

# THE KITEFLIER

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**Issue 151      April 2017      £2.50**

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

# KITEWORLD

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**Front Cover**  
**Balloons and Kites—for that no-wind kite festival. Wanshan, China**  
**Photo: Gill Bloom**

**Editorial**

Dear Reader

Another year has started—for some people it started early with overseas travels in India and other exotic countries, for others the first events are just kicking off. Let us hope the season will be kind with the right weather at all times.

For those who have not heard here is an update on the Bristol International Kite Festival

After careful consideration we have decided not to hold the Bristol International Kite Festival in 2017.

We will continue to look for opportunities to hold the event in 2018 subject to being able to find a long term viable financial future for the event and/or raising sufficient sponsorship. We would like to thank all those flyers, traders, friends and enthusiasts who support Bristol and want to see the event continue in the future.—The Festival Team.

We recently heard from Sally Thompson the sad news that Chris Woods had passed away on the 13th March. As many of you will know Chris—together with Doug—ran the Dunstable Kite shop for many years and supported kite flying and kite festivals around the country.



He will be missed by many people.

The astute amongst you will notice the page count is down this issue—because of lack of content from people. Our thanks to Paul Chapman for his contributions this issue—and, of course, our regular contributor Allan Pothecary.

We cannot do it all ourselves—send something to us!

See you on the kite field—Gill and Jon

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

### Hoffmann's Canard Delta

I was fortunate to receive a prototype of Hoffmann's Canard Delta over the winter and, perhaps, just as fortunate to find some fairly decent wind in which to test fly and make a



video at the same time.

The making of a decent video means the combination of several factors, including having the right sort of wind blowing away from the sun and a blue sky. The rest is down to framing, a steady hand and having taken about an hour's worth of video from which a few scenes can be spliced together for a short film that's, hopefully, informative and entertaining.

There has certainly been a lot of interest in this kite/video as it really does fly as good as it looks - and it flies well even if you don't like the look of it!

Judging by the comments we got on Facebook and YouTube, wholesalers HQ Invento will be getting a lot of orders for the Canard Delta.

Unlike a former kite of the year of ours - also a Hoffmann - the "Jumbo Delta" the Canard can fly without its big 9 metre long tail. We didn't think to try it without the tails at the wing tips but probably will have done before this article is published.

### Sizeable

Assembly is quite straightforward - There weren't any instructions to ignore in my bag but I am sure that there will be some in the new kites. However, we did leave the kite assembled at the spine and leading edges to take it home, so to save struggling in freezing winds the next time we ventured out as I, even more so, don't do fiddly with cold

hands! Putting the kite away in this fashion does mean that it won't fit in the bag and, therefore, more care and attention is required to avoid damage or losing bits.

Fully assembled the Canard is quite large at 5cm under 3 Metres in width and 165cm high.

I have to say that our kite did lean a little to the right but you are going to get that sort of thing with any kite unless it has two keels or the bridle extends to the outer or 'leading' edges and can be adjusted to work interactively.

### Adjustable

The line is attached to either end a rod at the base of the squared off keel which, in turn does help the kite to maintain its balanced behaviour. I like that idea because rather than just fixed point eyeholes at the tow-point, you have the ability to raise or lower the angle of attack to you own requirements if you feel the need.

Here, my advice is to leave it at the factory setting in the assurance that much research has already been done to find the sweet spot.

The kite did move about in a swirling wind but never enough to make it crash, in fact at times, when all looked lost, recovery was excellent and it remained impressively stable for most of the time.

We like kites that are easy from bag to the sky then stay there; so, at under ninety pounds, I expect to see a lot of black and yellow ducks joining ours in the air.

### I'll Just Stand Here Then?

I did a story in the last issue about my video of a young lady wandering under a kite and looking surprised, maybe even annoyed, when it dropped down beside her and I completely forgot to add the picture that explained it best.

There is a 3 mile long beach in Fuengirola with gaps between the rows of beds and sunshades where you can fly, exercising caution but, if you are in the area, this particular



beach is the town side of the large footbridge near to the castle.

It's usually fairly empty, there's no sun beds and shades, it's close to a bar, there is free parking within two hundred metres and a lot of people who like to see kites flying.

Sounds Idyllic? - Well we keep going back there!

### **Buying From Abroad**

Whilst browsing through some Far Eastern kite sellers' web-sites the other day the a particular kite caught my eye. I did the usual scrolling around the page looking for more detail but, as is common with these sites, an understanding of what information the prospective buyer requires is lacking and the translations of what you *are* told is bizarre to say the least!

I was trying to get an idea of how big, what's it made of, what wind requirement etc and then I came across "Description". Here we go then but I bet you have to read it more than once - This is exactly as I copied and pasted.

**Description: this section of the kite through the fast line and put the line to achieve the reverse of the kite.**

I think a lot of extracting from different passages may have gone on before it was fed in to the translating machine but, needless to say, I didn't buy it. In times past I have taken it upon myself to try to help - only to find that they didn't understand what I was talking about.

Where I did succeed in striking relationships I did a lot of re-typing and gave up a lot of free sales marketing techniques and supporting promotional material - don't tell my old customers! I am always keen to help kite manufacturers and traders if I'm allowed - we do need them to keep our passion alive. Don't be fooled though - these guys do want to be your friend and they will love you long time - yes, all of you - but you won't see much else from them, I certainly don't!

It's a ploy I put in to a company I was doing work for.

Customers were given an "account manager" and their name "Maureen" and it was Maureen (or "Janice's") job to be friends and see the orders through personally - actually more than half of the orders were dealt with

## **Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary**

by someone else but Maureen's name always went on it and that meant customer was happy to pay top rate because she was their friend!

Sometimes the post and packaging was reduced but that was four times the going rate anyway! However, I have not heard of anyone having bad experiences with the actual purchase.

All of mine have gone through OK and mostly arrived accurately to the order, in good or excellent time and I know that I am not the only one who has complained about bad quality or wrong product sent and had refunds or replacements without too much of a fight - AliExpress have been good guarantors of that in my experience.

Always shop around and ask around and you'll notice that, much like Amazon, you will find the product at wildly differing prices. I found Trilobites at one seller much cheaper than on Kaixuan, the manufacturer's site and postage free!!!

I queried this, naturally, and was told by their "Janice" that those weren't their kites - yeah right - just the same artwork and wording then? My 'free post' query went unanswered.

Often you will have an email go unanswered with some companies and you may be forgiven for thinking that it's because of a national holiday or there has been a problem in translation, but try beginning your message with "Can you quote me for..." or "I'd like to buy..." and see how quick it comes back!

### **Red Baron**

I was castigated by one of the top dogs from a fairly well know kite company for my video of the recently redesigned and much improved Red Baron kite saying that it was a copy of one of theirs.

My answer was that they should have sent me one and I would have reviewed it for them!! - The offer is always there.

There are many versions of this aeroplane flying around (sorry about that), from planes on sticks to two line controllable (semi) and ones similar to this, although it's unlikely that the new version is identical unless they are made in the same factory.

### **Better left?**

I hate it when a company does a "new and Improved" to one of my favourite products - it's inevitably worse and usually an excuse to

## Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

give you less of it for more money swiftly followed by everyone voting with their feet and the product disappearing altogether. In this case the technical boys have taken a good look at what needs to be done and radically improved the whole thing from ease of assembly to putting it back in the bag.



I'm I am not in a position to make a direct comparison - only to tell you what they have done. The old Red Baron was made from two pieces, the wings and fuselage as one piece, plus the propeller. Because the kite was both wide and long everything was crinkled and easily damaged in the bag. You needed to assemble some inner rods to fix the horizontal spreader which was all a bit tricky and would put off the inexperienced flyer and those like me who don't do fiddly (That's twice I've said that this time!).

Then there were more rods to assemble for the wings but not enough to hold the shape properly. The line was attached to a single keel and with all that surface area not being the sturdiest and no option to adjust against a pull to one side the kite would frequently become unbalanced, veer to one side and crash.

### Changes

Now, the wings and fuselage come pre-assembled in a much stronger layout in two, separate pieces which are popped together in eight places. There are struts to fit on that keep the three wings separated and then the spinning propeller just pops on, held by an end cap.

A clever addition of two keels in the shape of wheels, improve the look, replace the single keel and now you have side to side adjustment as well as angle of attack.

Marilyn asked why I was keen to try this kite out as she had only ever seen people struggling to get it airborne - and constant crashes. Surely this was going to be a waste of time?

I replied that I didn't think that there would have been so much thought gone in to re-developing this kite if it were easier just to drop it from production and I reckoned that it was at least worth a try. So, try we did and - we were both more than pleased to be proved wrong.

### The launch

The Red Baron can be launched by putting it carefully on its back and keeping the line taut as you walk back before pulling it in to the air or, simply on a long launch with two people.

I say long launch because on a short line or self, hand held launch, it will move about a lot from side to side until it gets to about forty feet when it settles down beautifully. From the moment it was in the air people started coming over to get a closer look and a few photos.

The 'plane is a lot bigger than I thought it would be and, with the spinning prop and bright colour, has great presence. We both really did have fun flying this one and can't wait to take it out again. Our video gives a true representation of what it's like to fly and, because it is so photogenic, so to speak, don't be surprised to see it in future edits.

By the way - we are still looking for other people to hold our kites for the photos. We like to have someone holding the kites because it gives the best idea of actual size.

### Vented Revolution

This guy, Jeremy, was frequenting the same flying field as us chugging about with a rev over in the corner, politely staying away from and not crashing through the many single lines with which we were so rudely hogging the field.

We began chatting about the kiting scene and, after a while, he contacted a former Flying Squad groupie and now full time member

Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary



Bill Final who met up with him at the Portsmouth Festival passing on a few pointers.

We have since seen Jeremy's skills come on in leaps and bounds and now, even more so since he's been out there playing with his Christmas present, his new Polo Kite, or Revpolo which is printed and

cut by Los Hermanos in Spain.

This design is by Markus Eckhardt using the Polo website colouriser. It's basically a 1.5 Revolution Quadline made with genuine rev parts under license.

It's not quite as vented as it might first appear because, on closer inspection, you will note the gauze that not only keeps the whole thing in place but also enables the kite to fly in lower winds as well as remaining smooth in the higher and gustier winds.

Jeremy was on his first flight and the wind was up and down like a bride's nighty, so I didn't presume to ask for a go - but maybe next time?

**Rabbiting On**

We couldn't resist this lovable character from Kaixuan kites especially as, for them, it was at such a reasonable price. I am baffled how my friend can pay only ten pounds for a clock through Ali Express which came in roughly the same size and weight package, yet he had FREE shipping whilst for the rabbit at \$105.00 there is obviously a bigger profit margin yet also a shipping charge of over £25.00!!!

I will leave to you to, as the Americans say. "Go figure"!

I did get back to them after I saw the advert proclaiming that it was suitable for children over three years old - Typically, as I find, there was not a "Thank you", much less, not even an acknowledgement - but it no longer appears!

First time out with our new piece of line laundry we were exercising caution because, being white, it was obviously going to show the dirt - and the ground was wet.

As it says in the video we made on our website, Jessica sent it to us so we decided to name it "Jessica's Rabbit" or Jessica for short. Jessica seems to be made of a slightly heavy and, perhaps, cheaper grade of rip-stop but well sewn together and, at 4.6 metres, just the size to blend in with our many other inflatables. Unfortunately, the rabbit didn't get airborne on it's first outing.

It had not been carefully packed in to the bag and that made the bridle a nightmare of tangles which, I might add, is thankfully not made from Kevlar or that other nasty sticky stuff I've seen used on some far eastern made kites thank goodness. It was quite gusty and so cold that day the only other creature around was a brass monkey who came over and asked if we knew a good welder.



I suggested to Marilyn that we give up for the day and she was gone, quicker than the baby sitter's boyfriend when a car pulled up.

After we had de-iced ourselves back home we laid the bridle through from the dining room to the lounge and with hardly any blasphemy at all, managed to get it all unravelled.

Next time out we used our 16m Trilobite as a lifter and the rabbit followed with hardly a protest.

**Getting it inflated**

The secret with laundry of this sort of layout is to get the front part inflated first as much as you can and the rest will then inflate easily without flapping about causing wraps and twists. It's the same as blowing up a long, sausage shaped balloon only the other way

## Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

around - once you push the air down to the end, the rest fills up with less effort.

From not too far off the rabbit seems to look a lot smaller than it is, so probably best just to put it only high enough to be out of reach from yappy dogs and out of control children who think it's a free bouncy castle. If you have seen photos of it already don't be fooled in to thinking it sits in an upright position because. as our photo shows it tends to settle more towards horizontal.

We like the rabbit, it comes in any colour you want to order but after many changes of mind we settled on just having this one.

I am sure someone will buy a few and make a very impressive train of them at some point - can't wait to see the photos. Perhaps a few of us owners could get together and do it anyway? - I'd say it needs a minimum of five.

Jessica is unlikely to travel abroad with us because she doesn't pack down that small and is fairly heavy due the material from which she is constructed.

I'll still take Marilyn though.

### New Record Attempt

I have had word from our illustrious editing team/organisers that there is a slot both days for a new record attempt at the Portsmouth Kite Festival 2017 for the most Trilobite kites flown at the same time. Last year went was very well received by audience and kite flyers alike.



Our American friends soon surpassed the number flown but they were stretched out over a bigger area.

This is why I think there should be some sort of guidelines - The most amount in an arena no bigger than 100metres X 100metres would give the incentive for local events like Bognor, Margam or Basingstoke to hold such an event but you could have a second category where smaller events could not hope to compete, like most Trilobites flown on a beach, especially when some of the beaches overseas are several miles long!

### Somebody's winning!

At the end of the day it's only a bit of fun but like most kite flying - if it didn't have some sort of challenge to it then it wouldn't be as interesting. I know, first hand, that many more people now own Trilobites than last year after witnessing this spectacle and others, including us, have increased the size of their Tribe (collective noun).

Some people have even bought TBs just to take part in these events. The Chinese economy is booming!

Given the perfect wind that we had last year I am beginning to think we might have a problem with the pilot to TB ratio so bring your kites and have some friends on hand too!

### Our New Web-Site

I have been threatening for a long time to build a new web-site. The current one has been puffing along for a good many years now but the 'Serif' software support finished ages back and it's run from what is now a very outdated PC using Windows Vista.

I have been using a Mac for about four years now but still have not found a suitable drag and drop suite. - I'm too old and lacking in focus to be learning HTML, much to my techie son's disgust and frustration! I always hoped that Serif would write something for the Mac but they have now dropped out of this market altogether.

I am now, at last, about completed in the process of building the new site. The software is free so it forces me to keep it simple and easy to navigate.

It already has quite a lot to keep visitors informed, educated and entertained (BBC philosophy) and goodness knows how much further I will have progressed by the time you read this but updates will always be ongoing.

I can make changes and additions with greater speed than before - even when I am on holiday.

The old web-site will divert automatically to this one.

### Free advertising

If you have an event planned please send me the artwork and any links and you will get free access to around two thousand visiting kite flyers every week.

Perhaps you have something kite related you want to sell that I can make others aware of.

I hope that you pay it a visit from time to time. If you are on my email list you will get a heads up for the big launch and, if I haven't done it by now, then please type [www.kitedisplays.co.uk](http://www.kitedisplays.co.uk) in to your favourite browser.

There's a "Contact" page and I will be pleased to receive plaudits or constructive criticism. All details of my contacts are strictly confidential.

One thing though, if you send photos or videos you must say if you don't want them published or if you would prefer not to be acknowledged - fair enough?

### Boy on a Bike

For some time I have fancied owning the 'Boy on a Bicycle' kite. I had seen the original video that went viral and was raved about on various middle and far eastern TV channels and followed up with a fruitless source and procurement exercise. Later, I found another video with a group of guys stood on a track having a lot of laughs unsuccessfully trying to launch it, with one time it disappearing over a hedge into bushes.

Considering the obvious frailty of the thing, I was so surprised that it hadn't, by now, separated into many pieces. I thought that even a novice should have been able to tell that this was not going to fly, unaided by a lifter.

Better bridling and some thought about dihedrals was certainly in order.

### There it was!

Then, one late evening, I was idly browsing around when there it was, on a site I rarely visit because they appear to be too far down the line to offer sensible pricing.

And yes it was expensive to my mind but, nevertheless, I was so intrigued that, with permission granted, (how could she resist those wide eyes and longing face) it was duly ordered - there were only five others in front

## Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

of me and they were showing 48 in stock from the look of it.

As soon as Ali Express had cleared the money I got a message from the seller - it was out of stock! Oh yeah - here we go then! This was followed by lots of assurances in English so bad they surely had to be trying to be unclear but that miraculously improved when I threatened to cancel.



### That's better!

Next thing - they were in stock - and an improved model at that from the look of the photo - unfortunately though they said they couldn't get it to fly.

A couple more emails later I decided that nearly two hundred quid was too much to risk, didn't give anymore extensions of the time given for them to ship and the order was automatically cancelled. I thought that other kite flyers would like me to share that experience - If anyone else decides to take the plunge and is more successful then I shall be pleased to hear.

Hope you have enjoyed my ramblings - see you next time.

Allan and Marilyn Pothecary  
Close Encounters Kite Displays

When I learned to fly a sport kite I stopped saying "I can't do that" and started saying "I can do that - Just give me time to practice!"

## The Year of the Rooster—Paul Chapman



We had 6,000 people through the doors at the Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery for the Chinese New Year Celebrations. It was a bit of a crush although they did come over two days. I had been invited to do a little Chinese Kites exhibition along the lines of the 2016 Monkey King show. This time it was the Rooster..... so what about the chicken kites? There are very few Chinese Chicken Kites and they are equally as rare as the chicken's teeth. All I could find were a couple of images in my kite books. In despair I called Andrew Dewar. I had met Andrew in Gifu last year. His paper aeroplanes are to be wondered at and very soon a Japanese/Canadian flying rooster emerged. It was my get-out so 100 rooster kits were printed on 20g card at the local copy shop and about 20 were made up as give-aways. In the meantime I did find a chicken kite; my old mum used to paint in the Chinese style and when she died I used her rooster as the cover of a kite. It is an Indian fighting rooster kite. I had less than two hours to set up the stall on Saturday morning and was



about halfway in when the first wave hit. Nothing was allowed to be attached to the walls but they also said nothing about bamboo and carbon roach poles and long tie-wraps. That meant that the 300ft dragon loomed overhead while 16 luscious Chinese ladies wrapped their way towards heaven in the stairwell. There were ancient Yao Mien hangings depicting the Gods of the Underworld at the judgement day of the tortured. Kites by Lao Qi-an, Liu Bin and Li Ruo Xin (Inkfish Li) as well as others. Chinese New Year toys too. The children loved the traditional barking dogs. In the quieter moments, and there were none, I flew the indoor kites of Kite Kong's daughter and let people blow pigeon flutes. There were books too. The oldest was from the 1780s and showed kites with multiple hummers and most likely linked to the earlier book by Cao Xue Xin



## The Year of the Rooster—Paul Chapman

which I had in the form of Kong Xiang Ze's celebration of Cao. These books, together with the photos of Kong's kite for the Last Emperor and his student Liu Bin's Imperial swallows made a nice grouping.



As for Andrew's Roosters? It was really much too busy to play the flying games, although several were given away. Others have since gone to the grandchildren and the plan now is to plant more on kids who pester us on the Bristol Downs. They fly nicely with a bit of elastic band power.

And the chickens? I seem to have been hit by the deadly Chinese chicken mite as the big dragon and the ladies were sadly lacking in feathers. There was a lot of feather dust in the boxes. Somehow I need to find some pleasant chicken pluckers and ask for their pluckings. Happy New Rooster!!



## Peter Powell Kites in the News

Why is a Cheltenham kite-making company featuring on BBC television twice in three days?

An astonishing video of an elderly Gloucester woman flying 30 foot in the air on a kite was shown to two kite makers on a popular BBC tele-



vision programme.

Brothers Mark and Paul Powell appeared on the BBC Breakfast show in mid-March to talk about their iconic toy business, Peter Powell Kites. Created in Cheltenham by their father Peter in 1972, the brand outsold Lego in 1976, was named toy of the year by the British Association of Toy Retailers and was the biggest selling kite in America.

Boxer Muhammad Ali, actor James Stewart and British radio personality Chris Evans are just a few of the famous names that bought one of the millions of stunt kites sold.

During the live morning broadcast, the pair discussed a documentary they had filmed with the BBC, which chronicles the history of Peter Powell Kites and highlights the eccentric things their father did.

One of those was lifting their great grandmother 30 foot in the air on her 70th birthday, to show that five Peter Powell kites could lift eight stone of weight.

In the bizarre footage streamed during the television show, viewers could see the elderly woman clutching her handbag on a swing whilst exclaiming "whoopee!".

The brothers watched the video for the first time during the filming for the upcoming documentary.

Mark said: "Seeing it made me quite emotional and I nearly started crying - but equally I was in absolute hysterics watching Gran holding on to her handbag.

"My Dad was an incredible man. He started this entire business from nothing - I think that they should make a film about his life."

Their father's crazy antics didn't stop there, he also set many Guinness World Record titles, including flying the first kite six miles up - the same distance that jets fly at.

Sadly, Peter passed away in his home in Cheltenham in January last year at the age of 83, after suffering a stroke.

His sons, however, are determined to keep the spirit of their father alive, and continually go up on Cleeve Hill to test their kites - which they sell from their shop on Cheltenham High Street.

"The yo-yo made a come back, why not the kite?" Mark explains, "Nothing beats seeing a child out in the fresh air smiling, running around and playing with their kite.

"Too many young people have their faces in their phones these days - if someone strolled past them naked they wouldn't notice!

"We just want to make our Dad proud and get more children outdoors. Oh, and this year we will definitely be re-enacting some of those amazing world records he set."

Both Mark and Paul appeared on BBC Inside Out West 20th March.

There is also a report on the BBC web site ([www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-gloucestershire-39258851](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-gloucestershire-39258851)) which is almost a transcript of the program segment.

To find out more about Peter Powell Kites visit their website ([www.peterpowellstunterkites.com](http://www.peterpowellstunterkites.com)).

As part of the Minchinhampton Kite Day Mark and Paul Powell hope to break the Guinness World Record for the most Peter Powell stunters flying simultaneously at the same time.

Wind dependent, they are hoping to have at least 200 of their popular kites flying at the free, family-friendly event. However, there is a back-up if wind speeds are less than 10mph, as the pair will instead try for the most children's kites simultaneously in the air.

We cannot find any information whether they were successful or not.

## Wanshan, China Kite Festival—Gill Bloom



This was our 2nd invitation to China – the first one was to the first International Kite Festival in Weifang in 1984 – so we were looking forward to seeing how China had changed (or not) over the last 30 plus years.

Wanshan is a small town in Guizhou province, once famous for its Cinnabar (a mercury ore) mines. It is in the middle of China, so requires planes (or high speed trains) to get to it from any of large international Airports. We were met at the local airport by our interpreters and a fairly small vehicle – accompanied by comments from the interpreters that they did not expect us to have so much luggage!

Fortunately, the journey to Wanshan was not that long. Arriving in the city - how times have



changed, with quite several Western Style malls and brand names and western brand cars. The hotel was good – we even had a spa bath and the room was large enough for a substantial party if so inclined. We were then treated to a spot of sightseeing and told that the next day would be more of the same. So, we got to have a river ride and a visit to an “ancient town” - very much set up for the Chinese Tourists, complete with pig racing.



The next day was the start of the kite festival – so an early start to attend the opening ceremony. A police escort sped the buses through the streets and there were a lot of people making their way to the event on foot as the event had been extremely well advertised everywhere in Wanshan and surrounding areas. Coaches were also piling in laden with the opening ceremony dancers and artists.



## Wanshan, China Kite Festival—Gill Bloom

The kite festival site is a purpose made field supposedly built by removing a large portion of a mountain, which seemed to be borne out by



the near vertical sides of the remaining mountains covered in green netting. The site is a combination of kite field and garden, complete with a full-size windmill and, this early in the season, perfectly synchronised blooming tulips were the order of the day. (I suspect that the tulips had been forced in a greenhouse). Anyway, they had obviously been newly planted and had taken over a section of the kite field too. Amongst the tulips were some bronze sculptures depicting local historical themes including a number that were kite related. The area had heavy rain during the few days before the event, so the combination of freshly turfed grass and mud made for some very muddy footwear.

So, we were whisked to our allotted positions in the opening ceremony. Standing behind our girls with our country name. We then stood and listen to the speeches and as these finished we were very quickly ushered off the field to make way for the actual opening ceremony which was televised live. Unfortunately, seeing this on Youtube later was the nearest we came to seeing the event. There were fireworks, lots of dancing girls and boys, representing the local ethnic groups all dressed in their matching costumes.

From a distance, it all look rather grand, but meanwhile the kitefliers were coping with the mud and the lack of wind. Having looked up the historical weather from the area we expected the winds to be light, but basically, there was none. The organisers obviously had expected this because there were plenty of large helium filled weather balloons on hand to provide some help.



Having never attached a kite to a balloon before it was interesting and certainly different, even dragon kites could be lofted buy having

## Wanshan, China Kite Festival—Gill Bloom



one balloon at each end. But sadly it is not possible to lift a soft kite with a balloon – it really does look like a pile of nylon. I did feel sorry for some of the girl helpers who at times were struggling with holding down the balloons.

We could have gone back to the hotel for lunch but we opted to remain in the vain hope that some more wind might arrive – sadly it never did. Competitions for various awards were held

– this mainly consisted in a lot of running, but I did win the creative kite award with my Chinese themed Della Porta. I think the Organisers were doing a good political job – most of the international kite flyers managed to be awarded something. The day wore on with very little flying apart from the Eagle kites – which are glider like kites flown on a short line and a very fancy reel which allows the flyers to perform quite a number of very convincing eagle like manoeuvres. There was a big competition going on for this – as the winners of the heat were going onto Weifang kite festival for the final, and perhaps more importantly there were cash prizes to be had. We returned to the hotel quite muddy and the hotel staff were handing out plastic over shoe bags to protect the marble floor – but the local ‘Mrs Mop’ was very busy and did not look very happy!

The next day we returned to the field – still muddy and still with no wind – but this time the balloons had disappeared. The wind briefly put in an appearance but it was very light. We left the field at 11.00 to go back to the hotel for lunch and the awards ceremony.

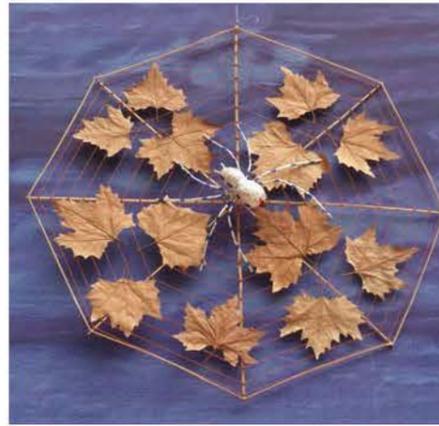
So it was a long way to go for very little kiteflying, but the camaraderie between the kitefliers and the warmth of the welcome from the people of Wanshan itself (not another selfie request) made it a memorable event.



### Wanshan International Kite Exhibition—Gill Bloom

As part of the kite festival there was also a kite exhibition curated by Liu Zhiping, a member of the Weifang Kite Festival organizing committee. Held in the local sports hall it was mainly a col-

lection of Chinese kites but included a number of other Asian and western kites. A wonderful collection of kites and well presented.



**Bits & Pieces**

Seen on Ebay

**Vintage 1960's Mayo Spruce Peanuts Charlie Brown Sweatshirt/T-Shirt Yellow.**

Vintage Peanuts shirt. Found at an estate sale, been in storage in attic. Slightly musty. Buyer may wash if they wish. The shirt measures 12 inches flat from armpit to armpit. It is a toddler



size shirt, but this one is more of a collectible. Sold for \$60.

**Kite Society of Great Britain Pin Badge**

Well it sold for £1.00 and the postage was £1.35. So buy one from us—it is close to the same price.

**Antique Heubach Bisque Boy and Girl Spill Vases or Figurines - Kite & Balloons**

Here's a pair of very cute spill vases that are #11265 which were made by Heubach of Germany. The boy is flying a kite with his dog and the girl has balloons with her cat. The kite has a smiling face on it and it almost looks like the man in the moon. The girl has 4 pink balloons.



The vases are about 9¾ inches tall and 5 inches wide. They weigh about 2 pounds and 9¼ ounces combined.

The boy vase is in excellent shape with no nicks, cracks or repairs. The girl vase has been broken and badly repaired at the top of the vase. However, it does display well.

Sold for \$145.00

Seen on Invaluable

**1983 Star Wars Return of the Jedi 50' Dragon Speeder Bike Kite**

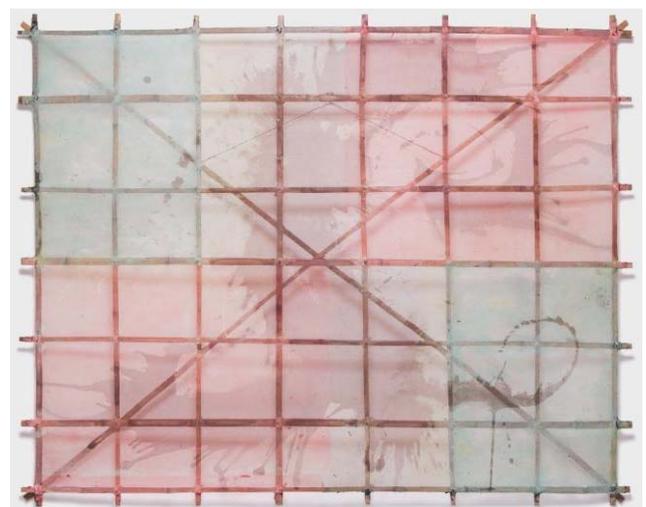


Still sealed in package. Estimated price \$100-200, sold for \$40.

**"Fiddler Crab" Kite by Michael Thompson**

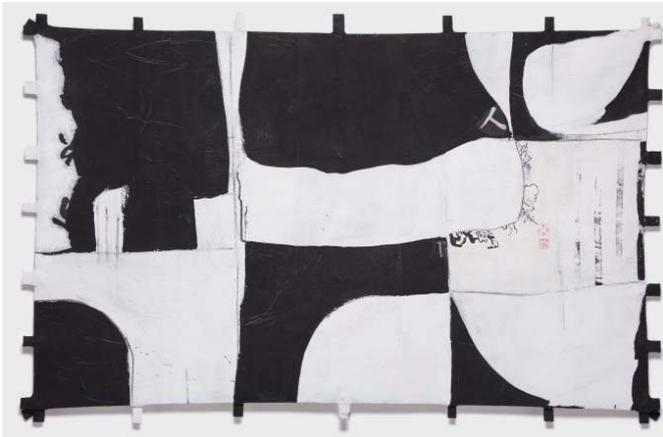
Fiddler Crab is a kite by Chicago based artist, Michael Thompson. He creates unique kites crafted from split bamboo frames covered with stretched fabrics and a collage of vintage Asian ephemera including kimonos, obis, paintings, scrolls, drawings, and book pages collected on his travels. Viewing the bamboo grid through the sheer fabric of "Fiddler Crab" juxtaposes etherealness with earthy structure. Playing off of this juxtaposition is the experience of motion that the organic design creates.

Dimensions: 65.5"W x 3"D x 52"H



Bits & Pieces

Artist or Maker: Michael Thompson  
 Medium: Painted fabric over bamboo



Price: \$6,280

Another one of his kites is also listed at present. "Urban Nature".  
 At a more reasonable \$5680.

**C.1911-1912 The Cody Flyer Sales Catalogue a 12 page sales catalogue illust**

C.1911-1912 The Cody Flyer Sales Catalogue a 12 page sales catalogue illustrating the aircraft and detailing three different models of this machine with prices ranging from £750 to £1,800.

Also illustrating and detailing Mr. S.F. Cody's new Monoplane.

With 8 aircraft photographs and one full page scale drawing, in red card cover size 19 x 26cm approx. Plus its original printed brown envelope from Cody's Flying School at Farnborough.

(Very interesting publication with full page photograph of Cody who was the first man to fly in an Aeroplane in England. He flew at Hendon a lot and other air shows).



In as new condition, and also another 4 page Catalogue with 6 photographs and interesting

information. Plus a Handbill illustrating his "Man lifting large Kite" with explanation (3)  
 Estimate: £100—£120.  
 Sold for: £180

**Cody the Movie**

We mentioned this a while back (see <http://cody-the-movie.org/> for more information). Whilst the web site has not been updated since March 2016 Paul Chapman reports that he is doing some filming with the crew this March.

So—maybe the film is moving along a little.

**Cheltenham Festival**

As part of the activities this March there is also a shop window competition with a prize of £3000.

Peter Powell Kites on the High Street is one of



the more unusual ones - and their red starry kite design is based on jockey Sam Twiston-Davies' colours, which he wears when riding Champion Hurdle contender The New One.

**From the web pages of The Daily Mail**

Zambian shoppers run in terror when strange 'Harry Potter Dementor' figure appears in clouds. The giant humanoid shape was spotted



above Mukuba Mall in Kitwe. The apparition is thought to have been more than 100 metres (330ft) long. Some locals ran away in fear as

## Bits & Pieces

they thought it was a manifestation of God. A Martin Lester Spirit of course.

### Mistaken Identity

Reported in the London Evening Standard

A kite mistaken for a stricken bird and a noisy rose bush are among the most bizarre call-outs received by the RSPCA.

The animal charity have released details of obscure calls from well-meaning members of the public in a bid to urge people to think twice before calling out stretched inspectors.

One caller reported that a bird had become tangled in an aerial in Enfield, north London. However, it quickly became apparent to the officer that the "bird" was actually a child's kite.

Interestingly the actual report on the RSPCA site says:

Let's go fly a kite! In September, an officer was called to a building in Enfield, London, to help a bird tangled in an aerial. However, once he arrived at the address, it didn't take long for him to realise that the 'bird' was in fact a kite attached to the aerial - to deter wild birds!

Oh well!

### American Museum of Natural History

The Division of Anthropology has a comprehensive online catalogue of artefacts. Amongst which are many ethnic kites.

Worth a look as it also has the field notes about the circumstance of collecting the item.

<http://www.amnh.org/>

### From the Royal Gazette (Bermuda).

Residents complain about 'noisy and annoying' kites

The Bermuda Police Service is appealing for kite flyers to be considerate of their neighbours. According to a statement, there has been a sharp increase in complaints about "noisy and annoying" kite flying in several areas.

"Easter in Bermuda is warmly associated with the flying of kites, both the traditional and 'artificial' variety," it said. "The season this year, however, has been punctuated by a sharp increase in public complaints about noisy and annoying kite flying. There are a small number of people who constantly disturb and frustrate their neighbours by flying extremely loud kites in several neighbourhoods throughout Bermuda."

Complaints have included the persistent nature, the unsociable hours, and the piercing noise "that disturbs the peace", the statement added. And several complaints have associated the noisy kites "with the supposed sale of illegal drugs in the neighbourhood, causing unnecessary anxiety to residents".

Pointing to Section 18 (a) of the Summary Offences Act 1926, which makes it an offence for any person to fly a kite over a public place "to the annoyance or danger of any passenger or frequenter", the statement added that the BPS "would rather not use law enforcement to tackle this problem, and this is not an attack on a long standing Bermudian tradition. Rather, it is an appeal for a common sense solution: for kite flyers to be reasonable and to be considerate of their neighbours."

### Cammell Laird kite boat

Merseyside, UK shipyard and engineering company Cammell Laird has held a special ceremony to launch a unique kite boat designed to raise funds for charity Claire House Children's Hospice.

The CL Challenger was designed by retired shipyard naval architect Bill Owen incorporating a kite as the main power source to propel the vessel. The eco-friendly vessel also generates electric power for radio, lights and GPS through batteries charged via solar panel.

It will now be used by a team of intrepid kite surfers for a range of sea-faring challenges to raise vital cash for the Bebington children's charity.



### Painting the Sky: The Kites of Tyrus Wong

A new exhibit has opened at Malibu City Hall guaranteed to delight. "Painting the Sky: The Kites of Tyrus Wong" opened with rave reviews from those attending.

Bits & Pieces

Wong, who recently died in December at 106 years old, spent the last 40 years of his retirement building fantastical kites that are being showcased at City Hall. Displayed in the building's atrium, hung as if airborne, you'll see kites of all shapes and sizes. Meticulously hand-crafted out of bamboo, string and ripstop nylon, the kites depict birds, pandas, butterflies, bugs, dragonflies, aliens and a spectacular 22-foot-long centipede made of at least 20 bamboo ribs that was actually shortened by more than half the size to fit in the exhibition space.

Each kite was designed, hand painted and assembled by Wong who spent his working career as an animator at Disney, among other studios.

A documentary on Tyrus Wong was aired Sunday at the opening reception and will be broadcast later this year on PBS.

The kites and photographs are on display until July 28.



For more information, visit [MalibuArtsandCulture.org/Kites](http://MalibuArtsandCulture.org/Kites)

**NASA extends trial of steerable robo-stunt kite parachute**

NASA will soon be testing high-altitude parachute systems that let astroboffins land valuable scientific research payloads from altitudes of 60,000 feet. The technique, using parafoils – cellular aerofoils of the same sort used to make high-performance stunt kites – will, so NASA hopes, allow it to recover scientific instruments used for high-altitude data gathering experiments without chasing balloons across vast tracts of America.

Instead of sending payloads up on research balloons and hoping the weather doesn't blow them too far off course, the parafoil method allows for payloads to be released from the balloon at around 60,000ft and then be steered back to earth for an "automatic precision landing".

The system, under evaluation by the American space agency since 2013, is the brainchild of Airborne Systems of New Jersey. The latest test programme will take the aerofoils right up to their full design altitude.

An earlier document reveals that some flight testing up to 55,000ft has already taken place.

"These selections allow companies and academia to demonstrate technologies of interest to NASA in a much more realistic environment than what they could get in ground-based simulation facilities," said Stephan Ord, technology manager for NASA's Flight Opportunities programme, in a canned statement. "This is a valuable platform for NASA to mature cutting-edge technologies that have the potential of supporting future agency mission needs."

Being able to drop a payload from 60,000ft on to a defined point is a great leap forward from the current situation where it's a best guess as to where the payload lands.

The use of a steerable aerofoil parachute to bring the payloads back to earth is also a neat and logical extension of stunt kite technology.

**Bonhams Auctions**

Stunning, Annotated Photograph Album detailing Bell's experiments with Tetrahedral kites which led to the development of the aileron (wing flap) and solutions for the problem of aircraft stability generally.

In this album, Bell is most excited about his "long-tailed Oionos" kite of red silk and several photographs from June 30th bear long annotations by him and diagrams. The "Oionos" form was eventually used in the "Oionos 1" a tetrahedral triplane designed for powered and manned flight.

About 19 photographs have annotations by Bell and nearly all are initialled by him. Photographs show tetrahedral kites in construction and in the air in a wide variety of shapes and sizes: horseshoes, rings, towers, etc. He employed local seamstresses and carpenters and even a draft horse, all of whom occasionally appear in the photographs. Just five of the photographs (appearing on one leaf) are slightly smaller and not initialled by Bell, these were taken by Bell's wife Mabel on July 28, 1904 and depict the family tugging on kite ropes. One of these depicts a small child clinging to the lead (not quite manned flight).

Estimates £40000—£60000.

## Cody—The Movie—Paul Chapman

It is about two years since I sat down with James Godwin to discuss his plans for the Cody movie. This was followed up with a Launch Party at the FAST Museum at Farnborough in the presence of the 1908 Cody Flyer replica and assorted glitterati. At the time I was puzzled as to whether anything would come of it. But a couple of weeks ago I had a visit from James and we turned over my little museum to find stuff for a few scenes in the film.

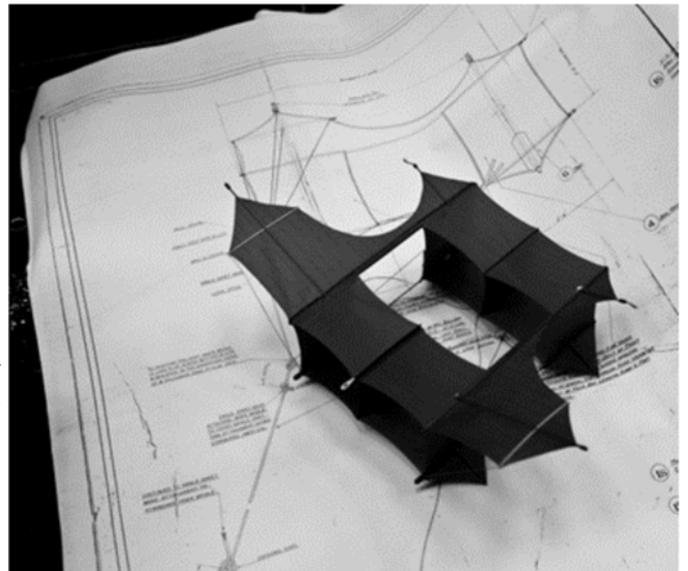
A week later we were on our way to Yeovil with the van packed with cameras, action and various Cody stuff. I had explained previously about the method that Cody had developed for flying his kites in train. Appropriately enough we stopped at Yeovil Junction where James had located the perfect place to film Cody making his kite train. It was the engine restoration shed; full of full-size Thomas the Tank Engines!!

Somewhat bemused, I set about decorating an oily wooden workbench with Cody stuff and doing my best to hide any modern ironmongery and turn the space into something that Cody would have been familiar with. Fortunately I had some large photos of the manlifting kites...including one with his wife, Lela, being lofted with her skirts tied around her ankles.



I piled up some precious edge-banding tapes, hanks of hemp cords, old period kite reels, bamboo splitting tools and the like. I had some original theatre posters, the framed Cody bust/kite poster that I think came from a theatre in Stroud, and even an original sheet of the letterhead notepaper from Cody's Klondyke Nugget play. Then there were some original Cody kite bits... I could not bring the

1902/3 Aeroplane Carrier Kite but I brought a lot of its bamboo; there was one of the sample feet from a Carrier Kite of around 1907 and a very big detachable wing from one of his "unknowns". James had asked for "drawings" and this puzzled me as, to the best of my knowledge, Cody never used detail engineering drawings other than his own sketches. I brought those as well as the official



drawings, made later, of the kites and aeroplane. And then there were some models. Luckily I have a large tinsplate model of the Cody Flyer of 1908 as well as little Cody kites that are similar to the models that Cody had. In the end we used one of my A4 black Icarex Carrier kites; I suppose we actually used less than 50% of the stuff.



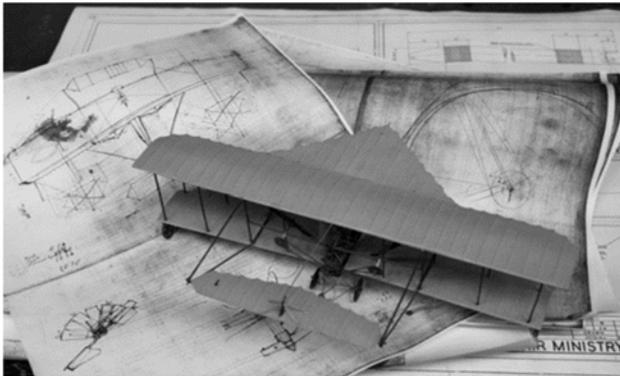
While this was going on James was setting up his lights and camera and, of course, Frank Cody. We had a little debate about Frank. S F Cody was known as Frank in his day but now we call him Samuel. In the end a compromise was reached in the form of the Sam Deats poster. Cody played baddie Sam Deats in the Klondyke and I have a very alarming image of him staring in through the miner's shack

## Cody—The Movie—Paul Chapman



window. So the poster image of Sam Deats became "Franklin" and Cody became....? At that point I wandered off to put up the big Cody.

My big black Cody is the one I took to China in 1994. I drew it up in 3D CAD from a couple of photos in the Alexandra Palace Exhibition. The Topknot was a bit of a challenge but it came out ok. Bob Cruikshanks used the CAD for his glass Codys, one of which does have the topknot. It was a bit messy erecting the Cody in the locomotive shed, what with the oil, metal bits and other grungy detritus covering all the possible spaces. In the end I propped it up on a mechanical digger until we took it out in the gale for a photo- shoot.



As for the filming? Yes! All became clear. What we were doing was making a trailer for "Cody-the movie" so our Cody (aka the cunningly made up Andrew Meadows) was being filmed in a series of vignettes that will...soon I believe...be released and used to gather the funds and interest for the big one. The scripts themselves turned out to be based on a storyboard, but very heavily ad-libbed according to the materials at hand. Cody's American accent was very well done...although I wasn't quite sure if it was from Montana or Birdville in Texas. And James will be back to copy the Cody Waltz from a very old tape that was recorded on the family piano, but sounding more like an Edwardian Music Hall rendition.



My photos? Of course it was an opportunity to play although not during actual filming due to my clicky camera sounds. It was dark where the studio lights were not shining....and they were a bit harsh ...but the photos...they speak a thousand words!

...and my last thought? it was a brilliant idea to use a locomotive works for the Cody train... one very black shunting locomotive was even called Sam!



## Kite Flying Safety

We have been contacted recently by the Air Accidents Investigation Branch concerning a recent incident in Kent.

They are conducting an investigation into an incident/accident in which a helicopter was damaged when it came into contact with kite-line or lines. The helicopter was flying at 700 ft above ground level near the East Kent coast.

A large group of people were flying long line kites (700 m spools) in the area. There are also a number of other locations in the UK where similar activities are taking place. Last year a fixed wing aircraft was damaged. The report can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/aaib-reports/aaib-investigation-to-zenair-ch-601xl-zodiac-g-exxl>.

We responded that members of The Kite Society and other kite clubs know the regulations regarding kite flying above 60m.

This incident was also picked up by the Mail on Sunday who sensationalised the incident with a headline proclaiming "Invasion of the KILLER KITES: Deadly kite-fighting craze that has

claimed the lives of two children in India spreads to the UK"

The report contains a number of inaccuracies—including a picture of Rainbow Deltas with the implications these were the kites involved!

The concern from a responsible kite flier point of view is the calls to ban this type of kite fighting—as the thin edge of the wedge, which has the potential to lead to a complete ban on kite fighting.

The message is —do not exceed the height limit of 60m when flying kites in the U.K. without specific permission from the CAA.

In addition—although it can be difficult to do—if you see someone flying in such a way tell them the law.

Co-incidentally we also received the following poster from the National Grid reminding people about the danger of kites and electricity.

**Look up, look out - Think electricity!**

Contact with overhead power lines can result in serious injury or death - **FACT.**

UK Power Networks' Education and Engagement Team is reminding all kite flying enthusiasts to **Look Up Look Out - Think Electricity** before you fly your kite

**REMEMBER**

- Overhead electricity wires can carry up to 400,000 volts. Even 230 volts (domestic voltage) can be lethal.
- Kite string, nylon, fishing rods, tent poles and water all conduct electricity.
- Overhead power lines are often uninsulated (bare) and carry high voltages.
- Don't get too close - electricity can jump gaps.
- Overhead power lines on wooden poles can look like telephone wires, but never assume this is the case.

**TOP SAFETY TIPS**

- Always do your safety checks - **Look Up and Around** for overhead power lines.
- Never fly your kite where you can see electricity power lines.
- Look out for warning signs and instructions in the area you are in.
- Remind family members and friends to stay safe when flying a kite.

For further safety information, visit our website [www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/internet/safety](http://www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/internet/safety)

**Who are UK Power Networks?**

UK Power Networks describes more than a quarter of the UK's electricity through its networks of substations, underground cables and overhead lines making sure the lights stay on across London, the South East and the East of England, regardless of who customers pay their energy bills to. A range of other companies deliver power to the rest of the country.

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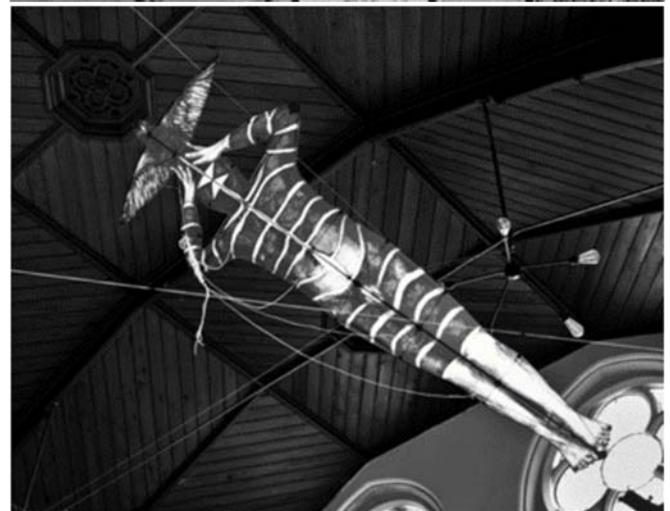
UK Power Networks  
Delivering your electricity

Aerial—Paul Chapman

I have always been in awe of Steve Brockett's flying artworks. He seems to simultaneously create both subtle beauty and challenges to the subconscious. His earlier massive works of brightly painted cottons have suddenly changed direction and now become shadowy creatures of the sky.

So I went to Abergavenny. To The Art Shop and Chapel in Market Street where the Chapel is now an arts centre with a tasty café-cum-artsy stuff emporium in the basement and a gallery in the Chapel proper. The gallery was shut when I arrived and pressed my nose to the window, eyes wide open. You have to go downstairs to get in. Tasty cake and espresso while setting up the cameras.

**Aerial** is, or was since it is now over, an exhibition of Steve's aerial photography and his thought provoking aerial art forms. I had seen the stunning photos earlier at the exhibition in Dieppe. At that time Steve told me how each of these beautiful images was meticulously planned in order to make best use of the light and the availability of the aircraft .... He flies a paraglider. And then there were the aerial art forms that, in various ways, resembled human forms although sometimes not so easily identifiable.



The rules were that no touching was allowed. But I had the exhibition space to myself. The flying aerals resembled kites. They were constructed of paper and bamboo, sailcloth and carbon and they had bridles. Some of the bridles were very complex. The temptation was too much!

Perhaps the most challenging were the paper and bamboo creations. These were birds, bird-like people or more humanesque forms. I was intrigued by the multiple bridling and wanted so much to extend them.

Of course I had a Plan. There was no plan B even though I really wanted to formulate a plan B that would be fine for paper and bamboo. It

**Aerial—Paul Chapman**



was just a matter of contemplating the Plan. It took at least an hour. And then Pauline arrived. Pauline manages the gallery. At once the Plan was put into action. We called Steve and there was a long discussion over his techniques and development of a flexible paint finish.



The Plan was modified, but only slightly. The Aviator would come home with me while the Feather Lady will arrive soon.



A week later I returned but by now the gallery is empty. Empty, but with the Aviator waiting for me. Steve showed me how to erect him and then we departed for his nearby workshop. It is always a privilege to see into the inner workings but Steve was keen for me to see the progress being made on the Feather Lady.

Where will you see them? There is a plan for that too. Most unlikely to be flown at kite festivals, but here on Bristol's Downs and probably accompanied by a swarm or two of bees. These two should look good together and, being hand held, will require the aid of an unsuspecting accomplice.



## Airfoils—Lex Kraaijeveld

During the past festival year, I've become more and more convinced that if we want to attract new people to the sport of kite-flying, we really need to inspire them to pick up a kite and start flying. A technically challenging routine with dual-line delta kites may not be the best to inspire the next generation of kite-flyers, as it may appear to be unachievable for someone who has never even flown a kite. Of course, dual-line kite routines will remain at the core of our festival portfolio; we have no intention at all of abandoning that. We have already become more focused on expanding what we can do in the arena at festivals. Adding a quad-line routine to our portfolio, as we did at Dunstable Kite Festival, is part of that expansion, as is flying our Superman & Lois Lane Spin-Offs, which got their UK premiere at Portsmouth Kite Festival. Reactions to both of these additions to our portfolio have been very positive, with one kite flyer telling us he really liked to see competition teams having a wider range of non-competition routines under their belts for festivals.

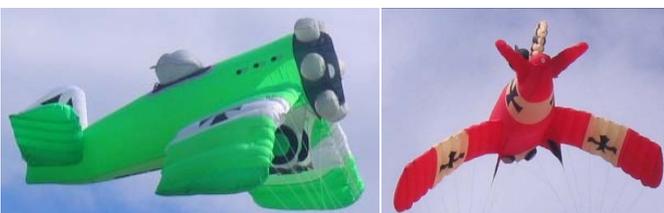
Given that big inflatables are always very popular with the public, we are now also looking more at possibilities and opportunities to do more with soft kites and airfoils. As I blogged about recently, we now have a pair of Flexifoil 2-stacks that we can fly if the conditions are right.

Earlier this year, we got ourselves a pair of single-line whales, which pop up on eBay very regularly, and for very little money. Idea was to try and convert them to dual-line flying.



Did that work? Uhhmm, no, not at all. I replaced the existing single-line bridle with a dual-line bridle, played a lot with relative lengths of the various bridle lines, but none of the tweaks resulted in a kite which was even remotely steerable ... Oh well, can't win them all!

Looking around for other options for dual-line soft kites, there are airplane-shaped airfoils, which I'd seen being flown at several festivals before we got serious about flying at festivals ourselves. These would certainly spark the imagination of the public at festivals.

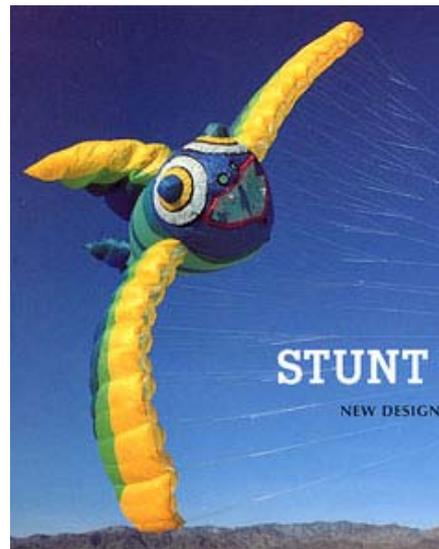


Although I've never seen them myself being flown as part of a pair routine, I have seen a video on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U2LhviaqBiA>)

Another dual-line airplane airfoil I stumbled across is this one inspired by Wallace & Gromit: I can certainly see us fly one of these at festivals, to the theme music of Wallace & Gromit, obviously. Just need to get my hands on one ...



And if we're seriously talking about dual-line airfoils, there's always the 4.5m wing span Piraña .



Chances of adding one of these to our quiver are close to zero, especially as they're not sold commercially, and my kite-making skills are most certainly not up for a challenge like that .... Question is actually whether a dual-line airfoil as big as that will actually be able to fly loops and circles; maybe a pair at half size would be better?

Back to airplanes, we have actually flown one of these, once, at Malmesbury Kite Festival in 2013. It was quite a bit larger than the standard airplane, and we both had a go at flying it, and trying to get it to fly a full circle. Great fun, but it certainly wasn't easy to get the line length differential between left and right hand enough for it to turn. If we ever get our hands on a large airplane kite like this, we may well fly one with the two of us, each controlling one line. That should make flying loops and circles easier, and it would certainly add something novel to the UK kite festival scene. I bet we'd need to practice two people flying one kite!

If anyone has one or a pair of dual-line airplanes for sale, please get in touch. And if anyone has other ideas for dual-line soft kites which would spark the public's imagination and with which we could fly routines at festivals, I'd be interested to hear!

## Portsmouth

### Portsmouth International Kite Festival

Portsmouth City Council continues to support the kite festival. This year the festival will take place Saturday 12th & 13th August. There is no reason why people cannot fly on the Monday but this would be unofficial.

This year celebrates the 26th Portsmouth International Kite Festival and the theme is "The Seven Continents" – although Antarctica may be a bit of a problem.

We hope to have kites and kite fliers from six of the continents of the world. Countries already pencilled in are China, Malaysia, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, North and South America as well as countries across Europe. Plus, of course, kite fliers from Great Britain.

New kite fliers for 2017 are Linda Sanders (Australia), Keith Mould (South Africa), Gary Mark (Canada), a team from Malaysia and a small group of kitefliers from Weifang, China.

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

You will be able to unload your vehicle on the main festival site but once unloaded, you MUST move your car to the car park. The car park location will be shown on the car pass. The entrance will be manned enabling access. At least this is what we have been told so far. Watch the web site for any changes to details of access.

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

**Camping** is not officially permitted on site by the council. This year the festival is again being run in conjunction with Portsmouth City Council and they are being pressured by local residents and councillors to keep the number of campers static.

Some passes will be available to other non guest kitefliers.

The process and rules are:

Camping is only open to Kite Society mem-

bers or affiliated club members.

A ballot will be used to allocate any spare passes. Therefore anyone who wishes to enter the ballot **MUST** request a pass from us together with the vehicle registration number.

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

It is important to note that this concession is only between **Friday 11th August 10am until Monday 14th August noon**. You will be moved if you arrive earlier or stay later. Please do not abuse this concession.

Send postal requests to P O Box 2274, Gt Horkesley, Colchester CO6 4AY or email to [portsmouth@thekitesociety.org.uk](mailto:portsmouth@thekitesociety.org.uk).

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

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

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

For details of local accommodation please contact the Portsmouth Tourist Centre on 023 9283 6722, [www.visitportsmouth.co.uk](http://www.visitportsmouth.co.uk).

The University Halls of Residence, where the invited kitefliers stay, can be booked online at [onlinestore.port.ac.uk](http://onlinestore.port.ac.uk). At the moment of writing the Kitefliers conference is not active—this should be by the end of April. Check the Portsmouth Kite festival web site for the latest information. Or call 023 9284 4884.

At the 2016 Portsmouth International Kite Festival, a new world record for the number of Trilobite kites flown together was set, 21 in total. Since then the record has passed to the U.S.A. with 30 being flown, but we intend to take it back this year at Portsmouth. So if you have a Trilobite kite—bring it along.

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

We look forward to seeing many of you at the event—supporting one of the few remaining UK international kite festivals.

**Event News**

**North Hants Kiter's Jolly Up 20—April 22nd & 23rd**

Gate open from 12noon on the Friday...

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 (£10 per tent/camper for Fri and Sat night).

Fish and chips available on the Friday evening (via the zipwire!) from 6pm to 9pm.

The Saturday evening food will be the BBQ, tickets available on the weekend—(£8.00 and please try to bring a plate and cutlery!).

Once again we will be doing Jacket Potatoes for those interested at lunchtimes over the weekend, and Bacon rolls will be available on both mornings.

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

We may run the Beer Lift competition, wind permitting, 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](mailto:roy@kitesup.co.uk)  
For orders: [hayley@kitesup.co.uk](mailto:hayley@kitesup.co.uk)

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

(The dates for this same event taking place later this year again are Aug 5th & 6th)

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

**Basingstoke Kite Festival—3rd & 4th June**

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

Come along and help us to celebrate our 25th Festival and join in the fun!!!!

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

This year's theme is PATTERNS.

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

On Saturday evening we will have our usual Social Get Together in the marquee, and all are welcome (There is a fee if you would like to join in with the Buffet, please pre-book and pay on the Saturday morning from the Raffle Team as available numbers are very limited!).

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

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

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

**Kent Events—Malcolm Ford**

Contact for all events:  
[malcolmf@kentkiteflyers.com](mailto:malcolmf@kentkiteflyers.com)

With the demise of many kite festivals in the UK, Kent Kite Flyers are always looking to support as many events as possible.

We now have a programme of events in Kent from June through to end of September, and hope that many fellow kiteflyers will support as many as possible.

**Kites on the Beach—Sunday June 10th**

Kent Kite Flyers are linking up with Walmer Parish Council for the second year to host "Kites on The Beach".

Venue: - Beach Road, Walmer, nr Deal CT14 7HJ Kent

This is a one day event by the seaside in the lovely little town of Walmer. Come and fly kites and have a paddle in the sea, eat your ice cream and enjoy local fish and chips from the shops nearby. Restricted funding means that although we had hoped to establish a two day event after last year's successful event, it is not possible at this time. Parking adjacent to flying field. Official time of event 11am-5pm

**Kites fly Wild—Sunday July 2nd**

Venue: - Port Lympne Wild Animal Park, Aldington Road, Port Lympne, Hythe, Kent CT21 4LR

New location, linking with the owners of the estate to use the parkland around the Wild Animal Park. This has just been agreed and details are being worked on, but again we wish that flyers

## Event News

will attend, as if it is successful, there is a promise of the event becoming two days with camping in 2018.

Parking adjacent to flying area, under discussion about those with large inflatables needing to secure to car, those vehicles being allowed onto the flying area.

Official time of event 11am – 5pm

### Wind in your Sails—Sunday 6th August

Venue: - Betteshanger Country Park, Sandwich Road, Deal, Kent. CT14 0BF

Another new venue, linking with this fairly new country park formerly Fowlmead Country Park. The area of the park is being fully developed over a period of time.

This is likely to be a regular venue and event, which we hope can be expanded in the future.

Parking will be adjacent to the flying area, and it will be signposted. The park operates a parking scheme which means registration plates are noted by camera on arrival, but I have been assured that all those parked by the flying area will not have to pay for parking.

Official event time 11am-5pm

### Teston Kite Bigger Weekend—12th -14th August

The 30th Anniversary Teston Kite Bigger Weekend, Teston Country Park, Teston Bridge Kent. Continuing the long tradition commenced by the late Ron and Pat Dell. This is the 30th Anniversary year of the commencement of kite activities at Teston, which has gone on uninterrupted since.

Open to all. As those who have taken part previously will testify, it is a very informal and relaxing weekend 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. Camping as usual will be on the flying field and the field will be accessible from the Friday mid-morning until Monday morning for those who wish to make a long weekend of the event. There is use of toilets and obtaining water overnight. 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 10.am with the entrance being closed until 5pm. Otherwise the main carpark will have to be used, which is open from 8am to 8pm.

Plans for Kent Kite Flyers to resurrect the Little Teston Kite Weekend in June, have been derailed for this year, but holding an informal fly-in on

Sunday June 11th, again all are welcome, although parking will be in the main carpark.

### Kites up the Creek—2nd & 3rd September

Venue: Milton Creek Country Park, Grovehurst Road, Sittingbourne, ME10 2DE.

This being co-ordinated with Kristian Staples, park ranger, who many flyers will remember as being instrumental in the Capstone Park Kite Festivals in the past. Kristian has now moved to a new local district council and is looking to open the park to new activities within the local community.

Free parking and camping will be available adjacent to the flying area, which will be solely for kites.

Official time of event each day is 11am-5pm.

### The Capstone Festival—24th September

Venue: Capstone Country Park, Capstone Road Chatham Kent ME7 3JG

Unfortunately, Medway City Council who co-ordinated this event, in this time of austerity for local councils still have not found the funds to return the festival back into a two-day event, which would involve 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.

Official event times 11am-4pm

Contact: [events@medway.gov.co.uk](mailto:events@medway.gov.co.uk) or [malcolm@kentkiteflyers.com](mailto:malcolm@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, and to encourage the public to take up our leisure activity.

<b>April</b>		
22-23	Kiter's Jolly Up, Cliddesden, Basingstoke	<a href="mailto:roy@kitesup.co.uk">roy@kitesup.co.uk</a>
21 - 1st May	37th Cervia International Kite Festival, Cervia, Italy	<a href="http://www.festivalinternazionaleaquilone.com/web/">www.festivalinternazionaleaquilone.com/web/</a>
29 - 1st May	Broad Haven Returns	<a href="mailto:billy.souten@btinternet.com">billy.souten@btinternet.com</a>
<b>May</b>		
14	Streatham Kite Day, Streatham Common SW16 3BT	<a href="http://www.streathamkiteday.org.uk">www.streathamkiteday.org.uk</a>
21	The Felixstowe Kite, Craft, Kids & Car Festival, Felixstowe International College 99 Garrison Lane, Felixstowe IP11 7RE	<a href="http://Rotary Club Felixstowe">Rotary Club Felixstowe</a>
26-30	Margam Kite Festival, Margam County Park, Margam, Port Talbot, South Wales SA13 2TJ	<a href="mailto:margampark@npt.gov.uk">margampark@npt.gov.uk</a>
27-29	Scarborough Castle Kite Weekend, (English Heritage), Castle Road, Scarborough, North Yorkshire YO11 1HY	<a href="mailto:info@infinitearts.co.uk">info@infinitearts.co.uk</a>
28	Minchinhampton Kite Day, (National Trust), Minchinhampton Common, near Stroud, Gloucestershire GL6 9AQ	<a href="mailto:jean.hume@nationaltrust.org.uk">jean.hume@nationaltrust.org.uk</a>
<b>June</b>		
3-4	Basingstoke Kite Festival, Down Grange Sports Complex, Basingstoke	Roy Broadley 01256 812487
10	Kites on the Beach, Beach Road, Walmer, nr Deal CT14 7HJ	<a href="mailto:Malcolmf@kentkiteflyers.com">Malcolmf@kentkiteflyers.com</a>
17-18	Beeston Castle Kite Weekend, (English Heritage), Chapel Lane, Beeston, Cheshire CW6 9TX	<a href="mailto:info@infinitearts.co.uk">info@infinitearts.co.uk</a>
<b>July</b>		
2	Kite fly Wild, Port Lympne Wild Animal Park, Aldington Road, Port Lympne, Hythe, Kent CT21 4LR	<a href="mailto:Malcolmf@kentkiteflyers.com">Malcolmf@kentkiteflyers.com</a>
8-9	Brighton Kite Festival, Stanmer Park, Brighton	<a href="http://www.brightonkiteflyers.co.uk">www.brightonkiteflyers.co.uk</a>
8-9	Barmouth Kite Festival, on the beach opposite the Lifeboat Station, Barmouth, Mid Wales	<a href="mailto:mrkiteflyer@googlemail.com">mrkiteflyer@googlemail.com</a>
15-16	Leominster and Hereford Kite Festival, The National Trust, Berrington Hall, Leominster, Herefordshire HR6 0DW	<a href="http://www.kitefestival.org.uk">www.kitefestival.org.uk</a>
22-23	Shropshire Kite Festival, Lacon Childe School, Love Lane, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire DY14 8PE	<a href="http://skybums.com/index.htm">skybums.com/index.htm</a>
29-30	Dunstable Downs, Dunstable Road, Whipsnade, LU6 2GY	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/DunstableKiteFestival">www.facebook.com/DunstableKiteFestival</a>
<b>August</b>		
5-6	Kiter's Jolly Up, Cliddesden, Basingstoke	<a href="mailto:roy@kitesup.co.uk">roy@kitesup.co.uk</a>
5-6	Exmouth Rotary Kite Festival, The Imperial Recreation Ground, Exmouth EX8 1DG	<a href="mailto:ellisondavid@me.com">ellisondavid@me.com</a>
6	Wind in your Sails, Betteshanger Country Park, Sandwich Road, Deal, Kent. CT14 0BF	<a href="mailto:Malcolmf@kentkiteflyers.com">Malcolmf@kentkiteflyers.com</a>
12-13	Portsmouth International Kite Festival	<a href="http://www.portsmouthkitefestival.org.uk">www.portsmouthkitefestival.org.uk</a>
12-13	Teston 30th Anniversary Weekend, Teston Bridge Country Park, Teston Lane, nr Maidstone, Kent ME18 5BX	<a href="mailto:Malcolmf@kentkiteflyers.com">Malcolmf@kentkiteflyers.com</a>
12-13	Old Sarum Kite Weekend, (English Heritage), Castle Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP1 3SD	<a href="mailto:info@infinitearts.co.uk">info@infinitearts.co.uk</a>
26-28	3rd Bognor Regis Kite Festival, West Park, Silverston Avenue, Bognor Regis, West Sussex PO21 2RB	<a href="http://www.brkf.org">www.brkf.org</a>
<b>September</b>		
2-3	6th St. Annes International Kite festival, on the beach, Lytham St Annes, near Blackpool, Lancashire	<a href="http://www.stanneskitefestival.co.uk">www.stanneskitefestival.co.uk</a>
9-10	The Beach Kite Fest, Burnham-on-Sea	<a href="mailto:gaynor.brown1@talktalk.net">gaynor.brown1@talktalk.net</a>
24	The Capstone Festival, Capstone Country Park, Capstone Road, Chatham Kent ME7 3JG	<a href="mailto:Malcolmf@kentkiteflyers.com">Malcolmf@kentkiteflyers.com</a>

# COME & HAVE A WHALE OF A TIME AT BRIGHTON KITE FESTIVAL 2017

8th - 9th July 2017  
Stanmer Park, BN1 9QA  
11:00am - 5:00pm



Free Public Festival  
World Class Flyers  
Childrens Kite Workshop  
Kite and Food Stalls  
3000ft Height Clearance  
On Site Parking  
On Local Bus and Train Routes  
For More Information see  
Facebook or  
[www.brightonkiteflyers.co.uk](http://www.brightonkiteflyers.co.uk)