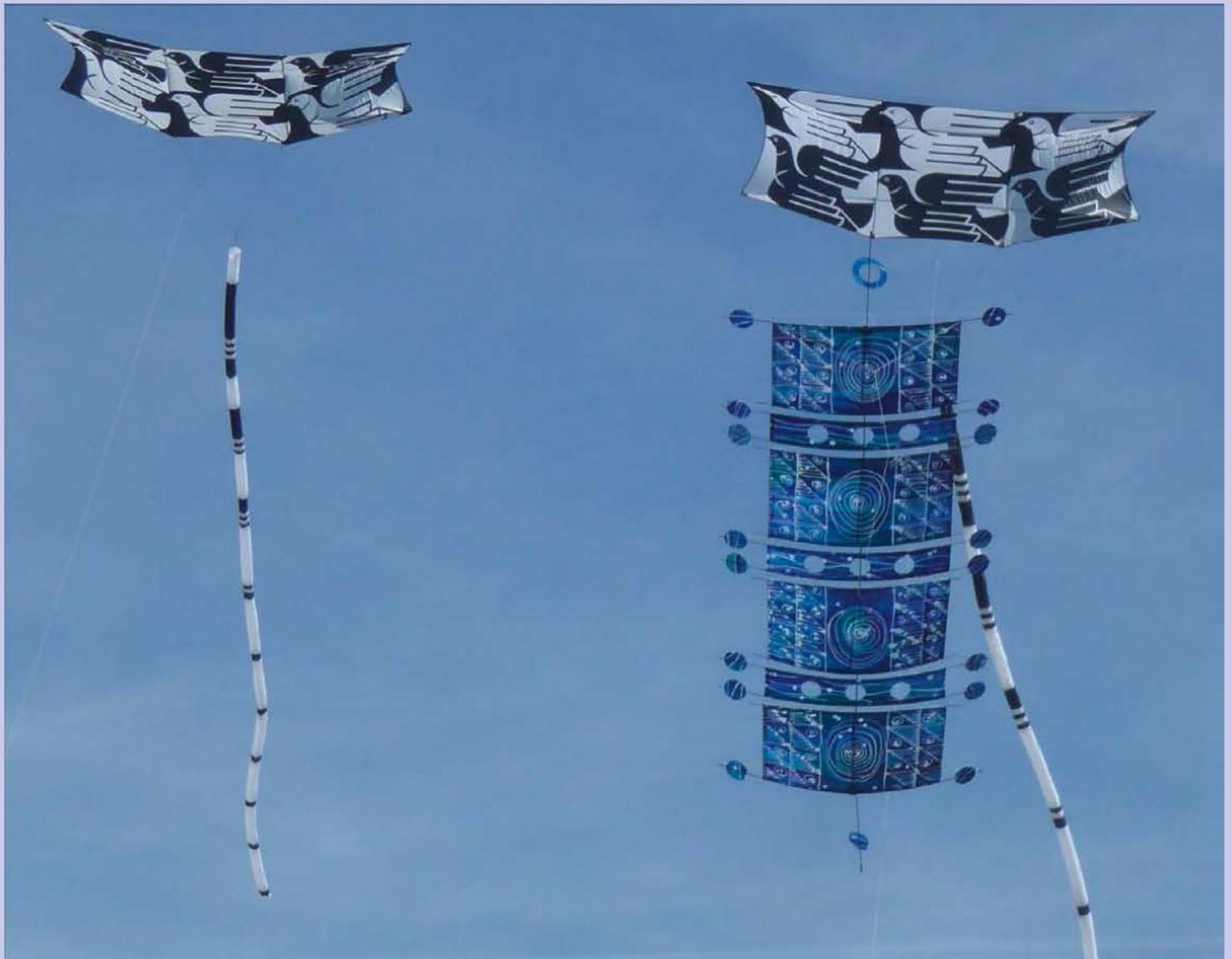


# THE KITEFLIER

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



**Issue 153      October 2017      £2.50**

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

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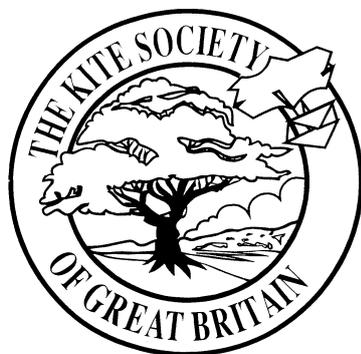


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Dear Reader

So, it is now the end of the season for most kite fliers. The season extends if you can go to some of the fantastic kite festival that occur overseas.

The winter is always the time to think about new kites and designs. Even making replacements for old, faithful kites. Why not write something about what you are doing—if a new design, why it appeals, if replacement—what was so good about the old kite that you want to make it again.

We are always looking for items for the magazine. Deadline for the next issue is 15th December—so plenty of time to put pen to paper (or fingers to keyboard).

Our thanks go to both the regulars—Allan Pothecary and Hugh Blowers, plus special thanks to new contributors. Without you (and the Internet) there would not be a magazine.

We recently heard sad news about Becky King who lost her battle with cancer. Becky was the woman behind the man of Andy King. She will be missed by everyone who knew her.

We wish all of you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Gill and Jon

**Front Cover**  
**Dave Ellison and Frances Anderson kites during the Art Kites display at Portsmouth.**  
**Photo Gill Bloom**

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## Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

Well here I am sitting in front of a blank page wondering what on earth I can prattle on about for this quarterly edition of our magazine.

I'm guessing that following the editors' appeal for contributions we will have some returning names and, perhaps, a couple of new ones to help fill the pages so perhaps I won't go on for too long this time and save something for the winter, when the weather keeps most fliers in doors and, a good few, in front of their sewing machines.

I get the feeling that 2017 has been a busier year with more events and more people coming in to the sport/hobby/pastime - what *shall* we call it?

Certainly, at Portsmouth, I witnessed a surge of enthusiasm and a number of people walking around clutching back issues of this magazine - hungry and enthused to learn more. It is for this reason I sometimes write what is plainly obvious to some but always keen to offer advice to newcomers and novice flyers.

Added to that I am still always surprised when fliers who I would have considered as experienced and far more knowledgeable than myself still may have a misunderstanding of things others would regard as basics.

I like to direct people to our website and toward some of the videos Marilyn and I have put together. We have several videos still 'in the can' waiting for me to find time to edit and publish.

I have always been keen to share what I know about flying especially in two and four line kites and to that end have been pleased this year to have taken on a few different people who either wanted to learn from scratch or progress their skills. The point about that is purely down to how much they want to do it.

I can give pointers on what needs to be improved and how to do it but nothing will be achieved without the hours and hours of practice and enjoyment of testing yourself against and running with, the ever changing moods of nature.

I think I will expand more on that next time but if anyone is up for a bit of coaching (any day of the week now I am retired) or just have questions to ask - there's no charge - I enjoy sharing the emotion of people improving or having a problem solved.

### Cruiser, Buzz and Sting

I recently got the chance to try out three new kites from HQ Invento, well, two of them before the wind dropped!

We will leave "The Buzz" for another day but what I did discover in the short time I had was that it doesn't 'buzz' as its name suggests but, as a high wind kite that pulls a fair bit, a buzz is what you should get from flying it.

There is a video of all three on our Youtube channel but I am a long way behind updating our website with some of the stuff we have been doing.



An old school chum and I have gotten together again through the magic of kites and, although still a novice, Mick is keen and proves useful for me to judge, first hand, how less experienced flyers cope with different sorts of kite and the varying challenge each of them present. Indeed, each of the kites have very different personalities not just because of their size but in the general design.

The blue/black "Cruiser" is just that; more like cruising in a race car than a cruise liner though. You have to be careful near the edge of the window because the kite needs about eight miles an hour to fly comfortably and you have to keep it moving.

One of my main pieces of advice when I am coaching is to learn to fly a BIG infinity shape (a figure eight on its side) and **always**, fly *down* at the edge of the window thus allowing gravity to help keep the kite flowing and maintain enough speed to get back toward the centre and 'power up'

Snap stalls and landings midway between the middle and edges of the window are possible with practice but I didn't find that tricks were easy - not really designed for that - more for speed, pull and having fun that way in my opinion.

They are all built with flying in strong winds in mind although the "The Stinger", the smallest, will stay more easily aloft further down the Beaufort scale because of its design and weight.

I even managed to get some tricks out of this brightly coloured (still my favourite yellow and black) little devil. Mick was clearly having to concentrate when the wind strengthened and the kite speed increased, especially in the turns but, looks of despair quickly changed to smiles as he began to master it.



I'd say it was the strongest out of the three when we performed some planned and unplanned test crashes - and quite enjoyable.

### Portsmouth

There are bound to be full reports on this brilliant weekend, never forgetting Gill and Jon Bloom for the hard work and time that goes in to organising this every year - but just a few things from me.

I know from experience things crop up that can make you more frustrated than a one armed trapeze artist with an itchy nose (the polite version) but thanks guys and thanks to all those that turned up to fly or to watch too. We arrived about a quarter past nine on the Saturday to one of the best early morning displays I have seen at a festival for a long time, so, grateful to all those who set up in the spaces left by perpetual early riser Andrew Beatty.

### Pleased to Help

After a season of inconsistent (to say the least) inland winds, Saturday and, from about 13:00 hours on Sunday, the smooth, on-shore, breezes, by comparison, were a luxury. The only event we were "on call" for was the Trilobites so we had plenty of time to chill and enjoy and have a wander about.

I found the usual people to 'help' - there was a chap with a newly purchased two line, way above and far too fragile for his skill level. He was waving his arms about like someone trying to strangle a snake in a phone box. I just had to step up before he broke it - or hurt somebody!

There were a couple of guys flying foils in the middle of all the cars in the car park (worryingly, the

## Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

fliers car park?) but, thankfully, spent a good while trying to retrieve one of them from a tree. Then there was a mother thinking she had wasted her money on a diamond kite because it wouldn't fly at all. She had completely ignored the bridle and attached the line to the bottom.

After I has corrected things this little "cheapie" kite shot off in to the air so fast that I advised her and her son to come back next morning for the altitude sprint!

### Record!



With a decent wind it didn't take long for the sky to fill with Trilobite kites all flown from within the main arena. It did take a little skill and patience but it wouldn't have been fun if there wasn't a challenge would it?

Once we had all settled down everyone was looking round to see who else was coming in to fill the empty spaces. Unfortunately, Quintin, from Holland was ill so we missed him and his friend Evert and the eight or more kites they were to have brought with them.

The single line arena missed their fantastic collection of large, brown Octopi and whales too. I could only count 21 in the air, (same as last year), but the better positioned official judges, decreed a new record of 23.

### Is that enough now?

As last year, the Sunday turnout was not as good and the commentator, with his dry wit, remarked

## Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

that the crowds could now tell their grandchildren that they were at Portsmouth when as many as twelve Trilobites were flown.

As keen as the 'club' of Trilobite owners are (including Marilyn and me) and the awesome spectacle so many of them flying together make, I do detect a feeling that this type of kite is now becoming 'old hat' and Gill and I will ask for feedback on whether or not the same event should be held next year.

### Dragon



The first time I saw the overly fancy, but amazing dragon produced by Kaixuan I wanted one. I knew it wasn't going to be cheap and my chances of getting this invoice passed by the wife were not so much slim as anorexic!

There's not much I can say to describe what I think is such a beautiful design that can't be derived from either viewing our video or looking at the photos here.

My first sighting of one in this country was at the August Jolly Up in Cliddesden. It was being flown by proud new owner Paul Parsons. Of course, I was straight over with the camera and loads of questions.

I can't remember the name I called him, born out of envy - it was rude, but only in fun!

Paul told me the manufacturers left him with a difficult choice in that he had ordered the 10metre version but they told him that had been discontinued and offered him the 15metre at the same price. After one or two seconds of deliberation he felt that he had no option but to accept the alternative.

The dragon was not perfect out of the bag because alterations to the mouth were required to allow the air in for full inflation.

It does need a fairly decent and steady breeze to get the creature airborne and keep it there but absolutely worth the effort! Unfortunately, there is what I would consider to be a design flaw with the part of the bridle which allows the dragon to hang off the pilot line.

There are three lines which help hold the dragon in the horizontal. My preference with line laundry is to have the suspension line(s) attached to a carabina and ride freely.

The problem with these lines is that, unless they are tied/fixed on, they slide back down the line and the whole thing collapses.

I don't like to have any part of laundry attached to the lifter line because, if the line should break, you only lose the lifter and, if nothing is attached, it should come down fairly rapidly whereas laundry tied on will act as an anchor and the whole caboodle can fly off in to the sky.

Having laundry running free, tethered by its own line, also affords the option to adjust height and add more laundry (Assuming the lifter kite is high and able enough).

My conversations with Paul were interrupted a couple of times by his having to attend the dragon as is seen in the video I produced on YouTube - later to be on our website.

All that said, I think most would agree this is a beautiful sculpture to fly and, if you can afford it, one that will certainly take centre stage on any flying field.



### Organising

I was mildly amused the other day by a comment from someone who was thinking of organising a kite festival. She knew nothing about kites whatsoever but said that anyone willing to demonstrate in the arena would be allowed in free! We are not entirely mercenary and have, indeed, done a share of charity and fund raising so far this year and, of course, I loudly applaud any new kite festival and persons willing to take on the organisation.

However our pensions do not stretch enough for us to fund hours of travel, accommodation only to have to pay to get in when we get there especially if it can't be guaranteed that others will be there too to help share the workload.

### Experience counts

After attending well run events like Portsmouth, Basingstoke, Brighton and Kent, put together over time by people who know what they are doing and do it well, its easy to be led into thinking that every event will fall in and follow the same pattern.

### Good Evans

I felt quite sorry for Bill Souten from the Midlands club in his battles with the Carfest organisers who themselves had to comply with the most outlandish levels of bureaucracy. I'm guessing that a lot of flyers were at Bognor but about ten of us turned up in support (half were the team we were taking to the Essex kite fest 2 weeks later).

Actually Bill had done a great job in getting us entry to a massive field all to ourselves and access to the event itself with some great bands (including Seasick Steve) in the evening and was always on hand when things were changed by Chris Evans and co. as we went along each day.

We even had our own toilets and running drinking water - pity about the lack of Sat/Sun winds as we would have all like to have given a better show in front of so many people. This does rather emphasise my point about having experienced kite event organisers in control.

### DIY

I have written before about when we turned up at one event having been promised an arena and when we questioned where it was, were given ten garden canes and a roll of tape! - There are many more anecdotes like that.

We have been working a lot with professional event organisers and seem to be getting them educated but, unfortunately more often by - "This is why we wanted it that way" after the event when they can see better what's required.

Professional event organisers don't expect kites to lose out financially whilst they make all the money and the ones we deal with are not as hard nosed as you might think so, yes, we did charge but we had to cover helpers taking time off work, hotels and evening meals to be paid for plus fuel;

## Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

so very little left over at the end to pay for repairs or re-invest in new kites not to mention all the trips out to good wind sites to practice our dual line routines and set up and test equipment between events.

We had 60,000 people attend the Northampton event over the weekend, and a massive field but the lay of the land plus trees meant that we were kept away from the crowds on all but one side and then too far away to be able to interact properly.

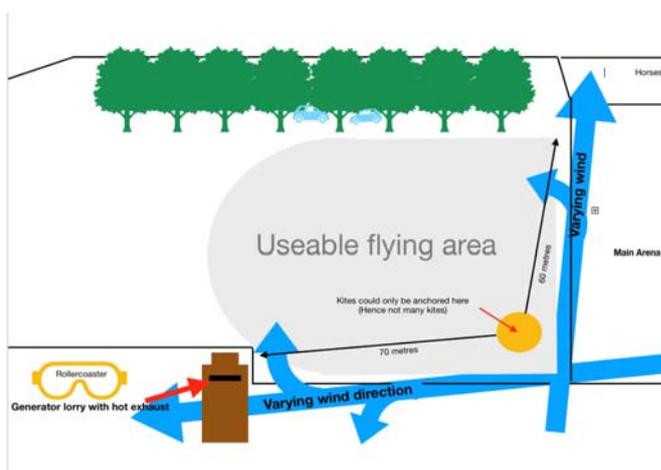
Thanks to the Dunstable quad line duo, Graham and Bill for helping the usual crew with this one. Attendances were almost as big at Leeds but again the organisers are not fully cognisant of the unruly behaviour of single line kites lifted by wind coursing through a valley.

### How big?

We had a sterile arena of ample size on paper but the guys who were told to set up the six foot fencing down the road side would not have thought to tell anyone that our kites could only fly as far as the trees that were inside. Not to the trunks of the trees but to the edges of the branches, thus cutting down the arena by about forty metres.

On the opposite side, someone had decided to park the lorry which acted as a generator for one of the rides about eighty metres down and right up against the barrier. It was one of those lorries that have the exhaust coming out and up over the cab (why is that better?). Obviously any line, kite or tail touching that would have melted instantly.

When it did blow, the wind constantly shifted through more than 90° leaving us only one corner of a large fenced off but small usable arena to fly from. (See diagram).



We then had to stay near the anchors to lean on the lines when the lifters were forced even further over causing the laundry to lift over the fence leaving them vulnerable for children and parents to think it was perfectly acceptable to use them as free bouncy castles.

## Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

### Clear Out

I still have quite a collection of kites that I keep meaning to fly but never seem to fit them in. From time to time I have a purge and collect some of them up for sale always regretting when they are gone. I think I prefer that the buyers also keep them in store because I really hate it when I am at an event and see them in the sky on someone else's line.

Two such kites recently despatched via courier were our two large Sode kites - The Japanese warrior and The Kimono. I had advertised these some time ago and was grateful there were no takers but this time they had to go. Several people came in afterwards and said they would have offered me more money but that often happens to me - especially with cars. It's a bit like when you ask for something in a shop and they say "Sorry, sold out - but we had some yesterday!" - Grr. What's the point of saying that?



I digress; both kites needed a bit of work on the bridle to get them stable - I don't do fiddly so it's a job I kept finding excuses not to do. I did have someone attempt to get them properly set once but he made a bit of a hash of it and left me with a bigger problem. I don't know if its true of all Sode kites but the angle of attack being much more upright at ground level makes the kite fly very much side to side low down so a long launch and some skilled piloting is the answer.

We hadn't flown either kite much and the colourful couple were in very good nick. They do take some time to assemble so not convenient for us to take when we are doing our shows but, once in the air they are stunning - I never did get a video of them both flying together but there is some footage on our YT channel that will eventually find its way on the site during the Winter months - probably by the time you are reading this! Sigh! - I do

miss them but no, I won't be tempted into buying them back.

### Retirement of Sporting Stars.

All on the same weekend (Portsmouth) we saw retirement of sporting greats. Mo Farrah, Usain Bolt and then the news that Tony Shiggins was to make his last official performance as a member of British champions Team Flame having decided to give up competitive flying.

I have loved to watch and be around the guys over the many years they have given so many so much pleasure with their razor sharp precision routines and snappy ballets performed to music. Team leader, Barry Savell told me that he and fellow founder member Fran Burstall have had four or five members flying with them since the beginning and Tony, being the longest, will be much missed.

I remember Tony joining from, then rivals, Matrix Management and being pleased, although not surprised, at how quickly he slotted in. In the challenge of reforming the team, logistics play a big part - Tony had quite some miles to cover when meeting up for weekly practices - and sometimes more during the competition season. However short and longer term plans are in the offing to ensure that those familiar team colours of red and black will be with us for a few more years to come - thank goodness for that! There's nothing like performing in front of a crowd to sharpen up your performance so, please, if you are running an event during 2018 make sure you help them on their way to many more successes by inviting them along

### ...and finally.

I wrote about the perils of buying from the far east in the last issue and I am certainly not recommending that you take the risk. I wrote about the jellyfish we had acquired (**Pink**) and back in July we ordered another - would you believe, **Green** this time and it's still not here!!! I have written seven messages and each has been ignored equally.

We have some wonderfully talented kite makers in the UK and Europe who we should be supporting and I see this as the last time I will be buying from around the other side of the world.

Well I said I was going to keep this short and I just noticed that I passed three thousand words a while back.

If you want to make contributions to the magazine you don't have to waffle on like me, so please do so. If you have any questions I will be pleased to try and answer them and, again, the offer of coaching for dual or quad line or, if you are thinking of flying in a pair or forming a team, I am happy to help - there's no charge.

Missing summer already

Allan and Marilyn Pothecary , [kitedisplays.co.uk](http://kitedisplays.co.uk)

## East Anglian Kite Event—Colin Roberts

East Anglian Kite Flyers, Walton on the Naze for Essex Wildlife Trust— 22nd & 23rd July 2017

We have flown at Walton on the Naze as individuals but we have not been there as a club. We knew it can be a tricky location to fly at if the wind is onshore as, due to coastal erosion, there is a vertical cliff that gets in the way of the wind and the houses inland can be a problem if the wind is offshore as the Naze is not very wide. But we thought it was worth a try as it is a picturesque location and the new visitor centre is very nice, as is their cake and we like cake.

Forecast for Saturday was for a dry day with a SW wind so for the most part it would be blowing along the Naze. We would be running a kite workshop inside the visitor centre so that was the first priority of the day. All seemed so calm at this point, little did we know what a monster the kite workshop would turn into.

Tables were arranged and a selection of kites and information sheets about kites and kite history were placed around the workshop area. Some bunting was put up to add a bit more colour—if any more was needed—and a good variety of colouring pens and stencils for colouring the kites were placed on the tables. We then set up a row of banners outside the centre where folk would be sitting having cups of tea and a bite to eat. We had a brief meeting with Mark and his team from the centre to arrange timings, as they would be judging the kites at the end of the day and handing out prizes to the winners before the sweet drop.

We split ourselves into three, not as painful as it sounds. The workshop in the centre and two areas outside to fly the kites as there was a strip of long grass running down the centre of the Naze that had been left to grow wild for the local wildlife. Peter, Johnathan and Mark would be down the left hand side and myself and Roger on the right by the cliffs edge.

My ever reliable Ostend Birds were first up to check out the wind, followed by flow tails. Johnathan launched his sled 81 and soon had up our newly acquired Lobster followed by Aliens and Peters enormously long serpent kite with its hypnotic tail. We had wanted to fly the skeleton kites but it was too windy for them.

After a quick swig of tea provided by the centre we put together a pair of quad kites. There were quite a few people about, even at this stage of the day, pointing at, and taking photos of, the kites and saying what a lovely sight it was. One little lad was very taken with the quad kites and what you can do with them. So after asking Mums permission I let him have a go with my quad.

There were a lot of kites in the air and many of them were not ours. Some had been purchased from the small cafe near to the visitor centre others folk had



brought from home (a number of people had seen the event on our new Facebook page or website, we had even managed to get a brief mention on BBC Essex radio that morning). There were a lot of kites that had been made in the workshop. In fact they were everywhere you looked. Lyn and Margaret were run of their feet in the workshop, some of Marks staff had pitched in to help as the queue was almost out of the door. By midday they had overseen the making of 50 kites and at the end of the day 101 had been made and all of them had been flown at some point.

We had to stop flying our quads to help people who wanted advice and help with the kites they had with them. Very few seem to read instructions anymore, after all it is only a kite. So lines were untangled, spars put on the right side and bridles adjusted, (should not blame people really as a lot of these kites seem to originate in China) and more than one had a lot of bridle lines that had not even been tied together! After a bit of knot tying and a bit of trial and error adjusting these were flying happily with the kites from the workshop.

At 4pm the two best kites from the workshop were awarded prizes, then it was time for the sweet drop,. By now the wind had freshened, the lifter kite with its payload of sweets was drifting about and was often over the long grass so the drop had to be timed carefully. Peter made the mistake on the first drop of standing between the kids and the sweet offering from the sky and nearly got trampled to death. Before the second drop one parent asked if we could drop the sweets in the long grass as it would keep his kids entertained for hours. On the second successful drop Peter made sure he was well out of the way.

About an hour later the day drew to a close. We packed away what needed to be packed away, fortunately we could leave a lot of our gear in the centre overnight. As a group of weary kite flyers drove away we could still see more than a few kites in the air in our rear view mirrors, it had been a memorable day.

### Day two

The wind overnight had changed direction and was

## East Anglian Kite Event—Colin Roberts

going to be off shore meaning the guys on the inland strip would have to use all their experience to get the lifters high enough into the air. The forecast showed a 50% chance of heavy showers. Myself and Roger would have the best of the wind but I was more than a bit nervous. Being relatively new to single line flying I still have a habit of flying kites on too stronger line, worried that the line may break. But due to the lighter wind I would have to use the lighter line even though there were some strong gusts coming through caused by the stormy conditions inland. If any thing got loose today it would end up in the North Sea and I have seen what happens to a lifter that ends up in the drink only to resurface 6 months later! Not a pretty sight.

We soon had up the Skeletons, Spirit, a few Rokks and flow tails. Johnathan had attached his trio of Dragon kites to his sled 81 and Peter was flying his new favourite kite the big serpent. No quads today as we thought they would be in the way when pegged on the ground. Apart from our usual shelter the ever reliable Quechua, I have purchased a cheap two man pop up tent to put kites and gear in, and was I glad I had brought it today.

By 9.30 there were already some workshop kites flying, an extra table had been set up in the centre as it looked like being another busy day for the girls, some folk had phoned up and had made a booking! Word seemed to be spreading via Facebook what a great day people had had on Saturday and were telling their friends to come on Sunday.

As all the kites were behaving themselves I went for a wander round and was more than pleased by the comments from folk. Children were running around with their little kites despite being told they didn't need to "let the wind do the work and let out lots of line" the adults were having as much fun as the kids,. Sometimes more as they seemed to take over the flying duties leaving the nippers making daisy chains. Once again there were all sorts of kites in the air including some very colourful box kites. One lad spent a lot of time learning how to fly a two line stunter encouraged by quiet words of advice from his Dad—none of the shouting and hollering you often hear. It worked as he was soon steering it around like a pro, he even managed to do an axel, probably didn't know what one was or mean to do it but was impressive all the same. I popped in to see how the workshop was doing and all the tables were busy with kids making kites under the guidance of Lyn and Margaret, they were glad they had the extra table.

By lunchtime the weather was taking a turn for the worse, the gust were becoming more regular and severe, the temperature was dropping and rain clouds were looking darker. Just as we sat down for a bite to eat and, as always seems to be the way, the first shower came through. It was only light so we left the kites up. This was soon followed by another shower that threatened to be more severe so some kites were

taken down and put into the shelter and the two man tent. Before we could get more down the heavens opened. We took shelter and watched with interest how wet a Rok has to be before it stops flying, the answer to that would be very.

After an hour it stopped and the Sun briefly came out. We had to make a decision, pack away wet kites or try and dry them out before the next inevitable shower. We opted to try and dry them out. Peter and Johnathan by now had some very wet Dragons and a saturated Lobster, it probably felt quite at home. The Dragons however looked to be very sad. As things got dryish they were packed away. Surprisingly the once deserted Naze was once again full of kites. We thought folk had gone home but the British spirit was alive and well and they had just been sheltering out of the rain. Before we could get the kites away another heavy shower came through so things that were almost dry got soaking wet again. This was a bit of a problem but not as much as the lightening we could see! We blew a sigh of relief as it drifted past right out to Sea. The rain stopped and once again very wet kites were encouraged into the sky, we could see more rain on the way so this time damp kites were packed away, at least they were not sodden, apart from the Lobster that refused to get dry.

The sweet drop planned for the end of the day was cancelled as by know it was very wet underfoot and we didn't want any little ones to slip and get hurt in the inevitable rush to grab a free sweet. Some hardy souls were still out flying the kites they had made as we took down the display items we had put up in the centre. It had been a very busy but enjoyable and successful weekend. Adults had reawakened memories of kite flying when a kid and the seeds of how much fun kite flying can be had been planted in younger ones heads. 197 kites had been made over the two days. Lots of folk had been to see the new visitor centre, they had seen the busiest weekend they had ever had. New friendships had been made with Mark the manager and his staff. They were so pleased that they have asked us if we can do another event later in the year.

If you think you would like to join the East Anglian Kite Flyers you can contact us by our website or Facebook page, it's free to join all you have to do is come along and fly a kite. Probably a good idea to bring a flask and chair as well.



**Government Tourism Opportunities.**

We received the following from the Cabinet Office.

"I work at the Cabinet Office in the communications team and was hoping you could help. During August we will be working across Government to champion the opportunities for business through tourism, and demonstrate it's a great time to invest and grow and to generate more jobs.

We want to show people that tourism offers huge opportunities for businesses to grow, and offers great chances for people to develop their skills and careers. I was hoping you might be able to help as we'd be keen to feature Portsmouth Kite Festival in the campaign to help localise the messages. There are three real asks I was hoping you could possibly assist with:

1. Would you be able to direct me towards any strong or quirky facts about tourism in the area?
2. Do you have any video pieces around the above we could use? Ideally short video quotes (however we can crop), from perhaps your Chief Executive, a local hotel, a local worker etc, which says the value of the tourism industry for business and workers - if possible relating to any Government funding- so for example - From Chief Exec "Since investment in XXX we have been able to create XX more jobs." From a worker to show skills progression and the quality of the work: "I began working in XX two years ago and am now managing 4 people." Any other angles would be great.

3. Could we use any of your imagery?

Of course if you have any other ideas anything would be most welcome!

We are working on a tight deadline- distributing content 23 August - and we're hoping you can help there too - more info to follow - but any help would be greatly appreciated and would help us to push the campaign out across the region."

Since then nothing. But if you know anything more about this let us know.

**From the Civil Aviation Authority**

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) is committed to enabling the many people who enjoy recreational flying to do so safely, aware of their responsibilities and in control of the risks they are taking.

Following the incident in Kent involving a kite and helicopter earlier in the year, we have taken steps to increase the visibility of our regulations and guidance relating to kite flying. We

have created a dedicated web page containing key regulations, guidance on the permission process for flight above 60 metres and the permission form: [www.caa.co.uk/General-aviation/Displays,-events-and-activities/Kites/](http://www.caa.co.uk/General-aviation/Displays,-events-and-activities/Kites/). This will be updated in line with any changes to regulation.

Anyone looking to fly a kite at significant heights in the UK should ensure that they comply with important safety rules. These rules are in place to ensure their safety and that of any aircraft flying in the vicinity. The key points to be aware of, which are explained on our website, are:

1. Anyone flying a kite at heights greater than 60 metres above the surface requires permission from the CAA
2. When flying within an Aerodrome Traffic Zone (ATZ), permission is required from the CAA regardless of the height flown.
3. The kite string/cable needs to be clearly visible through the use of lighting, markers or streamers
4. Where permission has been granted for kite flyers to operate at heights greater than 300 feet (91.4 metres) above the surface, the CAA will also issue a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) to forewarn other airspace users of the potential hazard.

If you have previously submitted a permission request, I will be in touch shortly once the permission has been processed. Thank you for your flight safety concerns in letting us know.

**Around the Auction Sites**

**Invaluable:**

A small unusual good quality signed Japanese Meiji Period Ivory Netsuke or okimono.

Carved in the form of a lady with a kite in the company of her animated son, the base with an engraved signature on a stained and inlaid ivory reserve, 1.8in wide & 1in h

Estimate £100—£150.



Bits & Pieces

A signed Japanese Meiji Period Gold Lacquered Ostrich Egg.

Decorated with a boy flying a kite and with pine and plum blossom, 5in wide at widest point & 6.5in high.

Did not sell.



Ebay

Let's Go Fly a Kite by Doug Hyde. Image Size 4 x 6" (plus frame). Framed in the Publisher's Frame. Original Sketch.

Up for £2700—not sold and relisted.



TEDx

Many of you have probably heard of the TED talks—TEDx is a bit of an offshoot. In the spirit of ideas worth spreading, TEDx is a program of local, self-organized events that bring people together to share a TED-like experience.

One event is called TEDxSnoIsleLibraries, where x = independently organized TED event. At this TEDxSnoIsleLibraries event, TEDTalks video and live speakers will combine to spark deep discussion and connection in a small group. The TED Conference provides general guidance for the TEDx program, but individual TEDx events, including ours, are self-organized.

This is of interest because Nic O'Neill—current President of the American Kite Association is doing a talk.

Flyer of kites

"It seems silly to say, but kites have defined my life ever since I was introduced to them. Through the magic of flight, I have travelled the world, met countless people that have influenced the person I am today, and have ultimately found true love. I believe that it is my job to help spread happiness in the world, and elevate those around me during the short time that I am here. It isn't through luck that I found my way here, it is through taking a chance at every opportunity, even if I knew I might fail."

Jurassic Kites

The home of the 'Pterodactyl', the life-like flying dinosaur kite

The Pterodactyl is a unique design of dinosaur kite and is only available in selected outlets and online. It has been developed over a number of years through a personal passion to provide a high quality product that is fun, realistic looking, looks great and most importantly flies really easily.

The kite measures 140cm across the wing tips and is 76cm in length. It's made of tough nylon spinnaker with fibreglass struts. It comes complete with detachable wing tails and flying line, its own see-through bag and clear instructions .



The kite is suitable for wind speeds 6-25mph and unsupervised use by children 12 years and over. The kite is a UK Registered Design, has EU Community Design Registration and USA copyright.

Priced at £21.00. More information at [www.jurassickites.co.uk](http://www.jurassickites.co.uk).

The Pterodactyl kite is supplied by Jurassic Kites Ltd, a small company based in Dorset. Jurassic Kites is run by Sibyl King and Martin Cooke who have helped develop projects and support new initiatives along the Jurassic Coast since the designation of the Dorset and East Devon Coast as England's first Natural World Heritage Site in 2001. The kite was developed by Sibyl who wanted 'to see pterodactyls fly again on the Jurassic Coast'.

**More on Kiteman**

In the past we have published a short about Kiteman—a protagonist in the Batman Comics.

Well he appears in the Batman Rebirth series of comics this time around and there is more information about him. See [io9.gizmodo.com/batman-has-given-kite-man-one-of-the-most-heartbreaking-1797062478](http://io9.gizmodo.com/batman-has-given-kite-man-one-of-the-most-heartbreaking-1797062478) for the full story.

But a very brief synopsis.

His real name is Charlie 'Chuck' Brown and he started as an engineer for the Jokermobile. The story line goes that his son was killed by the Riddler who poisoned the kite string!

When the son dies—Chuck falls in with the Jocker and adopts his identity of Kiteman'.



**It is a Crime to**

As well as the—known—crime associated with flying a kite against the Air Navigation Order regulations The Daily Mail has also pointed out that:

Britons run the risk of prosecution if they obstruct a member of the public while running in a park with their kites

**Classic Book**

Mr McGee and the Biting Flea has landed in hot water for a nude cartoon of the main character as he tears his clothes off to rid himself of the flea.

Relevance to us—well, the book tells the story Mr McGee who took his kite down to the beach but is bitten repeatedly by a flea, tearing off his clothes to rid himself of the pesky creature.

**Young refugees take flight at the Brighton Kite Festival**

A group of young refugees designed and made kites for the Brighton Kite Festival to celebrate a fusion of culture and life experience.

The Moving Horizons project worked with eight young refugees aged between 10 and 18 "to inspire them to have access to a creative process with an outcome that was uplifting, freeing and positive".

The Brighton Kite Festival saw the young artists' large kites – which celebrated themes of home, identity and culture – take to the air last Saturday (8 July) at midday.



## Bits & Pieces

The initiative was run by Articulate, a Brighton-based arts charity partnered with the Hummingbird Project in Brighton and Hove to create Moving Horizons after working together last summer to help children in the unofficial refugee camp in Calais, France.

Articulate also recruited children from the Brighton Table Tennis Club, which works with refugee groups in the city, and Brighton and Hove social services. The majority of the children in the project were unaccompanied minors now living in foster care across Brighton and Hove.

Nour, an 11-year-old refugee from the civil war in Syria, is living in Brighton with her family – and her brother joined her in Moving Horizons. When final preparations were under way for the big day, Nour said: “I have never flown a kite before and I can’t wait to fly one that I have designed.”

The children’s creative visions guided the project, with professional artists responding to the children’s wishes. They taught them a wide range of techniques from painting to mixed media. The children produced a wide variety of bright, bold and highly creative kites which were greatly admired at the Brighton Kite Festival in Stanmer Park.

### Kickstarting Mini Balloon and Kite Mapping Kits for everyone

Public Lab is back with an even more accessible Do-It-Yourself way to take aerial photos: the Mini Balloon and Kite Mapping Kits.

At half the cost of the original, these are designed for portability and for a new generation of smaller GoPro-like cameras that’s now available. And the Kite kit makes use of an extremely compact (but octopus-shaped) kite with no spars.

This isn’t a typical Kickstarter—Public Lab has run four of these open source campaigns, where folks are asked to pitch in to solve problems, teach one another, and take the kit of parts to new places. That kind of radical cooperation is how Public Lab started, and that’s why this project has gone in such a unique direction over the years.

Full details at [www.kickstarter.com/projects/publiclab/kickstarter-gold-balloon-mapping-kits?ref=project\\_link](http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/publiclab/kickstarter-gold-balloon-mapping-kits?ref=project_link)

#### Mini Kite Kit.

The mini kite kit is similar to the mini balloon kit, but ships with a large “octopus” kite that’s a beautiful and stable flyer in medium winds, and packs down into a small nylon bag for easy travel. It won’t fly in as light wind conditions, or

carry as much as our full-size Kite Mapping Pack, but you can throw it in your backpack or in a Public Lab tote, and honestly the octopus is just a lot of fun to fly.



This kit comes with, 1000 feet of 50 lb string, 1 large “octopus” kite, canvas gloves, rubber bands, zip-ties, and a carabiner

You add a lightweight (<100g) camera

Just like the Mini Balloon Kit, this is a Prototyping Kit and you’ll be collaboratively working on improving it with us at [PublicLab.org](http://PublicLab.org)

### Kite Fishing

#### *Ancient Kite Fishing Technique Makes Its Way Into Modern Waters*

“Go fly a kite” may soon mean the same thing as “go fish,” thanks to an age-old technique that’s being adapted for modern use.

This specialised kite fishing technique, now employed by coastal U.S. anglers aboard fishing boats, involves live bait suspended directly below a nylon kite. It’s used primarily to catch large saltwater fish, ranging from sailfish to blackfin tuna. Another line separate from the bait lines attaches the kite to the boat with a clip that releases when the one of the bait lines is reeled in by hand.

Modern kite fishing involves brightly coloured kites made of sailcloth designed to withstand heavy wind conditions. Occasionally, helium-filled balloons are affixed to the kites, making kite fishing possible on days when there isn’t much wind — the practice usually requires winds of between 5 and 25 mph (8 and 40 kph).

Overall, the technique allows anglers to put a number of lines in the water at one time, increasing the odds of catching a fish. Kite fishing also takes the bait fish a greater length from the boat than a traditional pole or fly fishing method might, offering the illusion that the prey is at a safe distance from a potentially harmful interloper.



Bits & Pieces



**Kites in Cambodia**

Hundreds of brightly coloured kites in all shapes and sizes hovered over Phnom Penh’s Diamond Island to mark the 20th annual kite festival. Some 68 kite runners from across the country attended the festival, which organizers say they hope will help to keep the tradition alive in the age of smartphones and social media.

Samrang Kamsan, secretary of state at the Ministry of Culture, said he hoped the event would create interest among young Cambodians. “The event not only creates a joyful moment but also promotes culture and tradition to the next generations to pay attention to the protection of national identity,” he said.

“When you run the kite in the countryside, you will always remember the scenes of your hometown – paddy fields and palm trees, so that you would not want to migrate.”

Kamsan said he also wanted to see youth developing the tradition with new ideas. Kites in Cambodia, known as Khleung Ek, are equipped with a musical instrument called an Ek, which plays a melody when the wind passes through it. They are usually built with bamboo and paper.

The kites were invented by Cambodians almost 2500 years ago, according to historians, and were flown during the rice harvest to give thanks to the spirits of the ancestors for bringing rain.

Chhom Mao, 56, a festival attendee from Siem Reap, said it was the first time he had flown a kite since he was 10 years old.

“All kite runners love to fly the kite whenever they see the wind. When we fly kites, the neighbouring kids always come around. It’s always a happy moment,” he said.

Khleung Ek was revived in 1994 after it was banned during the Khmer Rouge regime of 1975 to 1979.

**Gloucester firms using kites to ward off seagull nuisance**

Businesses are resorting to sky high ideas to keep seagulls and pigeons from hassling customers in Gloucester as the city is once again plagued by the nuisance birds.

As part of their migratory cycle, hundreds of gulls have been nesting around the western side of the city, particularly around The Docks and Bristol Road area. And with the animal’s arrival comes complaints about the noise and mess they make. Now numerous companies along the city’s industrial area of Bristol Road are taking a novel approach to the problem by pitching kites on top of their buildings, shaped like birds of prey.

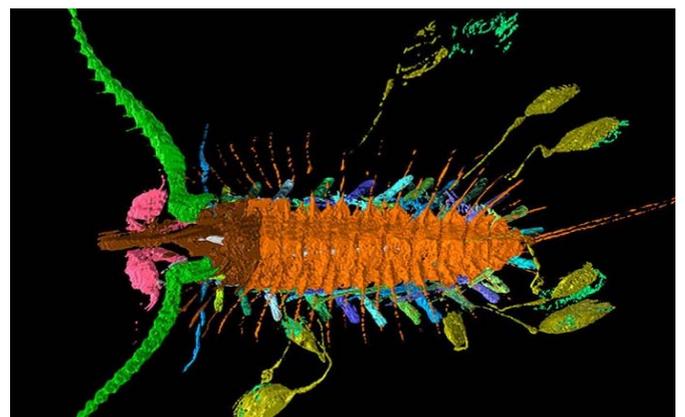
**Extinct animal flew underwater kites made of its own young**

Some parents might wish their children were tethered to them at all times. Now a prehistoric animal has emerged that appears to have done precisely that. The 1-centimetre-long marine creature, entombed in volcanic ash some 430 million years ago, was found fossilised in Herefordshire, UK, with 10 of its young still attached to its body by thin threads.

The offspring’s resemblance to kites has led its discoverers to call it the kite runner, after the novel by Khalid Hosseini. The Latin name they have chosen, *Aquilonifer spinosus*, means “spiny kite-bearer”. The creature is an arthropod – a group that includes insects, spiders and crustaceans. Its unusual parenting strategy might have helped it carry offspring away from danger, or help them find food.

It was initially thought the attached individuals were some sort of parasite, but the more they examined them the less likely that seemed.

“The most telling argument for the adult wanting them to be there is that the creature has large and flexible appendages which could certainly have removed the ‘kites’ if it wanted to,” he says. “If it wanted them to be there, the only real possibility is that they were its young.”



# 26th Portsmouth International Kite Festival





## Portsmouth 2017—Hugh Blowers (Photos Lynn Blowers)

### Where did the time go?

Not many festivals have made it past the quarter century and now Portsmouth is one of the last of the International events surviving in this country. While it has made it to twenty-six, for us it is twenty-five years ago since the delights of the Best Western and evenings in the Pyramids. Just glad that Gill and Jon still have the enthusiasm and energy to keep organising them. Mind you, the frustrations they experienced this year with invited guest flyers crying off must have tried their patience somewhat? Nevertheless, a look at the website revealed an excellent and varied line-up of kite flying talent from around the world and the length of Britain. There are still always the wonderful British 'jobsworths' to put a dampener on things with a classic manifestation of a Joseph Heller 'Catch 22' greeting the guests as they arrived on Friday.

Notice one. Only drinks bought at the bar may be consumed in communal areas. Notice two. Bar is card only, no cash. Notice three. Bar is closed as card machine is not working, so no possibility of any flyers getting any refreshment, unless they ignore notice one, which, to our shame, we did. Even more ironic, an enthusiastic and pedantic porter requested us to leave the lounge as it was closing and directed us to the bar where we could consume the illicit drinks, much to the envious looks of those residents relying on the very bar that was not open. Could not make it up? Mind you, my sense of humour had already taken something of a downward turn after a young lady, and I use the word loosely, decided to change her baby on the seat at the table next to us in the restaurant we use. Perhaps the fact that she neither disposed of the offensive article, or washed her hands before continuing with her meal puts it all into perspective, or am I just getting old?

Don't know how early one has to get up to be first on the field, but by seven o'clock there was a train of large inflatables flying, and yes, by coincidence, they were German, but to his credit, Meik Schlenger still had them flying fourteen hours later where they had been all day. Saturday had the prospect of being the better day wind wise, and certainly, from early on, there was a really nice south-westerly indicating a good flying day ahead. Before the serious business, a flyers meeting gave everyone the chance to introduce themselves, rather than Jon go round, trying to remember all the names. Unfortunately, the Weifang team were one of the cancellations, making Linda Sanders the most distant of the arrivals, taking Australia as her departure point, rather than her native Lancashire.

Linda was one of the principle guests with a

myriad of banners that were going to be featured around the site and in a 'parade' later in the programme. In turn, Linda highlighted the dilemma facing flyers, especially those enjoying the delights of 'big silver bird', how much gear do I need, how much can I take? There are two routes that have developed over the years, expand the transport to carry all the bags, boxes, and gear desired, with the attendant trolleys, trailers etc, or whittle down the gear to what can be accommodated and carried reasonably.

Well, banners need poles, and large numbers, which are heavy, so they needed to be sourced. They also need stakes, which are heavy, and need to be sourced. Stakes need serious hammers or post drivers, especially if the ground is as hard as Southsea Common usually is, and these are also heavy and need to be sourced, so thanks to everyone who helped out, but a new and even heavier alternative was the industrial sized Hilti drill and auger bit that negated the need for the hammer. A wonderful idea, but a huge piece of kit to lug around. A godsend though for Linda who put all her banners along the sea side of the two arenas, making a wonderfully varied and coloured display.

Lurking ominously at the leeward end of the site was the half constructed Victorious Festival stage in a compound, ready to snare the kites of any unwary flyers and almost directly underneath all those flying in the small kite arena. The threat of not being able to retrieve errant kites until work resumed on Monday concentrated the mind somewhat as well.

The scene is set then for a festival, and inevitably, an altitude sprint, now almost entirely dominated by the 'professionals' with purpose built 'sprinters'. Given the fresh breeze, it was not going to be a long sprint and being run under 'southern rules' it was Steve Bloomfield who was adjudged to be the winner with the Usain Bolt of the kite sprinting world, Bob C a very close second. Good to see Steve Hodges back in the lineup, whose article in the last magazine was redolent of the same situation we have found ourselves in on occasions, booked up, but event cancelled, so what to do, lose all your money or make the best of it?

The area for the large kites was filling up with Meik Schlenger's Fischbacher designed maxi Manta in black, red and white prominent, with Wallace underneath and the 'toothless' derived dragon. The three astronauts of Gary Mark from Canada floated along the sea side of the arena with the rest of the field occupied by untold acres of ripstop in the most amazing variety of forms. Guy Reynolds' 'super heroes' were much in evidence as were Bernard Dingwerth's sea lions and other kites from the same stable. There seemed to be a degree of 'fun' being had

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as the odd flowform power dived into the ground and pilots neatly wrapped themselves round assorted lines. I know why it is done, but tails on pilots seem to indicate a basic lack of stability, or is it too much stability, as Peter Lynn would say?



The small kite area was again a sea of black and white, courtesy of David Ellison, although his knot train does have the addition of a coloured thread running through the design. A new version of this kite, with one extra knot extending its length, flew exceptionally well. David is expanding his design base with the use of panning and shading to produce a 3D illusion, and this is going to be accentuated in the new design with subtle additions of coloured panels. This country is woefully short of designers and makers, no money in it at the commercial end of the market, so David's designs and kites are a welcome addition to the scene. It was no surprise therefore when David was awarded the Herman van den Broek trophy for his ever-growing contribution to the kite world.

Looking back, I have been knocking out these festival reflections for a while now, and while many would say (complain) that 'festivals are all the same', it is seldom that simple. There is always something new, or that has not been seen in this country before, or even a blast from the past, new to all but us 'veterans' and this year was no exception. The term 'art kites' covers a whole variety of genres, from traditional shapes with painted, dyed or appliqued skins to those where the very shape constitutes the artistic element. There were several varied examples of Michel Gressier's work, but unless you had been lucky enough to visit his exhibition in Cervia, the two being flown by Paul and Natalie Reynolds would have been new. Originally a panel of four, almost square, Edo rigged kites, the skins were in varying shades of dark blue with patches of real gold leaf. When we first saw them as bare skins with the sunlight behind

them at Dieppe, they did look stunning as the contrasts in the basic colour really stood out. Against the grey clouds they did lose some of their impact, and of course, there is always the size element. Indeed Paul and Natalie were debating whether they would be better framed as works of art, rather than being flown? Steve Brockett was well represented with the very large 'Blackbirds Are My Dreams' and the much more delicate 'Misty'. The size of Blackbirds can be judged by the fact that the spar bracing the wings is made from two six-metre banner poles.

Another unfortunate cancellation had been from Claudio and Caterina Capelli who would have featured prominently in this section although there were some examples of his kites lurking in bags. Frances Anderson started with small and delicate paper kites, but has now progressed to much larger, more ornate and brightly coloured versions that fly exceedingly well in a surprisingly wide wind range, but they still look wonderfully delicate.



It is sad that participation in sports kite activities has faded away so badly over the years, as there is still a lot of enjoyment in watching a well flown routine. We were lucky though in having most of those still active at this festival. Pairs flying does, in my view, lack the impact of a team, but Lex and Irma have gone out of their way to move beyond the traditional style by including music and routines that are related

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to the kites they are flying. We were out of commentary range, so could only guess at what was happening, but the two routines with the 'novelty kites' really worked, especially the 'bad fish' and the 'good fish on Sunday'. Their signature ending catching each other's kites at the edge of the wind window is so much more gentle, and difficult, that the conventional, carbon shattering leading edge 'plonk'.

The Revolution teams represented two distinct styles of flying with the Decorators presenting their usual impeccable control and precision, while Flying Squad went for the dynamic team routine, very different but a high level of skill in each. The Decs' are nearing a significant birthday with an ever-evolving line-up that for this weekend had two 'originals', two 'sons of', two established later arrivals and two returnees after long absences. At the other end of the spectrum was the first appearance of the Dunstable Downs Old Gents flying a flowing pairs routine to Albatross. Anyone remember John E, Ian M and company doing the same with giant Peels at Washington?



four line kite we have seen, but it is a quantum leap in what it can do. Slack line flying has moved from tricking with sports kites to four lines, but my goodness, the degree of athleticism and amount of arm movement required is incredible. Josh was joined by Tom from the Decs for a Rev pairs routine, including synchronized flat spins, the four-line equivalent of the axel. With the precision of the 'grid fly' style and the increasing use of 'sports kite' type routines, who knows where Rev flying will end up?

It was Fritz Jansma who first explained the importance of black on kites and the differing shades, which Carl R also uses to great effect in his black on black series, so with a slot for black and white kites, one is never sure quite what is going to arrive. David Ellison is largely responsible for the success of this, with a whole host of variations on the theme, mostly large and always visually stimulating. George W erroneously called them 'Escher style' and whilst this was



Josh Mitcheson is now in a league of his own, literally, being the only multiline competitor, yet there is no doubt the level of skill he demonstrates with a Rev and the new Carl Robertshaw Fulcrum. This is not the first omni directional



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incorrect, it is easy to see the influence, as what you see is not always what you see in David's designs. It is a bit like French tortoiseshell and brass Bulle work. For every table top there is a reverse version, much like David's birds, but then he goes a stage further, is your eye drawn to the image or is it defined by what is round it? A Brasington train that again used shades of black (and white) was being flown by Chris Mabon, demonstrating the very diversity of designs that can be included in this simple category.

Not every programme element goes to plan, especially when the Weifang contingent ends up as one lady with a bag of commercial kites, much the same as all of us have, and many of the guests flying inflatables were not going to be moving them, so TC and George had to be a bit flexible in the running order. Which brings me to my only gripe, and not just voiced by myself I hasten to add. Given the number of invited flyers, the number of campers and the number of cars in the car park with flyers passes, there should have been more in the arena at times. It can't all be left to a few as there is only so much that can be put together flown and disassembled in a day.

One of the great successes of the last couple of years has been the 'meet the kiteflyers' with the public invited into the arena to fly kites supplied by the guests, with everything from Angels to inflatables available. There was an added element this year as there was going to be a live 'proposal' on the field. This had been pre-arranged with Gill and Jon, with the extra complication of Jon having to record it for local radio. Luckily the young lady said yes, although a re-enactment the following day for the family did not materialize. The session slowly morphed into the second helping of art kites with a quite different selection and a perfect example of something new that isn't. Jackie Penney had her lovely Gressier Circoflex flying well, now that it has been re-sparred and re-bridled, yet this design is now a rarity on the fields.

Something that was very new, and gave rise to a significant amount of kite envy was a stunning Steve Brockett kite being flown by Natalie Reynolds. This was unlike anything we have seen from Steve before, being a wholly painted image on a rectangular skin. He was continuing his long established theme of female forms with bird like features, this time a bird's head with the arms holding another bird. That the kite skin was white yet the entire background black was an indication of the degree of work in this piece and the quantity of paint needed to get the required colour density.

At last, time for a bite of lunch and a few minutes while the attempt on the trilobite rec-



ord was made. To me, something like this needs a great deal of prior organisation to ensure the required number of kites and flyers are in place. Indeed, any arena item needs a similar degree of organisation, as relying on people turning up with suitable kites can lead to embarrassment as we have found to our cost. In the event, although exceedingly colourful, the official count did not exceed last year, so the question is, how many are there in the country and could they all be gathered together for another go? Over to you Alan.

Unusually for Portsmouth, the programme was running more or less to time and into two different displays. The first was for kite trains, ie. lots of individual kites flying off a single line as exemplified by Robert Brasington and his sky filling exploits. In the event, most of the trains

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in the sky were from him, all with chiffon tails, while David Ellison had his knots, with colour. Trains can be flown with a conventional double bridle, as do Robert's and David's or a single bridle as in the Malay trains or Ohashi's, but the length of the tails and position of the bridle can make a huge difference to the amount of pull.

Next up was essentially a showcase of Linda Sanders' work, big, bold and brash designs on feather banners. These were paraded round the arena by volunteers with a couple of guests flyers falling in at the rear and Jackie P with a beautifully coloured Scott Hampton original. Linda's banners proved so popular that several were sold, almost on the spot, leaving gaps the following day. Interestingly, some reckoned that they were too expensive, but as was pointed out, it does not matter whether it is a banner or a kite skin, the amount of work is the same. This rekindled the old argument about relative values of kites, and art on kites. One maker told me that his exhibition kites sell below cost, as the market would not support the true price. Difficult to believe, yet Claudio Capelli told us many years ago that an image of his on a kite would sell for around a tenth of the same image on a canvas.

Images were much to the fore as the Edo kites took to the sky. Two beautiful examples by Helen Howes of Raindrop reminded us just how good she could be as an appliqué artist, although how much it would cost to spar one of these kites nowadays with the current price of carbon is frightening. The lady series from the Beccles Bunch were rigged to be flown either with handles or on a line, so George flew his low down while I had mine well up for the crowd to see. Paul Reynolds described 'Lady at

her toilet' as his favourite kite. These were all original Japanese prints brought to life by Helen by using roll ends, faded fabric and offcuts to give the required shades. David Ellison was flying his slightly smaller version with the printed panels based on layers of paint on boats hulls directly from the bridles to show yet another method of flying.

It was good to welcome Rolf Sturm back as he is always up for something different, and this year it was sweet dropping. He must spend untold hours attaching little streamers to every sweet, and there were to be four drops each day, meaning hundreds to be made. Best said that it was organised and controlled chaos out there, but a while since it has been done. A final and special drop was for a very limited number of young children with birthdays that week, and this time it was not sweets that were dropped, but a bag full of tiny teddies, all with parachutes. Thanks Rolf. All that remained was to return most of the children to their respective places before filling the sky with the now traditional angel and spirit fly. This year we were delighted to have Martin Lester, along with Bella and Jackie from Bristol, joining in this time for reflection.

The gentle and flowing spirits were in stark contrast to the ferocity and aggression displayed in the Rok fight that followed, well perhaps not, but after a lot of walking round and tugging of lines Bob Cruickshanks made up for his morning disappointment by running out the winner. The festival was brought to a close with a round robin of all the two line and four line flyers entertaining a still packed audience. For a Saturday, the attendance had been amazing, and the new layout of the site with the traders being spread along its length meant that the crowd was also able to spread, and it was wonderful to see so many family parties enjoying the weather and the festival.

It has been a while since the weather on the Saturday evening has been sufficiently balmy for the meal and auction to take place outdoors, and there was also still sufficient wind for Meik Schlenger's manta to loom large over the proceedings. With funding continuing to be a problem, income from the auction is ever more vital, so the 'hopefully short auction' as Jon put it, became somewhat longer, and while big money has never been evident at Portsmouth, the number of items compensates somewhat. Thanks to George and Paul for all their work here and also to Paul and Steven Hoath for taking on commentary duties at times.

Having seen all the programme through on Saturday, Sunday was not going to provide a great deal of variation although the forecast did not look too promising in terms of wind, so there

## Portsmouth 2017—Hugh Blowers (Photos Lynn Blowers)

was the prospect of a very different sky or even an empty one at times. Within an hour though the breeze changed direction and with the blue sky, gave us an almost perfect day's flying. Definitely ghenki weather to start with, including a Gressier, two Robertshaws, two of David E's and others that I am unable to attribute. Hardly the most appropriate kite, but one of the Robertshaw designs was entered into the altitude sprint, a futile effort considering Bob C was out for revenge with his Longbottom super sprinter. It was, Bob did, honour satisfied.

Many and varied were the art kites with numerous Gressier designs, a solitary George Peters and a delightful panel of four small kites, all in close proximity. Natalie's painted Brockett, Capelli's courtesy of Martin Baker and Lynn, with a Randy Tom 'Nagel' to complete the quartet. David E's kites qualify for many of the categories and he and his son are ever present when called up, as well as having several kites pegged down throughout the day, more reasons why the Broek award was so richly deserved.



Myths, fantasies and legends gives a wide scope for interpretation, but it was largely a repeat of last year with the Steve Brockett Dragon Llefeleys illustrating an ancient Welsh legend, a mermaid, the Rolf Zimmerman naughty starfish and other dragon graphics, including St George giving one what for in order to save a maiden from its clutches evident on the Saturday and a pair of Karl Longbottom Phoenix joining in on Sunday. Although, as George W pointed out, this was a contradiction as there can only be one Phoenix. It is odd that most of the kites that appear in the arena

slots are seldom seen flying elsewhere during the day. If you take out David E, Paul and Natalie and the two Phoenix that flew for the entire day, there was not too much else in the sky

in the small kites area. Where were they all?

It is scarcely believable to those of us that have been around a bit, but Britain can now muster just one competitive kite team, the ever present Flame, so the huge crowds that were assembling could see the whole gamut of sports kite disciplines with pairs, a team, quad line pairs and individuals and two quad line teams. Add in the various combinations of kites and flyers from Brian and Carl Wright and there was everything possible on show, all flown to a very high standard. Flying Squad introduced yet another variation on a theme flying four stacks of seven Revs with the top kite having a series of long, flowing tails. With twenty eight kites in total, the room for error is quite limited as the kites have to keep moving, so there is the quad line equivalent of a Sundowners routine.

I mentioned shades of black earlier and one kite that really explored this in the Black and White section was Gill Bloom's Avocets. With her usual careful choice of colours, dying and subtle over sewing, she created a lovely image that was definitely monochrome. The colours extended to the very long fluffy tail as well, an amazing amount of work, but so effective. With the lighter wind, there were far more kites in the air this time round, including two simple but effective 'fighter style shapes from George and Jackie P, although long matching tails kept the kites in order. The lighter wind also allowed the arena to be filled with trains, again mainly Robert Brasington's, but with the addition of a couple of traditional Malay trains.



## Portsmouth 2017—Hugh Blowers (Photos Lynn Blowers)

The Edo kites featured more of Helen Howes' work and two of David E's that have been around for a while but still challenge the eyes. That they were carp was fairly obvious, but what he had done was have the fish visible through gaps in the lily pads, so that parts of any one fish would appear in several gaps, fascinating. David tells me that he is intending to remake these kites at some stage. He was also busy in the morning (re)bridling Gill Blooms version of the 'Facebook' Edo. For those not in the know, eight kitemakers have each made nine panels, which they have passed round, with their own image in the centre of their kite. Seven of these were flown in Cervia and the work in some of the individual panels is exquisite, so being flown from the bridles allows the images to still be appreciated.

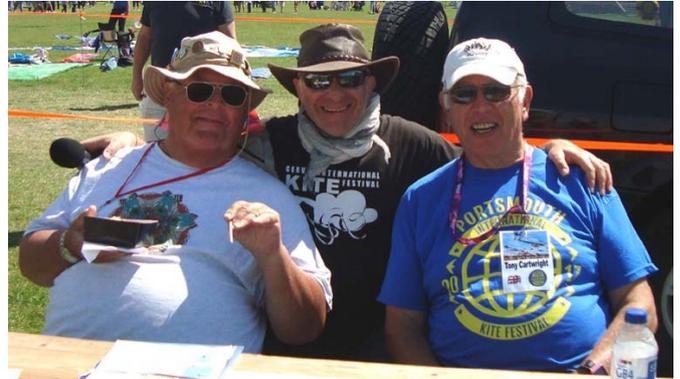
It would be difficult to remember the car park ever being so full or so many people occupying the entire site, but inevitably this meant an inordinately long queue for the toilets, shades of Berck. Having booked out of Rees Hall and quite obviously not Queen's residents, we legged it down to Wetherspoons. It was only when we got to the road that the volume of traffic was realised. Both the seafront and Clarence Parade were at a standstill as far as the eye could see, not boding well for our eventual departure. We were still back before the queue had diminished, but one has to say the fellow who spent two days pumping and cleaning toilets deserves an award, none of the problems we have had in previous years.

The blaze of dragons showed again that to have one, dragons are needed and with the non-arrival of the Weifang contingent it was somewhat ironic that the only traditional dragon was being flown by the 'dragon master, Tim Roan' who no longer has access to the Zimmerman dragons he used to fly.

Luckily there were still two examples on the field as well as son of Toothless, which Andrew Beattie had managed to wrestle back from the lady who had been flying it during the meet the flyers session, and was so taken with it she could not be persuaded to give it back. That she was flying it from a strap with a lifter must have been a wonderful introduction to kite flying?

Four sweet drops and another teddy bear drop occupied a significant portion of the remaining time, before the Spirits and angels took to the air. The wind could not have been better with over twenty assorted spirits and something like fifteen angels, all accompanied by Simon's usual explanation and suitably ethereal music. George and TC were jollying everyone along so it was on to the second Rok fight and a realisation of why Hackney rules were introduced, along with Sarah's shears. It did go on a bit

with little movement from the three remaining kites until all three came down almost simultaneously, with Steve Hodges' being adjudged the winner by being last down although by just fractions of a second.



The festival closed with another ascent of spirits and angels, probably more spirits than we have seen for a while with over twenty Martin Lester or workshop versions and at least fifteen of Nick James' angels as singles or in trains, followed by another round robin of sports kites. This time, one routine from each and a repeat of the Flying Squad stack, completing what was probably the most comprehensive representation of the sports kite genre that we have ever seen.

As usual the flyers gathered for an informal presentation of prizes and group photos. Apart from the Rok and Sprint trophies, Andrew and Kathleen Beattie were rewarded for Best Team—including Kate the dog, with Gerd Klaus getting the award for the 'kite of the festival' for a lovely multicoloured rosette facet. David Ellison collected the Broek trophy to a large round of applause, as he certainly produces a lot of kites, and puts them in the sky.

Lastly, Simon Hennesey thanked Gill and Jon on behalf of us all for another superb festival, and voiced our combined hopes that there would be a 27th?

In terms of public attendance, this must rate as one of the best Portsmouth's for years, although how many thousands of people must have descended on the area just a few days later for the arrival of the new Queen Elizabeth aircraft-less aircraft carrier can only be conjecture.

Must be a bit like having a kite line with no kite and relying on someone to supply you with one at some indeterminate time in the future, having just sold, scrapped or given away your entire kite collection?

## Volcano Watch: Modelling Kīlauea Volcano a Century Ago

From Hawaii 24/7

(Volcano Watch is a weekly article written by scientists at the U.S. Geological Survey's Hawaiian Volcano Observatory.)

In today's age of aerial photography, satellites, and drones, bird's-eye views of geologic features are taken for granted. A century ago, such depictions posed enormous challenges.

At first glance, the images appear to be aerial photographs of Kīlauea Volcano's summit caldera, but these photos were taken six years before the first airplane overflight. The images actually show a model of the volcano displayed at a Harvard University museum for many decades. So, how was the model constructed? And who made it?

The story began in March 1913, when George Carroll Curtis, an artist, geologist, geographer, and expert in the production of relief models, travelled to the Island of Hawai'i to make a careful survey of the caldera at the summit of Kīlauea. He established a network of survey flags and took photographs at each using a revolving panoramic camera that provided a complete view the caldera. But progress constructing the model was slow, because Curtis lacked a high altitude perspective of Kīlauea's summit.

To solve this problem, Curtis encouraged J.F. Haworth, a wealthy businessman from Pittsburg, to go to Kīlauea and pursue his hobby of flying kites. But these were no ordinary kites. Each box kite was over 11 feet (3.4 m) long and 9 feet (2.7 m) wide. Instead of string, Haworth used a motorized reel of piano wire to launch and tether the kites, which were capable of lifting a payload of about 100 lbs (45 kg). For the Kīlauea study, the payload was a camera positioned on a wire line several hundred feet (about 60 m) below the kite. A small device was sent up the piano wire to trip the camera shutter for each photograph.

When Haworth arrived at Kīlauea in 1915, he found that kite photography was no picnic on a volcano. High winds at the summit repeatedly dragged the photographer over sharp lava, leaving him bruised and battered. But he finally succeeded in taking a series of photos of Kīlauea Volcano's summit from various altitudes. These aerial photographs enormously speeded up the work of Curtis on his model.

In 1917, the relief map was finally installed in the Geological Section of the Harvard University Museum and opened for public viewing. The circular model was 14 feet (4.3 m) in diameter, and it was built with a scale of 125 feet to an inch (38 m to 25mm), so there was no vertical exaggeration.

At this scale, Curtis was able to depict minute details of the summit. The model shed light on many geologic features that had not been observed before, such as the elaborate drainage system on the south side of the caldera. Photographs of the model are useful even today to locate historic sites, including roads and other structures that are long

gone. This huge model remained at the Mineralogical and Geological Museum at Harvard University until the mid-1970s, when building renovations required that the exhibit be moved. Unfortunately, the size of the model made relocation impractical, so it was dismantled.

We have searched, without success, for the original summit photographs taken by Curtis and Haworth. Our hope is that they still exist somewhere, preserved in an archive or personal collection of photos. If so, we would love to see them. Images by these intrepid photographers from a century ago could shed new light on features that are the subject of current volcano research.

If you know of these images, or have other historical photographs of Hawaiian volcanoes, HVO would like to hear from you. Email us at [askHVO@usgs.gov](mailto:askHVO@usgs.gov).

Photo captions:

1. The 1917 Curtis relief model of Kīlauea Volcano's summit shows many well-known geologic features, including the summit caldera (large depression), Halema'uma'u (crater within the caldera), Kīlauea Iki (crater at far right), and elaborate drainage patterns (foreground). Photo by Burr A. Church.

2. This view of Halema'uma'u as it appeared in the 1917 relief model by George Carroll Curtis shows fine details around the crater, including the first road for automobiles, which ended near the crater rim. The light-colored circular feature around Halema'uma'u is a nearly continuous escarpment along which subsidence occurred. Photo by Burr A. Church.



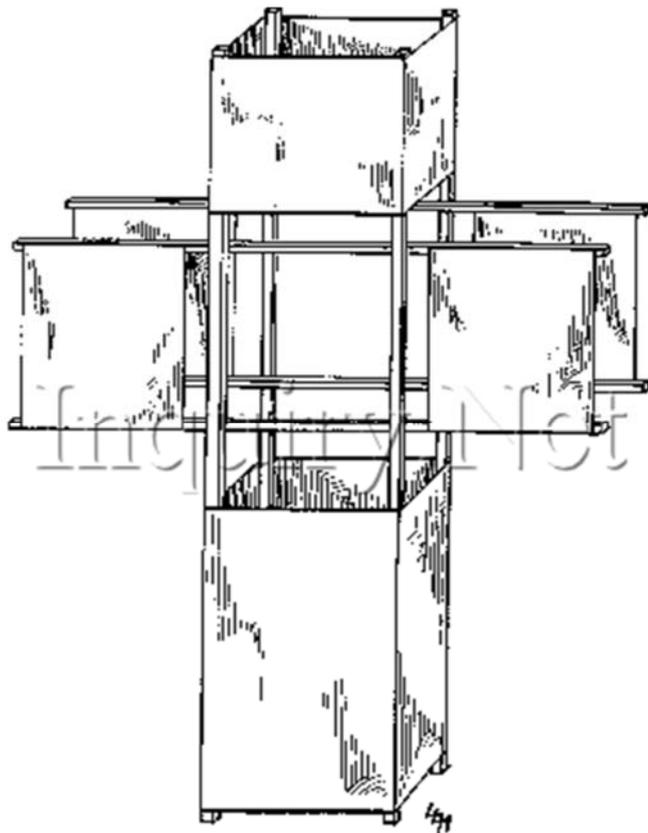
### Crucifix Box—Mark Harding



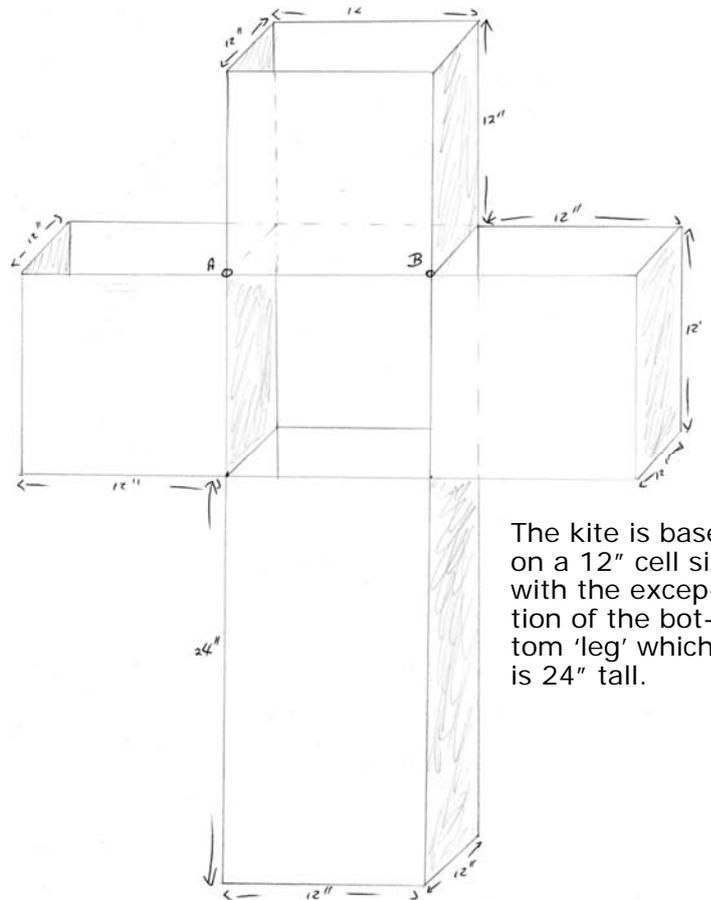
This is a plan based on a design by Lesley L hunt from his 1929 publication "25 kites that fly".

The difference in my plan is instead of floating wings that make up the cross the whole kite is "boxed".

I have used a cream coloured ripstop similar to the colour of a palm cross and the appliqué motif is the kind of pattern you would see in a stained glass window in a church.



Lesley Hunt's original 1929 plan



The kite is based on a 12" cell size with the exception of the bottom 'leg' which is 24" tall.

Each of the 12 inch boxes have 1 set of cell braces but the bottom 24 inch box has 2 sets 1 at the top a 1 at the bottom. The bridle is a 2 leg attached at points A and B.

I flew this at the Kite Jolly up in April and it flies at quite a high angle it is a good flyer

## The Joy of Kite Flying—John Winfield

My name is John Winfield I am a 62 year old guy with severe cerebral palsy and osteoarthritis and I'm also a wheelchair user. The doctors and experts concerned with my early life always said I would not live into my 40s!

Until I was 17 years old I was daft enough to believe them all!

Fortunately, I then discovered kites and I have never looked back:). I love art in the sky and single line kites of all shapes and sizes. I have too many wonderful kites made by even more wonderful kite makers, to mention here! I would just like to thank you all for all the joy and fun that you have gifted me.

Kite flying full me is both a meditation and a severe workout! Anybody who uses the phrase the gentle art of kite flying has obviously never flown a large kite in a strong breeze!:-).

Seriously though, if ever I am stressed, in pain or unhappy, half an hour flying a kite brings me back do a quiet joy. I can only use one and a bit hands but flying a kite transforms my impairment to enablement.

In essence I fly with the kite, such a wonderful freedom. Incidentally, have you ever noticed that when you most wish fly alone, invariably a small group of people appears to ask you about kites and kite flying! It never fails:-).

I quickly learnt to launch a kite on my own from my wheelchair using one and a bit hands and strong teeth.

In the days of my using a powered wheelchair many bus drivers in Bristol would roundly curse me as they saw me sitting at the bus stop with four or five large kites:).

They soon learnt I would be either going to or from The Downs.

I remember once kite flying on The Downs and tipping my wheelchair over backwards, as I lay on my back still flying the kite, somebody came along and asked me if I was ok. In a crazy moment I told them I was fine and always flew this way!

They promptly walked off and it was another 2 hours Before somebody else came along to help :-). Oh the joy....

In December I needed emergency surgery which I am no ride to survive; yet apparently my first words on coming round were can I still fly a kite:).

Even though I have recently needed to give up my powered wheelchair and moved to a nursing

home, I am back the flying kites more than ever albeit with a bit more help. I simply cannot live without flying a kite:).

It is for me a way of life. Whatever your situation I say get out there and give it a go. Once you start kite flying you will never regret it. Beware though, it has this quiet way of taking over your life:).

In recent years, it has given me great joy to give away some of my kites and teach people to fly them. Really just a good excuse to buy new ones:).

To all of you who have either help me to fly or made me a kite, or even met me in the beer tent at a kite festival:-). I close with a huge thank you and much love and joy; for kite flying has truly transformed my life. I

wish you all fair winds and laughter on your journey in the sky.

John Winfield

(Known simply to one and all as Mr John, after the Mister Men:-).



## Red Arrows, again—Lex Kraaijeveld

Some time ago, I posted about our pair of Red Arrow kites. Or, rather, about our three Red Arrows, as one came originally as part of a stack. Recently, I got my hands on a fourth Red Arrow, which prompted me to create a pair of 2-stacks. And here they are on our regular flying field in the New Forest:



Wind was quite variable, but we managed to get both stacks airborne.



As we had both stacks in the air, I heard the noise of approaching jet planes behind me. When I looked around, I saw the *real* Red Arrows fly past (as it later turned out, on their way to Bournemouth for their next show). What are the chances of flying Red Arrow kites just when the Red Arrows fly past??? Fortunately, I had my camera

in my hand!



And *mea culpa*, I really couldn't resist photoshoping the two pictures together .... This is what it would have looked like if the Red Arrows had passed *in front of us* rather than behind!

OK, back to our Red Arrow kites, you may have noticed in the first picture that there is a colour difference between the kites, with two being slightly more red and two slightly more orange. Here are the front kites of the two stacks again, side by side.

The kite on the left clearly sports the Mettoy brand, whereas there is nothing indicating a brand name in that same location on the sail (or anywhere else, for that matter) of the kite on the right.

And this is not the only difference between the kites. And, by the way, the two kites within a stack are identical in every aspect.

The tail end of the Mettoy kites have a strip of red tape reinforcing it, which is absent on the unbranded kites. The diameter of the red circle in the wing emblem is larger (5cm) on the Mettoy kites than on the unbranded kites (4cm).

The leading edges of the Mettoy kites are not connected to the spine, whereas on the unbranded kites they are.

And the cut of the sail around the wing tip is different between the Mettoy and the unbranded kites.

So what's going on here? Are we dealing with two different versions of Mettoy kites, one of which does not carry a brand name? If so, why not? There is another possibility, though. One kite book mentions the Red Arrow kites first made by a company called Schofield, and later by Mettoy. So are the unbranded kites the earlier Schofield products, with Mettoy making changes to their design when they took over production? Flying them side-by-side showed that the Mettoy kites do fly a tad better, especially at launch. That would support them being a later, improved design.

But I'm purely guessing now. Does anyone reading this know more about these kites?

**Web-site! [flyingfishkites.weebly.com](http://flyingfishkites.weebly.com)**

You may have seen the announcement on Facebook already, but if not, I've decided to create a simple web-site for Flying Fish. Not to replace this blog or our Facebook page, but to serve as a portal for access to both, and as a platform for more static information which tends to get lost in more dynamic platforms such as a blog or Facebook page. As I have zilch expertise in creating web-sites, I followed the example of our friends from Team Spectrum and created a basic free web-site through weebly.

For some reason, blogger doesn't allow me to create a clickable picture, but you can see the new Flying Fish web-site here. It currently has basic information on us, including pictures from most of the festivals we flew at over the years and an overview of the kites we've flown at events. There's a bit about our competition flying and us flying as part of larger teams. It has an overview of our 2017 events, with links to blog posts, and of confirmed 2018 events. And it has a few videos. No doubt more will be added over time, and the current content and layout will be tweaked as I get a better feel for what is and isn't possible with free weebly web-

## Meteorological Observations—From the Royal Society Archives

Extracts from: Meteorological Observations obtained by the Use of Kites off the West Coast of Scotland, 1902

The investigation, of which the results are given in the following pages, was undertaken by a Committee of the Royal Meteorological Society appointed in the spring of 1901, with the co-operation of a Committee appointed by the British Association at Glasgow.

This work has been carried out in the Observatory branch of the Meteorological Office. The experimental arrangements were designed and carried out by Mr. Dines, with the assistance of his two sons.

For many years past observations on the temperature and humidity of the upper air lying over the United States and the Continent of Europe have been obtained by means of kites, but although this method of investigation was originally started by Dr Watson, of Glasgow, in 1749, Mr. Archibald seems to have been the only person to make much use of kites for meteorological purposes in England. It was decided that, if possible, a steam vessel should be employed, since this would enable observations to be made in comparatively calm weather when otherwise no ascent could be made. *Locality of Observations.* The observations were made partly from a small island in Crinan Bay, Argyllshire, chiefly from the deck of a steam tug in the Sounds of Jura and Scarba, or on the open sea lying to the South of Mull. Could anyone have ascended with the kites, he would on every occasion have had a clear view, apart from mist or clouds, of the Atlantic Ocean lying to the westward, and since the winds, with a few exceptions, were from some westerly point, the results obtained may be taken as approximating to the conditions prevailing over the open sea.

### Apparatus and Methods.

Details of the apparatus used and the methods employed for raising the kites are published in the 4 Quarterly Journal of the Royal Meteorological Society, vol. 29, p. 65, 1903. It will be sufficient to state here that flying a single kite from a small steam tug is a very simple and easy process under all ordinary conditions of weather. With a vessel steaming 12 knots, a kite, with recording instruments attached, could be sent up at any time that the wind did not exceed force 8 on the Beaufort scale. The tug used at Crinan could not steam more than 7 knots, and a kite could not be started unless there were sufficient wind to make a ripple on the surface of the water.

Unfortunately the summer of 1902 was not a favourable one for kite work in that particular locality, as there were a large number of very calm days. On these days, with the assistance of the tug, there was always a chance of raising a kite to at least 1000 feet, but it was not always possi-

ble to get sufficient lifting power to raise the instruments. On the other hand, there were a few days on which the wind equalled or exceeded force 7, a moderate gale; on these days a kite could be, and in fact was, sent up, but as the Committee were unable, for want of funds, to provide a spare set of recording instruments, it did not seem advisable to risk the loss of the single set by sending them up in very strong winds.

Between June 19 and August 26, 71 ascents were made with an average height ~4200 feet (1280 metres). In 40 of these, with an average height of 5900 feet (1798 metres), records from self-recording instruments were obtained, those on July 4 and 7 were from land, the others from the tug. The great advantage of a steam vessel for this purpose is shown by the fact that whereas during the three weeks when ascents were made from the land, it was only found possible to get a kite up on ten occasions and the instruments on two occasions, during the seven weeks when the tug was used 61 ascents were obtained; a height of at least 1350 feet was reached on every day on which it was available, and the instruments were raised 38 times.

A far greater average height would have been obtained had there been a spare set of recording instruments; as there was only one set, and as the risk of losing the instruments is greatly increased by using additional kites, not more than two kites were used for any ascent until the last week. The average angular elevation given by the kites with a short length of line was  $62^{\circ} 30'$ . The greatest heights attained were 5500 feet (1676 metres) with one kite, 9200 feet (2804 metres) with two, 12,400 feet (3790 metres) with three, and about 15,000 feet (4500 metres) with four. In the last case the instruments were lost through the breaking away of the top kite on August 26, and the precise elevation is unknown.

No special calibration of the instruments was made. In view of the uncertainties attaching to the estimation of heights by an aneroid barometer, independent measures of the height of the kites were made for the purpose of correcting the instrumental readings. With a kite ascent from land, this is not very easy, since a kite is seldom stationary, and it is difficult to identify the time on the chart exactly with the time of an observation. It is different when using a vessel, for by altering the speed or direction of the vessel, the angular elevation of the kite can, as a rule, be varied at pleasure within wide limits, and by this means a decided crest or hollow, that is easily identified on the trace, is obtained. The angular elevation corresponding to the top of the crest or the bottom of the hollow is observed by a sextant, and this, together with the known length of wire out and a small correction for sag gives the height with fair accuracy.

The heights, as read on the trace, corresponded with the computed heights within about 5 per

## Meteorological Observations—From the Royal Society Archives

cent, until July 23, when the instrument fell into the sea. Upon its recovery it continued to give satisfactory curves, but direct observations of height showed that the scale-value had become altered, and from that date a correction of 15 per cent, was applied to the readings of height on account of the change of scale-value, the percentage being determined from observations of height 'in the manner described. With these corrections the determination of heights reached an accuracy of about 5 per cent.

The estimate of the humidity depends on the extension or contraction of a bundle of hairs. Very accurate results are certainly not obtainable in this way when the hygrometer is used over the sea, and it is doubtful whether they are in any case. In rough weather the spray flew over the tug, the hairs were at times wetted with salt water; then also during rain, and when the kite was in a cloud, they were actually covered with drops of water. The charts frequently show the condition of over saturation, and all that could be done was to set the pen frequently by the screw provided for the purpose, so that in saturated air it should indicate a humidity of 100.

These well-marked detached cumulus clouds were a very common feature, and they certainly indicate a want of horizontal uniformity of condition as regards moisture, probably as regards temperature also. Probably contiguous portions of a horizontal layer are moving, one upward and the other downward, with considerable difference of temperature. The descending column may perhaps be traced in the ruffling of the surface, which is characteristic of "catspaw" weather. On several occasions, notably on August 8 and August 20, convection currents, which would correspond with this state of the atmosphere, produced a noticeable effect on the kites, the angles of which varied from time to time in a very irregular manner. The apparatus employed is not sufficiently refined for the records to identify these differences without very special observations; they have accordingly been disregarded in the discussion of the observations.

The conditions under which the kite ascents were made during the period of the experiments tended to confine the higher ascents to days upon which the weather has a particular feature, namely, a moderately strong wind in the upper strata. When the winds became very strong, for the reasons already given, only one kite was used and the height was limited in consequence, and if the winds were only light a great length of wire could not be supported. The Fort William barometer curve shows that the pressure was as low as 29.5 inches on three occasions only during the two months, and exceeded 30 inches on eight occasions.

### Comparison with Previous Results,

The average results of the Crinan experiments, for the whole series of ascents, are given. They

are much below the results of the kite ascents at 17 stations in the United States, obtained by the Weather Bureau, but they agree very closely with the results of the Berlin balloon ascents. With regard to these last, however, a higher figure should be taken for the lowest stage of 500 metres for day ascents in the summer.

All these differences may probably be satisfactorily accounted for by the circumstances of the Crinan ascents, which were over the sea on the edge of the Atlantic, where the daily range of temperature is almost negligible. At greater heights the Crinan results are substantially lower than the Berlin results and the adiabatic gradient, but the number of high ascents is very small, and, as already stated, they refer to a particular type of summer weather which is probably different from those of the balloon ascents.

At the place where the kites were flown, the stream lines, apart from convection currents, are probably horizontal, since the disturbance produced by the mountains cannot extend very far to windward.

The level at which the kites the form of the bounding entered the clouds was invariably higher than the level at which the clouds lay upon the mountains. The Paps of Jura, some 2500 feet (760 metres) high, were often covered with clouds at times when the kites did not reach the cloud level under 4000 feet (1220 metres), and the same rule held for lower altitudes.



## Romance at Portsmouth

IT was a day to remember for two kite fliers after a surprise marriage proposal at last weekend's Portsmouth Kite Festival. Adam Gardiner popped the question to girlfriend Courtney Hayler in front of hundreds of watching visitors after the pair had enjoyed a romantic day out at the Southsea festival.

Adam, from Havant, contacted the organisers beforehand about his plans and was given a large heart-shaped kite to help make the day extra special. Adam said: 'I really like kites and I had been to the festival a couple of times.

'I was very scared beforehand. I told Courtney we were going to fly our own kites, and she had no clue at all. 'We were flying them and I just got down on my knee. She started crying and said yes quietly.'

The pair, who have been dating for a year, thanked the organisers for helping to make their day a success. Adam added: 'I was quite nervous but everyone there managed to calm me down.

'They made the day very special.'

[The big heart kite was courtesy of Andrew Beattie and Nick James provided the small one. Many thanks to all of the kite fliers who were part of this].

Pictures Franca Perletti



## Events List

<b>April 2018</b>		
7 - 8	Minchinhampton Kite Festival, Minchinhampton Common, Gloucestershire	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/Stroudkitedisplays">www.facebook.com/Stroudkitedisplays</a>
14 – 22	Berck International Kite Festival, Berck-sur-Mer, France	<a href="http://www.cerf-volant-berck.com">www.cerf-volant-berck.com</a>
20 – 1 <sup>st</sup> May	Cervia International Kite Festival, Cervia, Italy	<a href="http://www.festivalinternazionaleaquilone.com">www.festivalinternazionaleaquilone.com</a>
28-29	Jolly Up, Cliddesden, Basingstoke	<a href="mailto:roy@kitesup.co.uk">roy@kitesup.co.uk</a>
<b>June 2018</b>		
2-3	Houlgate Plein Vent, Houlgate, France	<a href="mailto:contact@plein-vent.fr">contact@plein-vent.fr</a>
2-3	Basingstoke Kite Festival, Down Grange Sports Centre, Basingstoke. [PROVISIONAL]	<a href="mailto:roy@kitesup.co.uk">roy@kitesup.co.uk</a>
9	Kites on the Beach, Walmer, Deal Kent CT14 7HJ	<a href="mailto:malcolmf@kentkiteflyers.com">malcolmf@kentkiteflyers.com</a>
<b>July 2018</b>		
7 - 8	Barmouth Kite Festival, on the beach opposite the Lifeboat Station, Barmouth, Mid Wales	<a href="mailto:mrkiteflyer@googlemail.com">mrkiteflyer@googlemail.com</a>
14 - 15	Leominster and Hereford Kite Festival, The National Trust's Berrington Hall, Leominster, Herefordshire HR6 0DW	<a href="http://www.kitefestival.org.uk">www.kitefestival.org.uk</a>
<b>August 2018</b>		
4 - 5	Exmouth Rotary Kite Festival, Exmouth. [PROVISIONAL]	<a href="mailto:ellisondavid@me.com">ellisondavid@me.com</a>
4 – 5	Jolly Up, Cliddesden, Basingstoke	<a href="mailto:roy@kitesup.co.uk">roy@kitesup.co.uk</a>
5	The Wind festival, Betteshanger Country Park near Deal Kent CT14 0BF	<a href="mailto:malcolmf@kentkiteflyers.com">malcolmf@kentkiteflyers.com</a>
11 - 12	Portsmouth International Kite Festival, Southsea Common, Portsmouth. [PROVISIONAL]	<a href="mailto:portsmouth@thekitesociety.org.uk">portsmouth@thekitesociety.org.uk</a>
11 - 12	Teston Kite Weekend, Teston Country Park near Maidstone Kent ME18 5BX	<a href="mailto:malcolmf@kentkiteflyers.com">malcolmf@kentkiteflyers.com</a>
25 – 27	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 2018</b>		
1 - 2	Kites up The Creek, Milton Creek Country Park, near Sittingbourne Kent, ME10 2EX	<a href="mailto:malcolmf@kentkiteflyers.com">malcolmf@kentkiteflyers.com</a>
1 - 2	St Annes International Kite Festival, South Promenade, Lytham Saint Annes FY8 2NG	<a href="http://www.stanneskitefestival.co.uk">www.stanneskitefestival.co.uk</a>
23	The Capstone Festival, Capstone Country Park Gillingham Kent ME7 3JG	<a href="mailto:malcolmf@kentkiteflyers.com">malcolmf@kentkiteflyers.com</a>