

# THE KITEFLIER



ISSUE 162

JANUARY 2020

£2.50

NEWSLETTER of  
THE KITE SOCIETY  
of GREAT BRITAIN

# KITEWORLD

All The Fun Of The Air !



New HQ  
Shade



Brasington Central Station  
Train



New HQ  
Mantra



Kite  
Accessories



New HQ  
Rainbow  
Octopus



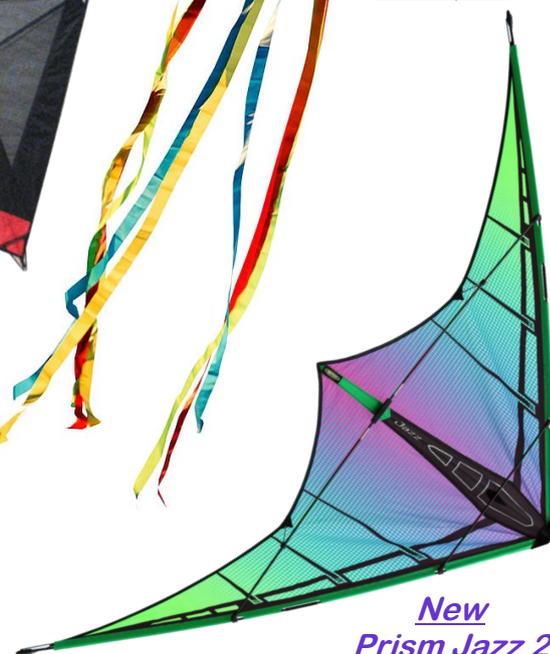
Revolution  
Spider RX



Spiderkites  
Maraca Light



New HQ  
Bouncing Buddy  
Spider

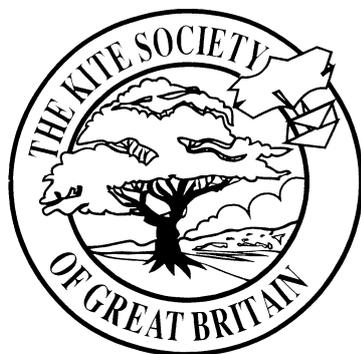


New  
Prism Jazz 2

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**Editorial**

Dear Reader

Welcome to 2020 and a new decade (depending on how you decide when it starts!).

It was sad to hear of the passing of Carolyn Swift in November. She had been part of the kiting scene for many years and has contributed greatly, in her quiet and unassuming way. She will be greatly missed.

2019 was an interesting season—with many challenging conditions. Most events did manage to do something on their dates, with very few cancellations or changes of dates. Let us hope 2020 will be better for kite flying.

We know of two additional dates to the calendar for 2020—one returning event, Sunderland Kite Festival in early August. Old name, different location. Details will be on their web page at some point. The other new date is Billing Aquadrome International Kite Festival, organised by The Kite Society in mid-August. The site looks very promising and this year will hopefully be the start of many festivals at Billing to come. We hope many of you will support this event. Details will be on the web site as they become available.

If you want a Kite Society T-Shirt (or one of many other kite related designs) have a look at Andrew Beattie's web site <http://tug.com/shop/accessories/shirt.html>. The t-shirts are a very good price and excellent quality. Various colours and sizes are available from Andrew. Picture is the back.



See you on the field somewhere.

Gill and Jon

**Front Cover**

**Alain Micquiaux Poppies at Frejus, France 2019.**  
**Photo: Gill Bloom**

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|--|--------|
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## Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

### Limp

If anyone noticed me hobbling around kite shows and wondered why - and to those unfortunates I collared, then bored silly with my tales of aches and pains, I am now sitting here writing this with a new knee.

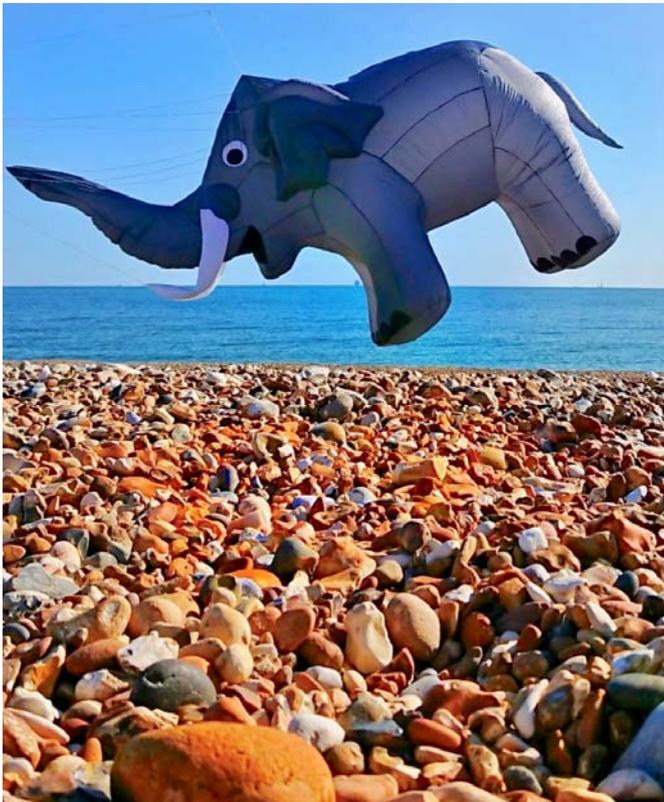
Not a great deal of pain free mobility at the moment but everyone tells me I'll be trouncing about again soon. Again? - I don't remember doing that before?

We managed quite a lot of mid-week, single line flying this summer, but I do miss flying sport kites in pairs with Marilyn and coaching others, but, come to think of it, I did do more of the latter.

I hope to get back to the soon.

### Hayling Island

In a previous issue I mentioned flying in Baiter Park in Poole accompanied by Dragon-master Tim Rohn and keen enthusiast Bryan Archer but we also have another favourite site where we can reverse right up to the (in this case) beach - and work straight out of the back of the car at Hayling Island.



This place doesn't lend itself easily to sport kites because the pebbled beach slopes and you have a constant procession of people walking along but take a small shovel and some heavy duty recycled material rubble bags from a builders merchant to be filled up with pebbles as an-

chors and you have the makings of a great day. (The shovel is REALLY important!).

Parking can set you back as much as £8.00 for the day (ends at 18:00hrs) and be sure to get covered as there are wardens sweeping by often. You can pay by phone (Ringo) so don't think that others are getting away with it just because you can't see a ticket on their dash.

### Keen audience

I don't remember such a good bunch to share the beach with either.

Having misjudged the length of line (plus Octopus), the tentacles swept across one guy's legs as he sunbathed - he merely sat up and offered to move down a bit.



Of course I apologised and he was quickly up and flying it himself learning all about pull, a good anchor and how kites like this will cover so much side to side a distance in an ever changing wind direction. It wasn't long before he too was making friends with others as he apologised for disturbing them with his new found love of kite flying.

A never ending queue of people asking about the kites and wishing us well was equalled by the photos and selfies requested. This is what kite flying is about!

## Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

### New ways

Since the first time of flying the Heavens gate and the follow up article in this magazine I discovered that I much prefer to use the kites as a flying line for a low pulling lifter making for a much bigger and more reliable display.

Maybe not as much fun for the kids but we didn't have to worry about dogs as the arches rise and fall in changeable winds. During the filming of this particular event we were visited by a long standing friend.

I invited him to sit down.

### Pocket Kite

Have you ever been out somewhere and thought "Oh I wish I had brought a kite with me"?

Possibly you "weren't allowed" because the occasion might not have suited you carrying something with you or maybe you just didn't think you were going to have five minutes to get a "quick fix"?

Well I might just have found the answer to that with what I consider to be a true, pocket kite.

Note the warning on the cycle picture. I draw your attention also to the bleeding lip that required seven stitches.

It's a kite we got from Kiteworld, it's by Prism and it's called, oddly enough, the "Pocket Kite". There's already a video we made up on You Tube and I have taken the liberty of showing a few photos from that here.

Maybe it's not the best of stable flyers but good enough to demand the attention of a serious flyer.



It only takes a gentle breeze to get it away but just make sure you have it the right way out as getting it back to front can be quite embarrassing. (Who me?). The tail adds to the size of the set up helping to give presence in the sky whilst the kite gently dances around.

We binned a few video'd attempts trying to show how small you can make this package but our tip to fully conceal this in a trouser pocket is to dispose of the packaging, fold it up neatly and place the supplied reel inside the bag with the kite. Just the job!

### Dual Line Sport kites

I said that I would get back to tips for sport kite flying. If you have had a coaching session with me I will have already explained the following benefits and given lots of other tips and shortcuts at first hand.

The leading edge will likely be held by a bungee or a pull-tight, tensioning line stretched over the arrow knock at the wing tip. I find that only a few kite makers consider the problems that the knots in the bungee or the loose ends of the line sometimes cause in snagging the flying lines resulting in the kite crashing or the catching and holding of the control line so that it wraps around the leading edge which, in turn, becomes impossible to shake free from the pilot's end of the flying lines.



## Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

This can lose a team, or individual flyer, decisive marks in serious competition or cause embarrassment when flying an exhibition piece, choreographed to music, in public. Been there - done all of that!

The problem is simply resolved with a piece of electrical tape wrapped smoothly over the offending item. You can even colour code to match the kite or use different colours so that you can quickly see which kite belongs to who when setting up.

Easy enough, even for me to do, and I don't do fiddly!



### Not everywhere

Don't go mad with the tape though.

I have seen where people have taped cross spreaders to the leading edge connectors because they pop out when the kite crashes.

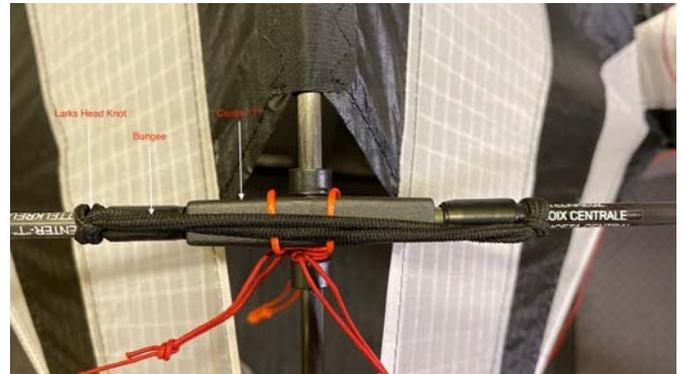
NO! The spars are *supposed* to pop out and the velcro at the base of the spine is *supposed* to burst open on heavy impact.

These are inbuilt measures to release pressure and help prevent damage to the kite on such occasion, otherwise sails will rip, rods will break and flying will stop!

In a similar way the bottom spreaders should be allowed to move freely at the centre-T.

We have had some kites where the rod may stick and not pop right back home under the normal kite tension and sometimes, usually whilst moving the kite around undoing a wrap

preparing for relaunch, the rods can jump right out.



We try to prevent this and ensure everything goes back into place by joining the rods by larks heading a rubber band or bungee from one rod, across the centre-T to the other

A bit like opening a pop up book of Giraffes, caution is advised but it is worth the trouble.

### Flying as a Team or in Pairs

I have many good memories and tales to relate gathered over more than a quarter of a century of flying two line sport kites. Marilyn and I have travelled far, made many friends across the world and picked up a few accolades along the way.



It's a journey where we may have made mistakes but you don't learn anything by doing it right. We joined the heady days of the early nineties as technology was just about to bring the innovative changes taken for granted today.

Ultra light kites were still quite flat, able to fly on almost windless days but offering twitchy control and little else without super attention and good skills whilst vented kites for strong wind were realised when one enterprising team burned holes with cigarettes in their standard kites that they may be able to hold them in extraordinary high winds during their routine - well that or nothing?

I remember when the team kite of the day was Andy Preston's Matrix. In a low wind you just had to set the top leg of the bridle back a notch and run about more but in high winds we found that a length of 6mm rod would slide neatly through both sections or the leading edges giving them strength whilst the extra weight would slow them down.

This was soon followed with various shapes of black gauze fitted between standoffs or out

back of the kite connected to the inner standoff on each side or between the top and bottom cross spreaders or the favoured 'Nappy' brake hung between the flying lines where they were attached to the kite's tow points.

Some times various combos of more than one type were used.

Back in the day multi dual line flying teams or pairs (I think I'll just call them teams for now on) would probably only have the one kite each and maybe some studded boots for extra grip relying on subtle changes to the bridle, nappies, great skills born out of hours and days of practice and good fortune to see them through.

In our final years of competition we had progressed through a number of changes of kite before finally settling on a set each of ultra-light, standard and vented.

It turned out that we never had to use the vented in competition or exhibition flying.

My good friend Lex from British Champions, Flying Fish has extolled the use of a number of kites (low to high wind - as many as five or six) which may suit him and partner, Irma - and the others in the team (L-katz) he sometimes leads; but to my mind as long as you have a standard (Mid range) kite that maintains good flight with minimal pull from, say 5mph to 18 mph without having to change its characteristics or add brakes, then all you need is a second kite that will fly from practically nothing to about 10mph before the pull becomes worrying and you will save a lot of money.

### Can you tell?

I argue that the wind strength will change too often and therefore warrant constant change of kite and that once you have the skill to be able to tell the slight difference between each change of kite, then you will be able to manage very well on the two you started with - remember the old days and the fantastic flyers we all still aspire to that rarely used more than one?

Oh, and yes, I do remember the North Shore range from Kona through to VIP (Sellers remorse there again I'm afraid).

I wrote in the last magazine that if you fancied having a go in pairs or team then get yourselves a set of kites that are classed as a team kite that are not too expensive and will have spares readily available - I reviewed the new "Fellow" team kite last time and that seems a good place to start although bear in mind there are no light or vented available nor likely to be.

If you have more than one kite that will fly slowly at roughly at the same speed, you can

## Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

always start from there but as you get better you will see the need for 'matched' kites.

Please, please don't start on anything less than 40 metres because you will need space in the sky and longer lines by default, will make your kites slower - you definitely do not need to be zooming about.

### Figure it out

It is best to have a standard "Holding" pattern of an "Infinity" (figure eight on its side) - most teams will follow the leader going **down** edge of the window to the **right** first and you can break off in to most all patterns and figures from there.

Communication is very important to avoid crashes and tangles. Marilyn once turned to me and said "You've not been listening to a word I've been saying". I thought, 'Well that's a strange way to start a conversation?'

The lead pilot is usually the 'caller' too as he/she needs to be able to feel where the window is, remembering that it is not uncommon to get a ninety degree shift in wind direction halfway through a routine.

No call from any other member of the team should be listened to except "Fire-drill" when something is wrong (Like a person walking under the kites) and all flyers move to the top of the window, keeping away from the others and awaiting instructions from the team leader.

No-one should ever break off on their own to untwist the flying lines,; tell the leader and let them work to a safe moment.

It's a good idea to have model kites on the end of sticks to practice on the ground first and avoid trying to do too much at once - get it right before moving on!



## Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

Yes, there is a lot more to this than is first obvious and I haven't even started taking about patterns in the sky.

I can write and you can read **about** team flying but you won't learn **how** to do it until you get out on to the flying field. Follow infinities, learning how to group in a square, triangle or just side by side as you fly up, across and down the window executing boxes (Squares) each side and passthroughs (Threads) where kites cross and pass in the middle from opposite sides are basic moves from which you will get one heck of a buzz and, once done reasonably smoothly, looks brilliant from the onlooker and will bring unexpected applause.

### Practice control

I am always willing to answer queries by phone, via mail or social media or even come along (or you to me) and if we are not close enough for a one to one session then I can probably find someone who is.

You and your friends will need to be able to have basic flying skills.

Don't worry about stalls and landings but a circle one way and then the other, the same with squares and a controlled infinity are good things to have ready before pairs or team flying can commence.

### Solo



None of this is hard work, well it is but it should be enjoyable. Perseverance is what's needed you don't need to be clever but you do need to be self disciplined and constantly ask yourself, "Did I really mean to do that? Was it right? Can I do it again? Can I do it every time on command?"

My definition of an intellectual is someone who can listen to the William Tell Overture without thinking of the Lone Ranger

The two most common things flyers ask me to show them are stalls and landings.

I always start with the stall because the landing pretty much uses the stall anyway.

Everyone tries to learn both at the same time which is silly because there will be a lot of walking back and forth involved unless you have learned how to turn a crashed kite over from the pilot's end, which is another thing I like to teach right up front.

There is one basic element you need for both manoeuvres and that is wind.

I frequently squirm on the inside as I watch pupils struggle on the extreme edge of the window to control their flailing kite without anything to power it.

The same as putting fuel in your car, the kite needs wind in its sail or it will not do as it is being told. Not too much wind though or the movements will need to be more rapid than the inexperienced flyer is capable of executing.

This is the first of the skills to be learned, simply; feeling and understanding the wind.

I encourage that all moves should be tried on one side of the wind window and then the other and it is quickly realised, that the wind is completely different in all parts of the window and rarely ever the same, in the same spot, twice!

Judging how much the kite is powered up is more like the sense of acquiring a taste for something, not a skill that comes to you in a few minutes.

Finding and controlling the sweet spot is done by subtle movements, perhaps by gently swaying back and forth or raising/lowering the elevation.

At first try holding the kite, motionless, on either side of the window right at the edge raising and lowering it.

Remember, every time you turn back toward the middle or touch the ground is a failure and you have to start all over again to try and beat your longest time.

### Stalling

When the kite is flying across the window from left to right what is known as the "leading hand" will be your right hand and when flying toward the left, your left hand will be leading.

Remember you need wind to execute a stall so do not fly to the edge of the window.

The 'edge' will be in a different place each time depending on how high you are and how strong the wind is. You really need to concentrate on

your hands. If it has gone wrong then it is something **you** did - not the kite.

When flying across the window, prepare your brain to make the first move as soon as the power starts to drop off and then, with about a quarter of the window remaining, push the leading hand followed immediately by the other hand

Try to keep the kite at about 25% of the window in height so that you can recover any mistakes before crashing.

It's even more difficult to explain in writing than being there to help but, even then, only the flyer knows how strong the pull is but with a discernible amount of pressure on your hands and wrists the move should be completed in less than half a second - it should be pushpush not, push - and - then- another - push.

If the wind is stronger than you thought at commencement you may even find yourself stepping forward at the same time - this is OK!

### On the Edge

Has someone given you directions that said "Turn down the road half a mile before you get to the supermarket"?

Well that's what it is like trying to judge exactly where the wind will drop to nothing on the edge off the window.

You won't know until you get there - and then it's too late! Of course you can always extend it by walking back a little but that's a different skill yet again.



## Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

Why am I saying this? Because I know that, at some stage, you will try the land at the edge of the window.

Yes, it can be easy (sometimes), after all, you can get away with it by pushing the leading hand and walking forward - you can even do it with a gentle tug on the following hand and, again, walking forward but this creates bad habits and instils the wrong muscle memory and most times the kite will crash and you'll be doing what you were trying to avoid, pegging the line and walking to the kite to stand it up again.

Not only that, with the kite right on the outside of the wind window there is no power for a re-launch and trying to do so is a very good way of breaking your kite!

There's a lot to learn with sport kites and it doesn't come easy to everyone but the occasional whisper in the ear can go a long way to help with progress and make it all the more enjoyable.

I can't write it all out here but I am always happy to help if I can. I prefer the warmer days now though!

### The Right Gear

A friend of mine was caught in heavy rain whilst out flying. He didn't have his usual brimmed hat on and in the panic to get his kites under cover in the dry his hearing aids got soaked and refused to work again.

He says it's been three weeks since he sent them for repair and he hasn't heard a thing since!

### Emoji

They are only a bit of fun but I was always a bit annoyed that whilst there were all sorts of silly emojis covering topics for which I could never use, there was never one for a kite.

I expect there is a way of downloading them to use in emails and texts but I don't do techie. However, I was pleased to see that with the Apple upgrade iOS 13.2 that has now been rectified.

Thank you if you have managed to read this far and Marilyn and I would like to wish everyone all the best for the coming seasons.



Allan and Marilyn Pothecary.  
Known as Close Encounters  
Kite Display Team and found on  
our web-site

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

Photo credits: Marilyn, Me, Tanya Thorne, unknown.

## Killer Whale—Freddy Stapersma

Posted on Facebook—in Kitebuilders. Here is my gift to the community



In the beginning of my kite building I had lots of help from people all around the world with design questions, sewing questions, you name it the community helped me. My requests were always answered and so I also had this idea to share my knowledge for others who might enjoy building some kites or line laundry.

So I will release the templates of the killer whale. But not just like that. I hope people would like to read the journey that brought me here with a finished product. Some lessons in how I did it and might be useful to do this yourself.

My kite flying history starts at a young age seeing a Flexifoil stacker for the first time. I was hooked on that kite but would take another 2 years when I bought one. All of my childhood and a large part of my young adult time I was flying stuntkites.

I had a uncle who built his own oneliners and we we met it was always about kite flying.

Years gone by. I got married, got two kids and they were getting the age that kite flying would be fun. So I bought a few one line kites from China and started kiting with my kids. I told my uncle that I started to fly one line kites now. He told me he was getting old and wanted to sell his kites. Me with my big mouth said no way! They need to be kept into the family!! We talked all evening about what he made and where he got the plans from.

3 weeks after this conversation my mom stood at my front door, crying. Suddenly my uncle had died from heart failure. To make a long story short. I inherited all kites he made. His tools, fabric. everything.

Some kites needed repair and so my sewing adventure started. First repair. Then building

my first own kite (compound cody) and I was hooked. Later I told myself that I will try to build everything myself. I made few more kites and line laundry from images I saw online Found a lot of new friends along the way who helped me a lot with my problems.

Building kites from plans is fun but I wanted to make something that was designed by myself. So the search for something to design started. Designing a kite was way over my head so this is what led me to line laundry and that is the Killerwhale the is in front of you now.

My hobby history is in Photoshop and texture making. Before I started kite building I've been working on racegames and texturing. The object in the games are made in 3d and for texturing they make a flat file that you can use to paint on. When you done that you can see the texture ingame. The file looks a bit like a sewing pattern and my quest was to use this for a template I can use for kitebuilding.

### The programs I use for 3d.

For the 3d models I use Blender.(<https://www.blender.org/>). Blender is a freeware program with a lot of import possibilities so you can load a lot of 3d formats. (NOT ALL!!) You need to see if the 3d object you used is useful to import. OBJ files are mostly fine.

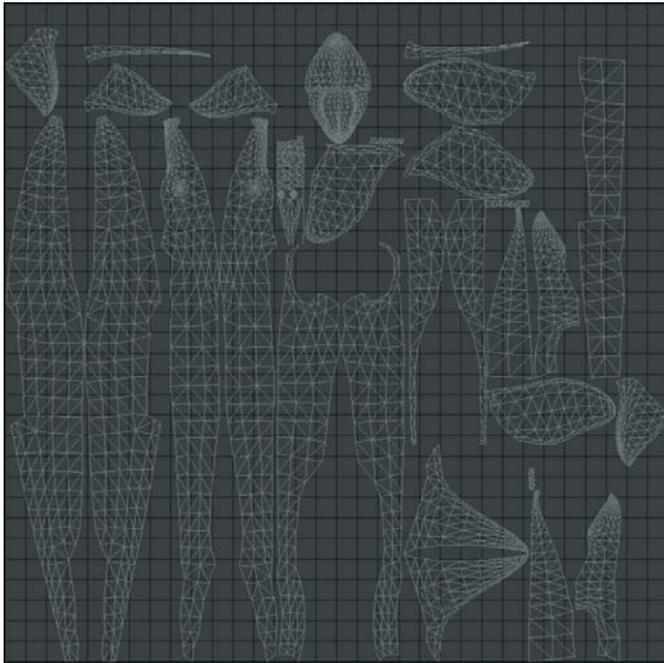
### Designing and making templates

So It all starts with 3d models. While you could learn to create your own you could start by finding free ones online. Lot's of free models of animals, figures and other things are there to grab for free. But please always read the copyright. Most of them are free to use non commercially only!

When selecting a 3d model you need to look if a model is good enough to inflate. So very thin legs could be a problem. You should also imagine that what would happen to a model when you inflate it. How will the details blow up. do I need internal reinforcements. A lot of that is eyeballing.

You can load/import a 3d figure in blender and you can see the 3d file is made by lines. These are the lines we use to make the templates. In the industry this is called UV mapping which is used by 3d artists to draw textures on the 3d file—search Youtube for tutorials on using blender.

## Killer Whale—Freddy Stapersma



UV Mapping example.

To be short. We need to add a seam to the 3d model so that the program knows what parts of the triangles belong together. But there is a problem with UV mapping. Not everything is laid out correctly, there is still some tinkering to be done. Hollow and bold parts are not always correctly visible in a UV map.

When you are able to make templates and export them to a usable file format for your drawing program (I use Adobe Illustrator eps format) you can check all parts for errors. Combine parts or delete parts you do not want to use.

### The files

I made template pdf files for every part needed to build the orca. The orca has many different parts which I tried to give logical names.

instructions.pdf is this file

00.killerwhaleoverview.pdf shows all parts. (reproduced below)

01.topnose.pdf

02.greypart.pdf

03.reartop.pdf

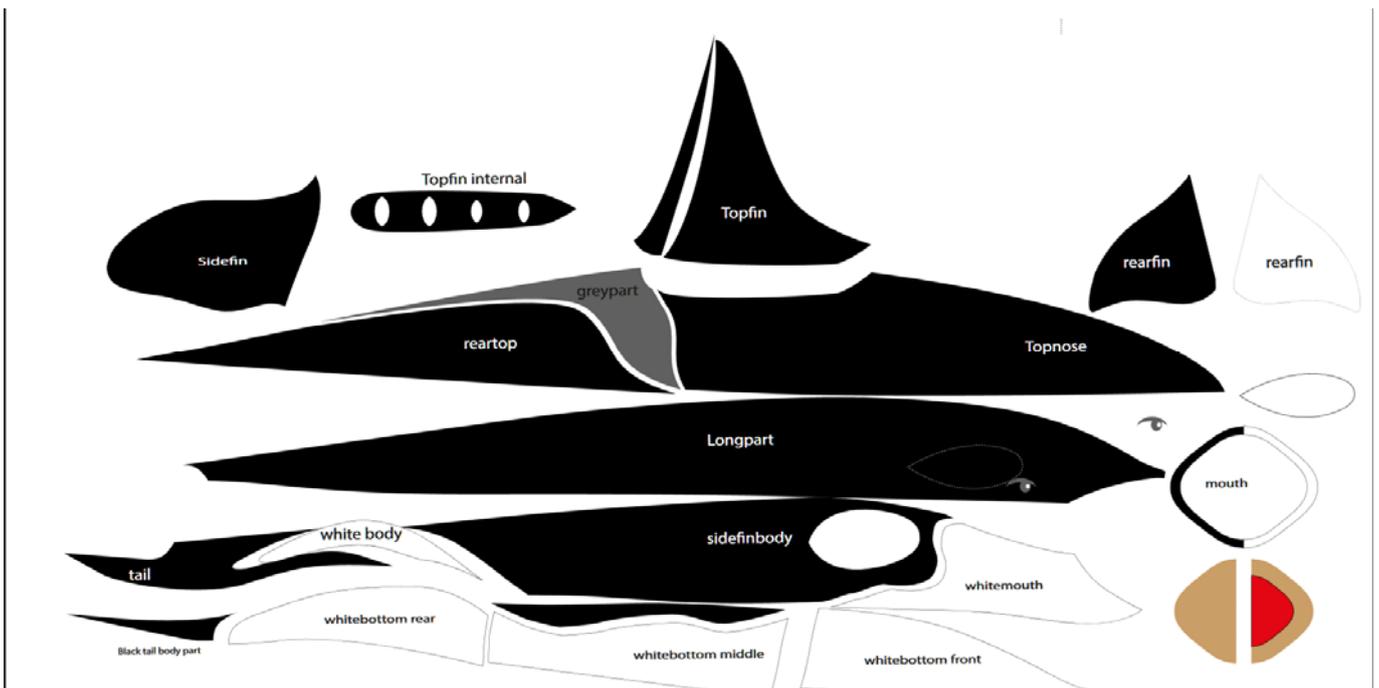
04.longpart.pdf

05.whitemouth.pdf 06.sidefinbody.pdf

07.tailbodybody.pdf

08.whitebottom front.pdf

On the pdf files I added a 5x5cm grid so you can measure if your printer is doing a good job. If you print this in poster format and at 100% you should be able to print this out and do not need to measure the grid at all. 9 out of 10 times that worked for me. I also added a cutline and sewing line also tried to add the names of the parts that need to be sewn around those parts. After printing the templates I glued them on cardboard and cut them out that works for me if I want to make more than one.



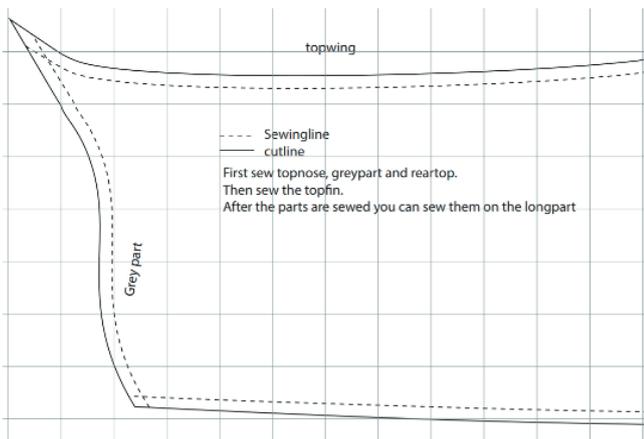
Overview of Killer Whale elements

## Killer Whale—Freddy Stapersma

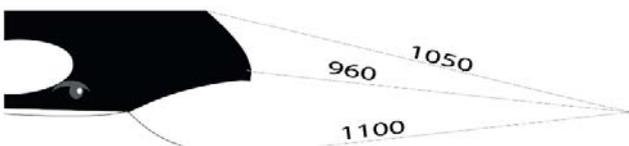
This Killerwhale is about 3 meter (yeah sorry I am from Europe) 118inch.

### Sewing

I started with connecting all horizontal layers so I was left with a couple of bigger parts. All stitching is done with a plain seam on the wrong side that in the end will be the inside of the killerwhale.



Also sewing the two tail parts together and last the mouth parts. Then I completed the two sides so then had two body parts, two tail parts and a mouth. Then I sewed the fins on the two body parts. putting everything together I started bottom up. So first his white belly and then worked my way up.



Before closing the Killerwhale I added the mouthpart. The mouth works as a simple valve. Only the sides of the inner mouth are sewed together. when the killerwhale is full of air it will close the inlet due to inner pressure.

### Bridle

I also added loops for the bridle (make them strong enough if you make a bigger version). I made a mistake with that when I made the 8 meter version!

For stabilizing the small killer whale you need a extra bridle on the dorsal fin. I added the middle bridle on the nose to keep the head in shape

All of the patterns can be found at <http://tiny.cc/4w23hz>

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Disclaimer: instructions are used at own risk. This is my first instructions for building a inflatable. I could have made some errors in writing these instructions. If so please let me know. I will change and add extra info as needed.

Contact

Kite builder Freddy Stapersma

[freddy.stapersma@quicknet.nl](mailto:freddy.stapersma@quicknet.nl)



Proto Type, using cheaper material to ensure concept and pieces are correct



**Paper testing.** After designing I printed some parts out on paper to see if the idea would work. Glued some parts and it seemed to work. So work started at the first prototype.

## A Visitor's View—Marcus Halling

### Martin Corrie Memorial Fly-In

Morning to the 20th October was a cold one, 2.5c at 8:00am, walking the dog enjoying hazy sunshine. Whilst planning the route we would take, to drive to Frinton I noticed, with apprehension, that the boiler vents from the suburbia Hobo and I were strolling through, were vertical! A classic sign of little or no wind. Being a relative newbie to kite flying I began to think "What Beaufort scale" this would relate to. I was however lucky enough to gather information on the pending Martin Corrie Memorial Fly-in and made my decision "It's always Breezier by the sea".

Portsmouth International Kite Festival, is surely testament and look at what those guys and girls put into flight for us. So, with all this into consideration I packed a few kites and headed off.



We arrived an hour later, minus one dog to be greeted by the East Anglian Kite Flyers (EAKF). The dew on the ground was greeted by my walking boots. We took stock of situation; a building wind was developing from off the land, over the coastal houses and out to the Wind farm in the far distant horizon. Hazy sunshine was keeping the chill to a minimum and I settled to take a few snaps of the kites everyone was flying.

I could see self-inflating kites, lifters, Fighter kites, Revs to mention a few. The self-inflating kites included Gisha Girl with Rabbit, whose

owner commented on its "cheap construction although once up there looked as good as any other" The good people of EAKF helped us with staking and the relevant Spanish Knot to anchor the Oriental Lady amongst a few fresh mole hills. A large dragon put in an appearance towards mid-day, much to the numerous children's delight I can only assume that their shouts were being aimed at. There were other kites too; Smiley emoji, Turbines, skilfully sustained by a Large Rokkaku, A large Dove, Love Heart, Butterfly (Karl Longbottom), to mention a few.



Coffee at lunch time was enjoyed on a bench over looking the sandy beach, after which I had a go at flying a hand made Kono Box Kite that I built. More puff would be needed to get my incarnation up this time, but all in all a delightful day from a visitor's point of view.



## Scientific Kite Flying—From Nature 1903

SYSTEMATIC observations of the temperature and humidity of the upper air have been made for many years past, both in America and on the Continent, kites being the means employed mostly in America, and kites and balloons on the Continent.

The plan adopted is to send up a kite of some 60 to 80 square feet of lifting surface, the line used being steel music wire instead of string, additional kites being attached to the line as occasion requires. The end kite, or the line close to it, carries a self-recording instrument, and in this way observations at a height approximating to or even exceeding three miles are sometimes obtained, although it is not often that the air motion in the various strata is such as to render a height of more than 10000 feet possible. The obstacle to be overcome is the pressure of the wind upon the line, which soon reduces the angular altitude of the kite, and it is on this account, rather than on the greater strength of steel for the same weight, that steel music wire is preferable to string, the resistance of the wire on account of its smaller section being so much less.



Fig 1. Rhombus kite, 7ft 6in by 6ft by 3ft 6in

There are few days on which a small elevation may not be reached by a kite, but days really suitable are not plentiful. It is self-evident that a suitable wind is the first requisite, and to obtain a great height a suitable wind must prevail from the lowest to the highest strata reached. We cannot, of course, alter the wind, but fortunately we are able to move the point to which the kite line is attached, and this practically comes to the same thing as altering the force of

the wind. The most convenient means of doing this is to fly the kites from the deck of a steam vessel, and during last summer observations were thus obtained for seven weeks almost daily.

The work was inaugurated by a committee of the Royal Meteorological Society, cooperating with a committee appointed by the British Association<sup>1</sup>. They hired a small steam tug of 55 feet length and 14 feet 6 inches beam. The vessel was stationed at Crinan, which is at the north end of the Crinan Canal, on the west coast of Scotland, and, Sundays excepted, kite ascents were made from her deck every day, no matter what the weather, from July 8 to August 26. The vessel could not steam more than seven knots, and the wind velocity necessary to raise a kite is from nine to twelve knots, so that on occasions when it was a dead calm no kite could be started. It happened, however, that no day was calm throughout, so that some time during the hours of daylight the opportunity of reaching at least 1500 feet elevation was afforded. Had the tug been capable of ten instead of seven knots, I have little doubt but that a height of 5000 feet might have been attained every day.

Using one or two kites only, no difficulty was experienced. The most troublesome point was getting the kite together when the wind was strong. The tug was small, and had no bulwarks, so that there was no shelter of any kind on deck, but her smallness was certainly an advantage in another way. A larger vessel would have produced eddies in the wind, and probably have rendered it difficult to start the kite direct from the deck. As it was we had no trouble, and it was very seldom that a kite failed to rise steadily from the starting point. In calm weather the vessel was kept steaming against, or nearly against, the wind so as to produce sufficient relative motion to raise and maintain the kites. In rough weather she was taken out against the wind for some ten or twenty miles until a position was attained from which a clear run down the wind was possible, and the kite was then started. A wind of force 5 on the Beaufort scale is the most suitable wind for kite flying. This is known technically as a fresh breeze, and is sufficient to produce a moderate amount of white on the sea surface. One of the kites of the usual size for scientific kite flying will, in such a breeze, exert a pull of about 50 lbs. The wire used will bear a strain of some 300 lbs., and weighs about 16 lbs. to the mile, so that one kite in such circumstances will take nearly two miles of wire, and, if it be a good one, will raise the instruments to about 5000 or 6000 feet. The pull of 50 lbs. is well within the

<sup>1</sup> See paper on "The Method of Kite-flying from a Steam Vessel, and Meteorological Observations obtained thereby off the West Coast of Scotland" (*Quarterly Journal of the Royal Meteorological Society*, April).

## Scientific Kite Flying—From Nature 1903

limits of stability of the kites, and is on the whole about the most convenient to work with, if one can be certain of the goodness of the kite.

At Crinan the tug was so manoeuvred that a tension of 40 lbs. for each kite on the line might be maintained, but kite flying is an art of which we were then without previous experience, and so it was well to err on the safe side. A steam vessel is extremely convenient for kite flying, as by altering either her speed or direction the strain upon the wire, provided the vessel is not already going full speed against or with the wind, can be varied with the utmost nicety.

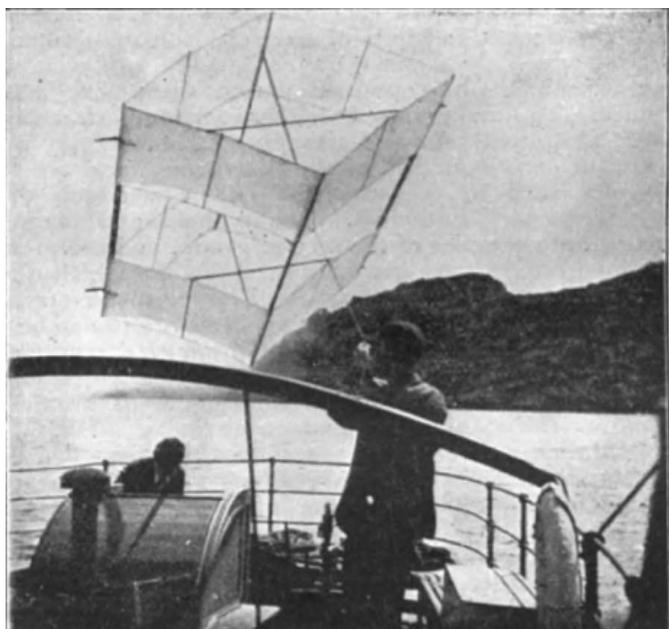


FIG. 2.—Starting a kite from the tug.

With more than two kites difficulties often occur, owing to the fact that very different wind velocities may prevail at different heights. If the wind is greatest at the surface, adding more kites does not add appreciably to the height of the end one, since no kite can rise into a stratum in which it does not find sufficient wind.

This sometimes occurred, but the more usual case was that the wind force increased too rapidly with elevation, so that if the tug were used to increase the relative surface wind to suit the lower kites, it added too much to the strength of the upper wind, and by unduly increasing the force upon the upper kites, put a dangerously high tension upon the wire. If, on the other hand, the tug were moved to suit the upper kites, the lower ones might be be-calmed, and useless for lifting purposes, or perhaps even fall into the sea.

Very interesting results have been obtained from these experiments, both in America and on the Continent, but it has been felt that the

conditions prevailing over the large oceans are very likely different from those over the continents. The cyclonic disturbances, on the motion of which our weather very largely depends, certainly show a preference for the sea, and it was in the hope that some light might be thrown on their mechanism, and the causes which produce them, that a locality on the west coast of Scotland was chosen for the observations.

The evidence obtained from last summer's work is not sufficient to be conclusive, but so far as it goes it tends to show that as a depression approaches, the decrease of temperature with elevation becomes less than it was before. This was the case with every depression that passed while the experiments were in progress, and it leads to the conclusion that the upper air in the neighbourhood of a cyclone is relatively warm, and that the cyclones are convectional effects.

A further result of the observations shows that the temperature of Ben Nevis was in every instance below that of the free air at the same level some sixty miles to the south-west, often from 5° to 8° F. below. That the two air temperatures should have agreed was hardly expected, but the difference was very marked, and it is desirable that the experiments should be repeated in the same locality to confirm the result.

The fact, however, that the summit of the mountain is so often wrapped in clouds, when the sky is clear elsewhere, tends to show that the summit must be unduly cold, and it seems likely that the effect is produced by the adiabatic cooling of the air as it is forced up the mountain slope. In fact, the cloud level on all the mountains and hills in the neighbourhood was always much below the point at which the kites entered the clouds.

It is also known from the differences in the barometer on the Ben and the values computed from the Fort William readings that the temperature of the intermediate layers of air is not truly represented by the mean derived from the summit and sea-level temperatures.

England being so near the usual cyclonic tracks, observations on the upper air are of especial interest, and it is very desirable that a permanent station for the purpose should be established.

It may perhaps be found that unmanned balloons too often fall into the sea to be usefully employed, but the attempt is well worth a trial, and so far as kite observations are concerned, the only difficulty is the financial one.

W. H. Dines

## 2nd Gozo International Kite Festival



Children's workshops, children's competitions and a great group of kite fliers plus perfect weather conditions led to a great kite festival. This despite the interesting kite fields which were an asset in the end spreading the event across a large area.



## 2nd Gozo International Kite Festival



## Tangled Tales

Paul Chapman

I have just had a missive from the KSoGB... 'got any stuff for The Kiteflyer?'. That got me thinking. Kite festivals this year? None, if you discount the monsoon drenching One Sky One World event at Taurus Crafts. I let Janneke Groen fly my Boris o'dako at Taurus. Yes, Taurus was an International Kite and Food Festival; but the rain! As for Boris....later. So what has happened in the past year?

Twelve months ago (as I write this anyway) I was in Paris for the *Colloque international 'Cerfs-volants du Japon a la croisee des arts'* that had been organised by Dr. Cecile Laly, art historian at the Sorbonne University. Cecile had invited 14 authorities on Japanese kites to present at the two day symposium. Rather surprisingly I was part of this august gathering of university professors and museum curators, and we presented our findings in the Grande Epoque surroundings of the Galerie Colbert. It was a lot of fun and there were both new and old faces to be seen. I wasn't the only kiter since Scott Skinner was one of the speakers ... ably supported by the Drachen Mafia. David Kahn of the Blue Mountain Museum also gave a brilliant talk. I

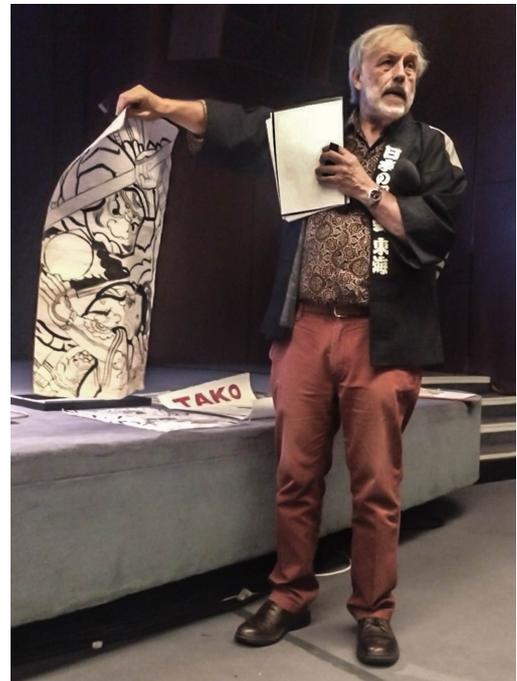


wanted to get away from Death by Powerpoint so I brought along a small exhibition of

show-and-tell that supported my talk '*The Making of the Japanese Kite*'. That meant I could fly my replica of the 'sky sweeping' kite from 1666 and pass around the woodblock plates made for printing kite skins. I was a bit more discrete with the fragile hanshita-e sumi ink preparatory drawings for the block making. Discretion, too, about showing the amusingly erotic tako-shunga ukiyo-e prints; I mentioned that I had some of these as reserve images and was pressured into showing them by an enthusiastic audience! I had made a little book to go with the presentation and Cecile had kindly rewritten all my Franglais into proper French. You can browse the book on

<https://www.bobbooks.co.uk/bookshop/photobook/the-making-of-the-japanese-kite> . Later, some time after I got

home, Cecile asked me to write a chapter for the forthcoming book of the symposium. I assume there will be 14 chapters and written in the assorted languages. Supplementing the colloque international was a soirée at a rather nice cafe/restuarant gallerie where we admired Mami Kiyoshi's exhibition of art photography that has been a large part of Cecile's work in Japan. The subjects were the professional kitemakers in their natural surroundings. The photography was amazing!



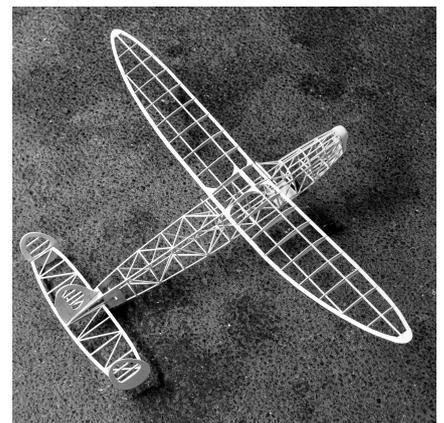
I had intended to get in a trip to Indonesia, but soon after returning home my ability to walk any distance failed. I thought I was finished and the medics duly predicted MS. It was a situation that practically stopped everything so I went to China for 10 days to see if the change in diet would help. It did. By mid-August the Chinese seafood diet came up with a result and I started to walk normally again, well not exactly normally but I can get around. Having stuck my head in a CT scanning thing and having declared that not only could they find my brain (surprisingly in good, unused, condition) the quacks then decided that I had had a nasty virus attack on my spine. My doctor put down the recovery to kiteflying since standing upright...head in the sky...keeps the spinal column of nerves nicely dangling in the spinal tube where it avoids being crushed by all those viruses. I now fly kites under doctor's orders and save the NHS a mint in butchering fees.



It was around this time that I discovered the *Stringless Wonder*. My son gave it to me as a wind-up several years ago so I made it and threw it into the air on the Downs. This pseudo-Conyne really is a wonder and soon had me slowly chasing it, especially after catching thermals. It sparked off the thought of making a proper job so now I have a 1930s rubber job in the hangar awaiting its first flight.



The Downs in Bristol is pretty good for kites although the doggers are increasingly prevalent. It can be irritating when you find a secluded spot only to discover that your kite bag (usually containing fighting kites) is the target for the ball hurlers. I now use an old WW2 A.R.P police whistle which can stop a Rottweiler at 100 yards although on one occasion I was threatened with a beating-up when I had to stop the rabid



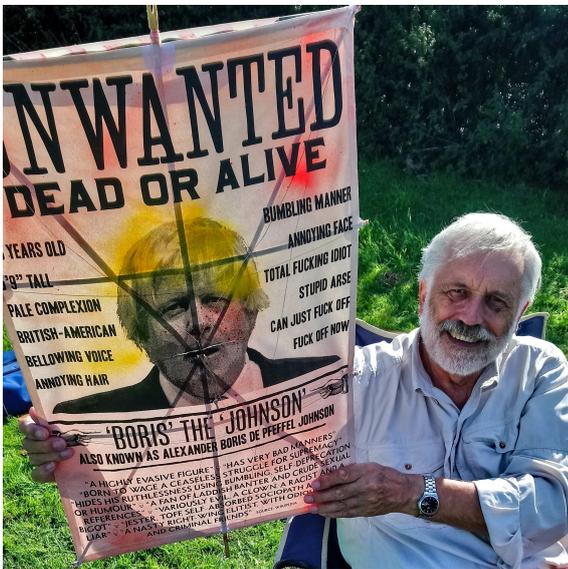
canine from rabbiting the kite bag. These days the kite flying tends to involve selecting something unusual, and generally small, and then trying to get it up, photographed and down before the doggers arrive. Flying a gaggle of bees can be nerve wracking!





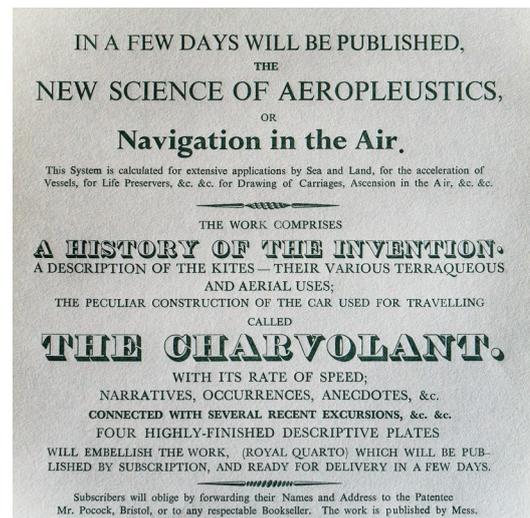
I have made a few kites this year. Nothing big. Butterfly kites for a three year old birthday at the farm! No plastic. I looked in the kite books but what I found proved to be so complex as to be useless. Simple idea. A4 paper. Roll and Pritt the long edge to make the firm leading edge. Fold in half and fold to make a tapered body. Mark out the Butterfly wings. Trim and fold the wings. Double sided tape fixes the body halves. Before starting, make some slivers of bamboo (about 60% wingspan and not quite bendy) and bend in the middle with a soldering iron to give a dihedral. Tape a bamboo dihedral brace to the

top of the wing over the rolled up leading edge. Cut a butterfly shaped body and antennae from left over paper and Pritt over the top of the wing/dihedral. Supervise child with felt marker. Make a roll-up of newspaper and cut into strips for the tails. Attach tails to ends of the wings, bridle and fly. 2 minutes (attention span of the mum) and many hours of fun for the 3 year old. (The photo is the proof of principle test...the others were all destroyed in the debacle!)



A friend of mine is a left-over revolutionary from the 1960s and very kindly donated a Boris poster which got pimped a bit and turned into the Boris o'dako. Fitted with a buzzing hummer unari, it makes a very annoying sound and that, coupled with the long tales of woe and being somewhat unstable, seemed a fitting tribute to the Con leaver. I tried to fly him as often as I could, especially over the Bristol Downs and was rather pleased that the result was election victory for our Don't Boris Bristol campaign. It seemed fitting to continue a long and wholesome tradition of election kite flying although I was somewhat disappointed not to be locked into aerial battle with the other side.

It was also while Borising and flying the Stringless Wonder that I took on a 5 week session as apprentice journeyman at The Letterpress Collective. I had found a photocopy of the flyer for George Pocock's 'Aeropleustic Art' which had been printed in Bristol in 1827. Rummaging amongst the old type, I then discovered a lot that may well have been used in the original flyer so I set about the task of compositing, setting and then eventually inking up and rolling the press. When you are picking type from the cases, minding your p's and q's and not getting it in upside down, it can be a bit frustrating! Type checking too....there is no spellchecker when you are setting in mirrorland.



The original typesetter must have thrown a huge wobbly when George P changed the book title!

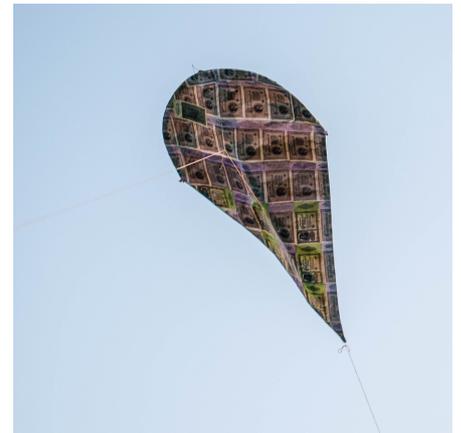
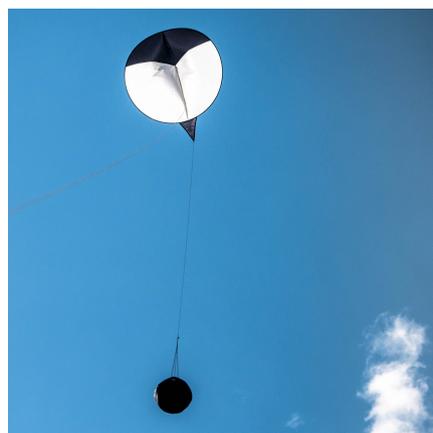
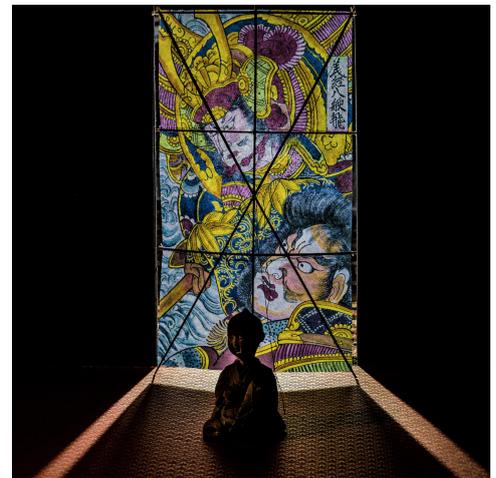


Then there was those 10 days in China. I spent a few days in Beijing to follow up on my pigeon whistle friend before getting the book under way. I also visited the kite market to try to get a pan-yin soaring bird....which I did although the back problems, the doggers and probably too few windless days have conspired against me becoming proficient. As for the pigeon whistles, I have been going to the Pitt-Rivers in Oxford where they have an impressive collection of both these and some really ancient kites. All are practically impossible to photograph!



One of my ongoing projects is to make a series of miniature bamboo and washi Japanese kites using my now rather large collection of kite skins and ukiyo-e kite woodblock prints. I am trying to learn how to use my new A3 printer to print on washi. This is not easy since the Japanese papers tend to absorb the inks with variable results, especially on very lightweight kozo washi. It is an ongoing project and currently involves sizing the paper before printing. Some of the better results come from using

preprepared washi from Awagami who can supply both A4 and A3 kozo at 45 gsm as well as a lighter kozo at 35 gsm pre-prepared on a peel off backing sheet. Printing on 15gsm is feasible if you back it to something heavier (normal copy paper is 85 gsm) but I have yet to find the right colour profile to get round the absorption problem.



2020.....you need 2020 vision to see it coming!

## Empty Space in the Sky

Many of you may know that Carolyn Swift sadly passed away on 25th November 2019. We will remember her as one of the most helpful and friendly kite fliers on the field—always smiling and ready to help (and drop Teddies).

Jerry has written the following.

Celebration of Carolyn's life - Friday 24th January 2020

I would love to write to each and every one of you individually, but I am not sure I can.....

So many of you have sent Pauline (Carolyn's sister), Mark, Jade (her niece) and I so many lovely messages and cards. We have also seen the huge number of messages following Andrew Beattie's Facebook post. And other friends have shared with me the emails they have received following Carolyn's passing.

You will probably know that Carolyn's leukaemia returned in September. It was however identified as 'treatment related' acute myeloid leukaemia and we were advised that treatment would not be effective and would cause Carolyn considerable distress at a time when it was best she enjoyed her life as much as possible.

We had two spells in Castle Hill Hospital near Hull when they managed to get Carolyn's condition reasonably stable which enabled us to enjoy some time together. Indeed the Sunday before her final admission we managed to go to Scarborough to enjoy the sea air and an ice cream!

Her final week was spent at Castle Hill with Pauline, Mark and Jade by her side and stopping locally: the hospital were happy for me to stay with Carolyn throughout. We were blessed to receive visits from several friends. She was comfortable and the hospital team managed to control her symptoms and manage her pain. She passed away peacefully on 25th November at 2335. I was at her side.

She had decided to give her body to science and she is now at the Hull York Medical School at Hull University.

Pauline and I are planning a celebration of Carolyn's life on Friday 24th January 2020 at 1200. There will be a service at Kirby Misperton Parish Church followed by a buffet and get together at Kirby Misperton Village Hall.

We want this to be a celebration so remember how Carolyn often dressed – bright colours and a bit barmy – and that's how we would like this celebration to be.

There will be no flowers – if you wish to make a donation it will be split equally between Macmillan and Bloodwise. There will be a collection box at the church and the village hall or you can send a donation if you wish to me and I will be make sure it gets to these two wonderful charities.

I would be very grateful if you could let me know if you are likely to be there – I want to make sure we provide adequate catering.

Please email me [jerry56.swift@btopenworld.com](mailto:jerry56.swift@btopenworld.com) or call me on 07956 295489. If anyone has any specific dietary needs please do let me know.

Please also feel free to pass this message on – I don't do Facebook but I know some of you do and that may reach a few more of Carolyn's many friends.

You will be unsurprised that we are finding this pretty tough. She never looked her 68 years and right up to the end she was her usual vibrant, smiling, selfless self. Someone described her as 'unassuming' and I thought that was a lovely description, she made friends with everyone and was there for everyone. We are missing her terribly.

I hope some of you are able to join us.

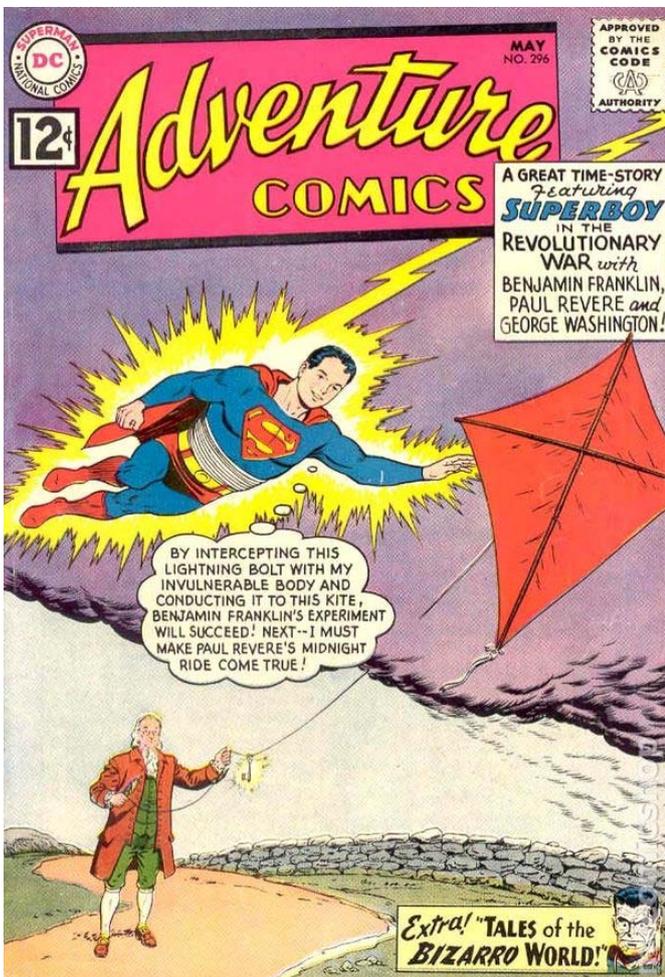


Bits & Pieces

Star Wars Episode 9 - The Rise of Skywalker will have KITES in the movie itself.



Superboy and Ben Franklin



Mary Poppins Returns Collectables.

A few things have been popping up recently to add to the collection of kite related items.

From Amazon UK you can get a tea set with pot, two cups and two saucers. All items in the set have kites on them. Set price is £69.99.

From Amazon USA you can also get just a teapot (well it looks more like a coffee pot). Price for this \$81.66. In the same style there is a cup and saucer for \$36 and a sugar bowl for

\$38.89. All the USA ones exclude P&P (which adds a hefty amount).



From Amazon UK



A Research Documentary on Wau Kites Launches Indiegogo Campaign!

Now Seeking Community Support via Indiegogo, HIGH IN THE SKY is the First Complete Research Documentary on Wau Kites!

## Bits & Pieces

Keshvan Sugumaran is a multi-talented Malaysian filmmaker and he has proudly announced the launch of his inspiring new documentary film project. The title of this first of its kind documentary is HIGH IN THE SKY, and it is the FIRST complete research documentary project on the legendary Malaysian Wau Kites. Wau Kites are a traditional game and entertainment for Malaysian Malays for centuries and Keshvan has recently launched a crowdfunding campaign on Indiegogo to raise funds and support for this documentary project.



"Wau kites is one of traditional game in Malaysia, which is in extinction state, and despite this game being a national symbol and identity, most of the Malaysians do not realize the real value of this kites games." Said Keshvan Sugumaran, the creator of this documentary project, while introducing this project to the Indiegogo community. "By doing this documentary, most of our young generation will take effort to preserve this traditional art, and more steps to continue this heritage arts will be taken." He added. Wau are one of biggest traditional kites in the world, and they have many secrets and interesting myths as well as historical fact to explore.

The Indiegogo Campaign is located on the web at: [www.indiegogo.com/projects/high-in-the-sky](http://www.indiegogo.com/projects/high-in-the-sky) and the goal of this Indiegogo campaign is to raise a sum of \$20,000.

Moreover, all funds raised through this Indiegogo campaign will play a major role in the production of this documentary, and the filmmaker is offering a wide range of rewards for the backers. Ranging from a T-Shirt to a collection of items all based on the Wau theme.

### Revolution "Rev Eagle"

Revolution kites have recently launched a new style kite with the profile and colouring of an Eagle.

Still 4 line controlled it is very responsive and will fly and hover in almost no wind. It is very



reminiscent of the Chinese Eagle kites often seen soaring around the sky at kite festivals in China—although those are single line kites.

Some words from Revolution Kites.

Since the dawn of time, man has wanted to fly. Think Icarus, think Da Vinci, think Wright Brothers. Man sees the birds in the air and wishes he could fly too. Now he can.

Introducing The Revolution Eagle Raptor. Our newest design allows you to experience the most advanced flight characteristics available. Using your skills and imagination, you will skim across the ground just like a bird! You will fly out to the edge of the wind and beyond, just like a bird! You'll be catching thermals overhead, just like a bird!

When I was a kid I had a plastic Gayla Bat kite. I loved that kite, but what I really wanted was to fly like a bird, not a kite! After years of testing and countless design prototypes, I'm ready to share the Revolution Eagle Raptor with you. While it retains the best flying aspects of your standard Revolution, it also incorporates the artistry and control of more natural flight.

The wing tip "feathers" improve lift and drag just as they do for real birds. Soaring is possible in virtually all conditions due to the super-efficient Reflex design, its high aspect ratio, and its super light carbon structure.

Although you have all the incredible Revolution capabilities available to you, the real magic is when you mimic realistic bird flight. When I fly a Revolution Eagle Raptor at the park, birds don't know what to do. Is it a bird? They are not sure, but they fly next to it like they think it is. They want to establish dominance, but they are no match for what the Revolution Eagle Raptor can do. People wandering past are still amazed by the instant "dive-stops" and crazy "snap-spin" combinations. But they also take a second look because they too are fooled. Was that an eight foot bird that just screamed by at the edge of their vision? They're intrigued and mesmerized-- this is flight they have not seen before!

So, this is not the next level of flying. It is the natural level of flying. You will interact with the

natural world in a more engaging and realistic way. You will be immersed as a player in the environment in ways you haven't experienced. This is flying that puts you in control, closer to soaring than you've ever felt before. Now you can be the Eagle Raptor!

**From the Auctions**

*Ebay—Antique Japanese Gohun Goshō Doll Flying a Kite 7" Edo Period*



Not much information about this but there are a lot of close up pictures. Buy it now price \$1450 shipping is free but there may be customs duty to pay.

*Ebay—John Morgan British Victorian Art—Young Girls Portrait Oil Painting Kite Flyers*



This beautiful very large British Victorian oil painting is by noted children's portrait artist John Morgan who exhibited widely at the major British art institutions including The Royal Academy and The Royal Society of British Artists. Painted circa 1875 The Kite Flyers is a stunning example of John Morgan's Victorian Romanticism. The painting depicts two girls with their kite in a park or garden and is beautifully detailed. Morgan often used his own children as models so it is possible one of the girls is his daughter, Lilian.

Priced now at £80,000.

*Invaluable—Manfred Schwartz: Oriental Kites II. 1965 Lithograph*



*Ebay—Vintage Gregory Van Pelt Minimalist Box Kite Table Desk Lamp George Nelson Era*



It does look a bit like a traditional box kite—albeit with just a single cell at the top.

Could be a use for those Gibson Girl kites still seen around.

This one is priced at \$180 plus shipping from the USA.

## Bits & Pieces

Manfred Schwartz (1909 Lodz – 1970 NY): a Polish-born American abstract painter, lithographer and an art dealer. There is also a Number 1 version which is brown hued rather than blue.

Estimate \$1500–\$2000, currently \$500 bid.

*Invaluable—Martyna Maczka (b. 1988) Kites, 2019*



This one was for sale in Poland—ultimately going for PLN1900.

### Kite Flying in Pakistan

From The Nation.

Police in a crackdown on kite sellers and flyers on Sunday arrested a kite seller and 30 kite flyers.

According to police sources here, 31 cases were registered against the accused in various police stations. Sixteen kite flyers were arrested from Cantonment Division, four from Model Town Division, eight from City Division, one from Iqbal Town and one from Sadar Division, sources added. Sources said police had recovered more than 50 kites, 26 string-rolls.

Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Operations Rai Babar Saeed directed the police officers to ensure the implementation on ban on kite flying in their respective areas. He said that no leniency should be shown towards kite flyers. He urged the people to refrain themselves for indulging in this activity.

### Seen in Vogue Magazine

*In Guatemala, Giant Kites Honor the Dead During Día de Los Muertos*

It's late afternoon on October 31st, and a crowd is gathered at Sumpango Cemetery in the Sacatepequez state of Guatemala to arrange flowers and clean the tombs of their dead loved ones. The air is thick with palo santo, and only the sound of children's laughter permeates as they fly kites ahead of the Festival de Barriletes

Gigantes, or Giant Kite Festival that will take place the following day, during All Saints' Day on the Catholic calendar.

One of the world's most unique Día de Los Muertos celebrations, this year's festival attracted nearly 90,000 participants to Sumpango, a town of only 38,000 residents. Around 50 official groups formed the bedrock of the event, with each coalition gathered to showcase their larger-than-life kites during the day's festivities. Made of paper and adorned with colorful patterns that often depict ancestral symbology or contemporary social issues—from the folkloric owl, which represents the messenger of death in Maya cosmology, to motifs urging suicide prevention—the kites are divided by the age group of their fliers. Children fly their smaller versions by hand, while teenagers and adults accompany bigger kites, including those that aren't airborne—they can range up to 60 feet in diameter.

Though the origins of the festival remain unknown (some say it began after the country's devastating 1976 earthquake, others say it began nearly 3,000 years ago with the Maya), the tradition continues to grow in popularity, and is even spreading to neighboring towns like Solola and Santiago Atitlán, set on the southern banks of Lake Atitlán. Photographer James Rodríguez attended this year's festival, documenting the process of participating groups as they worked tirelessly to both build and fly their kites in a process that can take up to a year.



More can be seen at <http://tiny.cc/pp13hz>

### New Kite Group

The group is The Cornwall Kitefliers and we have already found one flying site at Rosudgeon Playing Fields (TR20 9QE) about half way between Penzance and Helston.

It offers an open space about the size of four football pitches, is relatively tree-free and sur-

## Bits & Pieces

rounded by fields. The site has ample free parking and is easy to get to, about half way between Penzance and Helston.

They would like to hear from anyone who is interested in joining us to help get the club "off the ground".

Contact: [cliveincornwall@gmail.com](mailto:cliveincornwall@gmail.com)



### Another definition of Kiting

1. Verb. The fine art of converting large amounts of currency to even larger piles of nylon.
2. Verb. The endeavour of driving long distances to a festival of like minded people, praying for the wind to blow and the rain to go, but having a cooler full of beverages just in case.
3. Verb. The innate and admirable ability to justify to your acquaintances, flying over-size high priced kites as a hobby.
4. Verb. A viable excuse to remain in one's childhood well into retirement.
5. Verb. The best reason for ignoring yard work in favour of a hobby, if the leaves are blowing they are hard to catch.
6. Noun. Justification for tree free parks.
7. Noun. Smile generator.
8. Noun. Instant non-static (dynamic) display of free to the public art.
9. Noun. The only reason a non-farmer would own a fence-post driver.
10. Verb. No need for vitamin D in a bottle.
11. Verb. Causes one to wonder if it is wind-burn or sun-burn.
12. Verb. The ability to identify who is at the festival from 5 miles out by what kites you see over the field.

13. Verb. Fun. Proportionally squared by the feet of line played out.

### Lost in Space

Recently released on Netflix season 2 of Lost in Space episode 2 has a scene with a kite in it.



Not watched it yet, so no idea how realistic or correct the flight of the kite is.

**From Stuff.co.nz (reported 31st December)**  
World-renowned kite-maker to share family New Years tradition with Foxtton Beach-goers

Bulls resident Robert van Weers has been creating kites for more than 30 years, and has developed a reputation that gets him invited to collaborations and festivals all over the world. The master kite-smith will be at Foxtton Beach on New Year's Day, sharing crafting tips at a children's workshop alongside a display of his big, bright and beautiful creations. They will take flight from 11am. It will be the first of what he hopes will become an annual event, that has grown out of his family's traditional New Year trips to Foxtton Beach.

On January 1 each year van Weers and his family head out for a day at the beach and he flies monkey, panda and fish kites with his grandchildren. It never fails to attract attention and, in recent years, Foxtton Beach regulars have started bringing their own kites to join in on the fun.

"It's always a nice, beautiful show, and a good thing to do when you're out and about for a bit of fun in the sun."

## Bits & Pieces



Van Weers decided to make it a fully-fledged event, inviting the public to come enjoy a slightly more considered display with a few extras. His brother-in-law has built a portable beach hut to give people respite from the sun, and the family will be setting up a crafting table and supplies .

"I'll put on a workshop to teach children how to make a basic kite, and we'll have crayons and [art supplies] so they can colour and decorate their kites."

if the day proves popular van Weers hopes to bring it back as an annual fixture, and will get his thinking cap on for a suitable moniker. The kite-maker was always proud to share his passion, and he hoped holiday-goers and Manawatū locals would find it as much fun as he did.

### Book

"From Kites to Cold War: The Evolution of Manned Airborne Reconnaissance" by Tyler Morton, Naval Institute Press, 2019, 328 pages, \$49.95.

A recent review of this book appeared in the Galveston Daily News. Extracts below.

"Few think of Benjamin Franklin as an airpower proponent. Yet this Founding Father was enthusiastic about the balloon's military potential. Not just as a tool for reconnaissance, but as a means of moving troops behind enemy lines. "From Kites to Cold War: The Evolution of Manned Airborne Reconnaissance" by Tyler Morton delivers this nugget among several surprising revelations in this history of aerial reconnaissance.

The Duke of Wellington stated war consisted of guessing what was at the other side of the hill. As Morton shows aerial reconnaissance offered a look at that hidden side of the hill.

Airborne scouting has extremely old roots. The Chinese used manned kites for centuries before the first hot air balloon flight in 1783. But the Montgolfier's 1783 balloon launched manned aerial reconnaissance in the West. For a century, armies attempted to use balloons from the

French Revolutionary War in 1794 through the Spanish-American War of 1898."

The book then goes onto the use of airplanes for reconnaissance. Kites get a short mention in the first section of the book before going into balloons, etc.

### On Amazon Prime Video

Kite Zhang's Kites. This documentary is about Zhang who has inventing and has been creating kinetic kites for thirty years. Kinetic kites combined traditional Chinese art and modern mechanical knowledge. However, this unique art form is fading away due to the lack of attention in society. In Chinese with English sub-titles the documentary features many of his kites and some of his construction ideas.

### Kite Watch

Timex Marlin® Automatic x Peanuts Featuring Charlie Brown. Timex say:

"We brought together our favourite Peanuts pal and our favourite 1960s design. We gave our classic mid-century Marlin® an aesthetic refresh with a 21-jewel automatic movement, black leather strap, stainless-steel case and a monochromatic drawing of Charlie Brown flying a kite on the dial. "



Priced at £224.99

## Events News

### Portsmouth International Kite Festival 8th & 9th August

Portsmouth City Council continues to support the kite festival. For which we thank them.

This year celebrates the 29th Portsmouth International Kite Festival and we are bringing many new kite fliers and their kites to the festival.

Planning is in the early stages and more details will be available in the April edition or on the web site Portsmouthkitefestival.org.uk.

**Free parking** is available for KSGB members on request from us IN ADVANCE. No passes will be available during the weekend. Please send an SAE or (preferably) an email to us with your name and car registration number.

Please note that each pass will be specific to your vehicle and NOT transferable to another vehicle without a new pass being issued. 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 not officially permitted on site by the council. On request of the council we are keeping the number of camping spots static to avoid complaints from local residents.

Some passes will be available to non guest kitefliers. Please note the following if you intend to apply for one of these.

Camping is only open to Kite Society members or affiliated club members.

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

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

It is important to note that this concession is only between **Friday 7th August 10am until Monday 10th August noon**. You will be moved if you arrive earlier or stay later. Please do not abuse this concession.

Please park considerately and as close to your neighbour as practical for the vehicle/unit you are using (there has been a creeping tendency to spread out more over the years).

Send requests to:  
portsmouth@thekitesociety.org.uk.

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



**Tewkesbury School**  
EXPECTING AND ACHIEVING SUCCESS

**Tewkesbury Kite Festival 2020**

**25th - 26th July**

**10 - 5pm** **FREE ENTRY**

**Humongous kite displays | FunFair | Stalls**

**Tewkesbury School playing fields**

Contact details on  
[www.tewkesburykitefestival.co.uk](http://www.tewkesburykitefestival.co.uk)

### Basingstoke Kite Festival, 6th & 7th June

New Venue—Mays Bounty Cricket Ground, Fairfields Road, Basingstoke, Hants, RG21 3DR  
From 10am to 5 pm (both days)

## Events News

Come along and help us to celebrate our 28th Festival and join in the fun!!!!!!

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

A Tombola will be held over the weekend with lots of prizes. Donations gratefully received!

On Saturday evening we will have a Social Get Together in the Cricket Club. There will be a Buffet (price tbc) If you would like to join in please pre-book by emailing Roy at [rwbroadley@outlook.com](mailto:rwbroadley@outlook.com) and payment can be made on the Saturday morning, in the Marquee.

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

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

Contact: Roy Broadley 07778 352825  
Or 01256 812487 or Chris Parfitt 07824 474774

### North Hants Kiter's Jolly Up 23—April 25th & 26th

Gate open from 12noon on the Friday...

The site is located in the village of Cliddesden, just south of Basingstoke (not far from J6 of the M3).

On-site camping is available from Friday midday onwards (£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 to keep the outlay down!). 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 before or on the week-end (before 4pm please if poss 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.

There will be games for entertainment in the Marquee over the weekend, come and play!!

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

For further info, please contact:

Roy on 07778 352825  
Or e-mail [roy@kitesup.co.uk](mailto:roy@kitesup.co.uk)  
For orders: [hayley@kitesup.co.uk](mailto:hayley@kitesup.co.uk)

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

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

### Billing Aquadrome International Kite Festival 15th & 16th August

This event is being held at the Billing Aquadrome, Crow Lane, Billing near Northampton, NN3 9DA.

A new event organized by The Kite Society so we hope lots of you will come along. It has a flat and level site with ample space to fly kites.

Full details will be in the next issue, or through the web site but we hope to have a good mix of kite fliers and demonstrations taking place. [Www.billingkitefestival.org.uk](http://www.billingkitefestival.org.uk)

One key point is that there will be free camping (tent, caravan or motorhome) for three nights (Friday through Sunday nights) for kite group members. You need to register your interest by sending details of your vehicle to us together with the unit type, vehicle registration number and number of nights. Email or mailing address also required. It will be possible to extend your stay at your own (reduced) cost. Email us at [billing@thekitesociety.org.uk](mailto:billing@thekitesociety.org.uk).

There is also a Premier Lodge near the site for those who prefer the indoor life.

## Events List

| <b>April</b>             |  |  |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| 11-19                    | Berck International Kite Festival, Berck-sur-Mer, France   |  |
| 24 – May 3 <sup>rd</sup> | 40th Cervia International Kite Festival, Via Arenile Demaniale, 48015 Cervia RA, Italia  | www.festivalinternazionaleaquilone.com |
| 25-26                    | Jolly Up 26, Cliddesden, near Basingstoke.   | roy@kitesup.co.uk                      |
| <b>May</b>               |  |  |
| 8-10                     | MKF & WHKF Kitefliers Rendezvous for VE Day 75th Anniversary, Broad Haven's Blue Flag beach, near Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, Wales SA62 3JH | mkf.org.uk                             |
| 10                       | Streatham Common Kite Day, London, SW16 3BZ  | www.streathamkiteday.org.uk            |
| 24                       | Westward Ho! Festival of Kites, Westward Ho Beach, Bideford  | www.visitwestwardho.co.uk              |
| <b>June</b>              |  |  |
| 6-7                      | Basingstoke Kite Festival, Mays Bounty Cricket Ground, Fairfields Road, Basingstoke, Hants, RG21 3DR   | Roy Broadley 07778 352825              |
| <b>July</b>              |  |  |
| 4-5                      | Barmouth Kite Festival, on the beach opposite the Lifeboat Station, Barmouth, Mid Wales  | kitesbar-mouth@gmail.com               |
| 11-12                    | Leominster and Hereford Kite Festival, The National Trust's Berrington Hall, Leominster, Herefordshire HR6 0DW                                 | www.kitefestival.org.uk                |
| 11-12                    | Rosendale Kite Festival, in association with Northern Kite Group, Haslingden Sports Centre, Haslingden, Lancashire BB4 4DN                     | www.nkg.org.uk                         |
| 11-12                    | Brighton Kite Festival, Stanmer Park, Brighton, BN1 9QA  | www.brightonkiteflyers.co.uk           |
| 25-26                    | Tewkesbury Kite Festival, The School House, Ashchurch Rd, Tewkesbury GL20 8DF  | www.tewkesburykitefestival.co.uk       |
| <b>August</b>            |  |  |
| 1-2                      | Sunderland Kite Festival, Herrington Country Park, Houghton-Le-Spring, Tyne and Wear DH4 7EL   | www.sunderlandkitefestival.co.uk       |
| 8-9                      | Portsmouth International Kite Festival, Southsea Common, Portsmouth  | www.portsmouthkitefestival.org.uk      |
| 8-9                      | Teston Kite Weekend, Teston Bridge Country Park, nr Maidstone, Kent ME18 5BX   | Malcolm@kentkiteflyers.com             |
| 15-16                    | Billing Aquadrome International Kite Festival, Crow Lane, Northampton, NN3 9DA   | billing@thekitesociety.org.uk          |
| 29-31                    | 6th Bognor Regis Kite Festival, King George V Playing Fields, Felpham, Bognor Regis, West Sussex PO22 8QS                                      | www.brkf.org/kite-festival.html        |
| <b>September</b>         |  |  |
| 11-13                    | St Anne's International Kite Festival, Lytham St Anne's, Lancashire  | www.visitstannes.info                  |
| 12-20                    | Dieppe International Kite Festival, Dieppe, France   | www.dieppe-cerf-volant.org             |



**tug.com**

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