other than during their displays. Karen Gamble also dug out her two line kite and not content in trying to fly in next to no wind, added a huge tail. With a lot of pumping and backing up she managed to keep flying throughout several sessions. It is very much a sign of the times that there are now so few non-invited flyers at these events, but two who have supported Bedford for years are Lionel Toomes and Steve Billings who is always up for a bit of bear bunging. It was also obvious that the weather was having a very adverse effect on attendance as it was nothing like as crowded as the previous day.

There was no kite workshop this year so it was somewhat to our surprise that the call went out for any children who wanted to make a kite to gather at the commentary position. Karen and Godfrey Gamble had come fully equipped to put on an impromptu session on a couple of the bar tables. They were soon inundated and their union jack kites were being stuck together and test flown as fast as they could manage, and it was all free, so thanks to them both for this.

The agonising over what to have for lunch was resolved by Andy, Bjorn and Sammi who brought a sizeable proportion of the previous night's provender for us to pick through. Real bread rolls with real cheese, more wedding cake and some wonderful chocolate confections from Austria. It was whilst we were enjoying this that

## Celebrations, Bedford Kite Festival 2016—Hugh Blowers (Photos Lynn Blowers)

Carolyn and Jerry arrived in the marquee having driven down for the day, hardly a 'dry eye in the house'.

Having collected ourselves together it was time for part two of the Vietnamese kite games with five entirely new teams, the winners to take on the victorious German team from Saturday. The only real problem was a total lack of wind for these heavy kites. In the end a running launch followed by a drift back to earth was the way to continue. Malcolm and Jeanette as first up managed to guide the line through the tiny gap, could anyone else manage this in no wind? The next team was supposed to include Andy Pidgen, but he had gone absent, sending a young lady from the organising team as sub.

With her launching and Iqbal pulling, they also 'went clear' so a fly off was required. This time it was a case of who could keep the kite in the air the longest by the simple expedient of starting at one end of the arena and towing the kite to the other before it dropped out of the sky. Victory again to Malcolm and Jeanette who then took on the Germans, who had been caught coaching illegally during the preliminary rounds. Justice was served as Jeanette launched perfectly with Malcolm pulling for all he was worth, whilst Bernard never got his line out of the poles. Malcolm now has a set of Vietnamese kite whistles to add to his collection, don't know what Jeanette got for her part in the win?

An interesting facet was added to the ongoing discussion surrounding printed kites as Ludovico is working on all sorts of images using this medium. What he has done though is printed a series of photos onto small, black edged Della Porta style kites that he was using as gifts.

On Saturday, the Mayor and organiser Andy Pidgen were recipients of kites with views of Bedford whilst other favoured flyers were seen

clasping similar offerings on Sunday, a very generous gesture and an alternative use of the medium. I was asked on more than one occasion if the Gressier kites were painted or printed and does it make a difference, well to my mind yes for a variety of reasons but it is a topic that will run and run.

By mid afternoon George Webster and Malcolm were discussing the possibility of resorting to the 'Bedford Walk' with flyers towing kites down the arena, but joy of joys, the sun came out and the wind came up sufficiently so that they could fly as intended.

Indeed the sky rapidly filled with all manner of unusual kites including Jan's lovely drum painted by Claudio Capelli. Whilst my butterfly was up towards the height limit something was manoeuvred into the cargo pocket on my trousers, ooh, knabbelspek courtesy of Jolanda Van Leeuwen. Imagine pork-scratchings twice as big and succulent and a bag about ten times the size of a normal pub serving? Not a bad end to the day.

The clouds to the west were looking somewhat ominous so everyone was asked to foregather around the commentary position for the awarding of the Megrath Trophy. More recently this has been awarded for contributions to the festival and this year it went to Mr Cao who has been ever present these last few years with his 'leaf' four-line kites, his traditional 'whistle' kites and the kite games. Subsequent reports showed just how lucky we had been at Russell Park with floods and lightning strikes nearby making the national news. Thanks to Malcolm and Jeanette, Dave Hodgson and Sarah-Jayne Holland, Andy, Bjorn and Sammi and all the flyers for another Festival that seems to have established itself as one of the more 'enjoyable events' of the season.



## Portsmouth International Kite Festival 2016

Taking place Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th August at Southsea Common, Portsmouth. This is the Silver edition 25th Festival.

To recognise this this year the theme is "Retro". We are hoping that lots of people will dust off those old kites which have not seen the light of day for many a year and bring them along to fly. There are plans for retro sports kite displays and—hopefully—an exhibition of some of these kites.

We aim to have several displays where you can bring your kite into the arena and join in. See the Portsmouth web site for details when the timetable is published.

Even if you do not have a suitable kite for the displays—there are often more kites than people to fly them, so why not come along and help.

We are again hoping to have a display of Dragon kites which was so spectacular last year. As mentioned by Allan Potheary we are also looking to grab the record from the USA for the highest number of Trilobite kites flown at the same time. So if you have one (or more) of these bring them along.

We are pleased to have a number of talented kite artists coming to Portsmouth this year with their range of kites together with a range of large inflatable kites from new and regular guest fliers.

We have a wide range of invited kite fliers at Portsmouth this year—some regulars and many fliers appearing for the first time.

New to the Portsmouth festival are: Trevor Reeves (Australia), Andreas Napravnik (Germany), Quinin BEkker (Holland), Evert den Blanken (Holland), Now Air (France), Long Valley Kite Fliers (Switzerland), Bruno & Laurence Cocandau (France), Markus & Katja Flender (Germany) and Florian Janich (Germany).

Other overseas fliers include Bernard Dingwerth (Germany), Jan and Jolanda van Leeuwen, (Holland), Robert van Weers (New Zealand), Kiteers on Tour (Germany) and Volker Hoberg (Germany).

From the UK we have Team Spectrum, Paul and Natalie Reynolds, Brighton Kite Fliers, Tony Cartwright, The Beccles Bunch, The Avon Kite Fliers, The Decorators, Dave Ellison, Paul Thody, Guy Reynolds, Flying Fish, Derek Kuhn and Nick James.

The timetable will be published on the web site [www.portsmouthkitefestival.org.uk](http://www.portsmouthkitefestival.org.uk) when we create it! Plus of course George Webster on

commentary and a return of Andy King.

There will be a selection of kite traders and caterers on site as well as a selection of non-kite stalls and a craft tent.

**Festival Auction:** There will be a short (hopefully) auction taking place Saturday evening around 8:30pm to raise funds for the festival. This will take place in one of the marquees on site. Items for the auction gratefully received before or on the day. Everyone is welcome to attend the evening events.

**Free parking** is available for KSGB members on request from us IN ADVANCE. No passes will be available at the site. Send SAE or email us with your car registration number. You will be able to unload your vehicle on the site but PLEASE, once unloaded, move your car to the car park. The car park is located on the left as you enter the site from the Queens Hotel end.

**Camping** There are no places left—we can add you to a wait list if requested. If you do not have a camping pass please do not camp!

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

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

We hope to see as many of you as possible to come and fly your kites. There will be a number of arena spots where anyone can show off their kites.

Finally we would like to thank Portsmouth City Council for their continued support of the event.



Aladdin—one of the spectacular kites from the Long Valley Kite Fliers—Switzerland

## Events News

### Aug 6th & 7th 2016

North Hants Kiter's Jolly UP 19  
Gate open from 12noon on the Friday.

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

On site camping is available from Friday midday onwards (£8 per tent/camper for Fri and Sat evening). Fish and chips available on the Friday evening (via the zipwire!) from 6am to 9pm

The Saturday evening BBQ works well, so we will doing the same format. Tickets available on the weekend (£7.00 and please bring your plate and cutlery where possible!!) Please note we do have a limited number !!!!! We will be doing Jacket Potatoes and fillings at lunchtimes, and Bacon rolls will be available both mornings.

The Auction will be held on the Saturday evening, and any donations gratefully received on the Saturday (before 4pm please to give us time to set it all up and Hayley to sit down for a bit :-)) We will also run the Competition for Garden Produce, which can cover fruit, veg, plants, anything really. Show us what you've been growing, it may win a prize. Rules are minimal and made up on the day!

There is the category for Home Made Hooch again!! Roy Martin's Sled competition will take place (to contact him directly please).

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

For further info, please either contact—Roy on 07778 352825, Colin on 07770 338419 or e-mail roy@kitesup.co.uk. For orders: hayley@kitesup.co.uk

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

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

### 13th/14th August

The Teston Kiteability Weekend, Teston Country Park, Teston Bridge Kent

Continuing the long tradition commenced by the late Ron and Pat Dell, the weekend has been renamed in memory of Pat and Ron, under their former trading name of Kiteability. Open to all.

As those who have taken part previously will testify, it is a very informal and relaxing week-

end of kite flying and socialising with no formal programme of events. Members of the public mix with flyers and are encouraged to have a go at flying kites, becoming a long term leisure pastime. A food trader has been booked for the weekend.

Camping as usual will be on the flying field and the field will be accessible from the Friday 12th August mid-morning until noon on Monday 15th for those who wish to make a long weekend of the event. Donations of minimum of £10 per camping pitch for up to 4 people for the weekend, which goes towards the costs of putting on the event. Access to the flying field for day visitors with vehicles will be allowed up to 10am with the entrance being closed until 5pm. Otherwise the main carpark will have to be used.

Contact Malcolmf@kentkiteflyers.proboards.com

### Sunday 25th September 2016

The Capstone Festival, Capstone Country Park, Capstone Road Chatham Kent ME7 3JG

Unfortunately Medway City Council who co-ordinated this event, still do not wish to return the festival back into a two day event, which would involve allowing camping. Last year was a tremendous success as the weather was perfect, with thousands of visitors. The main flying arena being kept separate for members of kite clubs to fly a variety of kites without interference from the public, although there was plenty of interaction by the kite flyers present with those attending. It is anticipated the festival will operate under the same lines this year. Entry and parking for kite flyers is free, being allowed to have their vehicles adjacent to the flying arena. Vehicle numbers will be required in advance.

Contact: events@medway.gov.co.uk or malcolmf@kentkiteflyers.com

These are all relative small festivals and do not have the funding to invite demonstrators or international flyers, but it is the intention of Kent Kite Flyers to work with those in Kent who wish to put on a kite day or weekend, in anticipation of supporting the event(s) to grow. This does need the support of other kiteflyers who do not necessarily live within a short radius of Kent. However Kent Kite Flyers members are frequently seen at kite festivals and events outside Kent and have travelled many miles and spent many hours going there and back in a day in the past to support others who are putting on kite events. We feel it is something we wish to do to encourage the public to take up our leisure activity and would like to see this reciprocated, obviously we understand there may be a clash with other events etc., which prevents participation.

## Events List

<b>2016</b>		
<b>July</b>		
16-17	Leominster & Hereford Kite Festival, Berrington Hall, Herefordshire HR6 0DW	bill.souten@mkf.org.uk
23-24	Shropshire Kite Festival, Cleobury Mortimer.	kites@skybums.com
30-31	Dunstable Kite Festival, Dunstable Downs.	www.dunstablekitefestival.co.uk
30-31	Far Horizons International Kite Weekend, Beverley Racecourse, HU17 8QZ	info@infinitearts.co.uk
30-31	St. Annes Kite festival, on the beach, Lytham st Annes, near Blackpool, Lancashire	www.stanneskitefestival.co.uk
<b>August</b>		
6-7	Jolly Up 18, Roy's Field, Cliddesden, Basingstoke	roy@kitesup.co.uk
7	Royston Kite Festival, Therfield Heath, Royston, Herts	www.roystonkitefestival.com
13-14	Portsmouth International Kite Festival, Southsea Common, Portsmouth	Portsmouth@thekitesociety.org.uk
13-14	Teston Bridge Kiteability 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
21	Hunstanton Kite Festival, Smithdon High School, Norfolk PE36 5HY	www.hunstanton-rotary.org.uk/page9.html
27-28	Exmouth Kite Festival, Imperial Recreation Ground, EX8 1DG	ellisondavid@me.com
<b>September</b>		
4	Layer Marney Tower Kite Festival, Layer Marney, Colchester, Essex CO5 9US	
4	Telford Kite Festival, Town Park, Telford, Shropshire TF4 3NZ	bill.souten@mkf.org.uk
10-18	Dieppe International Kite Festival, Dieppe, France	infos@dieppe-cerf-volant.org
25	The Capstone Festival, Capstone Country Park, Chatham Kent ME7 3JG	Malcolmf@kentkiteflyers.com
<b>2017</b>		
<b>April</b>		
1-9	31st Berck International Kite Festival, Berck sur Mer, France	www.cerf-volant-berck.com/
21 - 1st May	Cervia International Kite Festival, Cervia, Italy	www.festivalinternazionaleaquilone.com/web/
29 - 1st May	Broad Haven Returns	bill.souten@btinternet.com