

THE KITEFLIER

www.thekitesociety.org.uk



Issue 170

January 2022

£2.50

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

New
From
HQ Kites
2022



All The Fun Of The Air!



Delta Rainbow



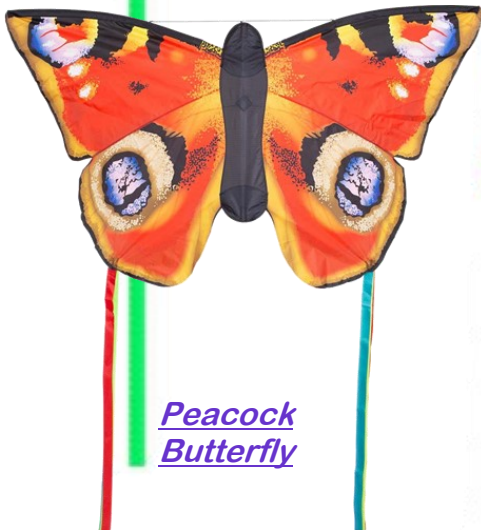
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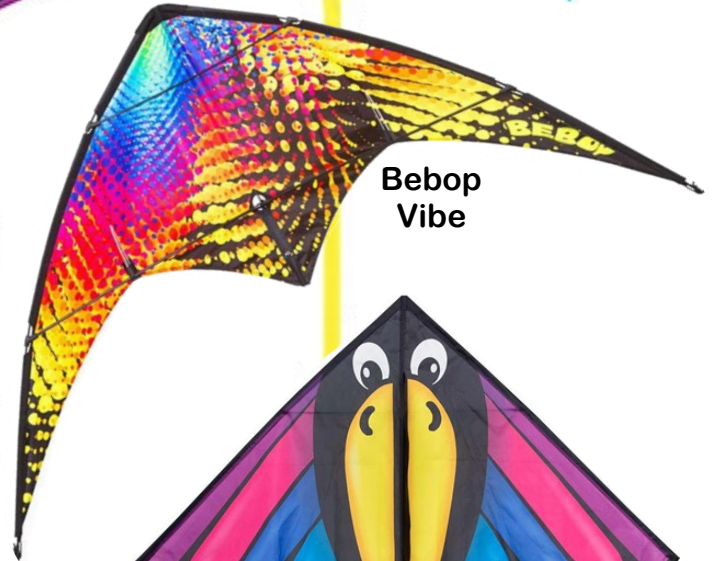
Delta
Rainbow
Checker



Dragonhead



Peacock
Butterfly



Bebop
Vibe

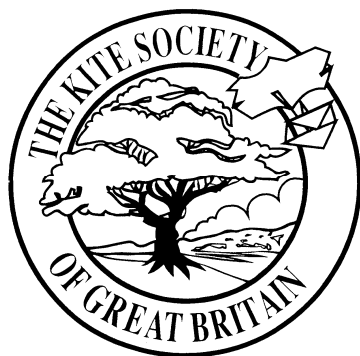


Delta Charly

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Editorial

Dear Reader

Well, another year has gone past and although strange some events have gone ahead, and we have been lucky enough to get away to some International events. Let us hope that 2022 will not be so fraught with concerns and worries about events and all can go ahead as planned.

**Bernhard Dingwerth's
Charlie Chaplin Kite**

**Photo taken on Cervia
Beach**

Jon Bloom

Talking of which, Bob Cruikshanks wrote to say "Indoor/zero wind flying; how do you do it, what type of kites do you use, do I need to be fit for running around etc? If you have never experienced low/no wind flying then the Indoor Fly-in is just the place to find out. No running involved and the only fans are those flying the kites. Don't have a light/suitable kite, not a problem as there will be kites available and the fliers are usually happy to let you try theirs. As with kite flying there are no professionals but there will be people to offer assistance and show you their different techniques. Don't miss this rare opportunity, put the St Joseph's Indoor Fly-in on the 30th January in your diary. St Joseph's College, Swindon, SN3 3LR

See link for further information. <https://tinyurl.com/3bjwwp48>.

Also you may have heard questions about the Berck Kite Festival and the current status. The organisation has changed and is no longer being performed by Gerard Clement. There are many reasons behind his decision but among them is the clash with the Cervia kite festival with no regard by the local council to take this into consideration—thus forcing people to make a choice. There are other reason too many to detail here. The event is proceeding under the kite management of R-Sky.

Finally, our thanks go to all of the contributors to this issue of the magazine. We are finding it harder all the time to fill the pages and without them we would be down to less than 20 pages. A big difference to the old days when we regularly hit 50+ pages. But time are different and it would be expected with new communication channels available. So we wonder, sometimes, if it is worth the struggle to get the pages together. We need more input from you—it is not difficult.

See you on the field this year

Gill and Jon

Membership Type	Fee
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Overseas (Europe)	£25.00
Overseas (Rest of World Airmail)	£30.00

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Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

Dependence

I hope this situation has been resolved by the time that you read this but as I write, a good kiting buddy of ours, Bryan Archer, from Poole has just reported his electrically powered bicycle as stolen.

Bryan doesn't own a car but lives within pedalling distance of a fantastic flying field and potential venue for a Kite festival, Baiter's Park, which is adjacent to the waters of Poole harbour.



(It even has Toilets!!)

Like me (only worse) Bryan has trouble walking too far and I've often envied him when he has had his own transport available to make the trip across to the little boys room.

I've included a photo of the currently missing vehicle that shows Bryan's trolley adaptation that enables him to provide his one man displays or regularly join in with other local flyers, occasionally including Marilyn and myself, when good weather welcomes us to the area.

There's also a photo (below) of the sort of displays we put on for our own amusement, filling the sky between us and never failing to attract I Some of you may have seen the videos we produced following our visits there?



Whoever stole his bike also took away his independence.

I hope things have turned out OK Bryan.

The SkyDancer is Back

I'm pleased to say that, this summer, after a long while, our friends Lex and Irma, otherwise known as British Dual Line Sport Kite Champions, Flying Fish, have added a second, David Davies, SkyDancer to their collection.



I'm not so sure that they will be attempting to fly them as close precision routines at the events they attend but it would be great if they could give them a few minutes air time because two of these kites, with tails are quite a spectacle and all audiences love to see tails!

It has been almost fourteen years since David left us his SkyDance legacy but they are still a favourite with many and create a lot of interest from people who have never seen them.

Different views

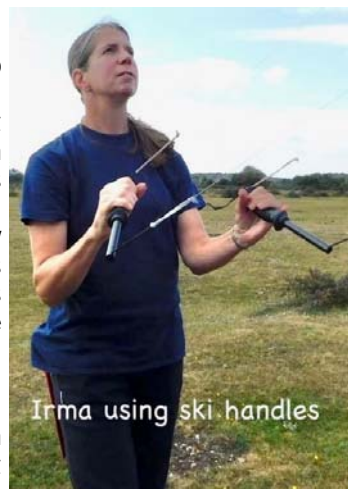
Amongst the owners, there has always been friendly debate on the different aspects of the kite and there's quite a lot that never reached the public eye.

For instance, we still have different types of "Brakes" that David had asked us to try (from 'socks' to nappies) and he made us a two piece leading edge so to fit better in our suit case to take and show off on one of our trips to the USA.

Some flyers like to use the familiar, curved handles that they are used to with other quad line kites but David always argued that they flew better with his adapted ski handles than with those swapped over from someone's Revolution.

We often visited him at his house in west London and flew locally to him getting involved in many of his experiments trying all sorts of variations along the way.

David had, of course, already tried and tested most of the stuff before we got to have a go



Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

and, really, he was just using us as crash dummies to prove his theories.

We both agreed with him about the handles.

Shush

We even, once persuaded David to fly a Revolution of ours but we promised not to tell anyone or to say what he thought of it.

It's not so easy flying pairs precision with Sky-Dancers as is with Revolution style, quad line kites because the frame is inherently more flexible and, therefore, loads up differently even when they are right next to each other in the sky.

Because they power up so differently one will fly off more quickly and the input required to slow it down is different to that of your fellow flyer.



To hold two or more sky dancers steadily in parallel is OK but you have to be very strong moving in synchronisation because the movements of the handles to control from standstill to whizzing off can be minuscule and the kites will be in different parts of the field in front of you before it's too late to rescue the moment.

We found this out, to our embarrassment a few times in the public arena before we ditched the idea and resorted to flying them independently.

However, we know Lex and Irma well enough to say that they will give their best attention and won't be trying anything until they have it all under control if not already.

Good luck Flying Fish with these and hope to see you flying them soon.

(Photos by Lex Kraaijeveld)

Whoops!

A Priest, a Rabbit and a Vicar attended a kite festival.

The Rabbit said "I think I'm a Typo!"

If you've read any of my previous articles then you will also have noticed the odd mistake - it's not down to Jon or Gill to decipher and correct my waffle, not that the odd blunder makes a whole lot of difference!

However, I would like to correct one from the last piece which, under the "Turn a kite over" section should have read that the kite must be pointing toward the middle of the window before you commence the manoeuvre of pulling the top line and releasing the bottom line.

There is a video on the closeencounterskites youtube channel if anyone wants a bit of guidance on this or, please feel free to contact me at anytime - what's the worst that could happen?

The Trek

When assembling The Trek I have to say that it really took me back to old school kites.

The centre T, the 6mm carbon rods, fibre glass standoffs, early Prism type leading edge connectors, standard rip stop nylon sail and even a set of lines!

Nothing new on the back of the kite and the sail standoffs are that weird, toughened flexi fibre glass stuff that I saw first on the Andy Preston Matrix.

I was not surprised to find that this kite was not too tricky and, therefore not inclined to oversteer which is a great plus for anyone learning to fly with this one.

A breeze of only around five or six miles per hour is required to get airborne, pull is not strong and it didn't tear around the sky when either I or Marilyn flew it.

There's a top, wind speed of 27mph claimed, not that I would be out flying were it that windy and especially not on the 100lb x 80 foot supplied lines.

Bridle

I don't do fiddly, but if I did, then I would definitely try something with the *bridle because I was so frustrated with the limited range of the kite's ability to do anything more than basic square turns, circles and half axels but then I suppose that I do have other kites if I want to get into that.

It does do the basics well and proved to be strong enough to survive my deliberately crashing it in to the ground and those that have seen me do that that will know that I don't mess about, I do that properly!

The wing span is 197cm and it stands 86cm tall and so that I didn't have to convert that to Eng-

Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

lish, there's a photo of it in a doorway to give a clearer idea of size.

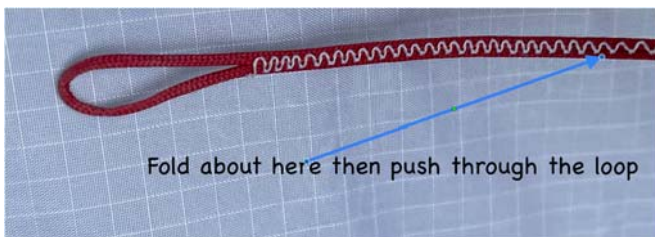


The manufacturer describes this as a family kite and, thinking about it, I'd agree. It's the sort of thing that Mum, Dad, Granddad would soon get the hang of on a day out and, who knows, they might even let the kids have a fly at some point?

I have to admit I was stumped for a second by the loop on the end of the lines but I soon figured out what to do. Not bad for someone who doesn't - well I won't say it again.

Amazing that in over thirty years now of indulging in this passion that I had never come across that before.

I won't try to explain in writing how to do this because I think I've done that in the photo. Once you have figured it out, you can pretend you knew how to do it anyway.



*Never try to alter bridles!!!

Octopi Soliloquy

Three cells or five? That is the question. Whether 'tis nobler in the sky to suffer the calms or gusts of outrageous fortune or to take arms against the elements and fly both?

To be honest, I thought the larger, five cell Octopus was going to be far the easiest to fly but, in reality, there was nothing to choose.

I suppose this was a case where size really didn't matter?

Flying straight out of the bag and once the wind had changed through one eighty degrees all three of the octopi we tested flew nicely and didn't want to fight with each other.



Certainly the larger had most presence in the sky but any change in wind strength or direction made no, noticeable difference in performance.

The length (including tails) will look similar in the sky with the size 'L' at 480cm compared to 410cm but the width is a full 50cm wider.

Sweetener

I was 'gifted' one of these years back as a 'free' add on to an order. I had waited, frustrated, with conflicting excuses for quite some time to receive an order from China and I'm guessing others will have done too and received the same, 'compensation'.

Quality was not in the same league - inferior bridle, awful line, no bag and the tails frayed after the second of two short flights.

I have not tested these for durability but, from new, they look much better with no signs of damage after their inaugural two hour flight.

Great fun to fly and they take up little room in a bag or suitcase - just perfect for leaving in the car for those days when you wish you had brought a kite with you.

Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

The Manta

Lots of the usual excuses from the far east as to why this one was delayed but, despite being announced at the beginning of the year, The Manta has only just found its way in to the shops with most of the stock rapidly disappearing on back orders. Working with an idea from Ralph Dietrich, Rainer Kuhlmann, from HQ, added the 'tribal' design.



The Manta stands 1.3 metres high (without the tail) and is 3.2 metres wide. The rip stop polyester sail is framed with 5mm carbon rods. Just looking at pictures and reading claims of a 2 to 16mph wind window my thinking was that this would encourage the owners of Ostend Birds to come up and fly alongside. This is certainly a big kite, therefore lots of sail area to sit on the gentlest of air movement and just the right amount of flexibility to hold its shape before it succumbs to stronger velocities and the angle of the dihedral changes thus avoiding a sudden, unwanted power-up.

Good practice

I would recommend first time *assembly out of the wind because this is not easy. *Tip: As with most kites, always start with the spine!

Exertion is needed to stretch out the leading edge tensioner over the special knock at the end - the first side is easier and, because of the sheer size of the Manta, it will flap about a bit just to be plain awkward :-)

However, you will be more inclined to use this on a calm day, because, after all, that is what you bought it for, and then you won't need to be wrestling with it. Neither Marilyn nor I were impressed with the tail.

We both thought it looked clumsy and might be better were it a different colour and Marilyn resolved to find a swirly tail such as the one on the dragon kite I wrote about in the last article - too late! the grandson has it now!

Flying high

There was certainly no problem with the initial launch and, as anticipated, the Manta wanted to soar. It so easily climbs that you might find yourself soon in trouble with maximum height restrictions and it still looks mighty big right up there too!

I tried pulling the kite overhead as much as it would go and then released loads of slack to see what happened. After a bit of gliding around the line tightened with the kite pointing at the ground but the tail did its job and brought things back to normal after a short, powered-up veer to one side when it re-balanced.

...and? Our verdict overall is that the Manta is a bit of a pain to assemble, I didn't like the thin black fibreglass rods that held the ears and bottom part of the body in place.

I couldn't see the point of having them as two pieces, joined with a ferrule when a single, long rod or, extra pockets, were two, better, choices. We did, however, like the way it looked and performed; it really was nice. Have you ever been to a festival where the only kites flying are the cheapie ones mums and dads have just bought from the trader whilst all t'other kites have come down?

Well, this will be the kite you'll be reaching for and you can fly it with a good deal of assurance.

A twist tail has been ordered and I will report back.

The last two years have not been good for communal gatherings of the kite fraternity. Let's hope that in 2022 we can change that...

Stay safe and fly safe.

Allan and Marilyn Pothecary
www.kitedisplays.co.uk

Someone sent me this



Not sure who shared this with me, on line, but it made me chuckle.



Flexifoil Curtain Lifting—Tony Collins

Flexifoil Curtain Lifting, FreeStacking and Tails plus Flags too!

In previous articles in *The Kiteflier* (Issues 158, 160 and 167) I showed how the original Flexifoil sparred power kites (Stacker 6, ProTeam 8 and Super 10) could be flown as Static Tethered Displays, both using 2 line tethered and single line tethered (with modified spars), as an alternative to flying them as power kites. With the tethered flying the kites can be flown singly or in stacks and with tails to enhance the display.

In this latest article I will explore potential to use Tethered Flexifoils for Art installations by curtain lifting, show how a new type of Stacking can be achieved and do a round up of how to use tails and flags with the tethered kites.

Flexifoil Curtain lifting

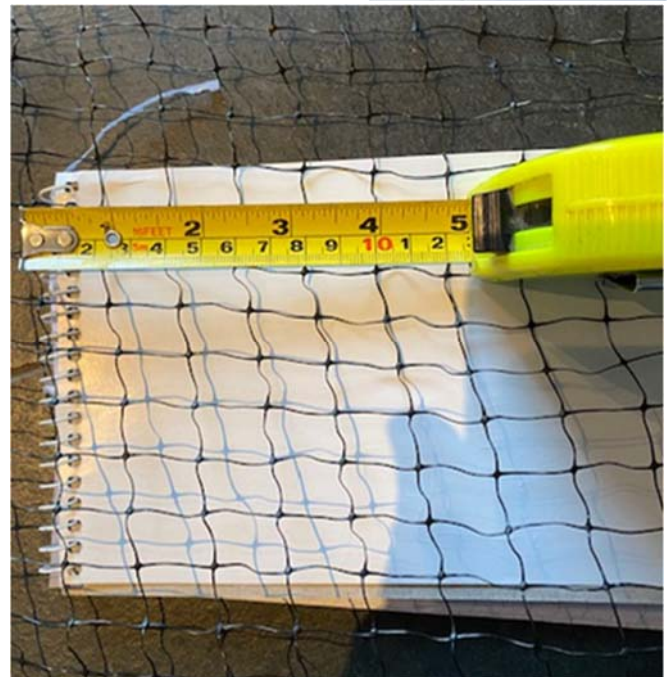
Back in the early 1970's during the design stages for Flexifoils, Ray Merry and Andrew Jones had many ideas as to how their invention might be used. One idea was that large versions of the kites might be utilized to lift large "curtains" as kind of outdoor art installations. Although proposed as a concept at that time my understanding is that this was never put into practice - a black and white artists impression is shown below :



Intrigued by this idea I set about trying this using a Super 10 kite and a 1.5 metre by 2.5 metre flag as a curtain.

As you can see from the picture (1) although the Super 10 is exerting some lift on the flag but the predominant force is the billowing of the flag rather like a square rigger sail. From this it was deduced that in order to actually lift a curtain it would need to be made of very porous material to hang down from the kite to any extent.

Next up I tried using some plastic garden mesh as a curtain. This had 2 cm square holes, so was pretty porous, and was suspended from a double stack of Super 10 kites.



You can see that even with a 2 cm mesh there is still some billowing but this certainly worked much better than a non porous curtain such as a flag (picture 2). A small black flag was attached to the mesh (centre top) which gives some idea of potential for decoration using a mesh as a framework.

Maybe some next steps would be using a larger stack of Flexifoils and certainly trying other materials for curtains - maybe plastic trellis netting with 10 cm mesh as a next step.

So more work to do and I think this idea also needs some artistic input to develop it further but there is some potential here to try and achieve the original concept from Ray Merry and Andrew Jones.

Flexifoil Curtain Lifting—Tony Collins

Free Stacking

While thinking about different ways of setting up Tethered Flexifoil displays I had been playing around with 2 line tethered stacks and single line tethered stacks when I happened on the idea which was named "Free Stacking". Instead of e.g. flying a conventional 3 stack of Flexifoils tethered on 2 lines I used the same pair of anchors to tether 3 kites but on their own set of lines - see photo's below:



Above are Free Stacks of 6,8, and 10 and last photograph 4, 6 and 10 Flexi's.

This "Free Stacking" creates a really good mobile display with the kites moving in slightly different motions depending on the wind conditions making a great alternative to conventionally stacked tethered kite flying.

The minimum spacing I have used is pairs of 5 metre, 10 metre and 15 metre lines which I prefer as the kites fly lower to the ground and thus spectators, but 10 metres, 20 metres and 30 metres works well too. Lines used were 300lbs.

The launch technique is to put up the lower kite first and then the second and third. And to take the kites down follow the same order - lowest kite first.

A Quick word on Spars for Flexifoil tethered displays

The above table on the next page shows the Standard Spar diameters and weights used by Flexifoil and these can be used for 2 line tethered displays in winds over say 10mph +

For Single line tethered displays I found that the standard spars needed replacing with much lighter "Modified spars" to attain stability and please note single line flying really needs ideally 15 mph + winds.

Please also note the "V" bridle set up for single line tethered flying can be found in my previous articles.

Additionally also note that the lighter Modified spars can also be used for 2 line tethered flying in 5mph to 10mph wind.

The modified spars are considerably lighter than the original Ultraflex light wind spars proposed by Flexifoil - ref the Super 10 information.



Flexifoil Curtain Lifting—Tony Collins

Table 1					
Flexifoil spars table					
KITE	Standard spar mm diameter	Standard spar weight + Connectors	Modified spar mm diameter	Modified spar weight + Connectors	Modified Spar detail
Hot Shot 4	6mm 2 piece tapered	47.8g	2mm or 3mm 2 piece straight	8g or 18g	Standard Carbon Fibre
Stacker 6	8mm 2 piece tapered	127g	4mm 2 piece straight	42g	Standard Carbon Fibre
Pro Tean 8	8mm 3 piece tapered ends	194g	7.6mm 3 piece tapered ends	82g	Skyshark P400 centre with Skyshark 5pt ends
Super 10	8mm 3 piece tapered ends	221g	7.6mm 4 piece tapered ends	115g	2 Skyshark P400 centres with Skyshark 5pt ends
N.B. Ultraflex Super 10 spar weighs 150g					

Tails and Flags Too !!

Flexifoil have previously published information on flying Flexifoils as power kites with tails and these of course also work very well for Tethered Flexifoil displays. Set ups I have previously used include a single tail on a "V" bridle and tails on each wing tip of the lower kite in a stack.



Additionally during this summer I started flying tethered Flexifoils using flags as tails and these work very well using different size flags depending on the kite size and also putting a suitable carbon fibre rod in the leading edge of the flags.

Facebook Page

I hope this article will inspire some of you to dust off those old forgotten Flexifoils sitting in



the loft or garage and have a go at some tethered flying and perhaps the more artistic of you can help crack the most elegant way to do curtain lifting displays.

During this last year I started a Facebook page "Flexifoil Single Line and Tethered Fliers" which has tons more information on the above subjects including the previous articles, lots of photo's also some videos

Lastly I wanted to make a shout out to anyone who may have a spare or redundant Flexifoil Hyper 12, 16 or 20 kite as they seem pretty rare and I have only ever seen one on eBay and I would love to try single line flying one of them. Perhaps you could contact me through the Kite Flier or message me through the Facebook page.

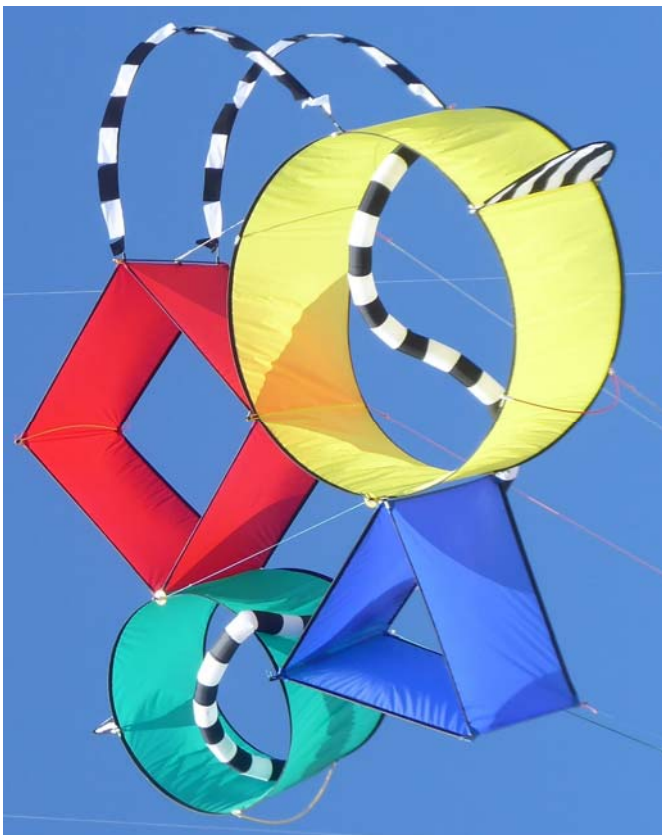
41st Artevento Kite Festival, Cervia

The kite festival in 2021 was moved from its normal late April dates to October, because of the restrictions that were in place due to Covid in April.



Adding to the banner display—picture Artevento

As we had not had a big event to go to we decided to bite the bullet and go for the complete event—all 10 days, and take the car through France so that we could load up everything we may need.



Asymmetrical Kite by Maurizio Cenci



Britto Kite by Gabriella Nobeli

Not having travelled abroad since the new regime started with the UK outside of the EU, we discovered late in the day that our passports—although not expiring until April 2022 were not going to be valid as the documents would be over 10 years from issue—a 'no-no' to Eu travel now.



Banner set by Florian Janich

Last minute renewals done online, for quick pickup from a Passport office arranged (for the additional cost) and a booking made to collect the passport—the morning of our journey start to Italy. So a 'short' run North to Peterborough followed almost going past the house back to Kent our journey began.

Uneventful journey down, easy entry to France and no-one checking documents when entering Italy (all that wasted paper!) we arrived in Cer-

41st Artevento Kite Festival, Cervia



Albert Trink's with one of his Afghanistan kites with the parade gathering behind.

via mid-afternoon on the Friday before the festival started.

All kitefliers were green pass checked for Covid status before being given a badge. There were obvious gaps in the normal attendees—with no-one travelling from outside Europe—although this did mean more room on the beach. The only other Brits were Malcolm and Jeanette Goodman and Peter Metcalf—although he does live in Italy now!.



Dolphin—one of a set, Bruno Cocandeu

Well—the event was amazing bar two the Sunday afternoons—the first with a spectacular thunderstorm, when every packed up very quickly and the second Sunday on the last afternoon with very high winds. Otherwise blue skies and lovely winds.



Kite by Gabriella Nobeli

Cervia always has a great display of art kites, and 2021 was no exception. As there was more room a lot of kites were being flown by each flier at the same time, that would have normally have been left in the bag. There was also a great display in the big kite area—Bernhard Dingwerth (one of this year's first time attendees) was particularly good with his new kites.

The traditional beach gatherings hosted by various nations still took place, albeit with fewer gatherings overall.

Next year's dates are 23rd April through to 1st May.

41st Artevvento Kite Festival, Cervia



Charlie Watts—by Albert Trinks



One of the Circus Kites—Eliana Mestiner



Koi Kite—Gill Bloom



Kite by Maurizio Cenci

Bits & Pieces

From The Sun Daily

Tionghua community in Sg Chua keeping traditional Malay pastime alive



KUALA LUMPUR: Exercise and jogging are among the usual activities at a recreation park in Kajang, but for a group of men from the Tionghua community, they prefer to spend their leisure time flying Wau, a traditional kite widely found in Kelantan. They can be seen taking part in the traditional Malay pastime almost every afternoon at the Sungai Chua Recreation Park.

A kite-flying enthusiast, Tan Chin Seong, 36, who started flying kites at the age of 10 said he picked up the hobby from his late grandfather, Tan Eng Keat.

"My grandfather used to play ordinary kites, but over time when he became friends with a Malay neighbour who is good at making traditional kites, my grandfather also learned how to make it because he was attracted to the uniqueness and the beautiful patterns. After finishing school, I tried to make my own traditional kite based on a little research from books and the internet. I am still polishing my skills," he told Bernama recently.

Although there are some who consider the traditional pastime as outdated, Tan is of the view that it needs to be preserved for the sake of the coming generations.

"Although not as skilled as the Wau makers from the east coast states, I am proud because not many Chinese people have these Wau-making skills," he said.

To date, Tan, who is an automotive trader, has managed to produce more than 50 types of traditional kites, including Wau Barat, Wau Bulan, Wau Burung, Wau Jala Budi and Wau Kucing. He said that it took him up to two days to complete a kite, starting from the process of finding and thinning out several bamboo sticks to attaching a thin layer of plastic to the frame. For Sum Chock Ying, 58, there is nothing more satisfying than seeing the kites he made soar-

ing in the air. He also made the hobby as a source of side income by selling it at prices ranging from RM30 to RM100 depending on sizes.

From The Kathmandu Post

Rediscovering the joy of flying kites

Kite flying during the time of Dashain is no longer as popular as it once was, but one startup is hoping to change that.



His childhood love for flying kites and a nostalgia for the way Kathmandu once celebrated Dashain led Chaulagain to start his business Kites Nepal.

"The idea of setting up this business came to me last year. The months of lockdowns had me wanting to take part in outdoor activities. Since Dashain was approaching, I decided to go to Kalimati to buy kites and the necessary reels," says Chaulagain. "I was so surprised to see vendors selling low-quality kites and reels at exorbitant prices. I was quite shocked to see that while prices of kites and reels have gone up, the quality of materials seems to have declined. That is when I decided to start my own business. The business is my attempt to make quality kites and gears accessible to people, and I hope that this would once again have people finding joy in flying kites during Dashain."

But why is it that kites are exclusively flown during the time of Dashain? "Back when the majority of people in the Valley were farmers, people believed that flying kites is a signal to Indra, the god of rain, to stop the rain as the farmers get done planting crops by Dashain," says Nirmal Man Tuladhar, a cultural heritage expert and professor of linguistics at Tribhuvan University. "It is also believed that flying kites during an auspicious time like Dashain brings happiness, good health, and peace in the family. Some also believe that flying kites is a way to communicate with deceased family members and show them the way to heaven."

Tuladhar, who grew up in Asan, fondly remembers how the neighbourhood skies would get strewn with kites during Dashain season.

Bits & Pieces

"It used to be very challenging flying kites in Asan during Dashain because there used to be just too many kites up in the sky. That's how popular flying kites were back then."

The decline of the culture of flying kites, say cultural observers, was a gradual one. "As children, we flew kites from the rooftops of our houses. Back in those days, rooftops didn't use to be fenced, and it was quite common for children to fall over buildings while being engrossed in flying kites," says Tuladhar. "So naturally parents preferred children to either fly kites in open fields or play indoors."

Initially, Chaulagain wanted Kites Nepal to manufacture its own kites and reels. His aim was to make kites from Nepali paper, but he soon realised it wasn't a practical idea. "To make a kit using the traditional method takes around 20 minutes, and that aspect made mass-producing such kites time consuming and financially costly, and a machine that makes such kites cost around Rs one million," says Chaulagain.

To market its products, Kites Nepal relies solely on social media. "Thanks to social media, startups like us can market our products without having to invest heavily on advertisements," says Chaulagain. "Customers can place orders via our social media pages and we also offer home delivery service."

Since kites are exclusively flown during the month of Dashain, kite sellers like Kites Nepal have a one- or two-month window to sell their products. "Being a seasonal business comes with its own set of challenges. But selling kites isn't the only thing we see ourselves doing," says Chaulagain. "We are planning to organise kite-flying (changa chait) festivals and workshops for young children on making and flying kites. The aim is to get people to rediscover the joys of flying kites."

From the Greens.scot web site.

Shetland Greens fly kites for COP26 at Gilbertson Park

Local members of the Scottish Green Party took their message of climate action into the air as they flew kites at Gilbertson Park in Lerwick on a blustery Saturday afternoon.

Messages to world leaders such as "Green New Deal", "Stop Fast Fashion" and "Just Transition" were written by Shetland climate activists on pieces of bunting which were hoisted into the air by large lift kites, operated by airborne wind energy engineer Rod Read, who also demonstrated a spinning kite turbine, a prototype of a larger kite that can generate 10kW of electric power.

Shetland Greens co-coordinator Martin Randall said, "With the debate about the Cambo oilfield raging and COP26 just about to begin, the eyes



of the world are on Shetland. Now is the time for us to raise our voices and say that we've had enough of a world in which a love of money takes precedence over everything else. That system has caused poverty, isolation and environmental destruction. Scientific forecasts show that if we keep the status quo, the consequences will be dire.

Another world is possible, in which our children's future is made safe and all of our basic needs are catered for. We hope that this is the world that we can win at COP26"

Kite artisan in Japan hopes tigers bring strength to new year

KITAKYUSHU — Artisans at a workshop are busy making kites depicting tigers in Tobata Ward, Kitakyushu, as 2022 is the Year of the Tiger in the Chinese zodiac. Yoshihiro Takeuchi, 78, a kite craftsman and the owner of Kite House Magoji, builds the kite frames using bamboo and glues traditional washi paper onto them, while his daughter Azusa Tateishi, 43, paints them. Most of the bamboo used for their kites are from Fukuoka Prefecture. "I'm making the kites in the hopes that next year will be strong and we won't lose to the pandemic," Takeuchi said.

Edo Kakudako kite maker prepares for new year in Japan

A kite maker in Chosei, Chiba Prefecture, is putting the finishing touches on an Edo Kakudako kite, considered good luck charms for the New Year. The kites, which are completely made by hand, feature images of tigers as 2022 is the Year of the Tiger in the Chinese zodiac. "This is a piece of traditional culture that has the essence of the Edo style," said the kite maker



Bits & Pieces



Mikio Toki, 71. "I want to make sure it gets passed on to the next generation."

Bamboo harvested from Camp Zama to be used to construct traditional giant kite

A local organization dedicated to preserving the Japanese tradition of kite-making was at Camp Zama to harvest bamboo with help from the commander of U.S. Army Garrison Japan.

Members of the Sagami Giant Kite Preservation Association, Kassaka District, visit the installation annually to cut and gather bamboo found near the Camp Zama Golf Course's driving range. The bamboo is dried and later used to construct a giant kite that is flown during a festival held in May.

Toshiaki Yaita, president of the SGKPA, Kassaka District, said the bamboo he and his team harvest from Camp Zama is used to make the giant kite's framework. They harvested about 280 stalks this year, Yaita said. Along with bamboo, giant kites are constructed of handmade Japanese paper and are built to a size of about 48 feet tall. Each kite weighs more than 2,000 pounds and requires a team of 80 to 100 people controlling a 650-foot-long rope to fly it.

The next festival, scheduled for May 2022, will be the first time it will be held since 2019, as it was canceled the previous two years due to COVID-19. Yaita is hopeful the festival will go on as planned.

"It's very important to prepare for [the festival] as if it will be held for the sake of perpetuating our traditional culture," Yaita said. The USAG Japan commander attends the Giant Kite Festival, held at the nearby Sagami River, as a bilateral engagement. The festival in May 2022 is scheduled to be the first for Col. Christopher L. Tomlinson to attend since he took command in August.

"Camp Zama and our community are right next to each other, so we feel very special and proud



to be able to use Camp Zama's bamboo to make our local traditional kites," Uchida said. "Sagamihara City's giant kite festival always starts with the harvesting of bamboo from Camp Zama."

Around the Auctions

From *Invaluable.com*

Jim Davidson Style Girl With Kite Bronze Statue.



Detailed bronze statue in the manner of Jim Davidson of a girl in a ponytail flying a kite with ribboned tails. Girl holds kite with right hand and a bar with metal wire for thread in left hand; wire extends from left hand to kite tails.

20th Century, USA

H: 58" W: ~18" L: 21"

Estimate \$200-2000

Ebay

1789 Newcastle Upon Tyne Castle John Brand History Children Kite Antique Print

Titled "The View of the Old Castle of Newcastle upon Tyne." A most attractive view of the Castle that gives the name to Newcastle upon Tyne. With children playing in the street, flying a handsome kite.

The engraving is taken from John Brand's "History and Antiquities of the Town and County of the Town of Newcastle upon Tyne...." which was published in 1789.

A genuine 18th century, Georgian engraving.

Bits & Pieces



Size: the sheet measures approx. 22.5cms x 19cms. Condition: Very neat repair to tear in title area. Also top left hand corner. Generally, the print is a bit grubby, but still very acceptable, and ready for framing.

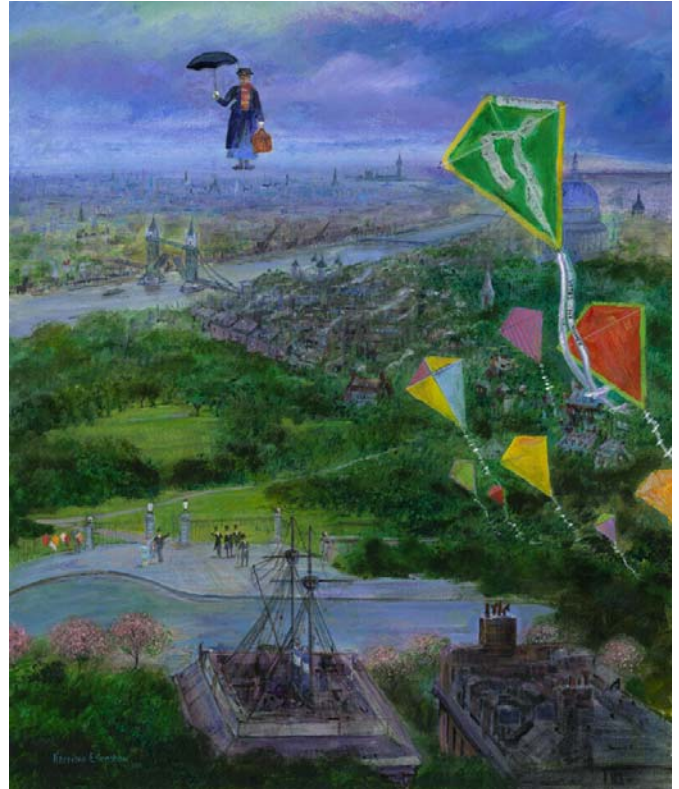
Priced at £24.99 plus postage.

Daikokten Kite Auspicious Copper Okimono Statue Japanese Original Vintage
Height about 280mm. Width 300x150mm. The kite is written as a dragon in Kanji



Priced at \$780 plus shipping.

Mary Poppins Walt Disney Fine Art Harrison Ellenshaw Signed Ltd Ed 95 Fly a Kite



A Limited edition canvas print. Gidee on canvas and hand embellished. Size 36" x 24". Provided unframed and rolled in tube.

Price \$895 plus shipping.

Francisco Lufinha crosses the Atlantic on a kite-powered boat

Francisco Lufinha has successfully completed the 6,700-kilometer (4,160 miles) crossing of the Atlantic Ocean on a kite-powered multi-hull boat.

The kitesurfer kicked off the sailing challenge on November 3, 2021, in Cascais, Portugal. Five days later, Lufinha was forced to make a technical stop in La Palma, in the Canary Islands, where he fixed malfunctions in his kite and made some minor adjustments to the boat.

After resuming the journey, the Portuguese ocean explorer faced extreme air and water temperatures, on-the-fly repairs, and strong winds.

He even found time to answer a call from the Portuguese president, Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa. On December 20, the kiteboarder sighted land and arrived at Anse Meunier Beach, in Martinique, at 11 am, local time. "The transatlantic mission was by far the most physically and psychologically demanding challenge I have overcome to date," expressed Francisco Lufinha.

"There were several tense moments and resilience tests from developing the boat and preparing the crossing to the 47 days en route to the Caribbean. I fulfilled another dream. It was

Bits & Pieces



another extreme achievement, and I couldn't be more pleased - mission accomplished."

The connection between the Canaries and the Caribbean took 20 days. The Guinness World Records is expected to confirm Lufinha's fastest ever solo crossing of the Atlantic Ocean in a kite boat.

One of the Atlantic Mission goals supported by a Portuguese electric utility company was to prove that the power of wind, water, and the sun is inexhaustible. The specially designed multi-hull boat was exclusively powered by renewable energy. It used a kite, solar panels, and a hydro-generator to generate thrust and sail across the Atlantic waters.

Kite Flyers Mug 15oz on Etsy

This Mug Has Been Designed For The Kite Flyer That Hides In All Of Us. Designed By A Kite Flyer, The Images Are Selected To Induce Discussion And Hopefully For Some To Look Back In Fondness.



They are easy to clean, microwave-safe, and the orca coating means they can withstand up to 3000 cycles in the dishwasher. Bright And Cheerful Gift For All Kite Lovers Search for Classy Gear

Kite power technology reaching new heights in Shetland

The strong wind speeds of Shetland are being used by an inventor to develop innovative technology to generate electricity using kites. Rod Read hopes to build on more than a decade of research and development to create a portable system capable of producing 10kilowatts (kW). Mr Read, who recently moved to Shetland from the Outer Hebrides, has already produced prototypes, including one that generates 1.5kW. And he has secured £40,000 backing from Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) for the £190,000 first phase of the project.

Mr Read's Windswept and Interesting company is one of only around 40 in the world dedicated to kite energy. Although a relatively new concept, it is gathering global interest as a scalable carbon-neutral power option of the future. The system being developed in Shetland uses wind to lift it high in the air and connects the hoops of a rotary kite to a ground-based generator. It is compact enough to fit in a small electric vehicle and can also be used to charge it. Mr Read, who has been working with academic partners including Strathclyde University, believes a portable low-cost kite wind turbine could appeal to crofters, eco travellers and farm workers.



He said: "The whole idea with kite power is about making lightweight and scalable systems, which can fly in stronger winds at higher altitudes.

"The operational capacity of kite turbines to scale is not yet known, which is the biggest research and development challenge faced in bringing the product to market and this is what this project aims to address. Shetland offers a fantastic opportunity to prove durability and reliability in higher wind speeds. We are really pleased with the funding we have received from HIE to support our project."

The company was also successful in securing Shell Gamechanger initiative funding and has been given support by Shetland Islands Council. The mechanisms behind kite turbines are new and the system is an emerging technology, which could make the Highlands and Islands a leader in this new field of technology."

Mr Read is developing plans to use part of Scatsta Airport, which closed flights in 2019, to test the technology. Two jobs are expected to be created by the project over the next three years. John MacKenzie, senior development manager at HIE, said: "This is a really exciting project and one that could potentially benefit remote communities and create more jobs in our region. The innovative energy system is low-cost and uses less carbon than other renewable energy options. The mechanisms behind kite turbines are new and the system is an emerging technology."

Just Like London Buses—Peter & Sarah Bindon

Like many other kites around the world, we've suffered from a lack of festivals in the last 18 months or so. This year was no exception. That was until the back end of the festival season when they all came at once.

We were lucky enough to get invited to Portsmouth which was lovely to be able to attend having last visited back in 2010 which was the year of the dinosaur for anyone who remembers.

We live on the outskirts of Leeds so the journey down was always going to be a long one although we hadn't factored for virtually wall to wall traffic from about Sheffield. With forecasts of gales, rain and even thunderstorms, the outlook for kite flying wasn't looking favourable but after a hearty breakfast we drove to the field and set up ready to help put on a show.

Well we certainly got wind – lots of it – and at times heavy downpours but thankfully no lightning. We even got our fair share of blue sky and lengthy dry patches. Given the conditions I thought everyone put on a great display.



Gill and Jon obviously had to replace the international guests with a number of UK based fliers, ourselves included, and we felt that everyone contributed to a super event over both days. Seeing everyone after so long was as much a highlight of the weekend as was the kite flying.

OK we came back we a few repairs to do and a bag of damp kites, one of wet kites and another of soaking ripstop. The joys of flying inflatables :-)

All in all a great festival and one we hope not to leave so long before returning.

Three weeks later and after numerous phone calls and zoom meetings we were on the way down on the South coast again. This time it was for an event of a very different type in Plymouth. We were privileged to have been able to be part of the Hatchling performance which took place on Hoe and was organised by

Trigger Stuff, Carl Robertshaw and Stephen Hoath all of whom put on an amazing spectacle after getting everything up and running again so smoothly following the change of date.

Wow, what an amazing experience. Any nerves we had about joining an established team were quickly swept away, we were welcomed and walked through everything and things quickly became clearer.

It really was a huge team effort and we thank the amazing kite team so much who made us feel welcome and guided us through this crazy weekend. It was great to work alongside old and new friends and hopefully we'll get to do it again one day!

The transformation of the massive dragon walking through the city centre under the skilled guidance of the team of puppeteers to it flying high over the Sound was nothing short of spectacular. A real combination of art and engineering, this was certainly a triumph for Carl and the team involved in designing and building the creature.

The fully blacked out maxi manta ray was kept in the bag due to the lack of wind so plan B of using a helium balloon was put into action. At 6.5m even the balloon man admitted he'd never handled one of that size before. A bit worrying as it was being filled with helium and being held in place by a number of the assembled kite fliers. Visions of the film Up came to mind.

With the planning and choreography headed up by Stephen and Carl, we all had our roles for the performance and everything seemed to slot in place as the evening went on. We certainly won't ever forget the roar and cheers from the audience, thousands in number, when she took off or the cheering and clapping from the puppeteers when we transferred her from the land anchors to the boat which was another adventure of us land based kites. Some fantastic teamwork and an event that will sit long in the memory.



Just Like London Buses—Peter & Sarah Bindon

Indeed only a fortnight later we were outside a hotel in St Annes reliving the event as one by one fliers arrived for the festival and congregated outside for a Friday evening drink or two.

We'd missed the festival there for the last couple of years due to a storm caused the date to be rearranged in 2019 and obviously Covid last year. This time weather conditions were spot on. We had sun and wind which resulted in a sky full of kites. Craig and Sue of SmileFactor10 and all involved organised a great weekend. The arrangements of the 3 arena areas worked well with plenty of space to get a good range of kites up on both days.



The following week saw us take the caravan over to Bridlington on the opposite coast. It's a festival that has a history of some fliers getting up at silly o'clock to take up prime position and this year was no exception. This meant we were squeezed in near "that tree" on the Saturday so had an awful time of it which was frustrating given the lack of flying from those early starters. Enough said so if you can't beat them join them and we moved our car relatively early the following morning. With the wind coming over the trees it wasn't ideal but we did get more flying done on day two.



The very next weekend saw the first Filey kite festival. With the journey between the two events being only 10 miles, we had originally planned to stay over during the week but after arriving at the Filey Brigg caravan site on the Friday we were glad we hadn't. We'd been given the most uneven pitch I think we've stayed on a proper site which took the combined might of a few kiterers to work out how to set the caravan up. Thanks to those involved we settled down for another weekend of flying.

The wind swung by about 90 degrees on the Saturday causing a few of us having to move and also others to have to collect their kites from some trees (successfully I'm glad to report).

Sunday the wind came straight off the sea which sounds good but when you are at the top of a cliff, seasoned fliers will know that it can be challenging - at least until you can get the kites high enough. The other challenge of the day was the torrential rain that came in the afternoon which gave us the choice to pack away early or just keep on flying as the kites were wet anyway. We chose the latter. Good job we'd packed the wet bags again.



After the rush of events towards the back end of the year, the kite flying didn't stop there - we had some kites to dry which we did a couple of days later up near the beautiful scenery next to Malham Tarn.

We even returned there again for One Sky One World although this time our kites went home dry after flying about 30 different stick kites.

See you all in 2022

Peter & Sarah Bindon
www.peterbindon.com

Gozo Kite Festival 2021

It was nice to find out that the 2021 Gozo kite festival was going ahead, despite the ongoing restrictions, and Malta was allowing UK people in with only proof of vaccination—so we decided to go. Risking flights this time!

There were strong winds on the Friday (but we arrived late in the afternoon, so missed that fun) and the parade through the town had been cancelled due to Covid. Saturday was strong, but manageable winds and Sunday was light

winds. It was sunny and warm both days—so no complaints.

A great event with a warm welcome by the locals. This event is always well attended by the Gozo population as well as the relevant ‘money’ people.

Long may it continue.



New dyed Rainbow banner set—Gill Bloom



Horse by Chrstof Deggelmann with one of the local churches in the background.



Minister for Gozo, with family and organisers.

Gozo Kite Festival 2021



Two African Ladies, part of a set, by Karin and Roger Stevens.



Chrstof Deggelmann—Witches at Sunset



Banner Display—Gill Bloom



Events List

2022		
April		
23 – 1/5	Berck-sur-Mer Kite Festival, Berck-Sur-Mer, Nord-	www.cerf-volant-berck.com
23 – 1/5	Cervia International Kite Festival, Pinarella Beach, Cervia, Italy	artevento.com
June		
2-5	Margam Park Kite Event, Port Talbot, Wales.	margampark@npt.gov.uk
26	Hampstead Heath Kite Display, Hamstead Heath, London	Hampstead@thekitesociety.org.uk
July		
2-3	Barmouth Kite Festival, on the beach opposite the Lifeboat Station, Barmouth, Mid Wales	kitesbarmouth@gmail.com
9-10	Leominster and Hereford Kite Festival, The National Trust's Berrington Hall, Leominster, Herefordshire HR6 0DW	www.kitefestival.org.uk
August		
6-7	Portsmouth International Kite Festival, Southsea Common, Portsmouth TBC.	portsmouth@thekitesociety.org.uk
27-29	Bognor Regis Kite Festival, King George V Playing Fields, Felpham, Bognor Regis, West Sussex PO22 8QS	www.brkf.org/kite-festival.html
September		
2-4	St Annes International Kite Festival, Lytham St Annes, FY8 1SB	www.discoverfylde.co.uk/kitefestival/
NOTE		
	Poole International Kite Festival, Baiter Park, Poole. Date to be confirmed.	poole@thekitesociety.org.uk

Portsmouth 6th & 7th August

Discussions are still ongoing with Portsmouth City Council and the 30th Portsmouth Kite Festival is provisionally booked for 6th & 7th August. Final confirmation is expected by the end of February, so keep a watch on the festival web pages www.portsmouthkitefestival.org.uk.

This year will be the 30th iteration of the Portsmouth International Kite Festival and we hope to bring new and returning kite fliers and make the event extra special.

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.

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 5th August 10am until Monday 8th August noon**.

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

tug.com

