

THE KITEFLIER



ISSUE 163

April 2020

£2.50

NEWSLETTER of
THE KITE SOCIETY
of GREAT BRITAIN

KITEWORLD

All The Fun Of The Air !



New HQ
Shade



Kite
Accessories



Brasington Central Station
Train



New HQ
Mantra



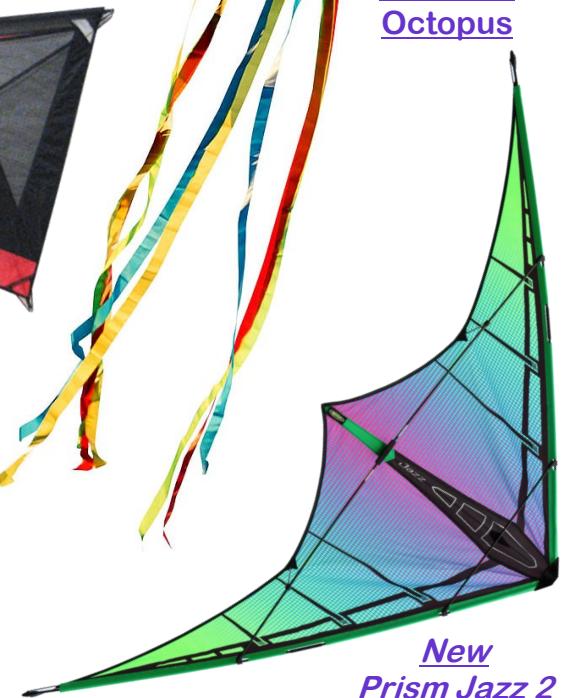
New HQ
Rainbow
Octopus



Revolution
Spider RX



New HQ
Bouncing Buddy
Spider



New
Prism Jazz 2

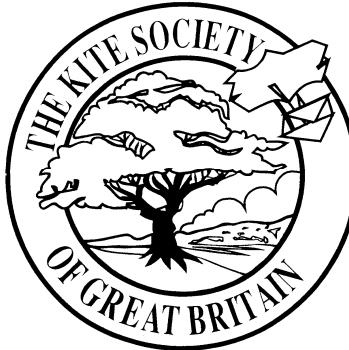
Spiderkites
Maraca Light

Visit our website

www.kiteworld.co.uk

sales@kiteworld.co.uk

Pothecary Corner	4
Isolated Kiter	9
Various Things	13
Some Things to pass the time	14
Blasts from the past	17
Portsmouth & Billing Kite Festivals	18
Photographic Memories	19
Single Skin Kites and Lifters	21
Bits & Pieces	25
Events List	31



The Kite Society of Great Britain

P. O. Box 2274

Gt Horkesley

Colchester

CO6 4AY

Tel: 01206 271489

Email: kites@thekitesociety.org.uk

<http://www.thekitesociety.org.uk>

Editorial

Dear Reader

Well, what an interesting time we are in. Our hobby has become a victim of the lockdown with many events being cancelled or postponed up to the end of June/ beginning of July, so the majority of events past that are still on the calendar.

Of course it may change so keep an eye on the relevant festival web sites.

For Portsmouth as things stand this is still planned to go ahead. This is of course subject to change depending on the Government's advice and how this changes over the coming weeks and months. So please request a car and/or camping pass as early as you can to avoid a rush later. This also applies for Billing. See page 18 for details of deadline dates.

Front Cover

Creation by Jorge Beckmann

Photo by Herman Plattje

Both will be in Portsmouth

So there should be some amazing creations to be seen later this year :-)

Another thing you can do, whilst isolating, write us an article, or gather some pictures together to send us.

Keep safe and well. We hope to see you later in the year.

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

Heavens Gate III

By the time this is published I will have celebrated a big O birthday and, I have to say am definitely showing all the traits of reaching this stage in life. I have probably put on a bit of weight too, I'm not fat though - just easier to see!

I seem to spend a lot of time these days thinking about the Hereafter - I walk from one room to another and think, "What am I here after?" I have found myself looking up something on Google but, by the time I've reached the home page, have forgotten what is what I want to know.

Now try and tell me you haven't done any of that recently.

I'm saying all this because, in recent articles I have missed things out - even forgot to mention the point sometimes.

Getting On

For instance. Two issues back (or maybe three?) I wrote about the heaven's gate (it's an arch of kites) and the last issue, I was saying about how they looked even better used as a kite line attached to a lightweight but steady lifter kite.



A particular favourite of mine because they are so small to carry and yet have an awesome presence in the sky.

Then, I completely forgot to add in the photo. A picture paints a thousand words and all that!

There was me silently cursing the editors for mucking up my efforts to inform and entertain when I suddenly saw that it my own senility that was responsible for the omission (Sorry Jon and Gill)

Therefore, the photo posted this time is the reason for my final mention of the Heaven's Gate.

Stick It

Checking back on the last issue, where I was talking about team flying I tried to show four person sport kite team, L-katz, using kites on sticks but I'm not too sure that clarified things too well.

"Stick flying" is a very important part of pairs or team flying because it is a much safer, less likely to damage kite, easier and quicker way to communicate with each other whilst trying to remember and perfect the many individual sequences that make up routines and how to set up and get out of figures in the precision disciplines of competition.



A team leader should always ask if the other members if they understand what is required before launch.

Speak Now

I remember my early days learning under multiple times world champion, Carl Robertshaw, when he would say, "If you are not sure, don't say "Yes" because then I will think you do"

I am grateful to Piyush Patel (Pea) for the excellent photo taken from the flyers' points of view and again, a picture painting words etc.

Cutting Down all Round

Another thing I have noticed about the advancing years is our (mine and Marilyn's) preference for flying in the warmer weather and less fierce winds.

Because of this, we only seem to go out flying when we are given new kites to test, or the conditions are more acceptable.

It then follows that we have a whole storeroom that many kites never leave from one year to the next and I decided that I would sell some of

Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary



them off and, perhaps get a nice big one to replace them (One instead of many?)

I started this project with our Octopi.

I got out the yellow one, I spoke about it in the last issue flying it at Hayling Island.

It turns out that we got so much enjoyment from it that it came down to which one's could we part with. we have four that size - Yellow,

Green, Black and Red.

Ok so we'll keep two then? So how much would we get for the other two - about a hundred and seventy for the pair?

Not much toward one of the big kites we have seen and like is it? - and perhaps we'd feel better about knowing we had them to fly on the odd occasion if we wanted to which is much better than the seller's remorse of seeing someone else showing it off it and going home with them.

Ha ha, I used to get exactly that feeling after parting with a girlfriend when I was young!

The Big White One

We then moved on to our bigger, white Octopus, now this one is definitely going. I like it, not particularly struck on the "Cow" pattern but it is BIG (75ft) and it flies very well and in a fairly low wind too!

The wife threatened to return my glasses to Specsavers because I didn't see things her way. The problem is, Marilyn doesn't like it, never has, therefore it never gets flown, so it's going. We thought that if we were going to sell it then we should do a [video](#) and get some photos.



Up she went, lovely, even my dear wife enjoyed the photos she got from standing behind the kite and sideways on too against a setting sun (All seen on the video) but then she noticed a patch of what turned out to be a bit of mould on one small panel.

There's always something

You have to know where it is and look really hard to see it when the kite is low in the air and when it's high you need binoculars but it was there.



I thought it would be easy to clean but for some reason it is a double thickness of two panels, the stain is between them and there's no way of getting in there save an un pick an re-sew - a job I am not prepared to undertake. I don't do fiddly and it'll only go wrong.



Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

So we'll keep flying it until someone makes us a decent offer as is I suppose. I don't want to sell it without the purchaser having seen it first, that's not how I like to go on if I know something ain't quite right!

Pink Flamingo

For many years we had in our possession one of Joel Scholtz's "Floyd" pink Flamingos. As is the bird itself, the kite is an ungainly character and in the overlarge size it is made, the rather long neck and body are difficult to replicate using strong enough materials not to snap if it nose dives to the ground as it frequently does until you have mastered the set up.

I know I have passed this kite on, I can't remember where but probably donated to an auction to raise money for a kite event somewhere. I expect that there a few people who knew of the delicacy of this kite and may have been put off purchasing the smaller version sold, under license to Joel, by HQ.

I know I was sceptical, but recently I managed to acquire one and was very pleasantly surprised how good it was. It still looks gangly but it flies surprisingly well and steady with its bright yellow legs dangling and dancing beneath.



It seems to like to fly high and once you reach the' sweet spot' and the angle of attack is right the kite evens out as it looks down on you below.

Being such a bright colour it stands out well in the sky and, being mainly pink, immediately gets the wife's approval! I didn't think much of the cheap plastic bag with makes it appear more of a toy than a kite.

Assembly is very quick with two cross spars and something to stretch the tail and this can be left in for future use.



For around twenty eight quid a bit of a bargain that will amuse any child for at least five minutes and have adults flying it all day long. We did a [video](#) which can accessed on our Facebook account or the the "Close Encounters YouTube" site (type all of that in to find it).

The Jive

Way, way back I had one of the first HQ Jive's on the market. It was one of a range of two line sport kites brought out at the time using other musical names like Salsa, Quickstep, Maestro and Tango, although the kites had little to do with each other.

I only got to fly it briefly because I leant it out to this guy and his girlfriend (never met them before, or since that I will remember), a nice couple who said they were in-between novice and experienced.

I was a "Better Flying Day" that I had organised at Stokes Bay down on the South coast near Portsmouth.

I remember that people had travelled some fair distances that day, including one family who had based their holiday around it - people were so keen in those days. The wind was good and Marilyn, Doug Manners and I were pretty busy flitting from flyer to flyer helping out and answering questions.

Not the sort of day I could spend doing much one to one but we had some really good feedback on the day.

Bringing it Back

Before I could get to the couple who had taken the Jive I saw them carrying it back in my direction. The kite they returned was a complete bag of washing!

Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

A leading edge was broken by the nose and both bottom spreaders were smashed with one of them having gone through the sail. I remember thinking that they must have flown it with the leading edge broken from an earlier crash without realising it was damaged and, possibly, one of the bottom spreaders cracked too!

They were so embarrassed and full of apologies wanting to pay for the damage and probably not wanting to pay at the same time. I had already told them not to worry about breakages - I was expecting a few - that was all part of the day - and it's OK guys if you are reading this I never did know your names so I would love to know if you went on to better things and are still flying today.

But honestly? The kite looked stronger than that. They must have really welded it in to the ground a few times. I never did get to mending that kite again.

The reason I mention all this is because I now have a Jive 3. At the time of writing storm Dennis has almost blown over and we are expecting the next one so you can guess at how much I have flown this kite. I did manage one outing though and quite enjoyed it too.

Can be Speedy

The Jive is not a big kite by any means so it does tend to zip about a lot on the short, 80ft, lines (plus straps) that came with it but at the same time doesn't generate the sort of pull that would worry you.

I don't usually separate and fold back the leading edges when I have finished flying, I don't see the point really but I did note how small the kite comes newly packaged, small enough to fit in a suitcase nicely.

I had a strange feeling taking the kite from its bag and assembling it, noting, as you do, any clever additions that may have been built in to enhance the performance or something that makes it different?



Well then, I guess this is a new sail (ripstop polyester) on an old frame - it just seemed deja vu, sort of, well, sort of...well, the first we saw of the new technology in sport kites back in the late nineties.

Everything was standard and solid and worked well but it just seemed odd. I think the weights in the tail are different than I remember but framed in pultruded 6mm and 5mm rods as before.

I did see a review on the Kiteworld site talking about the suspension system on this kite but, there isn't one - the reviewer was obviously confusing it with the Prism "Hypnotist" (formally "The Mirage") so, most likely, the rest of that review should be ignored with respect to the Jive.

The kite will act differently, less radical, if the weights are removed but they will help you in tricks like a roll up and I effortlessly put the kite in a fade (upside down with nose toward you) and it was so balanced that, given a more steady wind, I could have staked the lines and walked away!

Catch all for skill levels.

In the lower end of the indicated 4 to 24 mph limits, novices could easily learn basic tricks and experienced flyers would be able to show off their skills to the full but at the top end I think even the experts would struggle keep this stalled to perform slack line tricks.

I do prefer to fly a kite that tricks a little more slowly these days - I can't keep up. I didn't manage to dead launch it even in a good wind. (A kite is deemed 'dead' when it's belly down on the ground with nose pointing toward the flyer).

I would strongly advise to follow my suggestions from my previous article by linking the bottom spreaders with some sort of elastic band and definitely tape over the tensioners on the ends of the leading edges - mine was catching on the flying line a lot.

As already said it's not big at 77 inches by 32 inches but is easily transportable to take and have fun with anywhere in the world.

It takes Dedication

It must have been about three years ago (maybe four) when this fellah came along to our regular practice field having previously only messed about with power kites and had now bought a four line Revolution kite which, although a very different aspect of flying, he really liked because of the control he was able to command.

Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

I noticed the rapid improvement he was making over the weeks, helped by the many hours he put in each night and all day every Saturday and Sunday. I used to tell him that it would not be long before he would gain the respect of the top class flyers in the sport and would probably be flying along side them too.

He didn't believe me but that young man (well young to me anyway) is Jeremy Wharton.

Jeremy is now indeed a top class flyer passing those keen flyers that offered him guidance along the way including Bill Final among others. You can often find live feeds of Jeremy practicing, sometimes at night under the street lights on the edge of our practice field or even in a deserted car park. One time he was flying in the middle of a winter storm such is his keenest



Jeremy with Djinn Hardcore Vent

to explore every aspect of his passion and challenge everything that nature can come up with to try to stop him.

Skills recognised

The "Kite line laundry" photo shows the four line kites he used and dirtied in January at the South Padre Island Kite Festival which is in Texas on the Gulf of Mexico, (apparently). Such is

Jeremy's standing now, he had been invited to team fly as part of international team "Kitelife" along with John Barresi, Sari Becker, Brett Marchel, Eli Russell and Sara Russell.

They are Djinn four line kites from John Barresi's, "Kiteforge" (love that name - says so much!). I am not sure if Jeremy hand washed these kites or put them in a washing machine. In the picture starting on the left, the 1st two are full sails (standard festival kites). He has two of those with one on 120ft lines and one on 30ft lines and save all that keep changing lines. Then there's a mid vent, vented, XT vent, and a



hardcore vent used in the sort of weather that the rest of us are sat in our cars watching.

You may not see Jeremy at events in this country because he is a quiet, unassuming character, but he will most likely be there somewhere flying away in the background and disappearing again after his arena performances. Nice chap though - go and have a chat with him.

All photos in this section were probably taken by Katie Marchel.



Other photos in this article not credited were from me except for the photos with me in them and they were taken by Marilyn.

That's it for this time - if you should want to get in touch please do so through the contacts page on our website www.kitedisplays.com and please fill in the boxes especially your town and phone number.

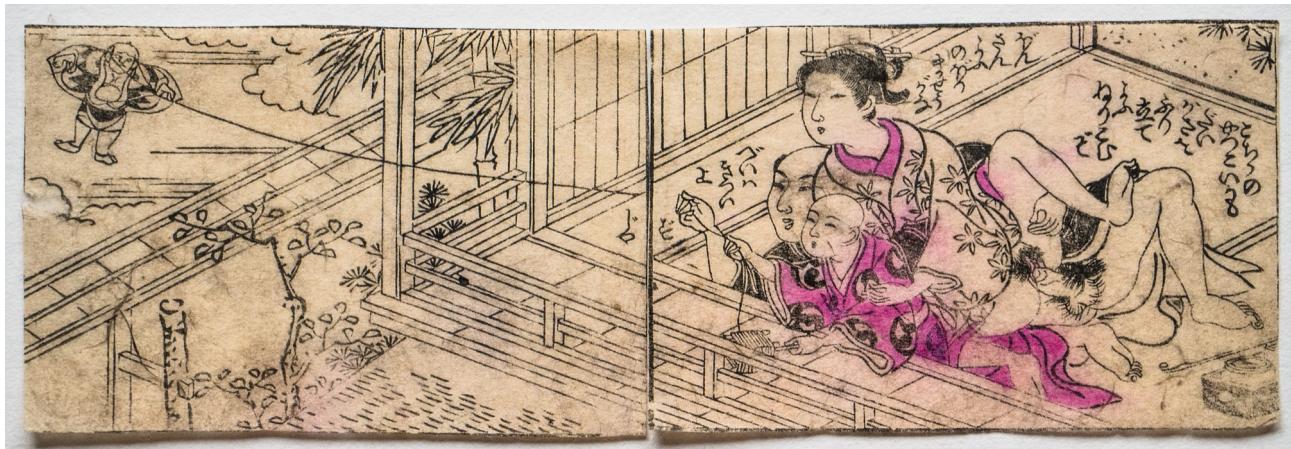
The information goes no further than me and I promise I won't start spamming you.
Allan and Marilyn Pothecary
Close Encounters Kite Displays

The Isolated KiterPaul Chapman

Well, we are all pretty much isolated now, hunkered down and wondering what will happen next. I hope you are ok, have enough food and importantly have enough toilet paper. I can imagine the scene at next year's kite festivals where all the kites sprout long white tails. Now, there is a thought for the fighting kite community. You don't even need manjha! We only need someone to come up with the idea of sawing a bog standard roll into three and we have the ultimate solution.

I wash my hands and rinse my mouth out with soap and water for having such thoughts.

Although Gill asked me to scribe something last week I have since been incredibly busy procrastinating about this screed. Are you making? Are you worried? Well, I am too if that helps. I spent yesterday trying to write an amendment to my will about how to dispose of my little museum should the time come. At 72 and a bit I am already on extended time anyway. Plan for the worst case and things will work out better....so I am planning. So, what to do with the stuff? I have a great mass of very old historic kites, some dating to the 1860s, a kite library to die for (not literally) that contains all the most important books published after 1600. The Asian section of kites and prints is especially good. It made me laugh when Dr Cecile Laly asked me for copies of my kite shunga images for the forthcoming book on the Paris symposium 'Japanese Kites at the Crossroads of Arts' and where she approved of my salacious ditty that accompanies the double sheet that would have been kept under the head rest in the 1840s. Publish and be damned..... I hope she will use the poem but you must wait for the book.



But back to disposal. I want it all kept in Europe so some will go to museums, especially the Bell Tetrahedral cell that Hugh Bell gave me at the symposium in Baddeck, Nova Scotia and the mass of Pocock stuff will stay in Bristol. The historic kites will go to France and the Asian to Italy/Switzerland. But what about Cody? The kites, the Nulli Secundus airship and the British Army Aeroplane No.1. Yes, that was yesterdays task. You need to plan for the worst case and Sod's law will defeat Murphy and everything will be OK.

I had big plans for this year. The virus attack on my spine from last year has not exactly gone away but I felt fine to travel again. Italy, Japan, Dieppe....all on the list. The first bash was to be Spotorno on the west coast of Italy. The Japanese were coming and there was to be a big exhibition of traditional kites in the Doges Palace in Genoa. Lots of Japanese kite aficionados were going to attend so I quickly booked and paid for the flights and hotel. Needless to say the Japanese found that they would not be able to return home. Had I flown, I too would have been stuck since flying stopped on



the day of my proposed return. Luckily the hotel refunded but the flight? There are plans for a return to Spotorno and there is a chance of my stuff then being part of the exhibition.



A couple of Japanese kite woodblocks dating to the 1850s came to me just before Christmas. The carving is exquisite. Normally this sort of thing can only, rarely, be seen in kite museums in Japan and there only under glass; to have them in my hands is treasure indeed. Of course I had to try printing from them and so I have. In fact I have made a lot of prints and have used Japanese washi, some very light Chinese paper and a few have been made with lovely Vietnamese hand made paper that feels like ultra light cloth. The printing is a very messy process! I use an old tile for the ink which is rolled out by a lino print roller and, when the layer is very thin, rolled carefully onto the block. The paper is then carefully dropped onto the block and rolled down with a softer stencil roller. Then I use the felt 'baren' to firm up the print before peeling it off the block. It can take a week or so to dry out the ink. Washing out afterwards is very messy but it has highlighted some hairline cracks that you would not otherwise see. So, after we are allowed out, I am going to do a workshop with a professional printmaker and take their

advice. Until then the blocks will stay in their boxes. I had intended to take the prints to Spotorno where I was going to give them away. It was not an altruistic idea since it came with a rub. Do you remember young Polina Tarasenko playing the trombone at Dieppe? Well now she is training as a professional in Germany while her parents are in Kherson in Ukraine. Money is tight for them so the plan was to use the prints to raise some money for Polinka's studies and her trip to Japan where she has been invited to attend a prestigious trombone competition. Yes, some plans don't quite work out.



Of course these kite skins have to become kites so I have been splitting the bamboo. The Bristol

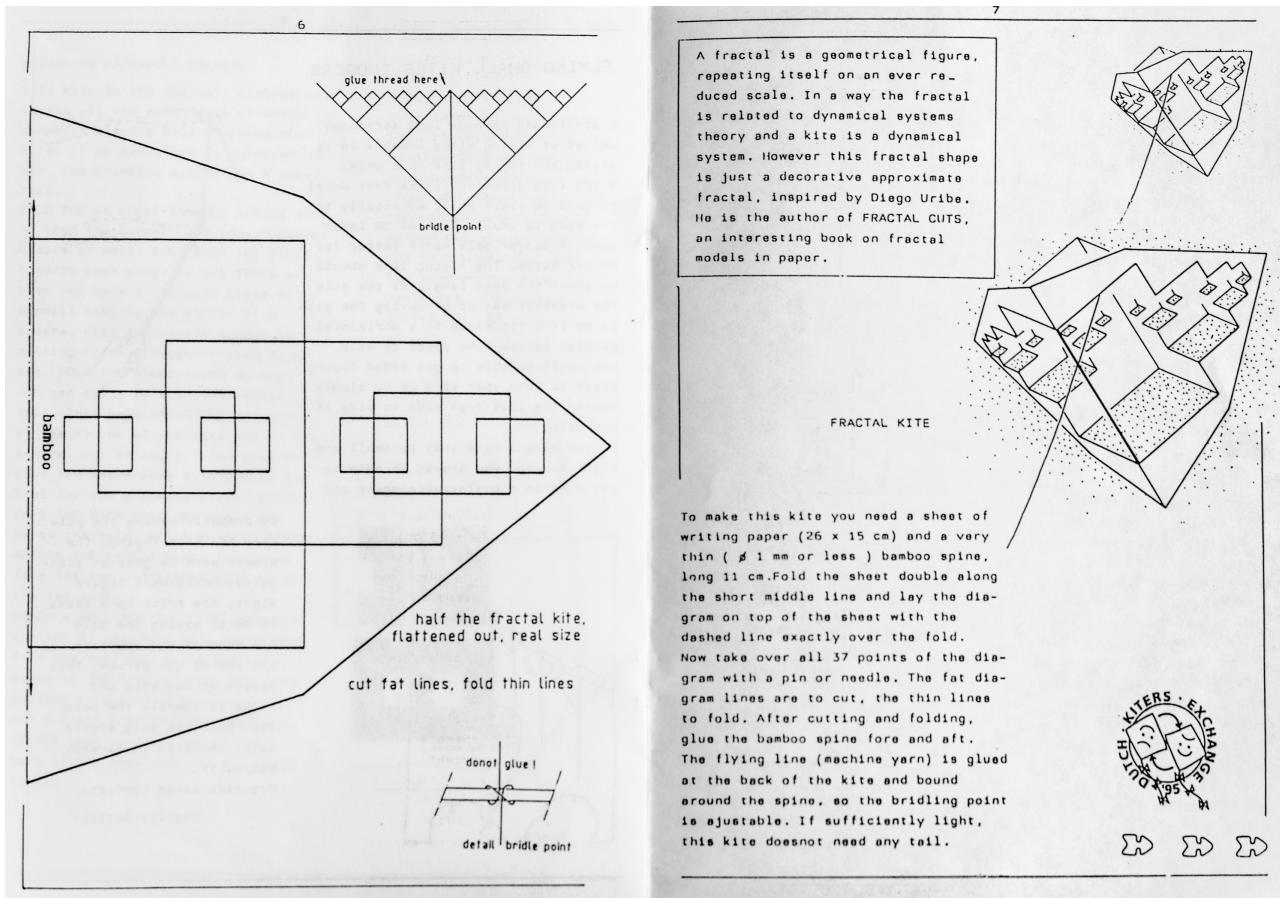
Downs is only a few minutes up the road but the crowds of people there has put me off for a while. It seems that lonesome kiteflying is ok, but you have to be aware that you may attract a horde of well-wishing onlookers (and their dogs) whose presence will hinder your escape.

Last week I decided to make face masks rather than kites. I have a few hundred metres of fine cotton cambric that would be ideal. Close woven and treated. And then I have supplies of thin cotton webbing. All the people who make replicas of old kites have such stocks of cotton stuff and I am sure mine will last a lifetime. I found the basic design on the internet and after a bit of fettling and modification have a design that suits me. They take about 10 minutes to make but in reality a batch of four will be a good day's work. It really needs a skulls mouth on the front though. I have made some for me and, when this screed is finished, production starts for the neighbours. The idea is that the cotton ones can be washed so the ideal kit is three or four. Wear one, wash one in dilute bleach. Dry and then microwave or oven roast. Face masks have come in for some criticism but wearing one of these will offer protection to others if you are an unsuspecting carrier. Not

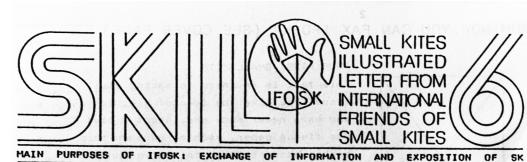


recommended to wear for too long since you are recycling your own breath. I wear mine if I am going to the shops or expecting to meet someone. Anyway, the idea has caught on and many kitemakers are gearing up to help out the health services. Later, when we are free, they will come in useful as pollen masks against hay-fever.

I really must get off to do the mask making so that my neighbour can do my shopping. So rather than rabbit on here are some photos of random kite stuff. Take care, stay safe and make some indoor kites.



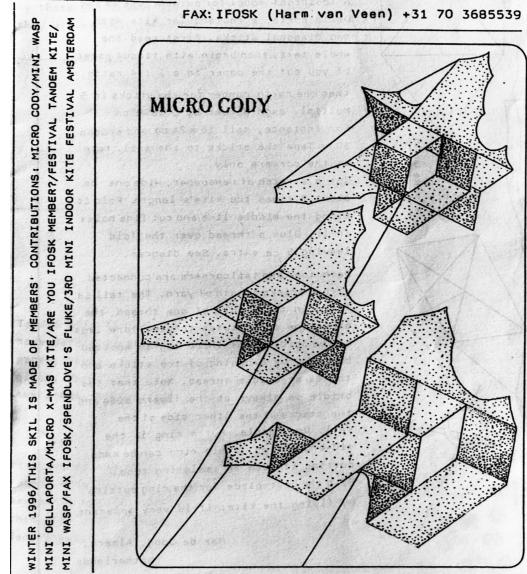
Remember SKIL? A wonderful creation by Harm Van Veen who wrote so many tiny kite books and who produced the wonderful cartoons. He wrote a lot in the Dutch Vlieger magazine. I remember going to a talk he did about kite aerodynamics and since he only spoke in Dutch (it was in the Netherlands), and mine is double, it was impossible for me to vent my pent up arguments! Harm....singular and inventive and absolutely one of the best. I bought this 1650s Dutch tile recently.



MAIN PURPOSES OF IFOSK: EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND EXPOSITION OF SK

WRITE: IFOSK J. RÖNTGENSTR. 2 2551 KT THE HAGUE NETHERLANDS

FAX: IFOSK (Harm van Veen) +31 70 3685539

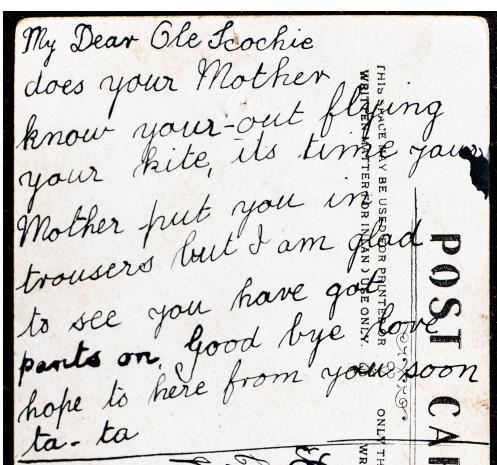




I suppose we all have strange kite ephemera. This one from 1907 reminds me of a wee scotch-man I know....although these days he flies inflatables.



Social distancing? The card on the right tells us how to do it. I would recommend the full 60 metres to be sure. The one on the left...looks like a smokin' old Etonian to me.



Time to go and make some masks. I will leave you with some koryu-dako by Masaaki Sato. The butterfly and Hanya, the she-devil. Stay safe and wash yer bleeding hands!



Various Things

The Thanksgiving and Memorial service for Carolyn Swift

This, as many will know, took place on the 24th January last in Kirby Misperton, North Yorkshire and near to where Carolyn had lived with Jerry.

As a family, we had known Carolyn for maybe twenty five years. Whilst a long way to travel and the kind of event one attends with a degree of trepidation, it was nevertheless something that we had to support. My wife Pat and I thus attended with son Tim and his wife Dorleta. Many other fellow kiters from more southern parts also made the journey.

St Laurence's Church was absolutely full – possibly a rare occurrence. Besides the formal and necessary religious elements of the service, clearly kept to a minimum, spoken tributes were duly made by both Jerry and Pauline, Carolyn's sister. As we all remember, Carolyn was fun loving and often at the centre of 'joyful happenings'. Brief details of some were included in the tributes and were clearly a little surprising to the attending Reverend, manifested by a noticeable facial wince! It was somewhat amusing and certainly helped to lighten the general mood.

The serious and at times emotional part of the day completed, everyone was invited to take refreshments at the local Village Hall. With inimitable Northern hospitality, this was a most friendly and happy gathering, affording the opportunity to meet up again with many kite flying friends, in particular some of the Northern kite flying fraternity. And it has to be said that the home-made cakes – fruit, lemon drizzle and victoria sponge – were outstanding.

Later, some of us returned with Jerry to the house in Great Barugh. This was quite an intimate gathering in which many fond memories were shared by everyone – in particular relating to those 'joyful happenings'.

Reflecting on the day, and it may sound strange, but this really was a most enjoyable day. Carolyn would certainly have enjoyed it – in fact it was almost as if she was with us throughout.

Maybe she was

Chris Mabon

Event Cancellations/Changes

For those who may not have access to the Internet, here is a brief list of the events that have been cancelled or postponed.

- Basingstoke
- April Jolly Up
- All Midlands Kite Fliers Fly-Ins, meetings and festivals.
- Berck Sur Mer, France
- White Horse Kite Fliers events
- Cervia—**Postponed until September**
- Streatham—**Postponed date TBC**
- Tewkesbury
- Sunderland

Obviously with the ever changing situation we recommend that you check with the organiser before travelling to the current remaining events.

Allan Pothecary also sent this:

Tough times lay ahead and I think we're all fed up with the CV jokes and other' clever' creations about shortages by now. Most will have seen the cancellations of nearly all kiting events and resigned to the fact that we may still sneak out to a field on our own somewhere just to get a 'Fix'.

But let's also spare a thought for those event organisers who, behind the scenes have been working away battling all the frustrations of bureaucracy and getting their teams ready.

Kite festivals don't just happen.

They are not planned two or three weeks in advance; they start even before the current year's event has even started sometimes.

So a big thank you to guys too many to mention for fear of missing somebody for the work you have done this year and no-one will get the chance to come up and thank you personally on the day,

Stay with it please, and we look forward with hope for next year.

Allan Pothecary

Some Things to pass the time.

In the distant past the Kite Society did publish a few competitions in the magazine. When we say distant past we are talking between 1980 to 1982. If you still have issues from those days then you can find the answers to the crossword and spot the difference.

We are not doing competitions—that implies a prize—but reprint two of the puzzles here. The word search is new and, therefore, more up to date on some of the words used.

If you want the answers to these—then they will be in the next issue. If you are really impatient, send us an email and we will send the answer to you.

Depending on how things go in the current situation, we will print some more next time.

Finally, the caption could be re-written for today's circumstances :-)

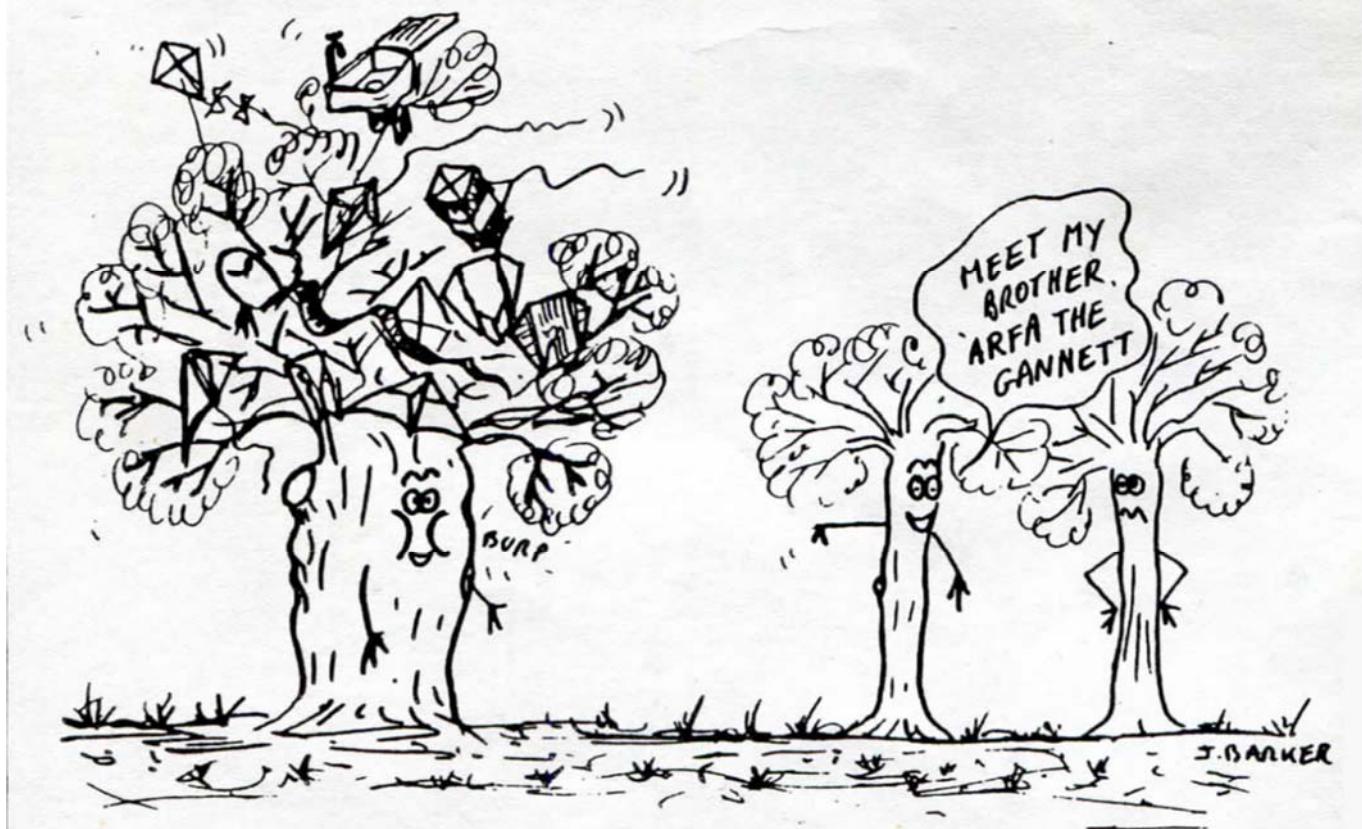
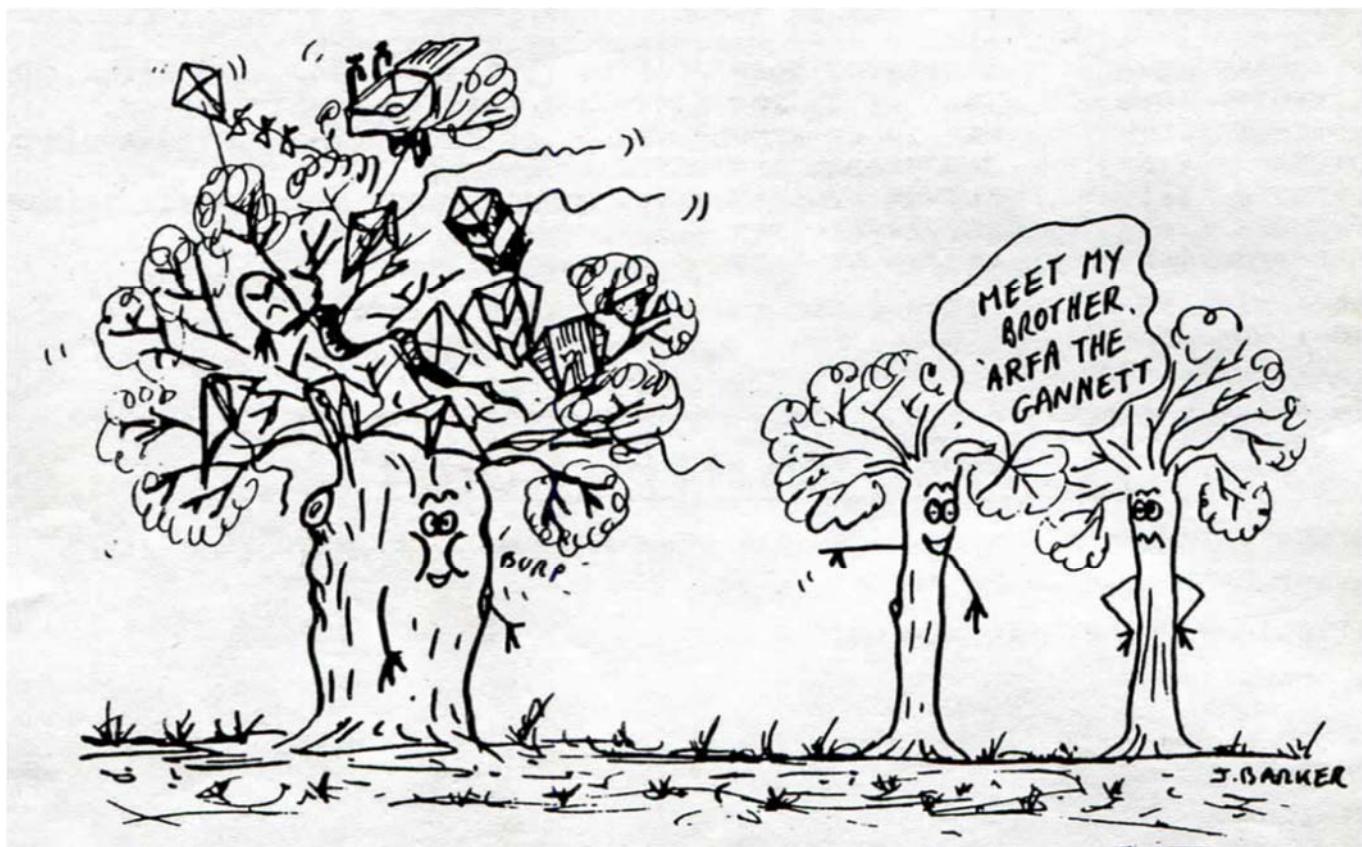


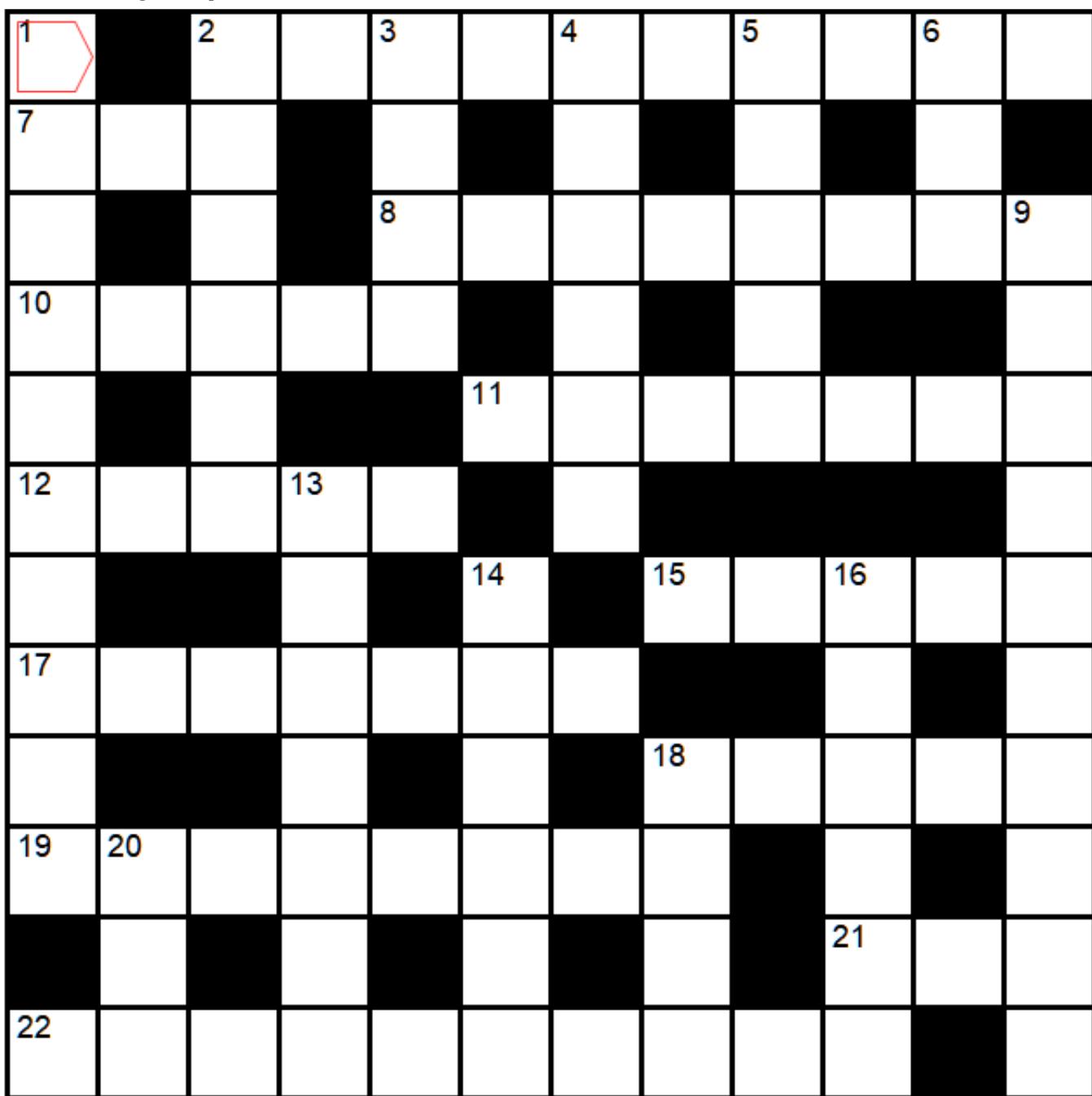
Kite

C	P	O	P	O	T	R	A	E	P	O	D	A	O
K	D	E	T	R	K	D	O	T	A	C	N	T	F
C	R	L	U	E	R	R	E	L	O	T	L	R	L
L	U	F	N	G	O	A	R	O	C	O	A	E	E
E	M	R	U	R	O	G	E	K	I	P	K	L	X
D	B	O	K	L	D	O	E	O	L	U	K	L	I
O	O	D	A	T	N	N	E	D	K	S	U	O	F
S	X	L	K	R	R	O	I	S	O	L	T	R	O
L	K	A	K	A	A	A	C	R	T	S	R	F	I
E	L	W	O	D	B	O	O	I	T	E	A	E	L
D	A	V	R	T	F	G	E	N	K	I	C	T	D
T	R	R	C	E	N	T	I	P	E	D	E	A	U
Y	D	O	C	A	O	H	E	X	A	G	O	N	F
E	E	P	T	R	E	V	O	L	U	T	I	O	N

BARNDOR
 FLEXIFOIL
 CENTIPEDE
 OCTOPUS
 EDO
 HEXAGON
 WALDORF
 DRAGON
 ROLLER
 DRUMBOX
 CODY
 PEARTOP
 ROKKAKU
 DART
 SODE
 FACET
 GENKI
 REVOLUTION
 TUKKAL
 SLED

Some Things to pass the time.



Some Things to pass the time.**Down**

- 2 Mean meteor for assessing the wind
 7 Yo Heave Ho! etc
 8 Daedalus, Mythical Father of the son who came down in flames
 10 Type 1 for an admirable quality
 11 A new one is seen at nearly every kite meeting
 12 Take your pick?
 15 Very light kiter
 17 Frenchman who designed the highest ladder in the world
 18 The first kite in Cody's man lifting train
 19 Hired lad helps to improve performance
 21 Sounds like a very weighty barrel
 22 The commonest configuration seen where kiters foregather

Across

- 1 Sounds as though the threesomes won the race for this kite
 2 Current Unit quite unconnected with kiting
 3 Kite in a Whirl?
 4 Mythical flying king from Borneo
 5 Past deed? Exactly
 6 It will never fly!
 9 Long sinuous kite form
 13 Certainly not the farthest!
 14 His kites are often seen flying over Scotland!
 16 These could be used to decorate one of your "pretties"
 18 Study this before cutting into your kite material.
 20 Even more slippery than ripstop

Blasts from the Past

During the last few weeks the scanner has been going into overdrive and many slides (remember those) and photos have been scanned in—with varying degrees of quality.

Most of these are pre-digital age (of course).

The group shots below are from the 1990's (or earlier) and a lot of people are still flying kites today. It is sad that many have passed onto the flying field in the sky—and we are sure they are not self-isolating or social distancing—lucky them!



Portsmouth and Billing International Kite Festivals

It should be noted that at the time of publication both of these are planned to take place on the dates shown. Of course things may change and you should therefore keep an eye on the relevant web pages for the latest information.

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.

It is important to request both parking and camping as early as possible, so please do not delay even though circumstances may change.

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.

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. We have a good mix of kite fliers and demonstrations taking place. See www.billingkitefestival.org.uk for more details.

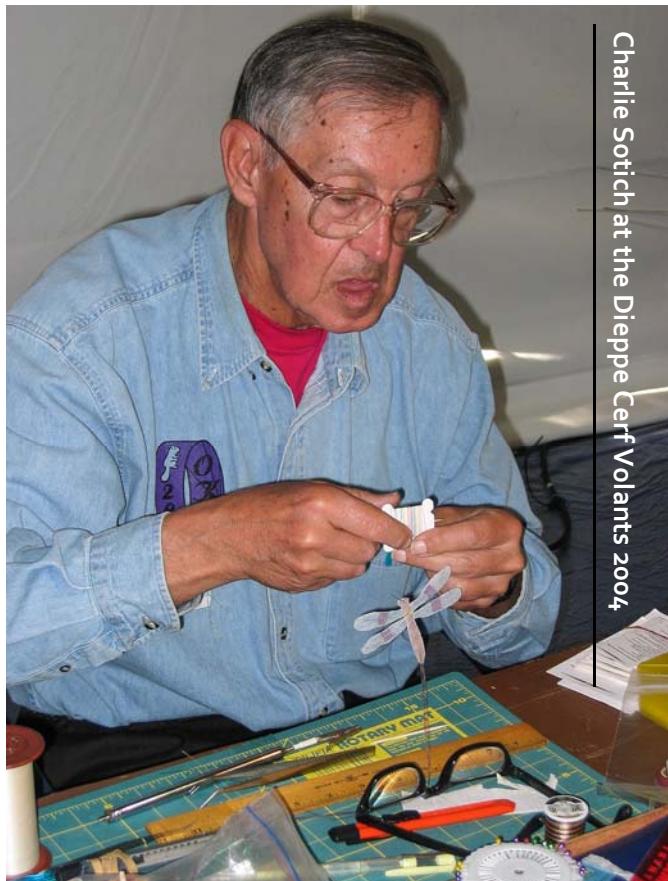
One key point is that there will be free camping (tent, caravan or motorhome) for three nights (Friday through Sunday nights) for kite group members. You **must** register your interest by sending details of your vehicle to us together with the unit type, vehicle registration number and number of nights. 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.

Free day parking is also available—please send the vehicle details to us.

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

Photographic Memories—Chris Mabon

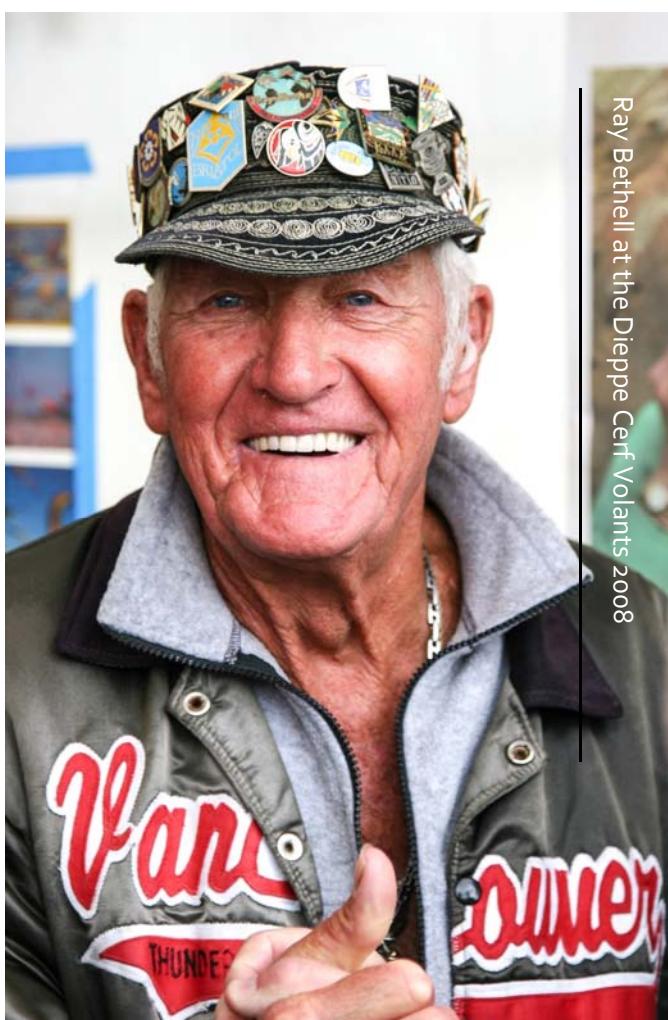
With the start of a new decade, and indeed prompted by the sad loss of Carolyn, I was thinking of kiting friends no longer with us. Initial thoughts concerned only the decade just passed but soon included those who we lost during the previous decade also. Here is a compilation of images of some of those friends, necessarily limited by those for whom I have images. Hopefully they will provide some pleasant memories.



Charlie Sotich at the Dieppe Cerf Volants 2004

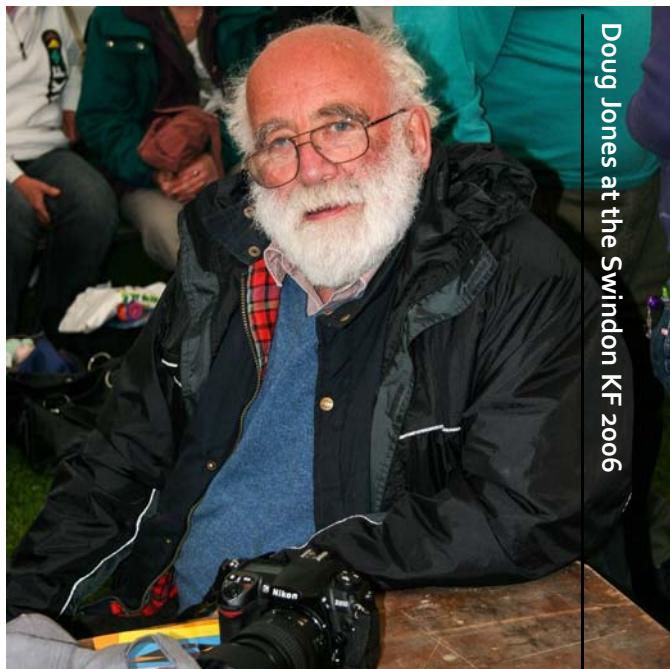


PIKF 2006



Ray Bethell at the Dieppe Cerf Volants 2008

Photographic Memories—Chris Mabon



Doug Jones at the Swindon KF 2006



Phil Scarje (WHKF) at the Dieppe Cerf Volants (2012)



June Webster dancing with husband George on Grosmont railway station during Jerry Swift's 50th birthday party on the North York Moors Railway 2006



Les Reed 'The Bloke from the Smoke' at the Cliddesdon Jolly Up 2009



Kelvin Wood at the Bristol KF 2008

Single Skin Kites and Lifters—Peter Lynn

Progress and otherwise in the quest to establish a new single line kite genre.

After seven years, approaching 200 prototypes and quite a few thousand hours of stuffing around, what do I know for sure, what am I unsure about, and what can't I understand at all?

Sure about: Single skins kites have a disadvantage for theme kite flying (the mainstay of kite events) in that they have much more pull than ram air inflated kites of the same size. An advantage is that they are twice as large as ram air kites for their weight. Another advantage is that they are uniquely suited for the fitting of de-power lines: Light secondary lines that collapse the kite when pulled in to facilitate taking down and as a safety release in case of emergency. A 6m x 60m Serpent flying at 150m altitude and pulling more than 400Kg can now be collapsed in seconds with less than 5kg pull on the secondary line.



Sure about: The '**diving over**' (tendency to randomly dive off unrecoverably to one side or the other in strong winds) that plagues **Boomers** and **1Skins** is caused by wind induced indentations of their leading edges. After more than 100 prototypes, extensive testing, and elimination of other causes, I'm sure about this. Indentation occurs because their leading edge is supported by ribs rather than directly by bridles. When the leading edge gets pushed in by a wind gust, it remains distorted until there is enough pressure behind the leading edge to push it out again- which often doesn't happen in time to prevent a crash. Dams, reducing the leading-edge depth, fitting stiffeners and very careful tuning are mitigations.

Sure about: Bridle supported curved leading edges like used for the single skin Octopus, Serpent and Keel-less pilots can resist leading edge distortion to any wind speed yet experienced. With automatic let-out of their leading edges in response to increasing wind speed (using total kite pull as a proxy) and aeolian rear bridles (that pull in the kite's trailing edge

in strong winds), they can achieve a wind range without manual adjustment of 10km/hr to more than 100km/hr (subject to the kite's inherent stability of course). With manual adjustment, this range can be extended down to 7km/hr, but with significant loss of top end.

Sure about: The annoying way that Serpent style single line kites '**fall off**' to one side or the other in very light winds (below 10km/hr) is a function of how their tails are attached to their heads, **and nothing else**. They fly straight until the wind drops- then go off to one side, draping themselves across every other kite on the field. All sizes do this. Octopus variants do as well, though to a lesser extent. Large framed-head Serpent kites behave this way also - as do other kite styles with tails that are large or long in comparison to their head size and attached in ways that prevent the heads rotating independently. To check, I tried a 2m wide Serpent head with ties to attach various tail types. Sure enough, this head with a Serpent tail attached full width **falls off** when the wind drops, as it does, to a lesser extent, with Octopus tentacles. With the Serpent tail attached only in the centre, it stays straight. The problem is therefore one of graphics, not function. Jim Martin suggests a frying pan and fried egg head with the handle as the tail- this would fly perfectly.



Sure enough about: For flat skin SS kites (when keels aren't used), all bridles except those to the leading edge should be the same length (or very nearly). This is because single skin fabric surfaces are not able to resist compressive loads at all, and equal length bridles are the minimum requirement for their support. Spanwise, central bridles can be longer than those further out to provide some spanwise tension in the skin, but there is rarely any necessity or advantage in this. Chordwise compression (accordioning) can be reduced by using chordwise camber which is more than the 'arc of a circle' form that equal length bridles provide, but this makes single line kites more inclined to leading edge collapse and stalling. Equal lengths seem best at this stage-

Single Skin Kites and Lifters—Peter Lynn

with perhaps some minor extra length near the trailing edge to assist light wind flying.

Not that sure about: Scale. Large framed kites weigh more per area than small ones because their structures need to be proportionally heavier to provide enough strength and rigidity. This is why small framed kites fly in lighter winds- and why very large kites are all currently of the ram-air type. No framed kites larger than about 200sq.m have ever flown successfully—and these weighed tonnes, whereas the current world's largest kites (1250 sq.m.) are ram-air and weigh less than 300 kgs. Ram air kites are not free of scale effects because the volume of air contained within them scales with dimension cubed whereas area scales with the square. Although air doesn't have weight in this context, it has mass (1.23kg/cu.m,) and this effects stability. Mega kites now use thru cords instead of ribs (like the Dutch large kite built in the 1980s had). Thru cords allow kites such as Mega Flags and Rays to rotate without pulling all their internal air mass around with them- and this has enabled larger kites to fly satisfactorily. I expected that single skin kites would be free of scale effects because they have no frames and no internal air masses, but this understanding was wrong. 2m x 20m SS Serpents are volatile unstable (figure eighting progressing to loops) from around 15km/hr wind speed, 3m x 30m Serpents get to 25km/hr, but 6m x 60m Serpents have no upper wind limit that I've yet found. Single skin Octopus kites show a similar trend. The cause of this can only be the mass of air, (especially vortices), that the kite drags around with it. Attached flow, like internal air masses for ram air kites, scales with the cube of dimension, while for a single skin kites, area, weight and all aerodynamic forces scale with the square of dimension. I am very surprised that this effect is significant, but evidence from very many tests doesn't easily admit to any other explanation.



Annoyed about: The tentacles on single skin

Octopus kite tangle to an impossible extent unless they are linked together laterally at intervals with cords. These links also provide the extra drag that smaller versions require for stability (a 6m head Octopus would probably be stable without cross links), and hold the tentacles flat, which also improves visuals. Unfortunately, links are a menace- snagging on everything; other kites, trees, fences, people, and especially children. This makes single skin Octopuses unsuitable for most public flying, which is very bloody annoying seeing as they fly so well and look great.

Don't understand at all: To my considerable surprise I've found that single skin Serpent style heads, in at least the 2m to 6m range will fly without any tail at all—though they are more reliable with a light ribbon tail attached to the trailing edge centre. Even more surprisingly, the same head with a Serpent style tail or un-linked Octopus tentacles is volatile unstable in smaller sizes. If there's one lesson every kite flier learns early on it's that adding more tail reduces volatile instability. That tails can **cause** volatile instability is outside any previous experience I can remember. It seems to be something to do with how the tail is attached; Full width attachment causes instability, single point attachment doesn't. Except that this doesn't answer why linked Octopus tentacles are stable while unlinked ones aren't. Perhaps it's to do with how vortices leave the kite's trailing edge (which would be affected by not connecting the tail across the full width), or some feedback effect between aerodynamic and weight forces. I don't know.

To date I've mainly only developed single skin single line kites with semi-circular leading edges and straight trailing edges. These fly well as Pilots, Serpents, Octopuses and other themes that fits this shape. Working on variants (by size, bridling and tails) of this shape has been a good way to get a better understanding of the many confusing variables involved. To get more development time, I'm also limiting overseas kite event attendance in favour of flying at a large open area close to where I live that I can drive onto with all my gear and kites whenever the wind is what I need it to be. I'm sure my fellow kitefliers will sorely miss being taken out while I'm learning to tame these things, but for progress, a price must be paid!

I've realised that my recent focus on show kite versions has caused me to neglect pilot kite options. So, I'm changing direction a bit.

But to re-cap SS show kite development so far: Octopus SS's are excellent, but unusable at events, 60m Serpent SS's fly well in mid-range and stronger winds, and SS Rays are looking promising.

Single Skin Kites and Lifters—Peter Lynn

Octopus SS's are the best flying SS design I've found so far, with excellent stability across the widest wind range, but their tentacles tangle. I've tried slippery fabric, soft fabric, stiff fabric, finely tapered ends, blunt ends, unequal lengths and cross links. Of these, only cross links work, but they snag on everything within range, damaging tentacles in the process. That tentacles on small framed Octopus kites like PLK have made many thousands of, don't tangle, is entirely a function of size. In larger sizes, single layer uninflated fabric tails ball up into nightmare tangles that take hours to undo. Serpent styles fly well enough to be useful at events and look great. The 60m sizes are exceptionally stable through to any wind speed that I've had the courage to fly them in, but smaller versions are volatile unstable above about 50km/hr, eventually looping out as wind speed increases. All sizes fall off to one side or the other when the wind drops below about 10km/hr. This does not make for friendly relations at major events. It happens because the wide tapering tail prevents the head from rotating independently when it needs to. This doesn't seem likely to be curable for the Serpent form.



Rays are not a new style, with the first attempt more than 5 years ago. It was irretrievably super-stable (inexorable leaning off to one side). I've recently found that this was because of its high aspect ratio (AR, width/length) of 1.5. Lower aspect ratio versions (AR around 1.0) do fly quite well, though to my view their appearance is not as authentically Ray-like, so I'm now working to push their AR up as far as possible. I haven't yet developed an autonomous bridle to widen their single-setting wind range, but expect this will be more challenging than it has been for semi-circular leading-edge styles such as the Serpent.

Trying for fly-alone single skin show kites at this very early stage understanding of the genre may not have been the best approach. By way

of analogy, even after 40 years of intensive development by many people, there are very few successful fly-alone ram air inflated show kites. Of my own designs, I'd only class the Ray (1987) and Octopus (1990) as being fundamentally reliable enough to fly pilotless at events. Martin Lester's Spirit range, Claudio Capelli's Cherubim, Mr Ma's Chinese Knot and Volker Hoberg's Heart and SFT also meet this standard to varying degrees, but there aren't many others (excluding kites like Ma's Trilobite and Martin's legs that are essentially just open leading edge parafoils with decorative features). Most ram air inflated show kites require pilot kites, at the least to enhance stability and extend wind range. Also, for comparison, I would rate current styles of single skin show kites as about where ram air show kites were in the 1980's/90's – while show kite events now, require a higher standard. Yes, successful fly-alone single skin designs will eventually evolve, but many thousands of hours, a lot of creative thinking and a fair dollop of luck will be needed before this happens.

An immediate answer therefore is to fly single skin show kites under pilots. This is a challenge, because of the general rule that pilot kites must fly at a higher angle than the kites below them. SS kites routinely fly at >60 degrees whereas most ram air pilot kites fly at around 45 degrees, and those that fly higher aren't reliable over the wide wind range (<10km/hr to >70km/hr without adjustment) that current international kite festival flying requires.

Going back to framed pilots is one possibility, but structural scale effects limit the size (and lift) that such kites can achieve while retraining acceptable light wind performance.

Which puts single skin pilots back in the frame. But after 7 years, more than 100 prototypes and by far the greatest sustained effort I've ever applied to any goal excepting kite sailing, I've so far failed to get any to fly well enough for general use.

Problems I've come up against:

Wind range: Single skin single line kites have very high lift coefficients (pulling maybe 3 times as much as a ram air kite of similar dimension) and they are more aerodynamically efficient (flying at a much higher line angle), but they require multiple bridle settings to cover the necessary wind range. This problem has been perhaps 90% solved by the development of automatic bridle adjusters – though the last 10% is always the most difficult. Autonomous bridle adjusters let out the leading edge as the kite's angle of attack decreases. There are two current systems:

Single Skin Kites and Lifters—Peter Lynn

One links to increasing kite pull. This is a 'false' input when the kite is stalled at high angles of attack (like at launch) because the leading edge should then be pulled in not let out. But it is surprisingly effective, enabling a single setting range of 10km/hr to more than 70km/hr for Octopuses and 60m Serpents.

The other uses braid bridling to the kite's trailing edge, rigged to let the leading edge bridles out as the drag on the braids increases. Called 'aeolian bridles', they have their minimum drag when the kite's surface is square to the wind, so are an excellent proxy for angle of attack. With both of these systems, detail design is crucial. So far, for the 60m Serpent, 10 or more bridle settings have been reduced to just 3; 7km/hr to 12km/hr, 9 to 20, and 10 to >70 (approximately). Perhaps with very careful design, one setting may be able to cover the entire range- a required feature for successful pilot kites.



Boomers and 1Skins suffer from 'diving over'- a tendency to dive off to one side or the other which increases in likelihood with increasing wind speed. This has been tracked down to compressive buckling in the skins and leading edges which, when asymmetric, causes the kite to fly off to one side.

Skin buckling was eventually overcome by minor changes in shape and bridling. Tails also reduce chordwise buckling by the simple expedient of pulling on the kite's trailing edge. Leading edge buckling of single skin single line kites that don't have bridle supported leading edges has so proved unsurmountable making them unsatisfactory except in smooth mid-range winds. A question is why this is so, seeing as successful single skin steerable kites and paragliders use 1Skin type leading edges? There are two reasons. Firstly, when steerable SS wings buckle, the operator instinctively increases tension on the brake lines to

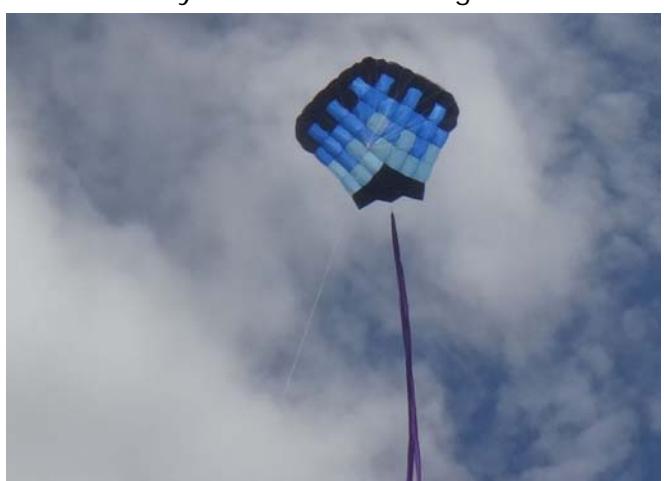
recover them- which can't happen for autonomous flying single line kites. Secondly, single skin power kites and paragliders use stiffeners (typically weedwhacker cord or dental wire) to form their leading edges and to spread bridle loads. To date in this quest, I've avoided using stiffeners so as maximise my understanding of how to hold shapes solely by pressure differences. Nor do people who have tried stiffeners in 1Skins report this as a cure for diving over. I expect that to completely eliminate buckling, the entire leading edge would need to be quite rigid.

Leading edge buckling is therefore the major remaining barrier to successful single skin pilot kite development. Fortunately, Octopus, Serpent and Ray style SS kites with bridle supported leading edges fly in every practical wind speed without ever 'diving over'. When their leading edges do buckle in, supporting bridles quickly pop them out again.

An additional requirement for all-purpose SS Pilots is that they must also be able to fly tailless. This is because tails cause a problem when launching from boats and jet skis for Tow Shows- and single skin kites have a major advantage in this application because they 'inflate' and fly immediately. For over-the-ground uses, a Serpent head with a short ribbon tail would be a satisfactory pilot kite if the current 3 bridle settings could be reduced to just 1.

Two tailless possibilities; a 1Skin layout with bridle supported leading edge, and a sled style with bridle supported leading edge and centre. One or both of these may eventually succeed, but the bar is very high because not only do they need to fly at a higher angle than ram air pilots, but they also have to hold this angle more reliably because SS show kites can collapse unrecoverably if a kite above them drops to a lower angle- a daunting requirement.

As I said when I started this SS project some 7 years ago, at least I know what I'll be doing for the rest of my life. I wasn't wrong!



Bits & Pieces



Pakistan arrested more Basant kite flyers than terrorists this year

Terrorists like Ehsanullah Ehsan and Masood Azhar going MIA is not a bigger issue than kites and kite flyers in Pakistan. Imagine if arresting kite flyers was one of the FATF compliance requirements, then Pakistan would have transcended even the grey list and gotten itself into the white list.

Yes, spring is here, but no kites can be allowed in Pakistan's skies. Kites were killers – of motorcyclists and Islam.

There was a time when Lahore's skies would welcome spring with colourful kites, while on the streets, children would chase kites falling from the sky. The excitement of planning a perfect Basant with kites, colourful thread, loudspeakers and yellow clothes would begin days in advance. It was one weekend amid the shouts of bo kata that everyone looked forward to.

Some would fly kites, while others would enjoy food. Sometimes it wouldn't even be about flying a kite but just being on the rooftop around all the craziness. Other cities in Pakistan's Punjab province also celebrated Basant, but it was Lahore that was the king of kite-flying festival.

By the early 2000s, during Pervez Musharraf's push for enlightened moderation, Basant clubbed with music concerts became a huge commercial and tourist activity in Lahore. And then it was no more. The Supreme Court of Pakistan imposed a ban on flying kites in 2005 to prevent the loss of lives caused by the chemical kite strings. These manja strings were slitting throats of two-wheeler drivers on the roads. In 2007 and 2009, the ban was lifted only to see the sport causing deaths. The religious groups took an undue advantage of this and called for a ban on Basant, which they saw as a Hindu festival against the principles of Islam. Kite flyers, the real terrorists

Fifteen years later, the crackdown on kite flyers begins in Punjab every February with the arrival of spring. The 'vigilant' police officials go after poor kite flyers as if they are the real terror-

ists. This year alone, Punjab has reportedly seen more than 500 people booked for kite flying. Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail is filled with 400 kite miscreants, while 2 lakh kites and 55,000 string rolls have been seized from various neighbourhoods. Many parents accuse the police of picking up their children who were only watching the sport. For the authorities, even watching someone fly a kite is abetting a crime. Devoid of much entertainment, police officers have rounded up people for the 'crime' of being fond of flying kites.

Basant used to be a source of income for many households in Pakistan. By 2013, around 1.5 lakh people in Lahore and about 1.8 lakh workers in Gujranwala and Kasur districts were rendered unemployed and later forced to take up other jobs. The kite flying material used to be exported to the United States and Europe, but after the ban, that demand has also vanished.

This year a petitioner moved the Lahore High Court asking for the festival to be legally recognised as a sport. His argument was that the ban infringed on his fundamental rights and impeded economic activity for millions.

A blurred memory

Instead of imposing a complete ban and running after poor kite makers and kite flyers, the government should work towards making Basant a safe cultural festival. How difficult can it be to regulate the quality of strings manufactured and designate parks or open spaces for kite flying like it is done in other countries? The government can make it obligatory for motorcyclists to equip their vehicles with antenna-like metal or wooden wires as a safety measure. There are many ways to make this sport safe but only if there is a will.

The Punjab government, year after year, goes back on its promise to lift the ban on kite flying. We have been hearing since last year that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government in the province will move towards giving back the sport to Lahore, but to no avail. Jamaat-e-Islami, one of Pakistan's leading Islamic political parties, views Basant as a Hindu festival in serious violation of the PTI's manifesto that talks about making Pakistan a Madina-like state. Someone should inform Pakistan's legislators that Basant is celebrated even in Saudi Arabia.

The festival is now a blurred memory and kite flying is viewed as an aberration, so if someone in Pakistan still wants to fly a kite, then they are on their own. There is a generation in Pakistan that has no clue about kite flying or Basant, which was once an integral part of our culture.

Bits & Pieces

George R. Lawrence's Kites Created Wonderful Photographs From The Air (from Flashbak)

Eyes in the sky are now commonplace. But at the beginning of the last century, surveying land from up there was limited to looking down from hot-air balloons and sketching the view. Cameras had been used, notably when tethered to pigeons, but George R. Lawrence had an idea. What if he strapped the panoramic camera he had designed and built to a kite?

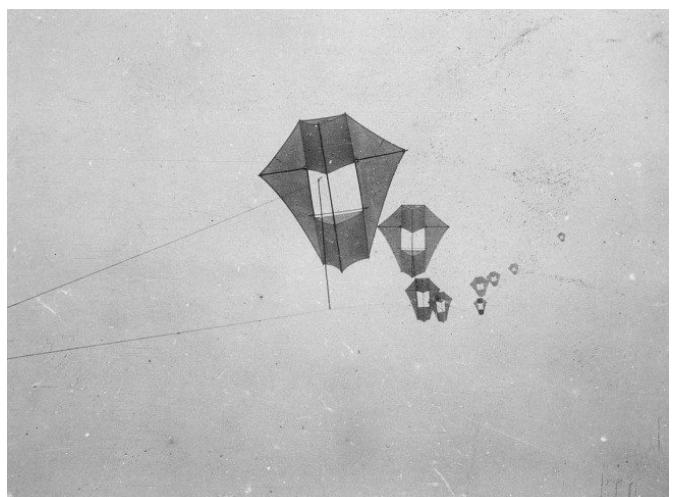
He got there the hard way, first thinking he could hang from an airship and snap away. But the platform broke free from the aircraft and he fell a long way down – reports say 200 feet.



Lawrence experimented. He found that anything between nine and 17 kites was required to get the 49-pounds camera to 2000 feet. Piano wire would carry the electrical current that would trip the camera shutter. One limitation was that his "Captive Airship" could only take one picture at a time before it would need hauling in and reloaded. And then when would he press the shutter?



But he got good at it. In 1906, his aerial view of an earthquake ravaged San Francisco was reproduced in hundreds of periodicals



How Charlie Brown Became Part of Batman's Rogue's Gallery (Yes, Really) (From Screenrant)



These days, Batman villain Kite-Man has found unexpected fame among comic book readers thanks to his quirky kite-based theme, surpris-

Bits & Pieces

ingly tragic origin story, and popular catchphrase, "Kite-Man, hell yeah!" But when he was first introduced, Kite-Man was little more than a thinly-disguised parody of a bigger comic strip loser – Charlie Brown of Peanuts fame.

That's right – although he might consider himself to be a major Gotham City criminal today, long-time fans of the high-flying villain know that Kite-Man's real name is Charles "Chuck" Brown. Even sadder, Chuck's whole modus operandi is likely based less on a psychotic need for power and more on a vain desire to finally outwit a certain kite-eating tree. Let's take a closer look at the very early days of Kite-Man and see just where his villainy truly rose from.

Much like the Joker, Kite-Man is a villain with multiple backstories. In his most popular DC Rebirth origin, Charles Brown was a divorced father and alcoholic who heard his son Charles Brown Jr. utter the infamous phrase, "Kite-Man, hell yeah!" upon trying to fly a kite. He was subsequently recruited by the Joker to design the Jokermobile and later took on the identity of Kite-Man after the Riddler poisoned and killed his son.

A different story in the Batman: The Brave and the Bold animated series reveals that Kite-Man was obsessed with Benjamin Franklin and tried to recreate his kite-flying experiment one dark and stormy night. However, he chose to fly his kite in a lightning storm while wearing metal braces and standing in a bucket of water. Thanks to these foolish choices, he was struck by lightning and psychologically traumatized into committing... "kite-centric" crimes (yes, really).

And in the adult animated series Harley Quinn, Poison Ivy simply postulates that Kite-Man was just some guy who bought a hand glider at a store one day and decided to become a supervillain.

The truth is, Kite-Man has always been a bit of an enigmatic figure in comics. Although he appeared as early as the 1960s in Batman #133, he was simply portrayed as another throwaway theme villain for Batman and Robin to beat up. He resurfaced years later in Batman #315 but was again portrayed as little more than a hand gliding villain with kite-shaped weapons (although Batman did start to wonder why certain kids never seemed to grow up and put away children's toys like kites).

It wasn't until Hawkman #4 that Kite-Man's true persona began to show itself. In a battle against Hawkman, Hawkgirl, and Zatanna, Kite-Man was referred to as "Chuck" by one of his cohorts. He later crashed into a tree thanks to one of Zatanna's kite-nullifying spells and uttered the immortal line... "Rats!"

The line, a popular catchphrase of Peanuts character Charlie Brown finally clued readers into who Kite-Man really was. Although legal issues kept writers from spelling it out in painful detail, fans knew that Kite-Man was really Charlie Brown, somehow driven criminally insane after one too many encounters with the kite-eating tree.



Tragic as this revelation was, what happened in the ensuing years proved even more tragic for Charlie Brown (aka Kite-Man). As if being considered a C-List villain wasn't bad enough, poor Kite-Man experienced even more abuse in Gotham City than Charlie Brown ever did from the Peanuts gang. During Infinite Crisis, Deathstroke threw Kite-Man off of Wayne Tower – without his kite. Resilient as always, Charlie Brown somehow managed to survive and eke out some low-level notoriety in the Gotham City underworld. Sadly, he was later killed and eaten by Superman villain Bruno "Ugly" Mannheim.

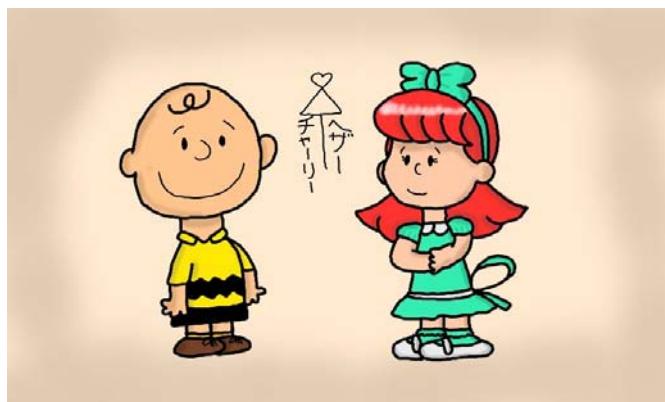
Still, you can't keep a good kite down, and Kite-Man was later rebooted to life in DC Rebirth, which finally gave him an origin with more pathos and a small amount of respect. Fans began to like Kite-Man enough to have him make more appearances in more media outlets than he had in years (including a brief cameo in The LEGO Batman Movie). Yet, surprisingly, Kite-Man's most touching victory came in a very subtle way in recent episodes of the Harley Quinn adult animated series.

Longtime Peanuts fans know that Charlie Brown was always in love with the Little Red-Haired Girl and regularly tried to impress her. Sadly, his perpetual bad luck and wishy-washiness always seemed to get in the way of befriending or even meeting her. Yet in Season One of Harley Quinn, Kite-Man inexplicably finds himself confidently flirting with the beautiful (and red-headed) Poison Ivy – who inexplicably finds herself attracted to the C-List supervillain. The two end up dating and while Ivy is initially embarrassed to be seen in public with her Charlie Brown, she eventually openly admits to being his girlfriend.

So, while it may have taken over fifty years and a descent into criminal psychosis, Charlie Brown finally managed to get together with his Little Red-Haired Girl. Few villains can say that years

Bits & Pieces

of being beaten up by Batman led them to their dream life, but we're willing to bet that Kite-Man is one of the few exceptions.



Louis Vuitton

Designer Virgil Abloh's Off-White c/o Virgil Abloh Spring/Summer 2020 collection gets a revisit with photoshoot in Morocco.



Nike

Sneakerheads! The upcoming Nike Air Jordan 1 Low "Chinese New Year" have Beijing sparrow kites on this mismatched pair of kicks. Release Date: February 2020



Cage Kite Flying

"Badandang" is a type of traditional game typical of the Banjar (South Borneo) community after harvest (dry) until before the rainy season. Usually the kite is added to the sounds of bamboo (kukumbangan / dangung), one thing that is unique is the "Kukumbangan" inheritance / mandate from their great grandparents to reach decades.

Cage kite flying can not be done by one or two people, because this kite is larger than an ordinary kite. "For a small size usually reaches 1.5 meters long and 1 meter wide, while large sizes can reach 10 meters. Moreover, the weight of a kite can reach 10 kilograms to 30 kilograms more with a body frame made of ironwood and given a long tail. So to lift and play it to the air requires cooperation and mutual cooperation from all players to be able to raise the kite cage. That's where the art of playing kite cage is".

To make this kite, some materials are needed, such as ironwood, belangiran wood, plastic, nylon rope for binding, and glue. First the body frame was made using ironwood and belangiran. After that, the body frame is plastered with plastic. Because of its large size, it had to be joined with plastic glue. After finished the kite was given the tail of a glove that was connected or banners along the 5 meters to 7 meters".

Each kite made is given a different name, some are named Datu Pamulutan, Independent, and so on.

The chosen location is the rice field bund, which is over after the harvest period. The broader the area of the rice field is getting better. "The bedandang aims to gather the kite lovers who come from various backgrounds and ages from Tapin and HSS. The problem is that these shelters only exist in those two districts in South Kalimantan, which have been passed down from generation to generation by our parents and we have preserved them until now, ".

Especially if the kite is already on the air, plus a loud buzzing sound, making the cormorant feel a special pleasure from the game that has existed since ancient times, Same with the buzz made of bamboo sticks that have been aged for decades to be installed in the cage kite.

One participant named Dani said the buzz was a legacy from their parents. And the unique thing is that this buzz shouldn't be touched, let alone touched by women who are menstruating, say people. "There used to be a story from our parents, there was a woman who was menstruating holding the hum, when the kite was raised, the buzz did not sound anymore, even though that buzz was the hallmark of the caged kite. And we

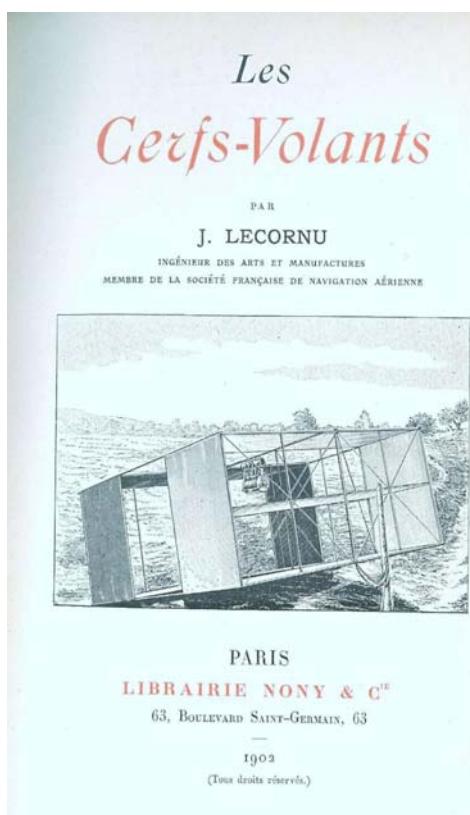
Bits & Pieces



also obey the prohibition until now and do not dare to break it," explained Dani.

Dani said, after it finished raising the kite cage, the buzz was released and stored in a special container made of cloth. "So that the buzz lasts until tens of years old, when it is stored it is given pepper so it does not powder".

This recipe we got from our parents that we use until now. Cormorant kites may change every year, but the buzz still uses the inheritance of our parents. We want to continue to preserve the tradition of our parents to our children and grandchildren later, because we can be more mutual agreement with each other with this kite cage. "In this village, we can air for 2 days and two nights with a distinctive buzz," Dani said.



Auction News—
Invaluable
Rare
French
1902 book
on kites
and kite
flying.
This is a
rare and
beautiful
1902 first
edition of
the famous
LeCornu
book *Les
Cerfs Volants*,
with magnifi-
cent half
leather
binding
with bright
gilt letter-
ing on the
spine, title
page print-

ed in red and black with 240 richly illustrated pages and printed in Paris France.

Estimate \$170

Scarce set of three folding Conyne-style kites,



constructed of muslin with aluminum struts, intended to hoist aloft a wire aerial for a "Gibson Girl" emergency radio. The kites are each attached to a special rocket, designed to be launched by a Very flare pistol, which would then tow the kite into the air. The kites are housed in a 39" x 7 1/2" x 5 1/2" yellow-painted wood case, bearing a partial paper instruction label on one side. A stock tag from the International Marine Radio Co. Ltd. of London, dated Oct. 15, 1943, is attached within the lid of the case. Due to the difficulty of repacking the kites once removed, they have not been examined outside of the case.

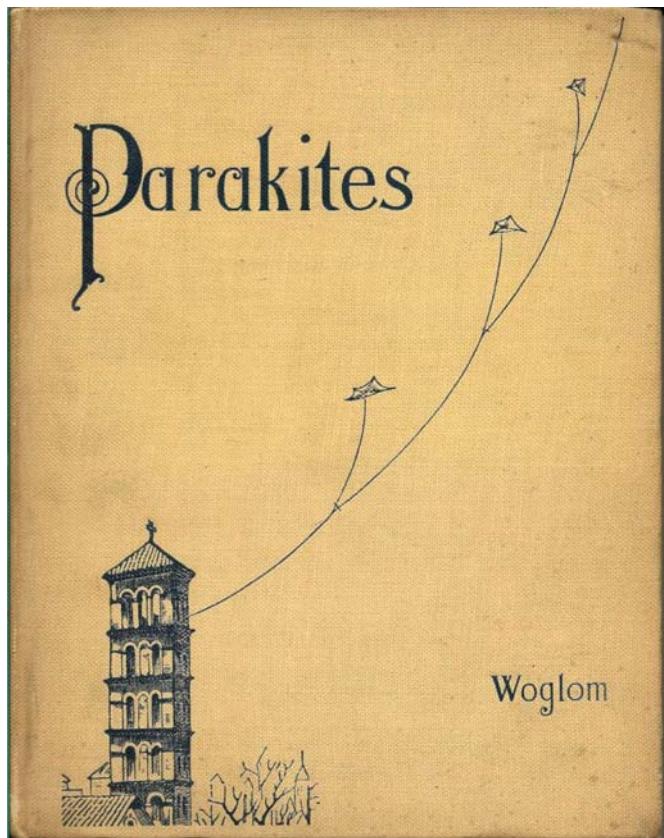
Estimate \$400-600—did not sell.

1896 antique English book on kites

This is a rare and beautifully produced book titled "Parakites", by Gilbert Totten Woglom, G.P. Putnams, New York and London. It contains 106 profusely illustrated pages on high quality glossy stock plus beautiful original publisher's pictorial hardcover cloth in yellow and black. A treatise on

Bits & Pieces

the making and flying of kites for scientific or recreational purposes.



Estimate \$400—475



Father holding a kite and his son.
Impressive wood and ivory Japanese sculpture. Circa 1930. Stained carved engravings. Signed. Height: 5.5 cm .

Estimate \$120—\$150

Feng Zikai Chinese Painting

Feng zikai "flying a kite" Zikai Feng (November 9, 1898 - September 15, 1975) was born in

Shimen Town, Tongxiang City, Jiaxing City, Zhejiang province. Feng zikai is a modern Chinese painter, essayist, art educator, music educator, cartoonist, calligrapher and translator. Modern painter, writer and art educator. In his early years, he learned painting and music from Li Shutong and was deeply influenced by his Buddhist thoughts. After May 4th, began to carry on the cartoon creation. The early cartoon works



are mostly from the real theme, with "warm irony", and often make new paintings of ancient poems in the later period, especially love to draw on children's theme.

His cartoon style is simple, simple and meaningful, which is a bridge between literature and painting. Chinese modern painter, essayist, art educator,

music educator, translator, is an accomplished literary master. After liberation, he was the executive director of the Chinese artists association, the chairman of the Shanghai branch of the artists association, the President of the Shanghai Chinese painting academy, and the vice President of the Shanghai foreign cultural association. He was praised by international friends as "the most artist-like artist in modern China".

Feng zikai's unique style of comic works has a great influence and is deeply loved by people. His works are profound and thought-provoking.

He died many years ago, leaving behind a rich artistic legacy. Feng zikai's cartoons have their own style. He has a deep foundation in traditional Chinese painting, and only a few strokes can draw vivid images. In particular, he draws on the bitter things in the world, because of the hard work, so his cartoons are loved by people.

Estimate \$1200—2500

1903 aviation kite flying in Japan

This is a rare 116 year-old German aviation periodical featuring a 9 1/2 page illustrated article about kite flying in Japan. Contains a total of 40 pages.

Estimate \$125—150



2020		
April		
11-19	Berck International Kite Festival, Berck-sur-Mer, France Cancelled	
24 – May 3 rd	40th Cervia International Kite Festival, Via Arenile Demaniale, 48015 Cervia RA, Italia Postponed to September	www.festivalinternazionaleaquilone.com
25-26	Jolly Up 26, Cliddesden, near Basingstoke. Cancelled	roy@kitesup.co.uk
May		
8-10	MKF & WHKF Kitefliers Rendezvous for VE Day 75th Anniversary, Broad Haven's Blue Flag beach, near Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, Wales SA62 3JH Cancelled	mkf.org.uk
10	Streatham Common Kite Day, London, SW16 3BZ Postponed	www.streathamkiteday.org.uk
24	Westward Ho! Festival of Kites, Westward Ho Beach, Bideford	www.visitwestwardho.co.uk
June		
6-7	Basingstoke Kite Festival, Mays Bounty Cricket Ground, Fairfields Road, Basingstoke, Hants, RG21 3DR Cancelled	Roy Broadley 07778 352825
July 2020		
4-5	Barmouth Kite Festival, on the beach opposite the Lifeboat Station, Barmouth, Mid Wales	kitesbarmouth@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	Rossendale 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 Cancelled	www.tewkesburykitefestival.co.uk
August 2020		
1-2	Sunderland Kite Festival, Herrington Country Park, Houghton-Le-Spring, Tyne and Wear DH4 7EL Cancelled	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	MalcolmF@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
September		
4-5	Burnham-on-Sea Kite Fest, all along the main beach, Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset	gaynor.brown1@talktalk.net
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
25 – October 4 th	40th Cervia International Kite Festival, Via Arenile Demaniale, 48015 Cervia RA, Italia	www.festivalinternazionaleaquilone.com



tugg.com