

THE KITEFLIER

www.thekitesociety.org.uk



Issue 168

July 2021

£2.50

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

New
From
HQ Kites
2021



Dark Fang Bat



Blaze The Dragon

All The Fun Of The Air!



Eddy Peacock



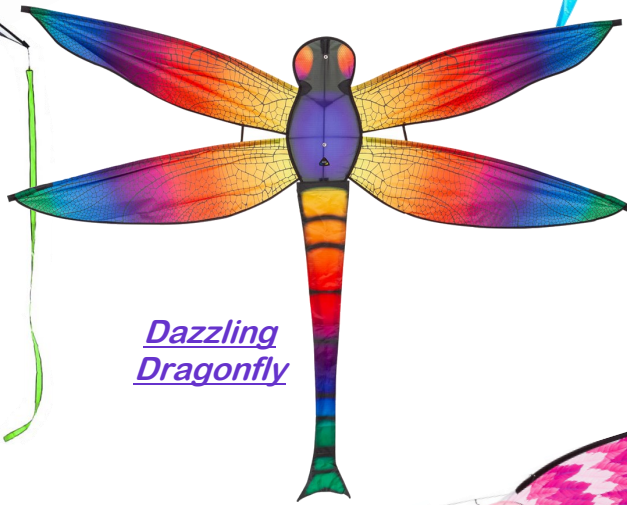
Manta



Canard Lime



24m Tube Tail



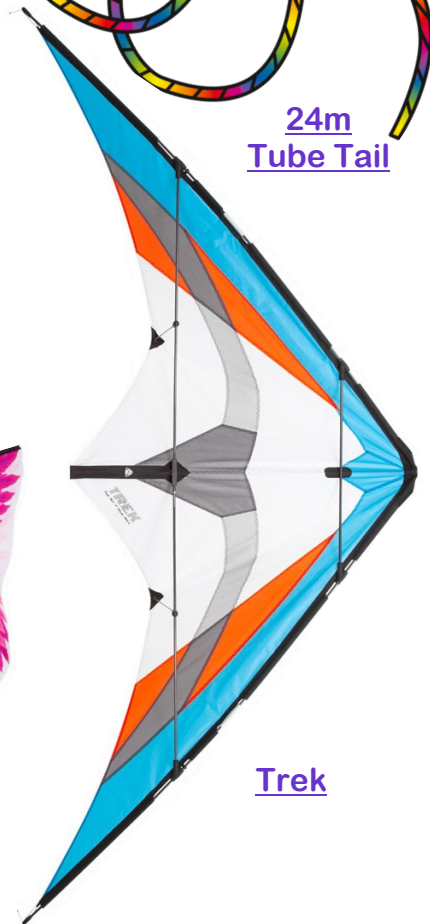
Dazzling Dragonfly



Jazzy Owl



Flying Floyd

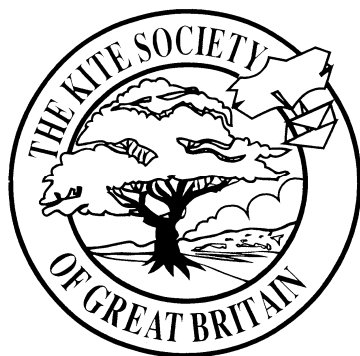


Trek

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Cover
Phil McConnachie kites at Portsmouth

Dear Reader

Slim picking this time around—and may be slimmer for the next issue as well unless someone sends us articles for the magazine. So how about putting pen to paper (or keyboard to screen) and sending something?

As we go to press Portsmouth is going ahead so we hope to see many of you there as the first big event allowed in the UK kite calendar.

For next year—we are planning, together with Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole council to run a new kite festival at Baiter Park—planned for the Jubilee weekend at the beginning of June. We hope to have more details in the next issue—so pencil the weekend in now!

Editorial

Stay safe and enjoy flying kites where you can

Gill and Jon

July		
10-11	Rossendale Kite Festival, Haslington Sports Centre, Haslington, Lancashire BB4 4DN	www.nkg.org.uk
17-18	Shropshire Kite Festival, Lacon Childe School, Love Lane, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire DY14 8PE	kites@skybums.com
August		
7-8	Portsmouth International Kite Festival, Southsea Common, Portsmouth	www.portsmouthkitefestival.org.uk
14-15	Newbiggin Kite Festival, The beach, Newbiggin by the Sea, Northumberland, NE64 6DB	www.nkg.org.uk
28-30	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	St Annes International Kite Festival, Lytham St Annes.	hello@smilefactor10.co.uk
11-12	Bridlington Kite Festival, Sewerby Fields, Bridlington, North Yorkshire YO15 1ER	www.nkg.org.uk
11-19	Dieppe International Kite Festival, Dieppe, France CANCELLED	www.dieppe-cerf-volant.org
2022		
June		
2-5	Poole International Kite Festival, Baiter Park, Poole. TBC	poole@thekitesociety.org.uk
July		
9-10	Leominster and Hereford Kite Festival, The National Trust's Berrington Hall, Leominster, Herefordshire HR6 0DW	www.kitefestival.org.uk

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Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

BeBop

I wonder how many people have given up the idea of flying kites as an absorbing pastime after buying a kite and smashing it first time out?

Maybe only a matter of minutes after it came out of the bag!

For many years our arena kite demonstrations would include the “Crash a Kite” section where my advice was that a learner kite flyer was bound to have a good few unplanned landings before the idea of steering the kite to keep it in the sky, clicked.

Therefore it followed that strong kite was needed to withstand the punishment and I then proceeded to whack a kite in to the ground as as I could, drawing gasps of astonishment from the audience and sometimes even a round of applause as I turned the kite upright and launched off into the sky again.

The crash photo below was taken at the point of impact but the kite was unbroken, (as shown further down).



Longevity

One of those kites, the BeBop, has been with us throughout most of those years with the same frame but occasionally taking on a change of livery.

I thought a video would help me press home the point and the other day, Marilyn and I went up to our local field for a bit of filming and kite whacking.



As said, there's a new sail pattern to be shown off too.

This one can be asked for specifically as the “BeBop Geo”.

As with all HQ kites in this sort of price range it comes in a good bag with a nice set of lines and the fantastic, HQ book of instructions and information on kite flying in general.

Needless to say it survived the rigorous testing I put it through completely unscathed save for a little bit of mud and grass stains.

Being used to much bigger and slower kites, I did find the BeBop a little twitchy but soon got used to it.

Our opinion?

Once you have learned to master the basics of staying aloft any flyer would find moving up to a larger, slower kite not difficult at all but it is here that I would advise caution and not to rush, headlong, into purchasing the first bigger kite they fly.

Try a few different ones first and take some advice from an experienced flyer or good trader who will be asking what they want to do with their next kite.

Therefore, a great kite to have fun with and gain those hours of experience before upgrading.

Keep it in your bag for coaching others.

Stuff from our media outlets

You would have thought that through the various lockdowns imposed upon us and the reduction in opportunity to go fly, I would have done as I have been promising over the past few years and make some serious, overdue updates to our website.

Don't get me wrong, the site gets lots of visitors each week, especially those who are new to flying and some that just like to view the hints and tips, close up videos of kites they might be thinking of buying - or some of the interesting videos such as the ones on Peter Powell for instance.

Anyone that has retired will most likely have empathy in how incredibly busy your life suddenly becomes when you have nothing else left to do.

So the site is left functional with occasional, minor updates.

Our Facebook page usually has all the latest video releases.

Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

Friends will know that Marilyn and I have become quite involved in the photography of wild-life and have spent money that otherwise would have been spent in China on kites on upgrading our camera equipment instead.

I try to answer all enquiries that come in, some through the site and even more from our closeencounterskitesyoutube channel. (If you Google that big, long word, you will be taken to it).

We have over one and a quarter thousand subscribers on YouTube and we get the strangest of questions from there.

From some of the things people tell me, I am really surprised they are still alive to be honest! Many of the queries are about anchoring and recommendations for line strength.

Careful what you say!

I have to be very careful with my answers because I have seen, first hand, too many times how differently a simple instruction can be interpreted.

As an example, one flyer bought some canal barge, ground stake, anchors the same as ours, proudly showing them to me at a "Jolly Up" kite event.

I told him that we would drive ours well in to the ground, often with only three or four inches showing. I later saw him with a kite tied to the top of the stake which was only driven in three or four inches total.

Another flyer said that they had trouble holding still, the "big kite" he had just purchased whilst he tried to tie it to the stake.

This guy lived in America and could freely buy guns!

I did it my Way

I thought that I would take the opportunity to pass on some of my words of wisdom as I know this magazine is read by beginners and professionals alike and you can always learn something no matter what stage you are at.

Before I get in to it though, let me just say that the way we do things may not always be the best for every occasion, or even any occasion for that matter, and that everyone will have their own favourite/better way of doing things.

Just because we do or say something a certain way that doesn't mean that it is a safe or proper way for anyone else to proceed.

Disclaimer over; here are some extracts of my replies - you can probably read into it what has been asked or what I might be trying to elaborate on.

Hello Jim and thank you for your communication.

I hope you understand but I cannot 'recommend' that you use any particular breaking strain of line for any particular set of conditions because the imbalances change so frequently, but I am happy to tell you that we often deploy similar strengths of tethering to that which you have mentioned.

If the wind is so high that you feel you will really struggle to get the kite down then is it worth flying? and if you think it is so strong that you think 1000lb would be the right line for the inflatable you are flying then you might have concerns that it will pop, like a balloon! This is especially if it is one of the 'cheaper' Chinese inflatables from companies that 'want to be your friend and do long term business'.

We also make doubly sure that the kites cannot pull away the tie offs or the anchors. We tie the kite line to a much, much heavier line (rope) that is not likely to chafe as the kite moves around in the sky.

Some would use a really heavy carabiner and heavyweight strapping- everyone prefers something slightly different and has their own way of making things safe and easy to dismantle when they need to.

When we attach line laundry we run the lifter line through the carabiner that holds the laundry.

We NEVER attach the laundry directly to the lifter kite for the reason that if the main line should break or become unattached (another line cutting through it for instance) then the laundry would act as an anchor and they would both take off in to the sky causing much danger and perhaps never to be seen again.

We use several different types of line and have not really found anything to avoid - to be honest I am not sure what came from where now but they were all bought from a reputable dealer - mainly kiteworld.co.uk or supplied from HQ Invento - they are not retailers so you would have to use a kite trader.

We try to use different coloured line for each piece particularly if we have several on the same lifter line, again with each piece back to an independent anchor.

I never condone the use of Kevlar line. It is not friendly to other people's lines or your own and can more easily cause serious injury to anyone that may come in to contact with it.

I did use it once as a sort of barrage balloon in Spain when a kite surfer objected to our presence, walked down the beach and knocked out

Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

our kites apologising sarcastically as he went. I was pleased with the result there.

Several of us have asked Chinese companies to stop using it for their bridling but maybe that was one of those times when they pretend they don't understand English.

We found that if we couldn't get our kite stake right in to the ground using an ordinary hammer then the stake was not heavy or long enough - you should need at least a 4 pound lump hammer or sledge.

1st of the month

Hello Eric, thanks for your comment.

I met the original designer of the rabbit at a kite festival in Portsmouth and he told me a story of how it suddenly appeared on the market without his permission. I wouldn't have bought it had I known the story but then if I didn't have one then I wouldn't have met the designer - and a nice bloke he is too!

It is reasonably priced (especially when you elect not to pay shipping) and flies extremely well.

It can be tricky to put away without causing a tangle for the next time it comes out but always solved, even by someone like me that doesn't do fiddly.

How high?

Hello Jan and thanks for your kind words about our website. We are not allowed to fly kites above 200ft in this country.

Festivals do get permission from the CAA to fly above that and we always did when we flew at other events but there are strict rules about having streamers of defined sizes attached to the lines at certain distances as an extra warning. (Not that I have ever seen anyone bothering with that).

We don't like to fly any higher than if the kite were to fall then it would land outside the field I am in or come down in the water or a tree! Everything is much smaller here - Fields, beaches even arenas at events.

The thing to do is decide the best place for the anchor then have one person hold the reel whilst you walk out the line as far as you can go without exceeding the boundaries you wish to stay within.

A Long Tail

Always allow for the long bridle some kites have and how much any tails might fall outside your perimeter. Watch out too for those long octopus tentacles that children so love to grab and allow for the inevitable change in wind direction.

You really don't want your tails tangling with a fairground ride or settling across the hot exhaust of a diesel generator.

The larger spaces here are usually quite remote and not easy to get to.

We are happy with what have though it leads to better interaction with others.

Lines can easily get frayed even at 200ft and that means we still have quite a lot left out of the 500ft after we have thrown away or reallocated the worn out part.

Most often a 500 ft line will be cut in half so that we have two lines for the kites at that weight/breaking strain.

There are letters coming in all the time and we are always pleased to see them.

One just arrived as I sit here typing from a guy who saw a video I made with Tim Benson down in Cornwall 11 years ago back in the early days of the Deep Space sport kite.

He said it was that video that got him in to kiting and he has bought many other kites since, including ones from the Benson range.

Pulley Wheel

Another common question via media or from interested spectators is...



Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

“How do you get that big kite down again?”

Well, it always used to be hand over hand but, recently, wee invested in a clip over pulley - for want of a better description.

We had an ordinary pulley wheel before but you had to remember to thread the line through that one before paying it out.

This one, however, is open on one side and after many attempts at trying to describe what was required to various chandlers, I saw this one on line.

Dodgy adverts

Again, be careful here because, from the advertisement it looks as though you get three for you money but, if you look carefully. You'll notice that it is different sizes being shown.

We ordered the big one (Well you would wouldn't you?)

Slip your hand through the strap to give yourself extra power as you would flying a sport kite, hook it over and away you go, walking steadily toward the kite watching the magic happen! Simple and so much easier and quicker. There will be a short video on our YouTube channel showing it in action.

Hoffmanns Lampion

I don't know why there's not an apostrophe in that title, maybe it's a German thing?



These lanterns (as I would call them) have been around for a good while now but with the coming season of promised events or, if still not then to entertain ourselves in our own back garden, I thought that these are worth a mention.

I was mystified at why they are labelled as small and extra small so I got a good looking young lady to model them for me and give some sort of size perspective.



If you get

Please be advised that the poles and multi change, coloured LED lights are NOT included with the purchase.

The lights we got are remote controlled and you need to be careful to separate the lights when turning them on or you get the exactly the same pattern from each - but if that's what you prefer then - Hey!

They come to you flat and just drop into shape with no assembly required and that suits me (I've already said the 'don't do fiddly bit earlier on!)

World shortage

There is a weight velcro'd to the bottom of each lantern on the inside which we removed and replaced with the newly velcro'd lights.

Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

They look good in the day time and even better lit up at night.

So far, we have only put them up in the garden and we have already impressed friends, neighbours and even family - who are used to our eccentricities!

The usual video went up and received quite a healthy number of "Likes" so it might be that we have started a craze and there will be panic buying around the world Ha ha!

A Colourful Tale

I do like a nice long coloured tube tail and it's a lot of work persuading Marilyn to make one.



I was therefore pleased to find this eighty foot long delight whilst thumbing through my HQ catalogue.



It is wonderfully presented in a very nice bag but it will never be put back in with such tidiness and precision and I challenge anyone else to do so out on a breezy flying field.

It does fit back in, which is useful, because it keeps it small and space saving and makes it so easy to find in my bag of all-sorts.

I know I keep on but there is, again, a video to show it off.

It has a three legged bridle which helps to keep the mouth open and a spinner with clasp for attachment to a kite.

We first tried it on our 1.7 HQ sled in a good, coastal, breeze and it went up, no trouble at all

with an excellent colour match. The 1.7 is, in itself an excellent kite and is very much our go to kite in many situations. It is a very strong kite with excellent lifting capabilities in a huge wind range.

Next we put it behind our HQ Shade sport kite. Again an excellent colour match and no trouble for this light wind kite to pull in what was, indeed, a fairly light wind.

Where should it go?

A word of advice here if you have not tried attaching tails to a delta kite, especially a sport kite.

You may well have seen kites pulling tails before and it looks as though they that are attached to the bottom of the kite.

If they are, then they are probably not getting the best from the kite as the tail will be dragging it out away from of the best angle of attack to the wind.



It is best to take a short loop of line and pass it around the centre T of the kite (where the bottom spreaders and the spine cross). Then, take the line through the back of the kite and make the attachment there.

You will then find that the kite will be much better balanced.

That's it for now

We hope that you have enjoyed my waffle in this edition and that we will all be able to meet up again before the year is out when we will be happy to hear your views on our ramblings personally.

There's lots more lined up for the next magazine.

Allan and Marilyn
Close Encounters Kite Displays
kitedisplays.co.uk

More Mindless Meanderings—or When Did It All Change? - Hugh Blowers

Reflecting further on Jon Bloom's Kite Society anniversary interview at Portsmouth and how kite flying has changed since 1999 it is difficult to believe how rapidly the number of kite festivals declined in such a short space of time. Yes, it has been a miserable couple of seasons because of 'you know what' but like so many of the high street names that have fallen by the wayside, large numbers of national and international kite festivals had vanished from the calendar long before CV 19 struck.

Who could possibly have anticipated in those heady days that Portsmouth would be the only large British event still in existence and most of the others would have vanished in just twelve years? Bristol, Weymouth, Washington, nothing more now than fond memories, Canterbury, Swindon, Peterborough, Blackheath, Cleethorpes, Margate, Tewkesbury, Rougham, Coventry and many more, all well established events that used to be part of our summer itinerary that have also fallen by the wayside.

This is not just a British phenomenon as the situation in Europe is largely the same.

It used to be possible to spend a whole summer in France travelling from event to event, and for those of us still working it was entirely feasible to take in five festivals without travelling more than sixty miles from Calais. Dunkirk, Le Touquet, Hardelot, Berck and Quend. All of these were possible with a (very) early start on Saturday, ferry, day's flying, one night in a hotel of varying quality, second day's flying, ferry and home before midnight. A bonus if any coincided with a holiday, in which case it was the relative luxury of a caravan awning and sensible travel times.

If there happened to be any weekends still free then there were a host of festivals to choose from, sometimes as many as five in different locations around the country on the same weekend, oddly though, seldom within East Anglia.

As the popularity of festivals grew then so did the number of competing events, and even a few in the more immediate vicinity sprang up.

As soon as the calendar was published, we would sit around a table in the pub of a Monday evening and plan out almost the entire season, making bookings as required. Firstly the givens, Weymouth, Swindon,

Berck, Basingstoke, Brighton, Old Warden, 2 trips to Blackheath, Washington Portsmouth, Bristol and Dieppe in the even years.

Then it was those that had proved to be good weekends and worth the trip such as Tewkesbury, just look at it on the map, not far if you live in Yeovil but try starting from Lowestoft?

New festivals were being added every year and with them started to come the invitations, not with financial inducements at that stage, yet several of these were added to the 'givens' list such as Cleethorpes, Rougham, Bedford and Margate. If there was still a space then we fitted in somewhere new such as Teston, Stratford, Weston or March.

Now Weston in a weekend from the East Coast is again either madness or super enthusiasm but it did depend on the baggage train heading out early to establish camp, as it did for so many of the 'away' events. Surprisingly, leaving home at six on a Friday Evening would have us sitting down to slow roast pork well before bedtime, whereas the same trip home on a Sunday afternoon urgh.

Why did we do it?

Well, it was all about the pleasure. If the event was sociable, enjoyable and entertaining then the travel and cost was worth it. Unlike one team leader who told us that 'they did not go to any festival where they were not paid' the true cost did not enter in to it for us and by golly, looking back, if we thought we had spent a lot of money on kites then that was as nothing to how much attending festivals has cost us.

There were some events that never had a second visit and that may have been for a multitude of reasons that added up to the 'red pencil'.

The flying site was of prime importance, as that was why we were going there, but we have seen some shockers that were totally unsuitable where the only successful launch was a very long one with trees or even a forest surrounding the site. Having said that, some such as Bedford are far from ideal but is so enjoyable for all the other aspects, accommodation, hospitality sociability and being relatively close that far outweigh the hard work of flying there.

More Mindless Meanderings—or When Did It All Change? - Hugh Blowers

It was something of a surprise to us though discovering that there was a significant number of people we met on a regular basis who were just festival-goers with no intention of ever putting a kite in the air at an event. Even more amazing was that others we came across were not even interested in kites but found festivals cheap camping, caravanning and entertainment for a weekend.

A more recent phenomenon has been the rise of what Peter Lynn refers to as 'the kite tourists' who cost organisers but contribute very little, and let's face it; some of them are now experts at this artform.

Each festival was very different and, as flying was an escape from two stressful jobs, in the end it was a very simple equation that we used to evaluate, usually on the way home, did we enjoy it, was it worth the travel, expense and was the accommodation and hospitality and social aspects sufficient to do it all again next season? For most the positives far outweighed the negative even if the weather was less than cooperative like Basingstoke where everyone stayed in the Hockey Club all day.

That took care of almost every weekend from April to October but then we would also fly every Sunday throughout the winter if the weather was at all amenable, including Christmas day, yet in little more than a decade we found that the free weekends predominated and our festival going restricted to a handful during the season, so what happened?

Every one who has ever had a hand in organising a festival or smaller event will be well aware of the costs involved with the promotion and infrastructure alone, before any thought is given to offering expenses or bringing in guest flyers. The money had to come from somewhere and as a few found to their cost, charging the public to come in was fraught with problems, and I have to admit that on occasions we did balk at paying admission having driven 150 miles to fly kites to attract the paying public. As it was a charity, we did pay, but as we discovered, many visitors will accept car parking charges but charging admission seldom worked.

We saw car after car turn round at the gates of a commercially organised festival in Norfolk as they pointed out that they

could watch kites in the air for free from outside the site. This put paid to at least three events that featured on our schedule and also our winter flying on local beaches that had free parking, toilets (most important) and a café or tea bar.

Looking back, it was an insidious process that gathered pace rapidly in the 'noughties'.

For us it started with the councils imposing parking charges during the winter in order to maximise income, a process that continued with ever increasing vigour as we were entered a period of financial instability and recession. Support for festival organisers was consistently reduced or even withdrawn completely, as was commercial sponsorship.

One by one the festivals vanished, both the major international ones and the smaller club ones, as organisers realised that putting on their events was no longer financially viable or that the risks involved were no longer acceptable.

Sometimes it was the site owners that said no more, either through change of use or as we found locally, that it was easier and financially more beneficial not having any events at all.

Sadly, even some kite clubs that had been very active were shutting up shop and within just a few years a dozen festivals that had been regular trips for us were no more. A couple of others were crossed off when the aggravation factors involved came to outweigh the enjoyment.

Membership of the Kite Society brought great financial reward as parking passes could save huge amounts of money, as well as the contacts list that allowed us to obtain flyers and camping passes.

This worked well when the organisers were kite orientated yet went a bit haywire when it was charities and other organisations involved or occasionally, businesses.

The final consideration was the journey. I have no problem with driving and no event is 'too far' but seeing the Traffic Master with a completely red screen and trying to find an alternative route from south of the M25 or west of the M1, pre A14 on a Sunday evening and any enjoyment derived from the previous two days quickly evaporated.

More Mindless Meanderings—or When Did It All Change? - Hugh Blowers

Going back through the diaries and my reports reminded me that the decline was actually far more rapid than a failing memory recalled as we found ourselves with a schedule that extended to just four 'doable' festivals by 2011, while Bristol did survive a bit longer.

Cleethorpes and Blackheath had brief revivals but the pressure on council budgets brought almost every festival to an end, with the exception of Portsmouth and Bedford of course. Dave Hodson, the Mayor of Bedford defends the spending on events as he says that they give residents and visitors a day's entertainment and enjoyment for free, something of an enlightened attitude.

Some might justifiably question whether our enthusiasm has dwindled, but that is far from the case as it was rather more practical considerations that directed our decisions.

Firstly, if the event no longer exists, then we can't go there, simples.

Secondly, what accommodation was available as camping and caravanning were no longer an option open to us, and a motor home not practical so a decent billet was a vital consideration?

Again, we have been in a few that we would not have tolerated if we had been paying or did not go back to if we were.

Thirdly, we are totally with Jeremy Clarkson in the reason for his falling out with the BBC. After a day's flying we need and want a decent meal, and whilst some festivals provided amazing mass catering that was a delight, others took the 'you know what', especially when good money had been paid up front. We still bear the mental scars from a few of these, the 3 stale egg mayonnaise finger rolls and one vol au vent for £7 or the canapés that one organiser thought would 'make a nice change'.

Lastly, and I suppose fundamental in a way to our decisions was the 'aggravation factor'.

Some festivals had the ability to pass without any upsets, which made them even more enjoyable but others gave the impression that the organisers (and some of the flyers) were just there to make life as difficult as possible.

A constant and increasing source of trouble was inconsiderate or even arrogant kite flying, especially if the kites in question were unruly as some often were. Kite rage is no different to trolley or road rage, yet we are all there to enjoy ourselves on a kite field and yes, I have been involved in a few of these over time, either as an embarrassed observer, an entirely innocent victim and on occasions that I am less proud of, going in all guns blazing.

It is bad enough to lose a kite in any circumstance but to see one drifting downwind into the public, a dangerous situation or out to sea because of the thoughtless actions of another flyer was enough to see the 'red mist descend' for many.

This increased almost exponentially as the kites got larger and multiplied and went a long way to spoil an otherwise enjoyable day for many, some even quoting that as the prime reason for not going to certain festivals.

How often has the phrase, 'there is nowhere to fly' been heard, and yes a couple of sites came into that category but in the main, with a carefully chosen and reliable kite, there is usually room somewhere in the sky. With his permission, I spent a very happy afternoon flying a Millistelle with the line threaded through the fingers of Jos Valcke's Harlequin.

As a final reflection, Alan Pothecary summed it up beautifully in the last issue, 'was it all just much more fun back then', and sadly, we have to agree with this sentiment?

We can sit in a room at home with a glass of wine and mull over the day, but what used to be the great delight of almost every festival was the après fly, either organised or spontaneous, large scale or small, either with traders or a group of flyers, putting the world to rights, sometimes lasting until a ridiculous hour in the morning.

It may be nostalgia, but that just seemed to evaporate over the years. Ignoring the last two years, kite flying and festivals changed in ways that could never have been anticipated in 1999, but it is the raft of festivals and the sociability that we miss the most.

Portsmouth 2021

Taking place Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th August at Southsea Common, Portsmouth. This is the 29th Festival—30th year.

We have been talking to Portsmouth City Council about the plans for 2021 events in the City and are pleased to say that, subject to the lifting of restrictions going to plan and no restrictions being extended or introduced the 2021 Portsmouth Kite Festival is going ahead as planned.

Please note that the current lifting of restrictions is expected to be announced on or before July 19th. We expect to be able to hold the event under any restrictions that may be still be in place.

The theme this year is “Enjoy the Sky”. As we come together again to celebrate kites and kite-flying.

Guests who are attending and the timetable will be published on the web site www.portsmouthkitefestival.org.uk.

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

Even if you do not have a suitable kite for the displays—there are often more kites than people to fly them, so why not come along and help—just ask.

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

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

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

Camping is fully booked and we do not have any spaces left. However, contact us by email and we will add you to the waitlist as spaces do become available.

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

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

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

Here is a selection of photographs from Portsmouth over the years. Apologies for the quality of some of these



Banner Display—1994.



Gruppo Volundra—2002

Portsmouth 2021



2003



2006—George Webster and Andy King



2008—20th Year of the Revolution Kite



2010—the year of the Dinosaur.



2004—Lots of Mermaids



2009—view from above

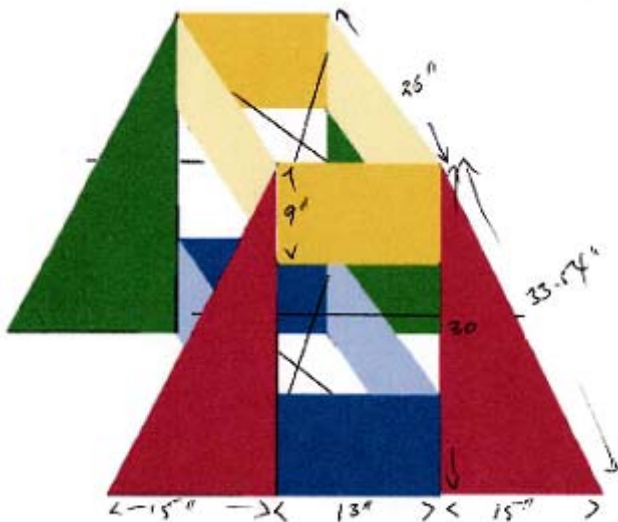
Double Stack Delta Hargrave Box Kite—Mark Harding



Since all the back issues of The Kiteflier magazine were put onto the site I was impressed by the front cover drawing of the May 1981 issue which shows a pair of Delta wings attached at the short sides of a Hargrave box kite but parallel to each other. This design may have inspired the making of the Triple Stack Delta Conyne.

I thought this is an interesting design and decided to make one, I gave it its first flight late March and I was pleased with the results a nice stable flier.

See the picture setting out the measurements of the kite which are shown in inches.



To make this kite you will need.

- 1) Ripstop nylon for the sails.
- 2) Pine dowel 6mm diameter and plastic tubing 6mm internal diameter
- 3) 4 lengths at 32 inches approx for the longerons.

- 4) 4 lengths at 28 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches approx for the braces
- 5) 4 lengths at 33 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches for the wing edge spars
- 6) 2 lengths at 29 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches for the wing cross spars.
- 7) Cut longer than these lengths and adjust to fit tight
- 8) 8 plastic tubes with split rings for locating the longerons
- 9) 8 plastic tube brace locators for the box sections
- 10) 4 arrow knocks for the wing cross spars
- 11) 4 split rings
- 12) 12 tabs, 8 to hold the split ring locators and 4 for the wing spars.

Also I have attached tie tabs to the wings where the spars cross the longerons to keep these secure but this is optional.

The 4 tabs along the wings for locating the 2 cross spars are 16 inches from the top on the outer edge of the wings a split ring is put onto each of the 4 tabs to locate the arrow knocks.

Finally the bridle is compound as shown on the original design a 4 leg to a 2 leg.

Good Luck

Mark Harding

150th Anniversary of the Hampstead Heath Act 1871

We were asked by the Heath & Hampstead Society to celebrate the 150 anniversary of the above act. It provided the transfer of title from the last private owner to the Metropolitan Board of Works. Included in the provision was that the Heath remained in its natural state and not be manicured into a park.

Parliament Hill has become recognised as a place to fly kites, being one of the highest places in London and has become known as Kite Hill.

So an ideal place. There have been several kite events at Parliament Hill in the past (in the late

70's/early 80's) and some locals can remember these events—including Cody Man-lifting at one of them. H&S was much easier then.

They asked us to keep the event quite small, and fairly local, to see what the response was from the public and the City of London (who manage the Heath). The responses were good and it is now hoped to make this an annual event, growing each year.

We had a small group of kite fliers—Paul Reynolds, The Decorators (Felix, Ashly, Maggie, Jake, Johnny), Tony and Barbara Cartwright and us.



Frank Skinner and family (who live locally) enjoying Paul Reynolds Legs kite.



Robert van Weers banners flying kites (owned by Paul Reynolds). Breast Cancer kite flying above.



Rhombus-shaped kites 1985 by Jørgen Møeller Hansen. 81 kites each kite measures diagonally 48 x 80 cm total length of the chain: 158 metres. Weight: 3.6 kg complete train . The first time all 81 kites had flown in recent times.

150th Anniversary of the Hampstead Heath Act 1871



Ground Display by Gill Bloom—or an ideal playground for the children (and some adults)



One of Paul Reynolds' Delta Serpent kites.



The Decorators (and admirers). Ashley, Maggie, Johnny and Jake). We were told the grass would be cut



View up the hill.

Like many others, I enjoyed greatly yesterday's Kite Display at Parliament Hill. Here is a poem about kites.

Robert Ilson

Kiites
--beginning with a true story--

One day there sailed across a wall
A kite.
Inscribed upon it was Salaam.
Its flight
Soon brought another sailing back.
It said
Shalom. Both sides rejoiced. Next day
The dead
Increased as the dead tend to do
When fights
Are ultimately valued more
Than kites.
So was it nothing but a game,
This trade
Of names for peace between two clans
Afraid
Of everything but war ? That may
Be so.
But should there ever come a time
When foe
Sits down with foe to try to put
An end
To all the horror but can't speak
As friend



Tony and Paul wading through the grass.

To friend just yet, how else to break
The ice
But by recalling they'd both seen
The kites ?

Bits & Pieces

From Caribbean Life

COVID-19 didn't stop kite maker Trevor Smith



Popular Guyanese kite making artist Trevor Smith, has been at his favourite spot, Regent and Camp Streets, in the capital city of Georgetown, since March 15, to vend his star-point creations that have kept him busy for 40 years.

Smith said that because he experienced an early sell out of kites in 2019, he decided to increase his production to meet the demands he was expecting in 2020. Unfortunately, the coronavirus side-lined the artisan and left him with three-quarter of the 1500 kites he had hoped to sell back then. However, Smith's spirit was not daunted. He said he embraced his energy, and noted that he had to be in his normal place of business, as such, in spite of the coronavirus protocols, he came to his special spot in March 2020, an action that helped him to keep his sanity, but not make him a profit.

But alas, all was not lost for Smith, who usually starts the process of kite-making a year ahead. The astute businessman stored the kites away in a safe place, and supporters are flocking to pickup their favourite star-point, to hoist in the sky over the Easter weekend.

The vendor expressed his appreciation, to buyers who have already purchased approximately 200 kites. One donor alone bought 100 kites to be gifted to underprivileged children.

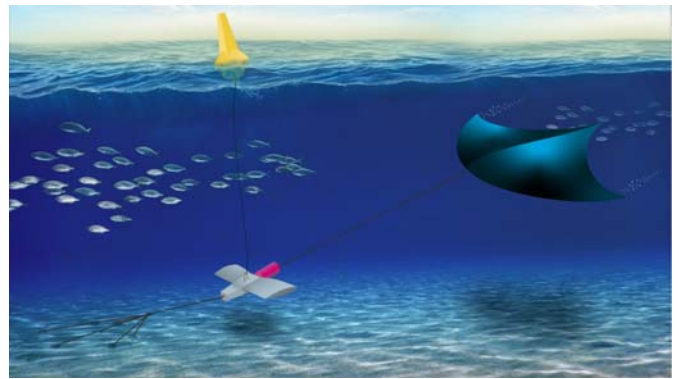
With Easter Monday on the horizon, April 5, and despite COVID-19 mandates in place, kite lovers will rush to get their choice design on Holy Thursday, Good Friday or even Easter Saturday, said Smith. The designs are available in 18, 20, and 24 inches all reasonably priced, said Smith, who insisted that he did not increase the price of the kites, just because of the coronavirus pandemic. "I don't want to exploit my customers, I want to keep them," he assured.

Featured in this publication in the past, Smith had opined: "Kids that make kites develop a higher intelligent quotient (IQ) for mathematics. It's a process that begins with four pieces of wood, and the more colourful the kite, the better it sells. Blending light and dark colours with a background that suits the star-point design is very important," he said.

There are other designs such as the box kite, the singing engine and the bird kite, but Smith specializes in the six-point flyer that is completed with two loops at the top to raise the kite and a tail to balance and keep it in the air.

"Kite making is a discipline where life is concerned," said the artist, who began vending at the age of 16 and credits his father, a carpenter contractor for passing down the tradition.

Underwater Manta Kites for Tidal Power Harvesting



It's been a challenge to find sources of renewable energy that are as reliable as the grid would like them to be. And unfortunately, the renewables that are the most flexible and affordable at small scales (like solar and wind) tend to also be the least predictable in terms of output. Hydro and geothermal offer much more consistency, but they're infrastructure intensive and location restricted.

An interesting alternative is harvesting energy from moving water, which in many cases is as reliable as the moon. Waves, tides, and currents are all potential power sources, some of which we've begun to leverage, but not in a way that can fill the same sorts of niches that solar and wind can—small scale, versatile, and affordable.

Last year, ARPA-E (the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy), launched a \$38 million program called SHARKS (Submarine Hydrokinetic And Riverine Kilo-megawatt Systems, oof) with the goal of fostering the design of "economically attractive Hydrokinetic Turbines (HKT) for tidal and riverine currents." Despite the word "turbine" right there, ARPA-E is funding any new technology that can squeeze power out of flowing water, including a novel underwa-

Bits & Pieces

ter manta-inspired kite generator under development by SRI.

Kite generators work by converting the energy of a moving fluid into the motion of a kite, and then harvesting energy from that motion. I say “fluid” because kites can work in air or water, or really anywhere else you can generate lift. The energy generation can happen on-board the kite itself (which is the approach used by Makani Power with their aerial wind turbines), or at the other end of the tether, where the pull from the kite gets turned into electricity.

SRI’s Manta system relies on a relatively simple, manta-shaped kite made out of simple materials like foam and fiberglass. The kite is attached via a tether to a generator, which in turn is anchored to the bottom of an ocean, bay, river, or anywhere else water moves. In its simplest implementation, the kite just rotates so that its wide, flat belly is facing against the movement of the water to reel out its tether, generating electricity as it gets carried along. At the end of the tether, the kite rotates to its most streamlined configuration, pointing into the water stream, and the tether hauls it back in. The reel-in phase requires energy, of course, but not nearly as much as the pay-out phase generates, and that difference is the power output of the system.

SRI is targeting an average output of around 20 kW per kite (enough to power a dozen homes), although to achieve this, the kite would need to be generating power a greater percentage of the time, meaning that it would need to follow a more complex path through the water to extract more energy from its motion. SRI hasn’t yet determined the optimal path for the kite to follow, but they’re thinking that it might end up doing a series of flattened figure 8s as the line pays out. In general, the larger the motion and the higher the speed, the more power a kite of a given size can generate.

Anything moving at relatively high speeds through the water presents a potential risk to marine life, but SRI is very aware of this, and they’re doing a lot of work to make sure that anything swimming around near the Manta system will be as safe as possible. One way of doing that is through active collision avoidance (since the kite is steerable), but fundamentally, the kite is lightweight enough to not be all that dangerous. It’s also moving much more slowly than the blades of a turbine, and in some cases, it can still generate power through cross-stream motion even as it’s moving slower than the flow of the water itself.

Part of ARPA-E’s goal with SHARKS is to not just promote the development of the technology, but to also think about how to do it in a practical and cost-effective way. Manta is very deliberately not some kind of super highly engi-

neered thing—SRI has chosen to go for something that’s practical rather than attempting to design a kite that can extract the maximum amount of energy at the lowest cost. Not that Manta is a slouch, but it’s one of those things where finding the right mix of performance, cost and ease of use can be the difference between a system that is real-world practical and one that isn’t. ARPA-E is hoping for an overall cost reduction of 60% versus the current state of the art technology, which ranges from \$0.10/kWh at utility scale to \$0.25/kWh in remote areas.

This is all still in the very early stages, but SRI has \$4.2 million in funding from ARPA-E to prove out their Manta system over the next several years. They hope to partner directly with communities that could benefit from this technology, building and testing as rapidly as possible to find a reliable, sustainable, and ecologically friendly way of providing power anywhere a manta can swim.

From BBC Newsround

Could kite-flying robots power life on Mars?

Renewable energy being generated on Mars by... robots flying giant kites!



While this sounds like the plot of a sci-fi film, it's an idea scientists came up with in response to a competition run by the European Space Agency (ESA). For astronauts to live at a long-term base camp on Mars, they will need to find energy to survive. Scientists at the Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands think using a massive kite flown by robots, to harness high Martian wind speeds, could provide enough energy to sustain several astronauts in their everyday work.

Why giant kites?

Producing and storing renewable energy on Mars is not an easy task. Mars is further from the Sun than Earth, so it only gets 43 percent of the sunlight Earth does, making solar power less effective. Also, sending technology such as wind turbines and regular batteries from Earth to Mars is impossible as they are far too heavy. Therefore, scientists have had to come up with a brand new method of creating energy and what better than kite-flying robots?

Bits & Pieces

Roland Schmehl at the Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands and his colleagues suggested this unusual technique because the winds on Mars are, on average, faster than on Earth although the atmosphere isn't as dense.

"The higher windspeeds and lower density to some degree balance out, but not fully, so we also need to increase the surface area of the kite quite drastically," says Schmehl.

He added: "We have seen something similar with the Ingenuity helicopter that is now flying on Mars - this helicopter has much bigger rotor blades than the small drones that you see here on Earth."

How would it work?

The kite would have a surface area of 50 square metres - which is pretty huge! It would be attached to a large drum on the ground with a cable, and as the kite flew up into Mars' sky, it would pull more of the cable which would rotated the drum - creating energy! The researchers also propose using 70 square metres of solar cells - which convert light into electricity.

Pairing these two methods would, according to the team, provide enough power to sustain a base on Mars, so astronauts could have power at night and store energy for different seasons. And that's not all. The team predicts a short-term energy solution through the use of lithium-sulphur batteries, and a longer term storage system would be made possible by compressing carbon dioxide gas from Mars's atmosphere in underground caverns - this gas could later be decompressed to reclaim the stored energy.

This whole system could provide about 127 megawatt-hours of energy per year - equivalent to the power produced by about 75 barrels of oil. "If we relate it to Earth, it would power about 20 households here in the Netherlands or about five households in the US," says Schmehl. "[A Mars base camp] is basically one household, four to five astronauts with a small lab."

From Invaluable.com

A series of Art Kites by Francisco Toledo

These art kites are all signed in blue ballpoint pen, lower right. Hand-made paper. Dimensions without the tail: 27 5/8in x 21 9/16in x 3/16in (702mm x 522mm x 4mm). The tail is approximately 30in (762mm) long.

Most of Toledo's kites are unsigned; only occasionally does he sign them, and then generally on the verso. These art kites are created from a stencil drawn and cut by Toledo in Arches paper. The stencil is then pressed into a hand made sheet of paper and hand coloured. When separated, the resulting contrast reveals the image.

to create background effects, etc. Francisco Benjamín López Toledo is arguably Mexico's most famous living artist. He studied at the Escuela de Bellas Artes de Oaxaca and the Centro Superior de Artes Aplicadas del Instituto Nacional de Bellas Artes, Mexico, where he studied graphic arts with Guillermo Silva Santamaria.



A tobacco tray with a bird-shaped kite

From the Meiji era, made by Shibata Zeshin between 1870 and 1890.

The deep tray with curved corners, and slightly recessed interior with indented corners. The wood body entirely covered in almost black chado-nuri finished to an ishime-nuri texture, the interior decorated in highly polished low black takamaki-e with a kite in the form of a crow viewed from below and upside-down (as indi-



Bits & Pieces

cated by the location of the signature on the base).

Details of the feet and eyes in silver lacquer. The kite string and its ties depicted in gold hiramaki-e partly incised in subori technique to indicate the individual twisted threads. The string extending over the top side and the base to the long-handled itomaki (winder) depicted on the side, its wood and bamboo components rendered in takamaki-e of gold, shibuichi, and shakudo powder incised in subori technique with wood grain, signed on the underside Zeshin in gold hiramaki-e.

Sold for \$17000

Alexis Akrihakis (1939—1994) Kite



Paper, wood and string in a plexi-glass box.

Sold for \$17000.

A Berlin KPM porcelain bowl in the style of the Japanese service for Friedrich II

The well finely painted with a depiction of two Chinoiserie figures flying kites. The rim with gilt tendrils and flowers in iron red. The original service, known as the "Japanese service for Frederick the Great" was commissioned by the king from KPM in 1770, just a few years after he ordered the identically titled service from Meissen. The décor differs substantially from the Meissen manufactory's version. Instead of animals playing the central role in the decorative scheme, the KPM service uses Chinoiserie figures designed to suit the interior of the Chinese House in the Sanssouci Palace gardens. In the catalogue "Kronschatz und Silberkammer der Hohenzollern", Samuel Wittwer describes the popularity of the service among Friedrich's de-

scendants, which led to the service continuously being added to.



Estimate €500—€1000

Other Auction Sites

Carved Red Coral 'Phoenix and Boy' Snuff Bottle



Bits & Pieces

China, Early 20th century Carved as a baluster vase with a pine tree dans boys playing kite, the stopper shaped as a phoenix. Well hollowed. Offered at auction with a wooden stand. H (without stand): 6,5 cm Weight: 18,3 grams .

Estimate €3000-5000

Phil McConnachie

Phil was a well known kite maker and designer, based in Ashburton at Peter Lynn kites for some time. Sadly he died recently but we are sure many kitefliers will remember his exploits both on and off the flying field.

The following was reposted by Andrew Beattie recently.



This is the only photo that I can find of it. An absolutely enormous condom, built by PLK, designed by Phil McConnachie, decades ago, maybe in the late 1980's.

It was commissioned to publicise World AIDS Day. It was exhibited in a number of places (I think the photo shows it at Scheveningen) and attracted quite a lot of TV coverage. The sponsor was delighted when one of the major TV channels included it in their news program and showed in their bulletin right across Europe, every 30 minutes for 24 hours.

Phil McConnachie, who designed it, had managed to faithfully represent the 2D characters in the comic in 3D fabric but the sponsor was not really prepared for the reality of inflating fabric in the wind. As the two characters sat astride their steed, the wind would move the condom in a slow, rhythmic motion, and the two characters would RIDE the motion, in a magnificently animated fashion. The sponsor implored: "Can you not make them, sit still?" But Phil could do nothing, even if he had wanted to.

To support the event, they published a comic book featuring the two characters riding the condom, preaching the gospel of protected sex and containing a real condom within the pages.

At first the volunteers were quite shy about handing them out, but after they had given

away a few hundred, they became more relaxed and 'blaze' about it and would hand them to everyone, young and old without a second thought

Apparently, they gave one to a frail little old lady in a wheelchair. This did not go down well – she open the booklet, saw the condom, then fuelled by offence, she stood upright and physically punched the volunteer who had handed it to her

Another notable incident occurred in a city centre. The plan had been to loft the condom under a kite but they were presented with a site that had a barrier round a plot that was only barely big enough for the condom alone – nowhere near enough space for a kite to work as a sky anchor. But the live TV crews were there, expecting a show, so the volunteers held the opening and they used fans to inflate it. All went well to start with, but it was a sunny day and it was not long before the air trapped in the condom began to warm up and since it was held only by one end, the tip soon started to venture skywards, creating the most phallic of images. The live TV cameras quickly turned away to broadcast pictures of the crowd, of the town centre, of ANYTHING rather than the 100 foot erection in front of them.

I understand that the piece no longer exists – that it was destroyed while in storage in some way.

BOGNOR Regis Kite Festival
Event Subject to any Current COVID-19 Restrictions
KING GEORGE V
Playing Fields - Felpham
28th - 29th - 30th August 2021
Children's Entertainment
Saturday - Sunday - Monday shows by Nick Clark
Bar & Street Food
Giant Inflatables & Fairground
Kite Making - Craft Stalls
Plus **-Live Music-**
LED Kite Display (Saturday Evening)
ELITE & ELTON ELTON JOHN EXPERIENCE Saturday Evening
Saturday 10:30am - 9:00pm
Sunday 10:30am - 5:00pm
Monday 10:30am - 5:00pm
Bank Holiday Family Fun
FREE EVENT
EVENT PARKING
BOGNOR REGIS TOWN COUNCIL
ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL
07841 456494 - 07854 854787
www.brkf.org
info@brkf.org
facebook

Kites Fighting Cancer



Kite by Ron Bohart—Received the highest bid of all the items. In the auction.

At the beginning of this year many kitefliers were contacted by Phil Broder to contribute a kite related item to a charity auction he was creating to help raise funds.

When Phil Broder learned his younger sister, Rebecca Broder Egolf, was preparing to lose her decades-long battle with cancer, he couldn't stand idly by. He turned to what he knew best: kites.



hoshikono by Ron Gibian

Phil recalled hearing about a group of kites who held an auction to raise money for pediatric cancer in Florida. As owner of Fly Market Kite-making Supply in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, he wondered if he might be able to do something similar to support cancer research at Cleveland Clinic, where his sister had been receiving her



"Walk In Beauty" by Deb Lenzen

care. He thought the fundraising initiative would also be a way to honour his parents who both died from lymphoma in 2017.

Phil wanted to go big. He knew many of the finest kitemakers in the world, having personally met them at invitation-only kite fairs in Canada, England, France, Portugal, Poland, India, China, and South Africa – where kiting events can attract millions of spectators. His auction, he decided, would feature true works of art from around the globe. It would raise enough money to have an impact.

In November 2020, Phil reached out to Cleveland Clinic's Philanthropy Institute to pitch his idea. "They were completely receptive from the get-go, but obviously this was a little different from what they were accustomed to. ... The biggest hitch was finding an online auction platform that could handle international bidders."

With Cleveland Clinic on board, Phil began getting commitments from kitemakers around the globe ... Colombia, New Zealand, Australia, Israel, Belgium, the Netherlands ... 47 kites in all from more than a dozen countries.

The month-long online auction culminated in a two-hour live feed on Facebook on Feb. 27, to highlight each individual kite's artistry and each kite maker's meticulous workmanship. And, of course, to watch the final competing bids soar.

The event raised more than \$40,000 for Cleveland Clinic. One-third of the proceeds will go to Cleveland Clinic's Lung Cancer and Drug Devel-

Kites Fighting Cancer



"Unfinished" and "Finished" by Maarten Van Hienen

opment Research Fund; the other two-thirds will go to the VeloSano Cancer Research Fund.

VeloSano (Latin for “swift cure”) is a well-known and well-supported Cleveland Clinic fundraising initiative that provides “seed funding” directly to physician researchers working to develop revolutionary cancer treatments. The initiative has raised more than \$24 million since its inception in 2014.

Phil, of course, is thrilled with the success of the auction and delighted to have been able to turn his passion for kites into a gift that could lead to a cure for a disease that has plagued his family.

But he readily admits, “For me, working on (the auction) occupied my mind ... and it gave me a reason to do something with my sister. ... The numbers are great, don’t get me wrong, but you know, it was five months of having Becca in my thoughts every day.”

“Becca got all the height in the family,” Phil quips, shifting the conversation. “It’s not fair.”

He laughs about almost taking her out with a baseball bat when they were kids – accidentally, of course. “She came up behind me while I was swinging; I didn’t know she was there.” It’s apparent the last thing Phil would ever want to do is harm his sister.

“She never fails to impress me,” he boasts, citing Becca’s achievements in college, in her career and her community. “She sets a goal and ... we’re like, wow, we didn’t see that coming, but good for her. She had these two sons and they’re both amazing kids. ... She turned out to be a really good mother, too.” Joshua, 16, attends Solon High School in suburban Cleveland and Jeremiah is a sophomore at Vanderbilt University studying biomedical engineering. Becca’s husband, Rabbi James Egolf, is a staff member at Cleveland Clinic’s Center for Spiritual Care.



American Bald Eagle banner—Gill Bloom

“Becca is making preparations and making sure that her family’s taken care of and her house is taken care of ... She has a checklist,” Phil offers.

While this is the first major fundraising initiative Phil organized, giving back has always been important to him. “It’s something my parents did. My father was a volunteer gardener for an organization down in Florida that helped kids who lost a parent, and he loved doing that. He went out in the blazing hot sun, three or four days a week, and pulled weeds and hauled manure ... so we had good examples.”

Sadly Rebecca died on the 10th June after her long battle.



Together we are Strong—Karin and Roger Stevens



flug.com