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

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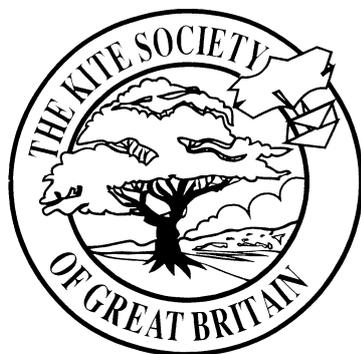
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Front Cover
Steve Brockett EDO
Photo: Gill Bloom

Dear Reader,

The season is going well with plenty of good weather around—let us all hope it continues.

Just a reminder about the new regulations that came into force at the end of May. The main effect of these regulations for small organisations like us is that we need explicit consent from each member to hold their data rather than the implied consent that filling in a membership form currently provides. Members who have joined since January will already have provided this consent—as will members renewing since January. This is an ongoing process until everyone has renewed.

It is always sad when a kite festival comes to the end of the line, particularly when they have been running for so long and been such a great event to fly at—Bristol is no more. See page 16 for more about this. We would like to thank Avril Baker and the team of organisers personally for all their hard work over the years—there are many wonderful memories. It is important to support the events that continue to run—and any new ones that come along. Why not make an effort to attend your local event and join in the fun.

As ever the magazine needs content. There are a few stalwarts who regularly provide us with content—Allan Pothecary and Hugh Blowers come to mind here—but we cannot rely on them—or our skills with the Internet. Thanks to new contributors this time around. So why not put pen to paper (or fingers to keyboard) and send something in—a favourite kite, photos of your kite adventures, anything kite related.

See you at Portsmouth if not before.

Gill and Jon

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

Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

Cody

It's been a while since we last flew our Treczoks's Cody and it's something I have been meaning to mention for a long time too. This edition finds me lacking in quantity as I have been in warmer climes for a few weeks and that, in itself, took more time than expected in preparation but more on that later.

The Cody comes with a whole jumble of sticks and sail with slots and sleeves all to be sorted, tied and retied as you get nearer to completion and the correct shape and tensions. Sometimes we really appreciate having a large tent to get out of the wind whilst we tackle the assembly.

It's quite easy to get the construction wrong as you may see from the photo but then I am known for my dislike of fiddly! Yes we managed to miss the fact that the longest spars should have gone through sleeves in the top wings and only discovered when I thought that the flight wasn't as good as it should have been.



This, particular Cody from HQ Invento (still available after many years) is instantly recognisable from its unique, red and black colours and the small addition sail on the top.

At the time the photo was taken ours was getting a bit old and, although the sail was still in top nick, some of the fittings were feeling the strain and needed replacing. The kite flies as a Cody does fly.

In a reasonable wind you can easily do a solo, long launch simply by letting it rest on its back and pulling gently letting it roll forward until it presents the right angle of attack when it will rise smoothly and swiftly in to the air and sit, steadily with a certain amount of preceses against some of the modern day inflatables.

Steady winds are required however because if the kite starts to drop it can be difficult to arrest the kinetic energy as it hastens towards base in the worst emergency stop since the Titanic.

Lovely and as powerful as it its I never use it as a lifter but I have used colour coded 100ft tails hung from its line to make a spectacular piece of sky art. The manufacturers claim 4mph to 20 mph but I would rate the lower end at 8mph plus. We don't use it for our shows because the time it can take to assemble although disassembly is quite quick!

I believe that every true kite flyer should have some type of Cody in their collection and I hope this narrative inspires you to dig yours out and give it some airtime this summer.

The Treczoks' Cody is quite large at 260cm wide and 120cm in height and fairly heavy - making it too much for us to take on holiday - speaking of which

We took an earlier trip to Spain this year and still enjoyed plenty of sunshine and better winds than usual. Marilyn and I like Spanish beaches because they tend to empty late afternoon when we can fly on into the evenings and, as many of them are floodlit, we can fly after dark too!

We booked our flights as soon as BA made them available and that means good bargains are to be had. We discovered, ages back, that by the time we booked window seats, sat together, extra legroom and extra baggage, it was cheaper to go premium where we got, included, in the price, TWO

cases each at 32KG per case and two bags each at 25kg as carry on hand luggage - unbelievable! Coupled with that we also got to use the airport lounge where I stuffed myself so much I had trouble eating the free meal on the plane! We ended up taking 45kg of kites with us and we got to fly them all at least once.

These days I tend to use our 16metre Trilobites or one of our Jellyfish as lifters a lot because they make a good showing on their own, have a good wind range (especially at the lower end) and will lift anything we take with us. We do have some unusual kites and line laundry but the one that always gets the most photos and enquiries is the big inflatable pink elephant I designed and Kaixuan profited from.



Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

When people stop to chat and marvel at the kites and accessories, I often try to explain what is needed, such as a choice of the correct breaking strain line and a good anchor as well as considering others on the beach, the safety elements and some experience of how the kites can react to changing conditions but their eyes just glaze over and you can tell they don't believe that all that is really necessary even when tiny tots, who have been allowed to wander, grab the tails if the wind suddenly drops and refuse to understand English when you holler at them to let go before the kite crashes to the ground and all their mates jump on the still inflated kite as though it were a bouncy castle.



We enjoyed it one day when a Spanish lady saw how the kids were spoiling the display and waded in shouting at them and simply clipping the ears of the ones who paid her no attention. Unfortunately, we missed getting that bit of excitement on video.

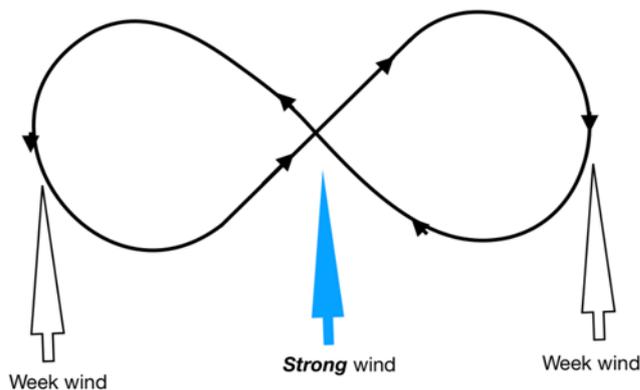
Lots of people say they want one for their grand children and wander off slightly embarrassed when I tell them how much is involved and the price. They all take one of our laminated cards and, hopefully visit our website and are encouraged to start kite flying after viewing our videos and articles and using some of the useful links to other sites.

Two line Flying

I have been coaching a few people in the art of dual line, sport kite flying recently. I have learnt how long it can take some people to click and how quickly others fall right in. Once they have mastered keeping the kite away from the ground I like to give a few simple exercises for them to practice on their own with the occasional intervention when I see bad habits creeping in. One of the other things I have learned is how little of what is being taught is actually taken in.

It can be quite physically and mentally draining acquiring the new skills so I have to curb my own enthusiasm and try not to pass on too

much information in one go. I know that others I have coached have successfully employed my methods of one to one teaching moving on in to pairs and then team but if there is something I can ask of all would be coaches or as a message to those just wishing to progress and that is just to learn the Infinity. 'The Infinity' is just a figure of eight on its side but the most important thing is to learn to fly it the right way around.



I have shown beginners what to do, only to find the next time we meet with them flying the shape incorrectly whereby they take the kite up the outside of the wind window and back down through the middle. The best way to start is to fly the kite straight up the middle of the window and then do a circle to the right, returning to the top/middle again when a circle left should be attempted, returning again to top/middle.

The point is, that when the kite travels downwards it is on the outer edge of the window where there is little or no wind and gravity takes care of its forward momentum whilst it turns back in where the wind is strongest to take it back up to the top. When confidence has been gained the Infinity should be 'flattened' so that there are a nice, three quarter circle at one end and the kite then tracks in a straight line at 45° across the main power centre ready to do the same at the other side.

Care should be taken to ensure that as much height as possible gained on either side - sounds easy doesn't it? There are more tips and a video on this in the tutorials section of our web-site. The video is doing quite well with over 52,000 visits but I wish some of the 23 people who gave it a thumbs down would have the bottle to say why - perhaps then I could improve it for the benefit of others!

Next issue I hope to be reviewing a brand new top of the range sport kite and a new to the market quad line as well as more of my usual ramblings.

Allan and Marilyn
kitedisplays.co.uk

Berck Kite Festival 2018—Hugh Blowers, Photos—Lynn Blowers

An economic treatise on a kite festival. Berck sur Mer 2018

Over the course of the festival we were privy to some facts, figures and the decision making that goes on in the higher echelons to justify the festival, the budget and who might be invited to attend. It is a symbiotic relationship between towns such as Dieppe, Cervia and Berck, along with organisers and flyers that ensures the success and continuation of the RICV and similar extended kite festivals. As explained to us though, the cost to the council, especially with all the security that is unfortunately now required, must be balanced by the benefit to the town as a whole. There is no doubt that Berck sur Mer is very much on the up now, with all the building, renovation and landscaping that is taking place. The Agora is no more, having had a major facelift and now rebranded as the Sunset beach bar, the old glass atrium having vanished. All this is in no small part down to the festival that has helped to extend the profile and season of Berck by a considerable amount. Flyers though do have a responsibility to keep their half of the bargain, which is not always appreciated by some? So, how was the balance for the 32nd running of the festival?

Our first dilemma was that a week before leaving we were sitting with snow on the ground, temperatures little above freezing and the long range forecast predicting temperatures in the low teens, winds seldom below 26-29kph constant and gusts above 60kph most days. Three days before leaving, a radical change in the jet stream added ten degrees to the temperature and reduced the wind to around 10kph maximum. Quick change of kites and clothes, but with enough of everything and extra sun tan products just in case. The journey to Dover set the stage, as the stop at Medway Services saw very cold and blustery winds, yet 25 miles later it was balmy, sunny and an almost summer's day, things were on the up. Just to show that lack of joined up thinking is not solely a British trait, the main east west route into Berck was blocked, with diversions in place for the entire time, creating total chaos at the weekends. This was after they managed to block the north south main route last year.

Sadly, the cat that had come to dominate our lives at Chez Meirelle had died and considering she only graced us with her company for two weeks a year, was still missed. Having gone from a feisty feral feline that used to draw blood on regular occasions, she had become a comfort loving lap cat who took up residence within hours of us arriving. Heavens knows what succeeding guests must have made of her? On our trips into town it was clear that the security introduced last year was going to be reinforced, all surrounding roads barriered off, stop blocks and blocking vehicles on the accesses and the

volunteer army, so young in many cases, and toting automatic weapons, a stark reminder of the ever-present threat. The cost of all these precautions is now over 50,000 euros, one fifth of the festival budget. With Alain now looking after all the security, the allocation of cabin keys was being supervised by the council 'cabine man' with his purpose built Renault truck for moving them about instead of the fork lift in use for many years. This process was carried out in a typically 'laid back' French style with it supposedly happening at 2.00, but little sign of any keys and a lot of gallic shrugging. Eventually the keys arrived in one large bag and three separate lists, one had which cabins had been allocated to what groups, and another the locations, so when a key was handed through the door, there was not a clue as to where it was on the beach? To a resounding cheer the first key came out of the door at 3-10 but a leap of faith found B11 in our normal position, alongside A13, so that worked out pretty well.

The bi-annual World Sports kite Championship was to be the main event of the festival, yet lurking by the hospitality tent was a pallet containing the contender for the new 'world's largest kite' record. Between them, they needed two very large arenas, restricting everyone else somewhat, which led to the inevitable grumbling at the southern end of the beach. The new 'flag' also brought with it Peter Lynn, who has been missing for a while from Europe. Peter and an extremely large Ferris wheel on the promenade, no he couldn't possibly, could he? Oddly, the first weekend has the largest number of registered flyers but perversely, no wind and a sea fog. The only thing that was flying, and did so throughout the week were several large, Italian, inflatable aliens. These do not require a pilot and seem to handle almost any level of wind. Finally the sky cleared but it was cold, yet the forecast looked superb from then on but with light winds all week, coming from varying direc-



Berck Kite Festival 2018—Hugh Blowers, Photos—Lynn Blowers

tions.

Close by, Gill Bloom had two new sets of banners, one with Terns flying over raging waves and another with more gentle waves complimented by flowing organza and a line of six carp down each. A huge amount of work and coupled with the ground display of poppy flags a large amount of material to carry and set out.

In the display arena ForeCe and Flying Squad were having fun, putting together a delightful routine with four Revs and four sports kites. In fact we probably saw more flown Rev routines this year than ever before, partly because of the wind, but primarily as the grid fly and Decs have annexed the 'positional wafting' style totally. All too soon it was time for the first of many trudges through the sand to the tent. The queues for lunch on the first day were longer than in the bad old days, but after last year's wonderful translation of the menu, this year, it was exactly as described, all prepared as usual by the AFPA training establishment. Still haven't figured out that vegetables do not need boiling for two hours though.

Not much other than sparred kites flying with 'Team Phoenix' putting up nine examples of Karl Longbottom's, Cassagnes Cup winning, 'oiseau'. Up to five more on site gave hope for a spectacular display later in the week if the owners could be located.



Something entirely new and exciting, both for myself and the kite world in general was being flown by Pedro Gonzales, and that was a printed kite. Yes, my feeling about these are well known, but this was an original image by Steve Brockett, seen at Portsmouth last year and intended to be produced as a limited edition as a collaboration between Steve and the Gonzales brothers. Looked good, flew well and not long

before I had blagged it for the afternoon. This is intended to be the first of a series of ventures tying up with established artists to put their images into the kite market at affordable prices. Not an original, but on the same principle as limited edition art prints. It is also a possibility that some of the earlier pieces of work that have now vanished could be replicated. Not for the first time that week, it was pointed out to us that the wind was pointing towards England higher up, yet France lower down, led to some interesting chaos in days to come.

Sunday dawned bright and clear with an almost perfect wind ensuring that the sky was full along the entire beach with large, very large and humungous inflatables. The Indonesian 'Puppet Show in the Air' had a huge traditional Hanuman monkey deity and an equally large and superbly made fairy 'Tinkerbelle'. Oddly though, her incredibly detailed skirt only covered the front, yet a huge pair of white knickers preserved her modesty. A bit of cultural diversity though, in the far east apparently, white knickers are considered to be quite an erotic accessory, no we did not know it either.



Most numeric by far were mantas of the two styles and variations of octopi, whilst the aliens had spawned a series of babies, all with fluorescent heads. Eventually the wind dropped away, indicating it was time to pack up, only for a rainy squall to hit for just a few minutes after six pm. Now, for the foodies, what would you expect if offered a 'Norwegian Omlette'. Turned out to be a variation of baked Alaska only as a giant hot profiterole filled with ice cream and then covered in chocolate sauce, mmm.

When the dust had settled, Monday would prove to have been the best day of the week with a southwest wind of perfect strength and a clear sky, meaning that it started to get very hot, a recurring theme. The sky was absolutely full of colour again with all arenas at maximum capacity although there had to be strategic withdrawals as the tide encroached further into the flying areas. This year the arrival of enfants was stag-

Berck Kite Festival 2018—Hugh Blowers, Photos—Lynn Blowers

gered so that there were a few hundred each day, rather than thousands at one time. Made toilet visits interesting as they scurried round like ants and were everywhere. Something commented on and quite apparent was that there are fashion trends with kites and some vanish, yet can still make an impact when there are just one or two rather than dozens. This year there were a couple of superbly made horses including a different version of Pegasus, one family of Seahorses and a solitary lobster. The resident beach artist was so taken with the 'hippocamps' that he painted a picture of them, which he presented to us on the final day. Older designs still have a lot to offer, especially if given a session in the tub to brighten them up.

At lunchtime, the judges and officials for the World Championship made a noticeable entry, a picture, all clad in purple waistcoats with their relevant titles embroidered on their backs. David Gomberg introduced them all and gave a potted history of the WSKC, omitting any mention of the World Cup, he also surprised everyone by suggesting that it was time he stepped down from his position and passed the baton on. As the forecast winds were light, the format of the competition had changed so that each team would fly their ballet routine twice in a day but still with their best two scores to count. Not often we have kites up all day, but this was one of them, so good was the wind. A new addition has been a Doug Richardson Puffin, flies happily off a normal bridle and does not need a head line, a very happy puffin. There were people taking a little too much interest in it though as there are few scruples evident about copying designs. Indeed, the northern arena hardly had an original kite in it. Our near neighbour was again Peter Releit with his huge flow forms that he delights in long launching. Only problem was that he long launched it through Bob Cruickshank's banners, tearing metres of mylar strips off one of them, leaving it looking like a toothless comb.

The competition started on Tuesday, a beautiful day but with a really squirrely wind. The high tides had meant the arena had to be moved inland leaving it perilously close to the promenade and awful wind to fly in. As a casual observer, it is impossible to give an opinion on figures as to whether each is good, bad or otherwise, unless something goes obviously wrong, so it was not until the first ballet in very light wind that we could get any feeling as to who was on it and those that wasn't. Andy Taylor did a brilliant job of previewing and analysing the styles of each team in the last magazine so it is down to my non-technical observation. The disparity in levels was almost immediately apparent, as was our tip for the top, current champions Start Air. Their music and variation in tempo, the precision and content of the routine, difficult to see anyone beating them, although the Folies did better them in one ballet and were in with a

shout. Mark and Jeanette Lummas and ForeCe were certainly so much better than last time, with alternative routines available, depending on the weather conditions. Of the rest, it was proving very hard to get a handle on what was happening, while the judges seemed to be struggling to get a consensus either. How times change though with just Flame from GB, and even they had to 'borrow' Vee from Airheads for the occasion. Panam'air stepped in a short notice to replace one of the Chinese teams making four from the home nation.

Silan Storm from China flew a very 'tricky' and consequently risky routine, with axels as turns and landings and multiple flicky flacky things along the way. The only problem with this is that it has to be perfect or it is glaring, and one member of the team consistently missed the recoveries. I do like a routine where the music relates to what is happening in the sky and that was sadly lacking in many cases. A couple of teams also suffered ten point deductions along the way, which did not help. Something I have yet to grasp is how one kite boating around whilst three are on the ground can impress the judges as only the landing and pick up can be considered a team effort, or am I missing something? There were some impressive individual elements, but only two teams seemed to be putting a string of them together and so it continued for three days with regular breaks for lack of wind.

After lunch on Tuesday, the wind changed direction, although very light but it was time to get the big kite out. There was considerable dissent down that end of the site as all other flyers had been ejected from that one arena whether the kite was out or not. Finally it staggered into the air just a few feet off the ground, something of an anti climax after all the hype. Yes, it may be big, but it is just another flag kite. As one kite-maker pointed out, he could have made an awful lot of kites from the fabric used. On a smaller scale, but probably more adventurous in terms of design was an inflatable kite safari from Hans Schneider with a family of elephants, a zebra and a lion. He illustrated perfectly one of the dilemmas facing Gerard Clement and probably most other organisers. There are always numerous people that want to be invited to festivals rather than pay their own way, but as he described to us, are they offering anything to enhance the festival. The availability of large inflatables commercially means that there is a vast over supply of those, so do have you anything different, unusual or interesting, and more importantly how much are you prepared to commit yourself to the festival? Guy Reynolds with his polar scene and super heroes series certainly comes into this category as do Dirk and Sonja Kruger with their trailer full of unusual inflatable shapes and figures. When the town is spending 300,000 euros on the event, there are high ex-

Berck Gallery 1 Photos courtesy of karl Longbottom



Berck Kite Festival 2018—Hugh Blowers, Photos—Lynn Blowers

pectations on their part. It was made quite plain on registration that participation in the night fly this year was an absolute requirement, and a clear indication of what you could offer as an alternative if there was no wind, in order to avoid the embarrassment of last year?

For a brief period the wind did come up so we decamped to the man-lifting arena to fly a train of Zimmerman octopi that Rolf spotted from way down the beach. We did undertake to move if the Saconneys needed to fly, but sad to relate, despite all the preparation they never made it off the ground all week. A relatively new couple to the scene are Karin and Roger Stevens from Belgium. They are prodigious builders appliquéd kites that they flew for the first few days. In the light afternoon winds they put up their 'four seasons' set of roller style kites, each showing ripples in a pool of water through trees over the year. They were trying to photograph the four together but there was never quite enough wind until Team Phoenix took a hand and brought them together in close formation for an hour or so. Vulandra signed off their visit with an amazing arrangement of connected kite trains, twelve in all on the beach representing what I think was an artist's easel, complete with back leg. Still very warm late into the evening with a new moon and one very bright planet set against a dark blue sky with a multi coloured glow on the horizon silhouetting the town. First time we have been able to sit out at night for many years, wonderful.

If Tuesday was hot, Wednesday was even hotter, 25 degrees and the accessory of the festival was the tarpaulin extended from the cabin doing duty as a sunshade and absolutely vital as the acres of reddening flesh around us confirmed. It also brought what Aimee Barsalou describes as a 'skunk wind' although others were less than polite. A mess all day as the Indonesians had not understood that it would be a 10+metre tide that covered the kites they had left on the sand. Jurgen Van Almelo lost an entire train of Italian skeleton fish in the sea, but such is the nature of the beach that he managed to wade out and retrieve them. Something odd this year was a sand bar that had built up causing huge and long rollers to come in that paddle boarders were using to surf on, some balancing feat. The remaining Italians had managed to hoist a pilot into some wind over 1000ft that stayed all day, but subjected their Pinocchio to a tug of will. Pilot trying to pull it up, feet in the sea pulling it down, legs getting longer as sea prevails until a large wave released them, only for poor Pinocchio to shoot up about 200 ft like one of those bungee attraction at a fairground. The lack of wind meant a chance to wander round the wind garden, and again one has to say, most had upped their game this year. Jean-Claude, with his new partner Jeanette, had even more variations on what to do with a pett bottle now fully

occupying two spaces. What a labour it is to put out all that and pack it away each day? Wendy Thomas continued with her recycling theme, but abandoned the milk and yoghurt cartons for butterflies made from plastic bags from different stores and some beautiful and tall foxglove type arrangements. These were made from tiny aluminium pots with shower exfoliating material cut and fixed in to look like the flowers. Very colourful and effective and it was great to see Peter and her back after the problems of last year.



Somewhat disturbing and possibly galling had been the usual mass exodus of fliers over the previous two days. Lunch queues were non-existent, not even one beer length. A very small English contingent remained, several having decamped for Cervia along with a number of foreign fliers. This left the Flying Squad of Steve and Daniel Hoath, Helen Ribchester and Steve Matchett providing the bulk of the four-line team entertainment. Perhaps the clash of dates is something that needs to be addressed between Gerard and Katerina? If the vanishing flyers were a concern so was the continuing lack of wind, with little prospect of any real change, just enough for sparred kites, including the largest ever Phoenix flight of eleven and three beautiful Cassagnes' rings from the Trains Volant team. Perversely, the lack of wind proved ideal for the 'world's biggest kite' that flew twice, and with plenty of line sat up in the sky well, allowing the huge tails to flow and do their job. The appliquéd bottom panel is quite a piece of work in that size. The lack of wind meant several interruptions to the ballet performances so little real idea of where each team was going, luck playing a very real part for each. It also meant the programme over running considerable so that the night fly briefing was something of a thin affair.

Friday was possibly the most frustrating day of the week, even hotter, if that was possible and indeed it was, a record April temperature for Berck. Still there were huge crowds sitting out

Berck Gallery 2 Photos from the camera of of Lynn Blowers



Berck Kite Festival 2018—Hugh Blowers, Photos—Lynn Blowers

waiting to be entertained and apart from one manta towed along the beach by Craig H, the only other inflatables making it off the ground were the Aliens, they are amazing. Even they had to resort to being towed by enthusiastic runners, in fact almost any kite flown that day relied on lots of backwards action from the flyers. At one stage, all Uwe and Ellen's deltas were hanging limply, indicating the total absence of any breeze at all. The Rev mega team had to be flown and it is a measure of those taking part that it looked very effective and a distinct change from the 'grid'. A spectacular addition to the site was Michel Boucard's new banners. He is renowned for his scenes across anything up to 100 flags, and this time it was a wonderful dragon in red on a yellow background with St George on horseback intent on doing it some damage, spread across seventy feather topped banners. The amount of work and investment in each of these displays is unbelievable and so effective when lit up at night, as it was that evening. In the display arena the teams were doing their best in the conditions, and yet again team phoenix was called upon to do their bit, this time managing another new record of twelve in the sky.

Something I had never seen before, although it had been tried previously, was Dick Toonen's Drum Box wall. No less than forty-eight of his drums are stood up, side by side in two lines to create the wall. Forty eight lines run out to a set distance and then forty eight flyers fully briefed, although in this case as Dick and his compatriot had to direct the whole thing two of us found ourselves with two line each. After a long Pink Floyd introduction from 'The Wall' album and on the phrase 'all in all it's just another brick in the wall' kites from each end of the top row are pulled up followed by successive pairs at two second intervals, which is then repeated for the second row, quite spectacular but requiring a huge amount of preparation and a lot of willing flyers. No less spectacular was the second running with two arches of twenty four boxes in each, and yes, more running as there was still 'B' all wind.

Ah yes, Peter Lynn did live up to his reputation, having managed to put his single skin octopus through the Ferris wheel. Friday night is gala night and this time the caterers had excelled themselves with huge trays of oysters, buckets of whelks and prawns another assorted seafood, as well as the normal board of meats and salads, an amazing spread but slightly unnerving as it was all laid out for nearly two hours in the sun and heat with no ice. By the time everyone was in, had their fill from the free bar and sat down it was getting on for nine, but in a break with tradition the Mayor stood up, said welcome to Berck, mange, which precipitated a stampede. How many oysters can one man eat? Well, the debris took up three plates alone. First

course consumed and it was on to the video with the normal level of cheering as each recognised kite or face came on, although a somewhat embarrassing silence with how much of it was taken with the big kite.

It was during the meal that we had a revealing conversation with Gerard Clement who was describing in detail the political and economic decisions that determine the future of the festival. Next year there is no championship so that means sixty fewer flyers and officials that will need to be transported, accommodated and fed, freeing up more of the budget that will be spent within the constraints explained earlier. There are also the municipal elections next year, which were thought to have a positive effect on the future of the festival. Finally it was on to the presentations. Gerard's gnome was on its way to Columbia and the Indonesians received a special award for their interpretations of the deities. The Cassagnes trophy for kite creation was somewhat confused as there was no trophy and it was awarded to Peter Lynn for the big kite, which was just a larger version of all that had gone before. Not sure anyone understood what was going on?

Now ten o'clock and at last the results of the WSKC. It was immediately obvious, even with my limited understanding of French numbers that there were going to be some big gaps in the scores as the lowest score was just 229 with Flame a little way ahead on 237. Not too many surprises, until eighth place, which was Silat from Malaysia, third last year. They were one of the teams docked ten points but this was still a disappointing result. Good to see Les Madamoiz'Ailes well up there in 5th place on 271 with just eleven points separating them from 9th, but as always the interest was in the top three, and oh my goodness wasn't it close between ForeCe in fourth and Atemoc in third, under 0.4 of a point, hardly a wobble in a turn. No surprises in the top two as Start Air had beaten the Folies by a considerable, 16-point margin who, in turn, were 12 points ahead of Atemoc, a great showing from the Columbian team. There needs to be serious work done in some quarters in the intervening two years as there were over 116 points separating the twelve teams, so it was with some interest that we observed Josh Mitcheson being mentored by Carl Robertshaw and taking a very active interest in the proceedings during the week.

In true Berck style, pudding was served by eleven, desserts and fromage together this time yet there seemed no limit to the number of times that the waitresses came out with fresh bottles of wine, even if they were more 'moments of pleasure'. Not sure what time the whole thing wrapped up but the thought of a very long Saturday had us heading for home before the 'witching hour'.

Berck Kite Festival 2018—Hugh Blowers, Photos—Lynn Blowers

Saturday saw new record temperatures and a decent offshore wind that had full skies until a sudden shift had the pilots still flying out to sea, whilst the kites on the lines were at exactly 90 degrees along the beach before the eventual chaos ensued as the pilots fell out of the sky. The Italian pilot was significantly higher than the rest so stayed flying out to sea for another two hours before that too succumbed, by which time the tide had come in, so it was a long struggle to get it back.

The Indonesians had a huge version of a Chinese dragon with a leaf pattern on the cells and three leaf shapes on each balancer that had flown during the week, but now in the lighter winds took several attempts before they could get it up. Team Phoenix were summoned at very short notice for another mass fly as a prelude to a second Dick Toonen wall. This time the finale was three arches of drum boxes that just about held up. I have to express thanks to all the sports kite flyers that mucked in and helped either flying or launching during these mass ascensions, even Judge Andy Taylor was seen with a Phoenix although the lack of a second line flummoxed some of them.

The prospects of breeze, or lack of, is the dominating thought as the vol de nuit approaches? Happily a nice offshore breeze sprang up allowing a decent range of kites for the first time for several years. The theme was Star Wars, lots of people in white tyvek suits and light sabres parading around the magnificent Millennium Falcon. We were not sure if this was a new or re-engineered version of the kite that so impressed previously, but what was clear was that the pressurisation problems had been sorted. It was sad that this kite and the Nautilus from la Sens du Ceil had been the source of such rankling and even, apparently, a court case. Oh, the perils of 'club kites'? The wind allowed Guy to get up a super hero, while dragons could be seen way above in the clear air along with a selection of aliens. The Jardin du Vente group had taken Gerard at his word and produced a whole series of illuminated conical and spherical lantern on varying length poles that they could parade around the arena, some in illuminated suits as well. No blimps or gas flares this year, all down to the flyers and they had responded well to Gerard's blandishments.

A new phoenix with reflective outlining had been sold, so there were strict instructions that it was not to be anywhere near the fireworks but numerous pyro deltas did not have these constraints and neither did Karl Longbottom's angel. As a result, it is now a unique 'vented angel'. The night fly and firework display was reckoned to be amongst the best ever and it was later reported that record crowds had attended. Cars were parked well over thirty minutes walk away and evening picnics were the order of the

day as restaurant table were impossible to find either Saturday or Sunday.

The last day of a long festival always brings mixed emotions. Sometimes it is relief if it has been hard work or bad weather, often sadness if it has been as enjoyable as this year was, but there is the inevitable dragging of everything back to the car to be contemplated. There is also the most obvious exodus of flyers, although this year, despite the large numbers of empty cabins, there were just as many kites flying until another massive wind shift had everything subside to the beach.

After what was the best lunch of the entire event it was a delightfully laid back afternoon. Bob Cruickshank added a Spanish devil to the list of kites he had 'put a smile on', the smile being a stack of 'Lester's Lips'. Several years since I had taken a well behaved kite for a 'walkabout' so a Phoenix with every bit of line out and I went for a wander. It was then that I discovered why a quad bike from the Savetuers had been charging up and down all week. A very large channel has developed between the sea and the beach that was already three feet deep with hundreds still the other side on the sand. One end was still clear but others decided to wade or swim for it before being cut off.

Before I conclude, it has to be mentioned that Berck and the environs are fighting a very serious and expensive battle against coastal erosion to the South of the town. The old defences and dunes have now been overwhelmed or washed away, leaving little to stop the inundation of the entire area. Hundreds of thousands of tons of rocks have been built up to a height of fifteen feet or more for something around half a mile to keep the sea at (in) the bay.

Suddenly it is all over with the now traditional ten-person alliance of the Folies, Les Madamoiz'Ales and Dave Morley closing the 32nd RICV and The Doors 'The End' sending us home having had one of the more memorable events ever in terms of the weather, even if the flying had been somewhat iffy and difficult for much of the time. Fab-u-lous, to quote Craig Revel Horewood.

As Gerard suggested on Saturday evening, the 'balance' is definitely positive at present, indicating that the RICV should have an equally positive future.

As a footnote, it is sobering to think that less than a week later as this article is being concluded the temperature has dropped over twenty degrees, we are experiencing continual rain, with gale force winds and even a band of snow sweeping across northern France, weren't we all lucky?

Portsmouth International Kite Festival 2018

Taking place Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th August at Southsea Common, Portsmouth. This is the 27th Festival.

The theme this year is "Kites and Art". We have a number of world renown kite artists coming to Portsmouth and demonstrate their kites and art. Including George Peters and Melanie Walker from Colorado, USA.



Some of George Peters' Airworks



Melanie Walker—kites

Another artist visitor to Portsmouth is Steve Brockett—visiting for the first time.

Repeat visitors for the Art kites are Albert Trinks, Caterina Cappelli, Frances Anderson and Dave Ellison. This should be a good display with the support and kites from The Beccles Bunch, Paul and Natalie Reynolds, Nick James and others.

STACK are celebrating their 30th year and in celebration are planning a two-line megateam display, as well as a Festival competition. See page 27 for more details. So if you have a vintage dual line kite, bring it along and join in.

Other first time visitors include four fliers from

Poland—Alicja Szalska, Szymon Krawczyk and Team Kuklok.



Alicja Szalska and kite

Anne and Peter Whitehead from New Zealand are also first time visitors to Portsmouth. Peter is President of the New Zealand Kite Association.

Also confirmed as coming to the kite festival are:

Bernard Dingwerth, Rolf Sturm, Gerd Klaus, Karl-Ulrich Kortel (Germany), Sonja and Dirk Kruger (Germany), Dick Toonen (Belgium) Nasri Ahmed (Malaysia), Peter and Christiane Schmidt (Germany), Jan and Jolanda van Leeuwen (Netherlands) and Marco Casadio (Italy).



Jan van Leeuwen's Soldier and girl friend

Portsmouth International Kite Festival 2018



Dick Toonen Drum Kites.

New sport fliers are Juan Miguel and Rafael Molina—Viento Sur from Spain, and Stephan and Ingeborg Friers—Fenix Pair from Belgium - and more to come.

From the UK we also have Team Spectrum, Brighton Kite Fliers, Tony Cartwright, Dunstable Downs Old Gents, The Avon Kite Fliers, The Decorators, Guy Reynolds, Flying Fish, Nick James, Andrew and Kathleen Beattie, Martin Lester, Bella Gough, Carl Robertshaw, and Amalgamation. Plus of course George Webster on commentary.

As well as the kite artists we have a range of large inflatable kites from new and regular guest fliers.

The timetable will be published on the web site www.portsmouthkitefestival.org.uk when we create it!

As normal we will have several displays where you can bring your kite into the arena and join in. See the Portsmouth web site for details when the timetable is published.

Even if you do not have a suitable kite for the displays—there are often more kites than people to fly them, so why not come along and help—just ask. We know that Dick Toonen has a lot more kites and will need people to help fly them in the arena.

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

The event will have its own radio call sign (GBOPKF) this year, thanks to the Fareham and District Amateur Radio Club who will have a station at the event, using a kite to loft the aerial.

Festival Auction: There will be a short (hopefully) auction taking place Saturday evening around 8:30pm to raise funds for the festival. This will take place in one of the marquees on site.

Items for the auction gratefully received before or on the day. Everyone is welcome to attend the evening events.

Free parking is available for KSGB members on request from us IN ADVANCE as we cannot issue passes on the day. Requests must be with us by 31st July. No passes will be available at the site. Send SAE or email us with your name and car registration number. Please note that each pass will be specific to you and NOT transferable. Your name and registration number will be printed on the pass. Also note that if you do not supply the registration number you will not get a pass.

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

Camping is fully booked and we do not have any spaces left.

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

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

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



Guy Reynolds's expanding range of cartoon characters.

Bristol Kite Festival says thank you and farewell

We live in challenging times with increasing costs and the bureaucracy of running major event plus austerity measures in the city and limited sponsorship opportunities. As the organisers, who have run the Bristol Festival event voluntarily on top of our day jobs and family commitments, we have reluctantly taken the decision to call it a day.

We do this with a great deal of sadness as we know that many people have enjoyed participating and watching the kites and displays over the years. Thank you to the Kite Society for giving the Festival team the opportunity to respond.

Our ethos and drive from the start was to provide a public showcase for the understanding, enjoyment and appreciation of many different types of kites and air creations demonstrated by fliers and makers both locally and from countries all over the world. We have also tried to combine the public side of the event with a forum for kite flyers/enthusiasts from different countries to meet and exchange creative ideas and skills.

Kites are regarded by many as a way of bridging cultures and people of differing background together in an accessible and entertaining way. Kites are also enjoyed by people of all ages and abilities. Furthermore anyone can participate in kite flying whatever their budget from a home-made child's kite from recycled materials to state-of-the-art power kites.

We have prided ourselves on being an all-inclusive family friendly community event attracting people of all ages and abilities without the trappings of major sponsorship which would at times have been welcome but also brings the risk of taking over and commercialising the event.

The first Bristol Kite Festival was held in 1986 organised by Martin Lester, John Peyton and myself. We were somewhat unprepared and overwhelmed by how many people turned up but the response from flyers and public was amazing. The festival rapidly grew into an international event and a popular fixture on the kite calendar attracting many thousands of spectators and enthusiasts from far and wide.

In addition to regular festival displays such as rokaku fighting and sport kite routines we developed the idea of themed spots such as Festival of the Sea, Heavens Above, Serenade of Serpents and Pulling Power where some of our many guests and regular flyers were encouraged to come into the arena and join in the fun.

We have also teamed up with various charities including Cancer Research with that amazing

Kite of Hope, Wallace & Grommit's Hospital Appeal and the Great Western Air Ambulance.

It is virtually impossible to pick out highlights from nearly 30 years. But in 1991 we hosted the World Sport Kite Championship, broken the record for the biggest kite in the world in 1997 with Peter Lynn's Megabyte and one of the first public flights of the amazing Al Farsi flag kite in 2004. The Decorators celebrated their 100th Festival in 1999 whilst in 2008 Revolution kites celebrated their 20th anniversary with a mass fly-in of kites in Portsmouth and Bristol. We have watched breath-taking sport kite routines from World Champions such as Sky Dance, Aircraft and latterly Scratch Bunnies and marvelled at the beautiful artistic kites and special shapes from designers and makers from all over the world.

The festival has appeared regularly on national and international TV, from Wacaday and Blue Peter to Scrap Heap Challenge and The One Show as well as news coverage around the world.

So ... on behalf of the Festival team I would particularly like to thank all the many kite flyers and clubs, kite enthusiasts, spectators, traders and supporters who have made the festival such an incredible event and a real part of Bristol and its community.

Thanks for the memories.

Avril Baker and the Directors of Bristol Kite Festival CIC



Photo: Myk Garton

Bristol Kite Festival says thank you and farewell



Great Western Air Ambulance at the festival



Two different World's Largest Kite



Roly in Flight



Amy & Kite of Hope



Fliers Briefing 2010—Andrew Beattie

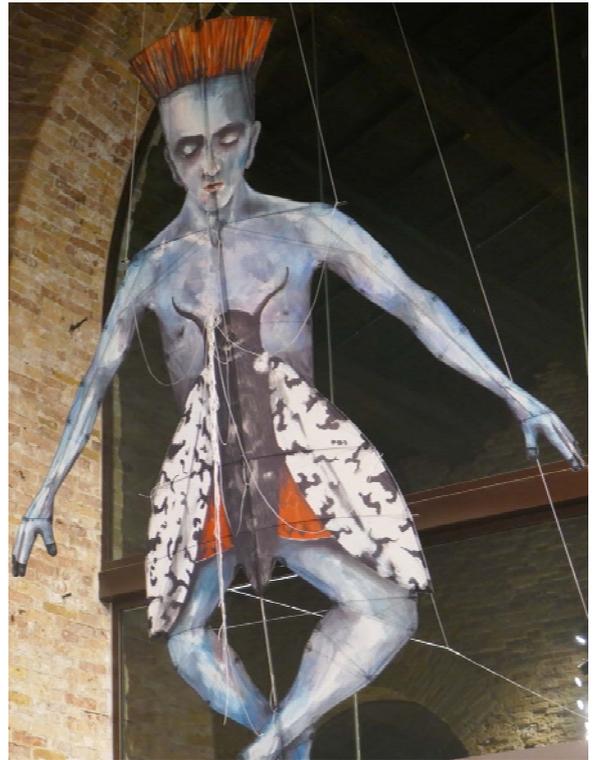
The Eyes of the Wind—Exhibition at Cervia.

A personal exhibition included in the Artevento 2018 programme, dedicated to the extraordinary British visual artist Steve Brockett, in the dual role of wind artist and aerial photographer.

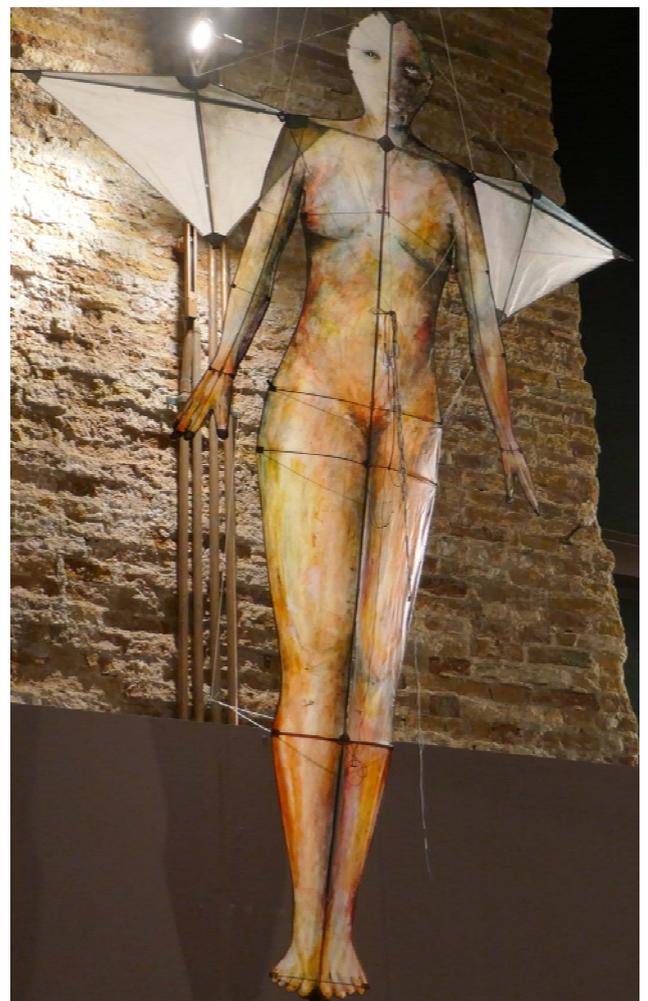
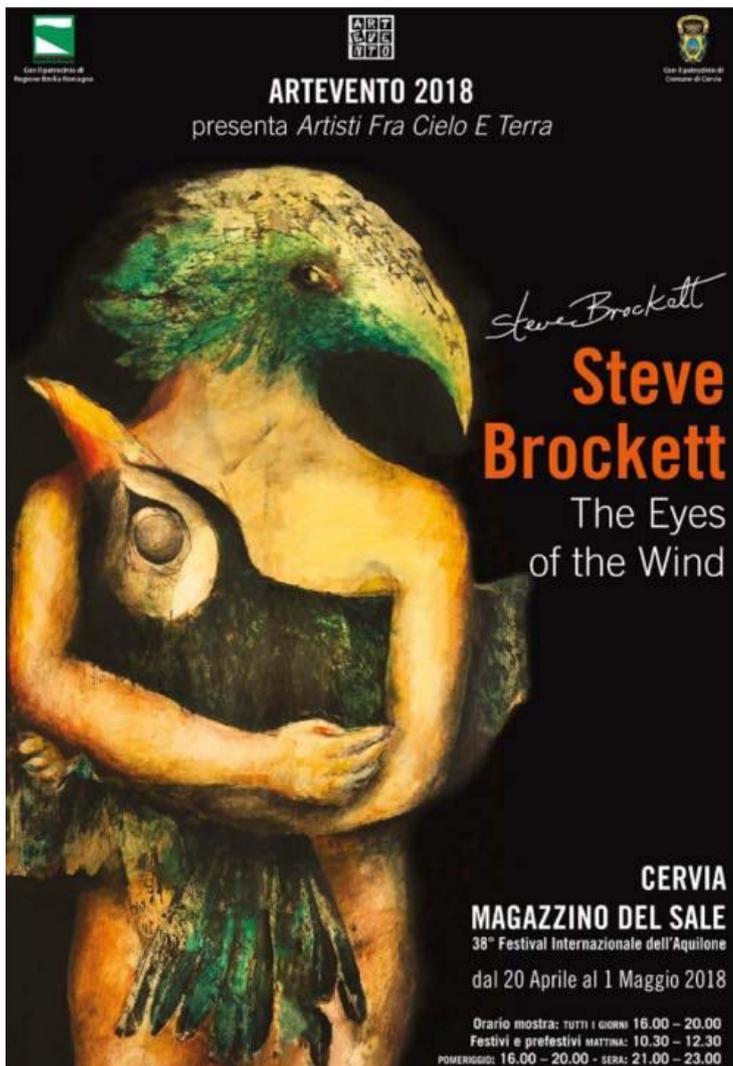
The exhibition displayed not only more than 40 kites painted by Brockett, but also about thirty aerial photographs taken by the artist during adventurous paragliding flight sessions.



Steve Brockett. Marian Linford



Turi Whatia! Marian Linford



Angel of the West. Marian Linford

The Eyes of the Wind—Exhibition at Cervia.



Where the wind blows. Jan van Leeuwen



Marian Linford



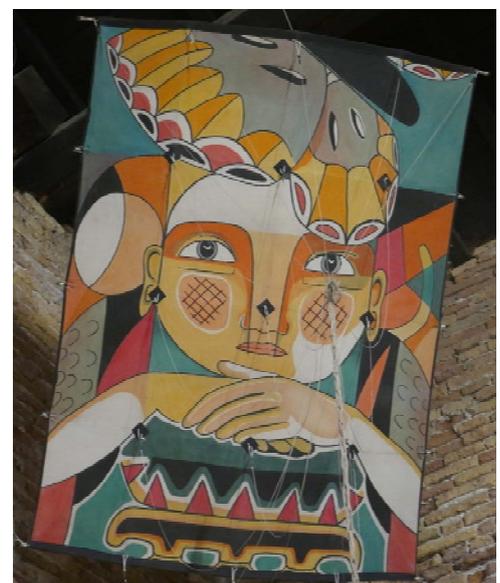
Torn Birdman.
Marian Linford



Jan van Leeuwen



Jan van Leeuwen



Marian Linford

FIFA World Cup 2018

Rev Flying a the World Cup.

The opening ceremony of the World cup also featured kites—with the most interesting being the Revolution kites being flown, together with a full orchestra, on a floating platform on the river outside the stadium. A number of UK fliers were present. All pictures below are via Stephen Hoath. There were also bird kites being flown in the stadium during the ceremony itself.

FIFA 2018 Kite Team (time to present the heroes).

Birds Cast: Karl Besuelle, Richard Debray, Gallibour Damien, Guillaume Grandin, Enrico Grilli, Mathieu Mayet, Gregory Reynes, Ramlal Tien, Olga Bednova, Alex Vain, Tanya Romanenko, Sergey Chernishev. Crew: Nikita Artamonov, Mikhail Genin, Elena Pogoydash, Nadezhda Romanova Design & Production: Ramlal Tien

Revolution Cast. Sabine Chancel, Philippe On Web, Nati Mistral, Olivier Gilet, Tom Greenfield, Stephen Hoath, Daniel Hoath, Vaughan Livingstone, Guido Maiocchi, Ashley Mottram, Sara Rizzetto, Giuseppe Mistral, Werther Secchi, Gary Tyrrell, Alard van den Bos, Marc van der Graaf, Grigoriy Yurin, Aleksey Dementiev, Mike Loskov, Alexander Malaev

Crew: Maria Gavryushina, Pavel Suslov

Design: Revolution kites. Production: Pedro González, Esteban González Molina. Line sets: Roelof van der Tak

Big thank you to David Ellison, Felix Mottram, Carl Robertshaw. Responsible for all that has happened: Mike Loskov



From the Auctions

Ebay: Capodimonte—Zanella, Go Fly a Kite.



9" tall. There is no description as such—just lots of photos. It did not sell at £21.99 plus postage.

The lack of sale may be due to this description!

"I always pack them carefully in light-weight strong boxes. But unfortunately some shipping workers don't. They treat them like footballs.

"So I now have to advise that collection is the best option. Ceramics and glass cannot be insured against damage so shipping would be at your risk

and I would require a confirmation email stating that before shipping."

Victorian Wool work Picture Boy With Kite Period Dress in Maple Frame

Victorian wool work and painted picture of a little boy in period dress with a kite. Charming subject. Colours still nice and bright, there is a bit of rough patch to the face if inspected very close up but has been beautifully re painted so only mentioned for compete accuracy otherwise in very nice condition. This has been re framed sometime in the last 20 years.



Measuring 44 cm x 41 cm including the frame. Listed for £110 plus postage.

Kite Tribes Come Together for Kopparberg in Beautifully Hypnotic Ad

You may have seen the advert for Kopparberg—a Swedish Fruit Cider featuring kites. The advert can be seen on their web site <http://kopparberg.co.uk/>



Some description—the advert's intriguing narrative leads with an awe-inspiring tribe of spirit kites which mesmerisingly come together across a sun-soaked valley. Drawing on nomadic and tribal imagery, the spot personifies the essence of summer – characterised by being outdoors with friends.

The scene is set against the backdrop of rocky hills in a sandy valley. A mesmerising array of aerial sculptures and kites whirl through the sky. The sun peaks in the beautifully clear skyline as the intriguing flying creations take centre stage.

The designs – which include a Mayan mask, a monkey, a dog, a man and woman, spirits and an Egyptian eye – form visual representations of diverse tribes, acting as a metaphor for friends coming together outdoors. Each flown by a different person, the unique kites spectacularly cavort and intertwine with one another in the air. One epic sculpture, designed in the style of an Easter Island head, mysteriously emerges between the canyon's rocks guiding the others to a central moment of carefree collectiveness.

Shot in South Africa, the kites were being filmed in camera. Some of the more complex and intricate kite designs were built in post production using CGI. Notably the epic Easter Island Head to which all of the kite sculptures flock together.

Organic kites keep the Earth from plastic contamination

BALI, INDONESIA - APRIL 21: Ikadek Dwi Armika flies an organic kite that made up of taep leaves, corn husk and dried fruits on the beach

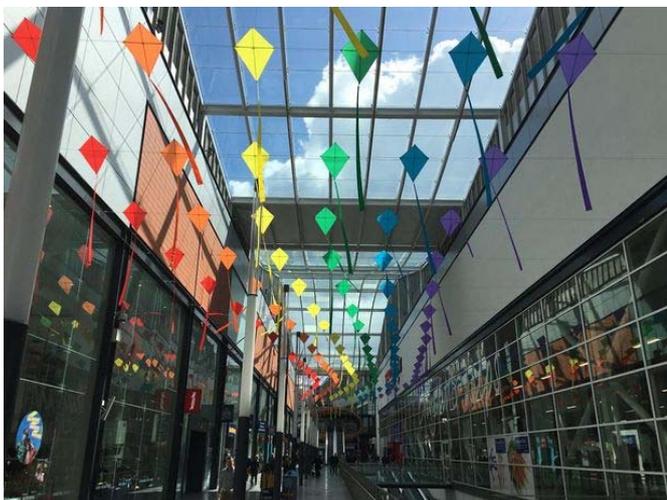
Bits & Pieces

of Sanur in Bali, Indonesia on April 21, 2018. Ikadek said that kites are usually made up of paper and plastic materials that have an bad impact on the environment so making organic kites help to preserve nature.



This is why there are hundreds of colourful flags in St Stephen's shopping centre

Well, kites actually. A spectacular display of more than 200 kites suspended in the air adorned St Stephen's shopping centre in Hull. Taking over four nights and almost 200 hours to complete, the colourful installation involved engineers suspending individual kites by rods from the glass ceiling of the shopping centre.



Commissioned by St Stephen's owner British Land, the display has been inspired by the centre's sponsorship of this year's Bridlington Kite Festival which took place from May 19 to 20, and will be on show until early September. Now in its third year, the Kite Festival attracts visitors from all over the country to come and see some of the best kite displays in the world. As part of the festivities, St Stephen's will also hosted free kite-making workshops for families over the May bank holiday weekend from 10.30am to 4pm. The workshops featured

demonstrations from a professional kite maker who will be on hand to share tips on how to create the best home-made kites.

Jim Harris, centre manager at St Stephen's, said: "The arrival of our kite display is a great moment for us and we can't wait to see the reaction on shoppers' faces when they see how our centre has been transformed. We're expecting our free kite workshops to be very popular with families looking to take their creations to the festival or their local park, and as they are being run on a first come, first served basis, we're encouraging people to arrive early to avoid disappointment."

Gazans send fire-starting kites into Israel; minister threatens lethal response

ISRAEL-GAZA BORDER (Reuters) - Palestinians are sending kites dangling coal embers or burning rags across the Gaza border to set fire to farmland and forests, in a new tactic that an Israeli minister said should be countered with "targeted assassinations".

At least 120 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli troops during mass demonstrations along the Gaza border since March 30 and the men sending the kites over the fence believe they have found an effective new weapon.

"It began spontaneously. We never thought we would achieve such good results," said Shadi, one of five Palestinian teenagers preparing kites with fabric dipped in diesel and lubricant oil in a Gaza field. "The idea is simple: use the simplest tools to cause damage and losses on the Occupation (Israel)," said Shadi, 19, wearing a "V for Vendetta" mask favoured by protesters in many parts of the world and who, like the others, declined to give his last name.

Public Security Minister Gilad Erdan said Israeli snipers should shoot the kite flyers. "I expect the IDF (Israeli army) to handle these kite-flyers exactly as they would any terrorist, and the IDF's targeted assassinations must also apply to these kite-flyers."



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Israel has drafted in civilian drone enthusiasts as army reservists, instructing them to fly their remote-controlled aircraft into the kites, an Israeli general said. The army has also fitted larger surveillance drones with weighted fishing lines or blades that can snag or slash kite strings in mid-air, the general said.

President & Prime Minister Fly Kites

President Joko Widodo invited Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to play kites at the National Monument. They jointly reviewed the Indonesia-India Kite Exhibition which was being held.



The exhibition had kites with pictures of typical Indonesian puppet characters and typical Indian characters, such as Mahabharata. When done they had time to try to fly kites. However, the two did not fly the kites from scratch, but continued the previously launched. Jokowi flew a kite with an Indian flag motif, while Narendra flew the Asian Games logo. Jokowi and Narendra's hands looked nimble to play the threads to keep the kites flying in the air.

Older Kite Books

For those who collect kite books, but may have missed out on some of the older classics this web site may be of interest. (French site).

www.cerfvolantservice.com/contents/fr/d481_Magazine.html. It lists 10 books—some in French, some German and others in English. Amongst the English ones are Kite Cookery by Don Dunford and Stunt Kites to Make and Fly. Prices are not too bad (€8 for the Dunford and €13 for the Stunt Kite one).

The site also does other items for making kites as well as some kites themselves.

UNRWA students fly kites in memory of Japanese earthquake and tsunami victims for the seventh year

On 13 March 2018, over 1,000 Palestine refugee students from four UNRWA (United Nations

Relief and Works Agency) schools in Khan Younis, Gaza, gathered to fly kites of hope in commemoration of the seventh anniversary of the most powerful earthquake ever recorded to hit Japan. For the seventh year, messages of continued empathy and solidarity soared into the skies of Gaza. The Kites of Hope festival was held at the Khan Younis Training Centre in southern Gaza. UNRWA Director of Operations (DUO) in Gaza, Mr. Matthias Schmale, the Ambassador for Palestinian Affairs and Representative of Japan to Palestine, Mr. Takeshi Okubo, as well as the Chief Representative of JICA in Palestine, Ms. Yuko Mitsui, two Japanese NGOs – Campaign for the Children of Palestine and Peace Winds Japan, and UNRWA senior staff attended the event.



“When the teacher told our class that we can participate in the Kites Festival, I felt really happy and I got even happier when I saw around one thousand students flying their kites and sending messages of hope that soared in the sky. I also talked to a number of Japanese students through the Skype call and listened to their experiences and culture, we have many things in common. I wish the Japanese people peace, success and prosperity,” says Lama Bayan Shaqoura, 13 years old, UNRWA student at Al Amal Preparatory Girls School.

“UNRWA remains grateful to Japan for its ongoing support to the people in Gaza and for the close relationship we have shared for many years, especially in times when the future of UNRWA that of Palestine refugees looks very uncertain. The Kites of Hope event is our messages of support and solidarity with the children, people and the government of Japan,” said the DUO in Gaza, Matthias Schmale.

Arts on Film Archive.

Many may already know about this film by the above archive (<http://artsonfilm.wmin.ac.uk>) lists Kites. A collage of kites and kiteflyers amongst its catalogue. The film is split into three main segments. We cannot locate a viewable version but using the description on the archive site.

Bits & Pieces

Segment 1. Starts with a piece on kite aerodynamics and the dihedral principle. It goes onto make a basic Malay (more likely an Eddy) without a tail. Commentary explains that such kites have long been associated with scientific, meteorological and aeronautical discovery. Photographs are used with Marconi, various individual and multicelled box kites, Brogden, Cody and a Cody kite train.

Segment 2. Starts off with the Bell Cygnet—the fairly standard launch and crash sequence. Following this goes into the Gibson Girl style rescue kites. It then appears to jump to more recent designs (relative to 1980 anyway) with a Larus Seagull kite. Then flips to miniature kites and Japanese kites (!). Last of this segment is fishing kites.

Segment 3. Kicks off with Indian fighter kites, segues into the Kiskadee, Peter Powell and Flexifoil (we think). Judging by the synopsis this was the main focus at the end of this segment.

Credits: Kites made and flown by Dan Leigh, Nick Morse, Dave Turner, Ray Merry, Andrew Jones, Len Pradier, Tony Paine, Vivian Comma, Mr Mohammed, Peter Powell, Martin Lester, Jane Selman, Beverley Read, Sean Rawnseley, Jilly Pelham, Brenda Smith.

Illustrations courtesy of The Victoria and Albert Museum, The Royal Aeronautical Society, The Royal Aircraft Establishment Clive Hart.

If anyone has a copy—or a link that can be viewed—let us know.

Children of Sderot counter kite terror with kite festival

Hundreds of helium balloons and kites bearing flammable materials have been launched from Gaza since March 30, killing wildlife and incinerating thousands of acres of forests and agricultural fields in Israeli border communities.

In a therapeutic response to the kite terrorists operating just 33 kilometres from their city, officials in Sderot invited parents and children to create and launch colourful handmade kites bearing positive messages. The kite-making workshop hosted by 7 Sderot Mall Center was open to families from the surrounding towns and featured a presentation of stories, legends and facts about the development of the kite. Each child received materials from the Israeli company Gamigo to make his or her own kite. At the end of the workshop the kids flew their kites in the sky.

“As opposed to our neighbours from the Gaza Strip who have turned the wonderful hobby of flying kites into an act of terrorism, with terrible



This kite made in Sderot bears a message that says “I want that there will be peace.”

damage to agriculture, the children of Sderot and the surrounding communities are returning the kite to its source – from preparation to flying it into the sky and hoping that it will not fall,” said Sderot Mayor Alon Davidi. “We are busy with positive things and optimism and the desire that our children always be happy,”

Davidi added. “I also call on the children of Gaza to enjoy playing with kites and not be drawn astray by terrorist elements. Ours are kites of life, not death.” The weekend preceding the kite festival was marred by 17 kite-ignited fires on Saturday and 11 on Sunday.

In another positive response to the agricultural and environmental impact of the terror fires, Keren Kayemet Le’Israel-Jewish National Fund (KKL-JNF) began distributing thousands of tree seedlings to residents of Gaza border communities last Friday to kick off a week-long planting campaign.

Wheatley, Ont. warehouse contains one of the largest kite collections in the world

Looking at the outside of a secluded storage warehouse located off of a dirt road in the middle of Wheatley, Ont., it would be impossible to guess one of the largest private kite collections in the entire world sits nestled in a back room.

George Paisiovich, the owner of the collection, said he has somewhere between 3,000 and

Bits & Pieces

4,000 kites from 36 different countries strung across the concrete walls.

"I started in 1978. I quit working in politics at the House of Commons, I walked into a clothing store downtown Toronto, saw all these kites and opened up a kite shop for the summer," said the 61-year-old London resident. "I gave away a gazillion more than I ever sold."

But that did not stop Paisiovich from collecting some of the rarest and most unique kites the world has to offer. His collection ranges from little stamp kites, to kites over 30 m long. The oldest kite dates back to the 1880's.

"What do I do with this? Well that is a question my wife constantly asks me," said Paisiovich, chuckling, although he quickly becomes serious as he thinks about his decades-old hobby. "You don't see sad people flying kites. Its unpredictable, its natural, its low-cost, its colourful, its whimsical, its play," he said. "In a word, it's joy."

One of the more unique kites in his collection is a 'Rogers Walking Stick,' from the 1880's. As far as Paisiovich is aware there are only two in the world. The kite is scrunched up inside the walking stick and was used in the late 1800's as a hunting mechanism. Paisiovich also owns a 'praying mantis' kite which cost upward of \$8,000.

Another "priceless" treasure for Paisiovich are wooden kite frames, used in experiments by Alexander Graham Bell. He said they were gifted to him by Bell's great, great grandson. When asked what his favourite kite would be, Paisiovich said, "kites are like your kids, there is no favourite."



This is part of Paisiovich's old white cotton kite collection, which makes up the largest collection of its kind in North America.

Paisiovich hopes to share his collection with as many people as possible through events like the Wheatley Windfest, which he organized this past weekend with a group of volunteers. He

wants to pass down the history he has collected as well as the feeling of joy.

"You see families playing, not everyone with their darn head down and their computer screen and the rest of it. "That's rare and magical and its something, if you can be part of, is very cool."

Another from Ebay



Goebel Girls with Kite Figurine. Listed at approximately £34. Unfortunately located in USA so postage is £18.

Aeolus: Wind satellite weathers technical storm

Designed to make the most comprehensive maps of winds across the Earth, the Aeolus mission missed deadline after deadline as engineers struggled to get its key technology - an ultraviolet laser system - working for long enough to make the venture worth flying.

But now the Aeolus satellite is finished and ready to ship to the launch pad. And far from being snuck out the back door at night in embarrassment at the huge delay, the spacecraft will be mated to its launch rocket with something of a fanfare.

Aeolus promises data that many experts still believe will be transformative. From its vantage point some 320km above the planet, the laser will track the movement of molecules and tiny particles to get a handle on the direction and speed of the wind. Currently, we measure the dynamics of the atmosphere using an eclectic mix of tools - everything from whirling anemometers to other types of satellite that judge wind behaviour from the chopiness of seawater. But these are all limited indications, telling us what is happening in particular places or at particular heights.

Bits & Pieces

Aeolus, on the other hand, will attempt to build a truly global view of what the winds are doing on Earth, from the surface of the planet all the way up through the troposphere and into the stratosphere (from 0km to 30km).



It goes without saying that knowing what the wind is going to do reaches beyond just the nightly weather forecast on TV. How it blows affects the distribution and transport of pollutants, and how quickly bad air in a hazy city, say, can be cleared away. Then there are the requirements of safety to consider - think sailors at sea, or construction on high

rise buildings. And don't forget the sectors whose whole reason to exist rests on the wind.

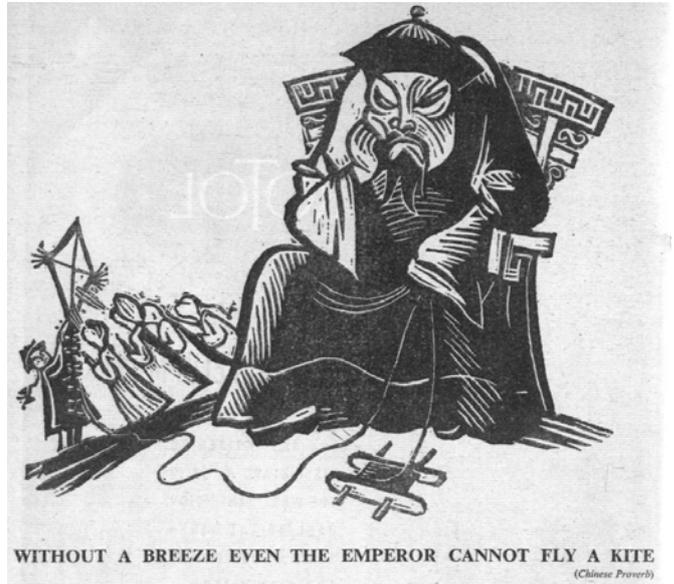
"For instance, the wind energy industry," said Dr Anne Grete Straume, Esa's Aeolus mission scientist. "They're exploiting the winds and they need to know how much energy they can produce at any point in time. For that they need very accurate forecasts and we hope that our mission can help them with their management."

It is worth recalling some of the past frustrations. The first problem was in finding diodes to generate laser light with a long enough lifetime. When those were identified, the mission looked in great shape until engineers discovered their design wouldn't actually operate in a vacuum - a significant barrier for a space mission.

Named after Aeolus, who in Greek mythology was appointed 'keeper of the winds' by the Gods, this novel mission will not only provide much-needed data to improve the quality of weather forecasts, but also contribute to long-term climate research. The Aeolus satellite carries just one large instrument - a laser Doppler wind lidar called Aladin that will probe the lowermost 30 km of the atmosphere to measure the winds sweeping around our planet.

The launch of Aeolus on a Vega rocket is currently set for 21 August.

1948 Advert from Flight Magazine



Design company aims to banish fear of flying with digital companion

Airline passengers of a nervous disposition could soon benefit from a newly-conceived digital travel companion that can anticipate anxiety triggers and provide personalised coping techniques to help keep their fears at bay throughout their flight.

"Kite can anticipate fearful events and intervene to provide personalised coping techniques like controlled breathing and mindfulness," says Giraitis. It can also alert cabin crew to the location and needs of nervous passengers, allowing them to provide "discreet support".

Hours after flying over R-Day parade, paragliding pilot killed by kite string

Kite strings have earlier killed motorists, pedestrians and birds but in a shocking new incident, a young pilot paragliding over Nagaur lost his life due to the killer strings. Manav Mewada, 29, was flying with a tourist, Gaurav Bhati, on a powered paraglider over Nagaur when the parachute got entangled with a kite string, leading to the two falling from a height of 200 feet.

Gaurav Bhati and Manav Mewada were rushed to AIIMS, Jodhpur where Manav, a resident of Delhi, died. Gaurav Bhati, 25, is said to be in a critical condition. Eyewitnesses said the kite string entangled the parachute in a way that it lost its balance and hit a house and a tree before falling to the ground.

Police is yet to confirm if the string cut the parachute's ropes. The deceased, Manav, was roped in by local administration to promote tourism in the city. He had performed hours ago in the Republic Day celebration, showering flowers while paragliding.

STACK Festival League

STACK stands for Sport Team And Competitive Kite Flying, and is the organisation behind the National Championships in individual, pair and team flying.

The 'Nationals' take place over a number of rounds annually, where each competing individual, pair or team needs to fly compulsory figures, a technical or freestyle routine, and a ballet to music. Dual-liners and quad-liners compete separate from each other, resulting in a total of six different disciplines.

In recent years, the number of competitors at the 'Nationals' has been dwindling. In order to try and bring competitive kite flying more to the attention of the wider public, and so get more people interested in the sport, STACK is trying out a new format this year, which is meant to sit alongside the official, more traditional, National Championships.

This new series of competitions is called the STACK Festival League.

Without doubt, for the general public the most exciting part of competitive sport kite flying is the ballet to music. The new Festival League will only include ballets to music, and, as the name suggests, will take place during existing kite festivals across the UK. After all, where else do you have a better captive audience interested in kites and kite-flying?



So how does it work? While flying their routines at festivals, all individuals, pairs and teams interested in participating in the Festival League will be scored by one or more experienced STACK judges.

Unlike in the National Championships, everyone will compete against everyone, independent of whether they're flying individually or as part of a pair or team, and independent of whether the kite has two or four lines. So no separate disciplines. The individual, pair or team with the highest score during the festival will win that festival, and scores achieved at separate festivals will be combined at the end of the season to give an overall Festival League Champion.

The new Festival League format has two big advantages: first of all, it brings the most exciting part of competitive flying to a broader audience. And secondly, it does not require any change to the line-up of a festival.

The only difference is that there will be one or two visible judges in the arena during routines of the participating individuals, pairs or teams, and that the results will be announced via the PA.

STACK is working with a small number of kite festivals this year, Portsmouth being among them, to try out the new format. Which festivals will be part of the new Festival League will depend on two things.

First of all of course, the festival organiser(s) need to want to participate (as I said, it does not require any change to the planned schedule and doesn't bear any costs, so it's cheap and easy to participate).

Secondly, STACK needs to get at least one experienced judge to the festival.

So if you're reading this as a festival organiser and you are interested in participating in 2019 (or maybe even still in 2018), drop me an email at arkraa@soton.ac.uk, and we will do what we can to include you in the STACK Festival League.

STACK at Portsmouth

As well as the above Festival League round, STACK are also at Portsmouth to celebrate 30 years.

Barry Savell writes:

STACK – the UK organizing body for Sport kiting and Sport Kite competition – is 30 years old this year.

As a celebration of this birthday, STACK will be putting together a dual line sport kite mega-team of current and former members at Portsmouth International Kite Festival. This will start initially with eight flyers flying Northshore Radical kites (or more if we can find them) – while not 30 years old, there are records that this model of kite certainly was in use in the World Cup competition in 1991.

Further flyers will then join the mega-team using more modern kites, subject to availability of flyer and kites and obviously limited by the arena space and wind conditions.

Events News

North Hants Kiter's Jolly Up 23—August 4th & 5th

Gate open from 12noon on the Friday...

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

On-site camping is available from Friday midday onwards (£15 per tent/camper for Fri and Sat night, there is a small extra charge for a Sunday night stop-over).

Food will be available in the Marquee on the Friday evening, please order and pay at the bar.

There will be Hot food on the Saturday evening (£8.00 and please bring a plate and cutlery where possible!).

As usual we will be doing Jacket Potatoes at lunchtimes over the weekend, and Bacon/Egg rolls will be available on both mornings.

The Auction will be held on the Saturday evening, and any donations gratefully received on the Saturday (before 4pm please to give us time to set it all up and Hayley to sit down for a while :-). There will be a silent Auction on the Sunday.

We will also run the Competition for Garden Produce, which can cover fruit, veg, plants, anything really. Show us what you've been growing, it may win a prize. Rules are minimal and made up on the day! There is the category for Home Made Hooch again!!

We hope to run the Beer Lift competition, same rules as before.

Roy's Refreshment Tent will be open for Business, normal rules apply.

For further info, please either contact:

Roy on 07778 352825
Colin on 07770 338419
Or e-mail roy@kitesup.co.uk
For orders: hayley@kitesup.co.uk

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

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

St Anne's Kite Festival—1st & 2nd September

Thanks to the support of St Annes and Fylde Borough council, local business and sponsors

we are pleased to announce the 2018 St Annes Kite Festival.

Joined by the Al-Farsi Kite Team from Kuwait, kite clubs and flyers from across the UK will bring the Summer holidays to a spectacular close on the first weekend in September. The skies above St Anne's seafront will be awash with colour on Friday night, Saturday and Sunday as fabulous display kites take to the air on the beach adjacent to the pier.

Weather permitting, the event promises a thrilling and thoroughly enjoyable day out for young and old alike.

This year we'll be kicking things off on St Anne's beach with a Friday night launch event on 31st August from 7.00pm - 9.30pm then the weekend kite festival runs from 11.00am to 5.00pm on Saturday 1st & Sunday 2nd September 2018. Time to gather friends and family together for All The Fun Of The Air!

And don't forget to bring your teddy bear or cuddly toy to take part in the teddy parachute drop sponsored by Excel Fostering. Each brave teddy will receive a very special certificate of achievement.

How to Find the Festival. Please use FY8 1NW for SAT NAV directions to all-day parking for £5.00. All profits from the carpark go towards next year's event. Look out for the kites on St Anne's Beach just off North Promenade, close to St Anne's Pier. If you'd prefer not to have to park your car, the train station is just a 5-minute walk from the beach.

BOGNOR Regis KITE FESTIVAL
Bank Holiday FAMILY Fun
25th - 26th - 27th August 2018
KING GEORGE V
Playing Fields - Felpham
Plus **-Live Music-**
Children's Entertainment
inc Saturday & Sunday shows by Nick Clark
Monday show by Malcolm Daniels - Bubble Pop
Bar and Street Food
Giant Inflatables and Rides
Kite Making Workshop
Variety of Stalls

Saturday 10:30am - 10:00pm
Sunday 10:30am - 10:00pm
Monday 10:30am - 5:00pm

for Bank Holiday Monday 27th
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See website for full details and updates

A Brief History of Recent Large Kites—Peter Lynn

Reproduced with permission from Peter Lynn

Before Dominic Jalbert's 1950s development of 'soft' kites which use the stagnation pressure of airflow (Bernoulli's principle) as a structural element, large kites were size limited by frame strength. The largest Japanese Wan Wan's could be more than 20m diameter (315 sq.m.), but weighed an impractical 2 tonnes—or more.



The Holland Kite Team, led by Gerard van der Loo, made the first successful very large soft kite, the CS550 (550 sq.m, <150kg), in 1982. Their guiding principle, which has been adopted for all the large kites that Peter Lynn Kites have made, is that they should have as little pull as possible.

In 1983, Edmonds Community College in Washington State, USA, made a more conventional parafoil style kite that was larger than the Dutch kite, but its launch director, Steve Edeiken, fell and died when he became entangled in the bridles while launching it. By the American Kite Association's criteria at that time (flying at an altitude greater than the kite's width for more than 2 minutes), this flight qualified for the record, but it was never recognised due, I expect, to the tragic consequences.



The Holland Kite Team flew their large kite for the final time at the 1995 Napier Kite Festival (New Zealand), preparing the way for the Megabite, Peter Lynn Kites' first very large kite, built that year. This flew at many events, and officially received the Guinness record during the Bristol International Kite Festival in 1997 by flying without any part touching the ground for more than 20 minutes.

The size of large kites cannot be simply defined, and the areas I quote are usually more conservative than what Guinness (and media) often claim. By our view, "qualifying area" is the projected area of the kite when inflated, not the stretched-out dimensions, and does not include tails and non-lifting appendages. Guinness declared the Megabite to be 933 sq.m, but by our criteria it's 635sq.m., as is the Mega Ray (built in 1997) which

we made as near to the same area as possible so that both could be claimed by events as the "World's Largest Kite".



The Megabite was subsequently purchased by Gerard van der Loo/Vlieger Op and has now passed to Dominique Scholtes, who occasionally flies it at events. The Mega Ray was also flown at many events by Peter Lynn Kites and then sold to Lutz Trezoks in Germany. Since Lutz's untimely death (not from a kite accident) the Mega Ray has been ably flown by Sebastian Ju and team, (also Germany). The Megabite and Mega Ray are made from zip together sections to enable travel by air as personal luggage. Zips work well enough but can fail when subjected to scraping as the kites launch and land. All our subsequent very large kites have been of one-piece construction and are freighted to events.

The first of which was a 950 sq.m (inflated) Kuwait flag kite for the Al Farsi kite team, recognised as the new world's largest kite by Guinness on 15th Feb 2005. Also in that year, flag kites of this size were made for Masaaki Modegi in Japan (the Mega Moon) and for David Gomberg in the USA (a US flag).

For emergency take-down, our very large kites use various systems. The Megabite and Mega Ray both have velcro-ed sections on their upper surfaces that can be ripped open to deflate the kite by pulling a cord paralleling the main line. Flag style kites use a different system; when the main line is released, a line attached to the kite's trailing edge causes the kite to turn over, deflate rapidly, and descend.



In 2011, Peter Lynn Kites made a 1250sq.m

A Brief History of Recent Large Kites—Peter Lynn



(inflated) kite for the Al Farsi's. It's a large Ray, called 'The Pearl'. As for the Mega Ray, a line attached to the nose is used to depower the kite and cause it to drift back to the ground (without deflating). But the Mega Ray also has a rip-panel. Because of Al Farsi nervousness about the nose line as the only take-down option, The Pearl has only ever been flown three times- and has just arrived back in NZ to have a rip-panel fitted (if biosecurity authorities ever release it!).

In 2018 a new 1250sq.m (inflated) flag style kite was built for the Al Farsi's. Called 'The Hope', it's just had a second successful outing- at Berck-sur-Mer in France. It is the first very large single line soft kite that can fly without stabilising side lines (though the Mega Ray and The Pearl nearly can in light smooth winds).

Critics have questioned whether very large kites are really "kites" at all, seeing as until now they have required active stabilising by teams of people on side lines. I tend to agree with this, while recognising that kite events are more interested in attracting media attention than in such nuances. Side lines enable very large kites to fly in a limited space and eliminate the requirement for self-stability, which has made making large kites much easier given that there is no theory of stability by which such kites can be designed. Nor is it possible to scale from smaller versions.

This is because three factors effecting stability; aerodynamic forces, weight and mass, don't stay in proportion as size increases (weight and mass are not directly related for soft kites because the enclosed air has mass but no weight). Aerodynamic forces increase with the square of dimension, as weight nearly does in the size range of larger kites, but mass increases as the cube of dimension. This matters, because when a kite recovers from leaning over, the rate of recovery is slowed by the kite's mass- with an undeterminable effect on its stability. The Pearl is 6 times the span and length of a standard maxi ray, about 10 times as heavy, has 36 times the area, but encloses 216 times the air mass (9504kg versus 44kg).

As for smaller kites therefore, the only available design process, except for informed guesses, is trial and error—which is impractical for kites that each take many months to construct, 20+ tonne anchors, a team of fliers, and substantial organisation for every flight.

To reduce the effect of enclosed mass on the stability of very large kites, we use the "super ripstop" construction system. Earlier large kites like the Dutch CS550 and the Edmonds College parafoil,

connected their top and bottom skins with multiple ribs in conventional parafoil style type construction. In consequence, the air in each cell must move with the kite during any correction. With super ripstop construction, the top and bottom skins are connected by multiple cords, which allow the kite to rotate independently of the enclosed air. I doubt that very large soft kites can be single-line stable without this facility, though I'm unsure as to the size for any given style at which this mass effect becomes critical.

But from 20 years watching various large soft kites flying with side lines, there seemed every chance a very large flag style kite with a suitable tail could fly stably on a single line. And fortunately, I do now have a "theory of tails" which is verging on the quantitative. Not having any enclosed air mass, flat tails do scale predictably enough, so we were able to test variations on smaller flag kites before committing to a full-size version. And it worked!- a success that I'm pleased to claim a share of, even though it seemed too easy—a small offset for the huge string of kite failures that I can also lay claim to!

Wind was very light at Berck, so we don't yet know what The Hope's upper wind limit will be for single line flying, but expect it to be useful. It was unstable during its first flight there, climbing immediately to full height, only to dive back down, climb again and so on. For this we can blame Daniel Bernoulli (1700 –1782, Swiss), whose equation describing fluid flow establishes that when velocity increases, pressure decreases. This is experienced as the bath plug pulling in when you try to hold it partly out. During The Hope's first flight at Berck, there was a significant wind gradient—almost no wind at ground level but 15km/hr or more at 100m up. When it reached maximum altitude, there was significantly more wind above the kite than under it. There was therefore a nett low-pressure area above the rear of the kite, which caused it to nose down and descend (called a luff). This was also the cause of the infamous restaurant trashing by the Mega Ray in Sardinia (2001?). Very large soft kites are susceptible to this because they are carefully tuned (by adjusting camber) for minimum pull—so fly on the verge of luffing, and because they are generally flown very close to the ground. When there is a significant wind gradient, they should therefore be flown higher or pilot kites should be used to hold the leading edge up.

As some of this is from recollection, I'll be pleased to correct any errors that are brought to my attention.

Wild Flight Event, May 2018—Colin Roberts

After a disappointing start to the year due to the weather at weekends the East Anglian Kite Flyers had their first event of the year and for once the weather gods were with us, well sort of.

The event we held last year for the Essex Wildlife Trust at Walton on the Naze was so successful we were approached over the winter by their Belfairs Woodland Centre at Leigh on Sea Essex who asked if we could do a display and a kite workshop at their Wild Flight Day in May, Peter met with the organisers and had a look at the site and gave it the thumbs up and the folk at the centre were hyper excited as they had never had a kite flying display before.

The day dawned sunny and hot and when we pulled into the centre car park all was looking good, we had thought flying would be tricky as the site is by a golf course and surrounded by trees on nearly all sides but the wind was probably in the best direction, after meeting with the centre staff and having the safety briefing we set too.

First task was to get the workshop area set up with some bunting and info sheets about kites and the tables arranged, the kite elves had been busy over the winter making sure the workshop kites were all good with knots pre tied in the lines etc, our banners were put up outside the centre, even this early kiddies were wanting to make a kite !



An ever reliable Ostend Bird was launched and immediately began to struggle as the wind came and went. This was to be how it was for the rest of the day. We think it was mainly due to the very hot sunny weather killing the wind. When it was there you never knew what direction it was going to be at different heights meaning that when we were able to get kites up, they were constantly flying over each other. For a lot of the time the kites were only flying because they were getting lift from the thermals of hot rising air so we decided the best course of action was to fly just a few and spaced well apart. During the day we managed to fly Flow tails, Indian fighter kites, Skeletons, Rev's and

Ostend Birds. Jonathan managed to get up a sled 81 and soon had his new Orca Whale flying and that drew a lot of attention, but the sled was struggling to cope with that so he swapped it over for a Seahorse. Peter flew his train of 50 kites, although it soon became a train of 46 kites, the four wayward kites were picked up by a member of the public who attached them to their push chair.



By late morning there were workshop kites everywhere in the sky, they seemed to be coping well with the iffy wind mainly due to very excited children running around with them, far too energetic for us. Lyn and Margaret were coping admirably with the constant stream of kiddies wanting to make a kite. They had had to commandeer extra tables such was the demand,. Over the day they had overseen the making of 104 kites and all of them had been flown outside. One or two had to be retrieved from trees using an 8 metre pole as nippers forgot to hold onto them or had run just that bit too close to a kite catcher.

The day came to a close at 4pm, while we were packing up outside and Lyn and Margaret were catching their breath. The workshop kites were still being flown even over the Golf course fairways. ! thankfully the golfers had passed by on their rounds so there were no shouts of "four" wonder if there is a ruling for golf ball hit kite.

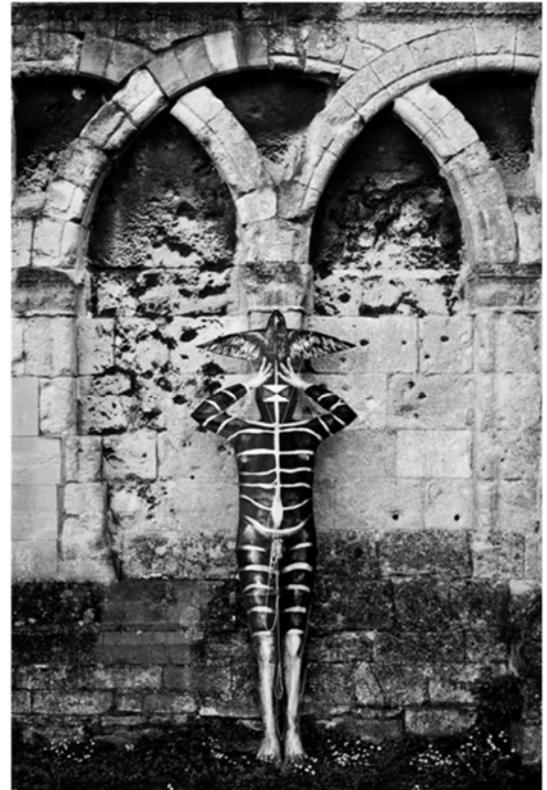
The day had been a great success with the kite flying seed being sown in a few young heads and a few older ones, the folk at the centre were so pleased they have already asked us back next year.

Pictures from the day can be found on the East Anglian Kite Flyers website and Facebook page.

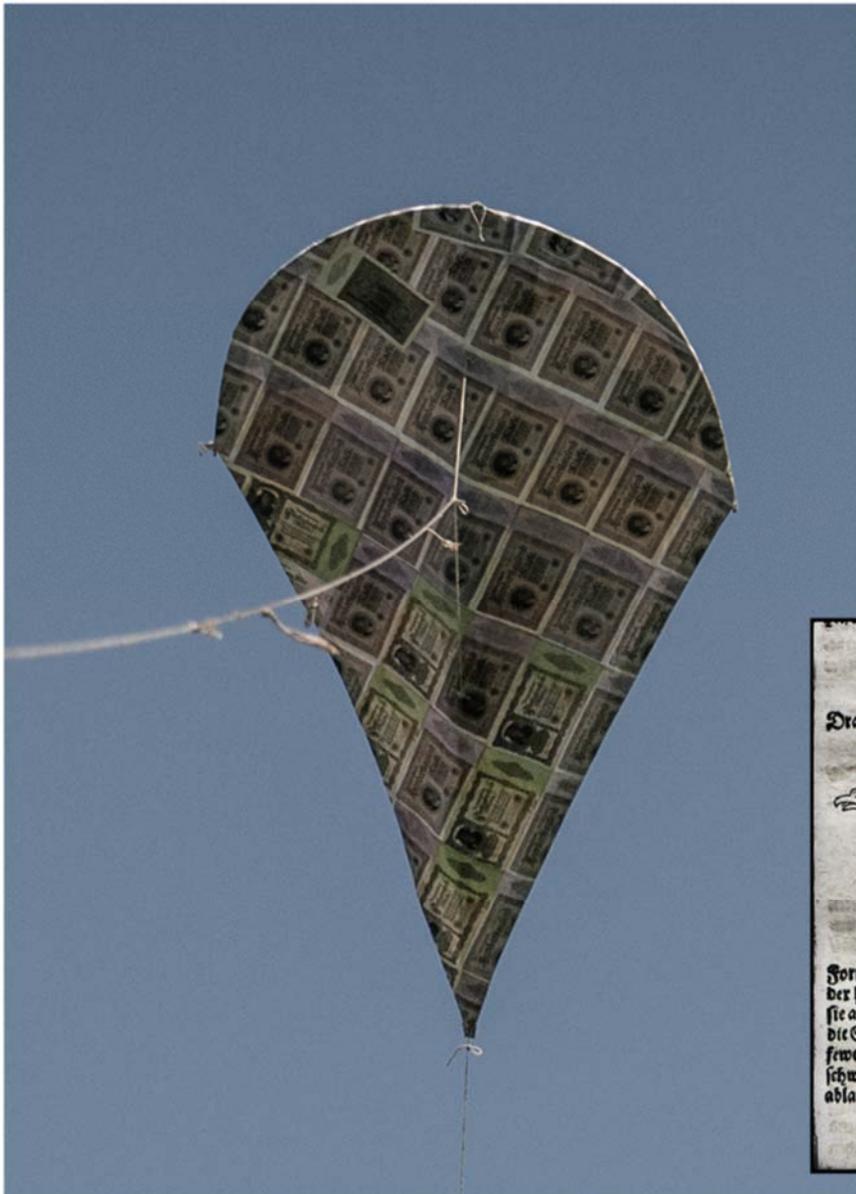
Kite Stuff—Paul Chapman

Gill gave me a call the other day and very tactfully told me to make a contribution to *The Kiteflier*. I suppose it has been a while since my last screed, but then I have not been doing much that is worthwhile reporting. Casting my mind back since the last scribble.... Oh yes, there was the Eilmer of Malmesbury fiasco. I was called upon to make a contribution to a TV film about Eilmer of Malmesbury and his well documented flight from the abbey tower around 1000 years ago. It seemed an interesting challenge so I said I would give it a go but would make a model rather than attempt to make that leap of faith. My idea was to make a typical testing model that Eilmer could have made, but it had to be made using materials available then. Willow from the Somerset Levels, bamboo that held the silk (umbrella silk from Hangzhou) brought back along the silk route, hazel because it was used with the willow locally for basket making...and, of course jackdaw feathers since the people of Malmesbury are called Jackdaws. Malmesbury is full of jackdaws. The thing also had to have folding wings in order to get up the narrow stone circular staircase. I worked solidly for two weeks...making and trying to get into Eilmer's head. When I took the model to Malmesbury for the filming only part of the Japanese TV film crew were there. They were coming in from Tokyo, Chicago, Paris and Rome! Nine of them!! I was working with the historian Tony Macalevy so it was a lot of fun when they all arrived. I used the slope of the original monks rabbit warren for flight testing and used old pennies to weight the beak pocket for a perfect glide. Flying from the abbey tower was, not surprisingly, not allowed so instead we went to Kemble and closed the airfield runway while I launched Eilmer's model from the control tower. I also took Steve Brockett's Aviator to fly auspiciously over Malmesbury but since he was not on the storyboard he had to skulk around the ruins. I have a plan to return to Malmesbury, but this time with the model trimmed as a kite and fly both the model and the Aviator high up over the abbey with the jackdaws.

While all that was going on I bumped into a friend who had a lot of old Weimar Republic money. Back in the days after WW1 we demanded gold as war reparations and Germany suffered horrendous inflation. Money was devalued daily and eventually people were spending ten million marks where the year before it was ten thousand. The children would make kites from the worthless money! It seemed a good idea so I found my 1920s copy of the kite book by Honold and was soon pasting up a kite made from old money!



Kite Stuff—Paul Chapman



I was quite pleased with the result although a nose dive into the bushes made a bit of a hole which cost me 50 1920s Reichsbanknote marks to fix. This has to be my only multi million mark kite!

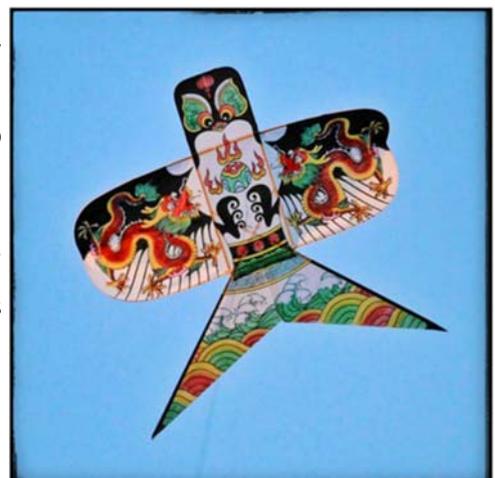
Not unsurprisingly I have been slowly filling up the shelves of my little kite library and one German item was Schwenter's maths book 'Delicia PhysicoMathematice' of 1686. The one with the instructions and drawings for a couple of kites.

I have been reading a biography of Robert Hooke (he who invented the spring balance and whose shoulders were stood upon by Isaac Newton). Hook was a member of the Royal Society in the



1600s ...the same time as Schwenter... and discussed flight and flying in the London coffee houses with the likes of John Wilkins and Christopher Wren. So I was perhaps not surprised to find that Wren was also a noted kite flier. Perhaps St Paul's Cathedral has one of his kites hidden away in the dome? More research required obviously, and you wonder what the objective was. Although the earlier kite descriptions by Bate and Babbington in 1635 were for firework lifting kites I doubt if these would have been encouraged in the just post-Great Fire London. I think it more likely that the Royal Society luminaries would either be pioneering meteorology or dropping things. Hooke carried out barometer experiments on the London Monument as well as undertaking gravity experiments to annoy Newton.

I went to China last November but really saw no kites worth noting. While I was in Beijing I visited Liu Bin's shop which has lost its front window so you really have to know where to look. I ended up buying a few things but, like this Fat Swallow, was really quite disappointed. The only good thing about the swallow is that it can be disassembled and folds flat. My big discovery was to find and talk to a pigeon whistle man. The old houghton lanes are increasingly being replaced by international standard 30 story blocks of flats with the result that keeping a



Kite Stuff—Paul Chapman

pigeon loft on top of your house is pretty much an impossibility. But luckily I tracked down my man who came over to the tea house (in the houtong) with a crate of pigeons and some whistles. So I was shown how the whistles are fixed to the tail feathers and then we went out to fly them. As soon as the young tea house boy released the pigeon it would fly up to the roof, shake itself down, gather the air in its wings and off it would go. The sound was surreal. Soon other birds would join it and the flock would grow to about twenty playing follow my leader. Then another pigeon was launched and an aeolian game ensued as birds would join, or leave, the two flocks as they circled and swooped among the houses. Sadly, this centuries old traditional way of life will soon be finished. Even today when you ask about the 'ge shao' the locals smile wistfully before shaking their heads and whisper 'mei you' ... all finished now.



A few months ago I was asked to prepare a paper on Japanese Kites for an art historical symposium in Paris later this year. And as a prequel I will give it to the Clifton Women's Institute in Bristol at the end of June. It will address kite making and woodblock printing in particular. I have some old wood blocks and earlier this year learned to print at Bristol's Letterpress Collective. It was so good to use the washi, the inks and, of course the old blocks. The talk will include this, but also talk about how the block designs were drawn. I have several examples of the master drawings and colour separation drawings that were used to make the blocks. Of course I will include ukeyo-e woodblock kite prints and the kites of Sato and Hashimoto. But one delight was buying the first Japanese encyclopedia of 1666 (Great Fire of London) which has a sky sweeping broom kite illustration ... or an octopus; or as a Paper Hawk. Anyway I have made a replica from bamboo and washi...the washi printed with a page from the 1860s block discussing the Analects of Confucius.



Events List

June 2018		
23-24	Cardigan Bay, Cardigan Island Coastal Farm Park	kites@skybums.com
July 2018		
7-8	Brighton Kite Festival, Stanmer Park, Brighton	chairman@brightonkiteflyers.co.uk
7 - 8	Barmouth Kite Festival, on the beach opposite the Lifeboat Station, Barmouth, Mid Wales	mrkiteflyer@googlemail.com
14 - 15	Leominster and Hereford Kite Festival, The National Trust's Berrington Hall, Leominster, Herefordshire HR6 0DW	www.kitefestival.org.uk
21 – 22	Shropshire Kite Festival, Lacon Childe School, Love Lane, Cleobury Mortimer DY14 8PE	kites@skybums.com
28-29	Dunstable Downs, Dunstable Road, Whipsnade, LU6 2GY	www.facebook.com/DunstableKiteFestival
28-29	Castle Howard Kite Festival, Castle Howard, York YO60 7DA	info@infinitearts.co.uk
August 2018		
4 - 5	Exmouth Rotary Kite Festival, Exmouth	ellisondavid@me.com
4 – 5	Jolly Up 23, Cliddesden, Basingstoke	roy@kitesup.co.uk
5	The Wind festival, Betteshanger Country Park near Deal Kent CT14 0BF	malcolmf@kentkiteflyers.com
11 - 12	Portsmouth International Kite Festival, Southsea Common, Portsmouth.	www.portsmouthkitefestival.org.uk
11 - 12	Teston Kite Weekend, Teston Country Park near Maidstone Kent ME18 5BX	malcolmf@kentkiteflyers.com
25 – 27	Bognor Regis Kite Festival, King George V Playing Fields, Felpham, Bognor Regis, West Sussex	www.brkf.org
31 – 2/9	St. Annes International Kite festival, on the beach, Lytham St Annes, near Blackpool, Lancashire FY8 2NG	www.stanneskitefestival.co.uk
September 2018		
1 - 2	Kites up The Creek, Milton Creek Country Park, near Sittingbourne Kent, ME10 2EX	malcolmf@kentkiteflyers.com
1 - 2	St Annes International Kite Festival, South Promenade, Lytham Saint Annes FY8 2NG	www.stanneskitefestival.co.uk
2	Streatham Common Kite Day, London	bobcolover@easynet.co.uk
8-9	Burnham-on-Sea Beach Kite Fest, Somerset	gaynor.brown1@talktalk.net
8-16	Dieppe Capitale du Cerf-Volant 2018, The Seafront, Dieppe 76200, Normandy, France	www.dieppe-cerf-volant.org
23	The Capstone Festival, Capstone Country Park Gillingham Kent ME7 3JG	malcolmf@kentkiteflyers.com



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