

# THE KITEFLIER

[www.thekitesociety.org.uk](http://www.thekitesociety.org.uk)



**Issue 171**

**April 2022**

**£2.50**

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



New  
From  
HQ Kites  
2022



All The Fun Of The Air!



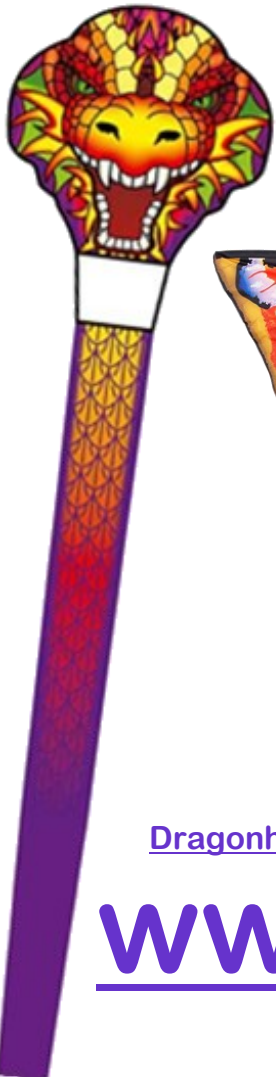
Delta Rainbow



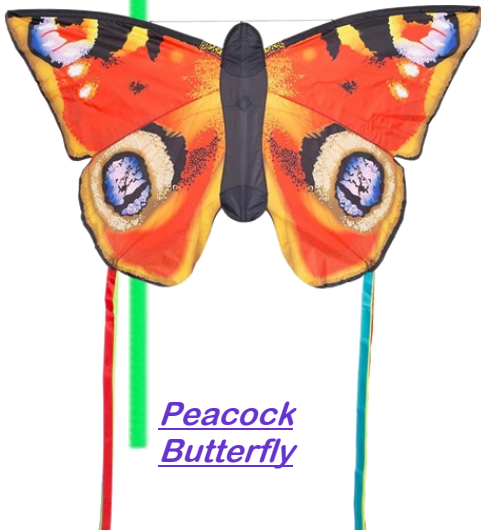
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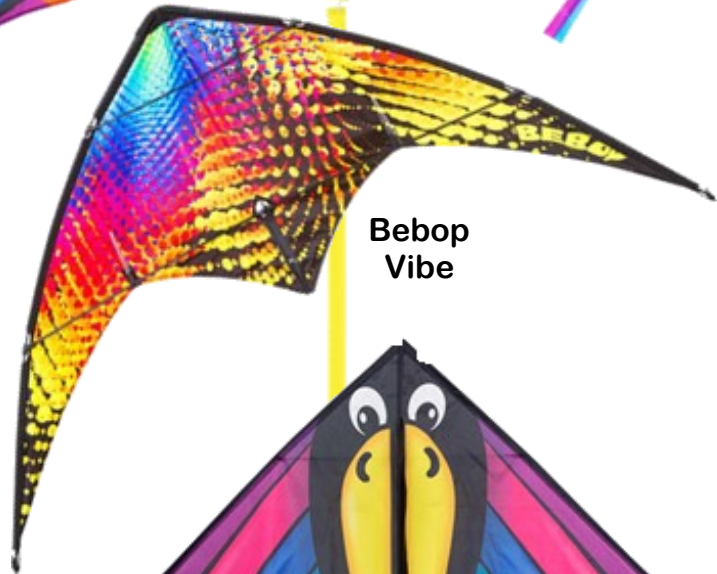
Delta  
Rainbow  
Checker



Dragonhead



Peacock  
Butterfly



**Bebop  
Vibe**



Delta Charly

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**Editorial**

Dear Reader

2022 is looking to be a much better year than the last two years and hopefully people will be able to get out and fly kites a lot more. The events are certainly looking up, with the major events back on and Portsmouth with the international contingent back.

**Front Cover**  
**Cellular Kite made by Livio Fufi Olivetto**  
**Photo: Gill Bloom**

We were hoping to be able to add a new event this year at Poole, but organisational issues at the council, combined with a lack of available staff means the event will not happen this year. Hopefully 2023.

Many of you will remember John Barker and BMISS. Stephen Billings is organising a day to remember him on the 11th September, the day before the 10th anniversary of his death. Stephen had hoped to have a central place to do this but has decided to ask people to just bung bears where they are and would like to have photos from anyone who drops bears, on the day so he can put together a tribute folder of pics. Please send them to [stephen-billings42@gmail.com](mailto:stephen-billings42@gmail.com).

As you can see this issue is slim (again). We thank the people who send us information for the pages, but we are constantly looking for kite related items. So why not send us something!

Finally, there is an opportunity to see The Hatchling as part of the Jubilee celebrations in London 5th June.

"Our Hatchling dragon puppet will lead an array of cultural celebrations outside Buckingham Palace at the Platinum Jubilee Pageant this summer, bringing central London to life with colour, street theatre and dance. As she curiously and playfully explores The Mall, the Hatchling will be greeted by a friend. A single dancer - a joyful young woman with a flowing ribbon baton in hand, who will joyfully skip, dance and play with the dragon as they interact with the crowds around them. Intricate kites and long, flowing ribbons will unfurl at the dragon's wings, adding a sense of flight, excitement and celebration. Their activity heralds the arrival of the pageant parade which they will guide towards the palace. Our dragon will be brought to life by the original puppetry cast from The Hatchling's Plymouth premiere, alongside talented performers, with more details to be announced. "

Could be interesting

Gill and Jon

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

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## Pothecary Corner

We are often contacted via our YouTube channel or website for advice or recommendations on all things kite related and we always try to respond to everything, although, I have to say, I can be left wondering what exactly it is the person on the other end wants to know.

Of course we are always ready for a bit of banter or just a chat and are interested to hear from anyone about their kite flying adventures.

We recently had a guy called Simon - never met him but he seemed OK - contact us about the practice of sleeving after he had seen the video that KiteWorld asked us to produce on the subject.



In replying I thought that it might be good to go back and redo an article on line adjustment I did many years ago as there will be many who missed it or have not found it on our website.

I'll do that later but first I thought it might be good to share what we said....

*Simon....*

*Putting an overhand knot in a line reduces the strength of the kite line by 50%, it looks like you are using Dyneema kite line. The 12 strand braid line can be spliced using a Brummel lock splice which keeps the strength at 85-90% and you thread the sleeving on before making the splice.*

Thanks for your interesting input Simon.

True the strength would be decreased by the overhand were it line on line friction under tension but the sleeve itself prevents that by cushioning and not allowing the actual line to touch, which is 90% of the point of sleeving in the first place.

If the simple overhand knot is still a worry then we do have a video explaining how to do a figure of eight knot.

<https://sites.google.com/view/kitedisplays/tutorials/figure-of-eight-knot>



This will reduce the tension further and should, at least, be used when using line only and flying single line kites (as in say, a 250lb line).

More importantly, if you find that you are constantly breaking lines then you really should be looking at using a higher breaking strain rather than the knot.

However, having the line break at the knot on the line when you fly sport kites can be quite a money saver over having the line give out halfway along.

The good quality sport kite line we used in competition and for demos was (and is still) quite expensive but, having only lost a few inches we could have then easily continue to use the line after re-sleeving and making a levelling out adjustment either in the leader lines at the kite end or in the adjustment lines on the straps (handles).

There is an article on our website on simply adjusting line length without the need to continually adjust sleeving again, [www.kitedisplays.co.uk](http://www.kitedisplays.co.uk)

I like the 'splice' idea but, clearly, if you knew me then you'd know that my catch phrase is - "I don't do fiddly".

The hints and tips on our website, on YouTube and in any magazines I submit my articles to, are aimed at flyers who may not have come across the things others take for granted and don't know where else to look.

Hopefully, I reveal some of the mysteries we couldn't solve when we first started flying.

And, thankfully, reading down the list of comments below our video, looking at the number of likes (114) and the percentage of "Thumbs down dislikes" (Zero) against the number of views (17,230 and rising), I seem to be achieving that.



## Pothecary Corner

*Simon*

*Thanks for your response. I am interested in Knots and their applications and like to point out that there are other ways to making kite lines and other various artifacts. I thought the sleeving was to protect from abrasion when tying to the pig tail. I don't believe that the sleeving would cushion the overhand knot that much.*

I respect your opinion Simon but this has been the tried and tested method over many years for this particular application and has been the whole point of using sleeving.



Certainly, in different settings, such as, say, boating, then there could be possible repercussions using this method.

With large kites and those generating excessive amounts of pull, I know that the more experienced flyers who would be flying these types of kites would, by experience, have learned the best ways of securing their equipment but, for the while, tried and tested seems to working fine for most.

*No Reply*

Well that seems to be as far as we are going with that one.

Simon either has taken my point and agrees that it's 'horses for courses' or he thinks I'm a twit, and not worth the bother of continuing.

Either way, I hope you find it interesting and may well be thinking differently again - so why not write in for the next issue and tell us what you think?

Oh, and Simon, if you are reading this then thanks for your contact, much appreciated.

*Postscript.*

As I am writing this, I had another strange enquiry.

The story is that about three years back we made a video and posted it on YouTube of the HQ, EasyQuad. (I did an article here too!).

The video has, to date, received about twelve thousand visits and now I have been asked to redo it with French sub headings embedded.

So the enquiry was why have we redone it with the French overlays?

Well I am afraid the only answer I think of was - "That people who could only read French would be able to understand it?"

My ghastr is flabbered!

### **FLEXIFOIL**

Of recent times I have been having some contact with Flexifoil.

I was very interested to see their astonishing offer of selling four kites for the price of one. This is to mark the celebration of Flexifoil's fifty years anniversary.

Obviously you were going to be paying the price of the most expensive kite or there would be no profit at all for them but this was something worth delving deeper in to especially as one of them happened to be a single line kite; something I didn't know this company did.

It turned out that two of the kites in fact were single line kites although not quite as good as I first thought because it was two of the same kite and they only do the one livery!

Even more intriguing was an offer made by Flexifoil that if ever you no longer wanted your kite and for whatever reason, then you could return it for a full refund no matter what condition it was in.

This, astounding offer is repeated in a downloadable booklet on their web-site.

The booklet is not the 'Manual of power kiting' I expected from the title but more explaining the basics of the sport interwoven, cleverly, with patter about how strongly built a Flexifoil kite is.

There is nothing wrong in any of that and it's definitely worth a read, perhaps a speed read by the more experienced of flyers likely to look at it although I have always been about helping the beginner and novice kite flyer and there is some great advice for that sector including guidance on age ranges for different kites.

If ever FF were to do an updated version I would like to see a bit more emphasis advising caution and perhaps advice on getting (and where to get) proper tuition.

## Pothecary Corner

How an 'Upside Down' Wind Sculpture became a '130mph Power Kite' and

**7**

**EXPERT FACTS**

You Must Know Before Getting a Power Kite of your own  
(#3 will Blow Your Mind)

 **FLEXIFOIL**

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary edition

I know there are many clubs that provide this across the globe.

These kites can be dangerous in the change of a second and the process of, combined with the time spent, training, will help to give the all important experience that all most certainly will be needing at some point.

I am happy to say though that FF do not merely plug the most powerful, top of the range kites as the way to go and the chart in the booklet helps to show the route up through the ages as to which kite will suit who the best.

As a spoiler thus far I will say that the package offered is a very good investment for someone solo, or with a family, looking to get in to something new, interesting and a lot of fun.

I am pleased to be able to report on one of the power kites and how we got on with it later and, hopefully, we will be working our way through some of the other kites later in the year, but first, let's take a look at the single line kite.

### *FLEXIFOIL RAINBOW*

The first thing that hits you with this is the quality of the bag this sled kite comes in.

Its the sort of thing you would happily part with a good few pounds for if say, you were looking to carry a small camera or flash unit, maybe some CD's (alright I know people don't use them anymore but I'm just trying to think of things!).

The contents (the kite) was of equal substantial build.

We weren't sure why the bag needed to be that good if the kite was so strongly made but it's all down to that 'feel good' factor that follows right through the experience of what proved to be an enjoyable flight of a very nice kite.

In the bag there's 165 feet of line attached to a proper spool (another nice touch) with a loop already tied ready to attach.

That's it really!

After a quick check on the general construction of the kite and finding absolutely nothing to criticise, we unfolded this colourful Rainbow, unfurled the tails and, with a flick of the wrist to let the wind fill it up and push it in to shape, we let her go.

The wind was quite strong that day and there was quite a bit of dancing about as we held her on a short line to test and see if there





## Pothecary Corner

would be any nose dives but a combination of design and the long tails ensured this was not going to happen.

We like that in a kite!

We also like that when you let this one loose to run away just above the ground and then pinch hold of the spinning spool to lock it still, it shoots up at an angle of about 45 degrees.

So, not too high that it can't be seen and it dances merrily but doesn't wander all over the sky tangling with whatever else might be up there.



We left the kite rippling away whilst we moved aside to play with other kites just checking from time to time using it as a guide for wind direction.

We had the confidence by now that it would be there as long as the wind was. After about a hour it was reeled in for an inspection, which it passed with honours knowing that there was no way it was going to be folded as neatly back to the bag as when it was packed away in the factory.

But that didn't matter because this was a tuff one and it was going to fly just as well next time out.

If you fancy getting one of these for the glove box, or your jacket pocket then take a look around first before hitting the order button. I have seen these advertised from twenty seven to forty seven quid!

Going directly to the FF site might be a good idea, their service is pretty good and with their offers of money back or a replacement kite, then after-sales can only be rated as good too then?

### **BIG BUZZ**

Staying with Flexifoil for this next review we tried out something I didn't think that I would try again - especially at my age!

The last time I flew a power kite of any description I was pretty bored fairly quickly as I ran out of things to do with it but the Big Buzz foil kept me interested.

I found that it was OK on corners, flew arrow straight lines just above the ground and was locking tight circle-downs right across the window 10% height.



By accident whilst holding the buzz as still as it would sit right on the edge of the window, it started to collapse and, in recovering that, I was suddenly in to side slides - keeping the kite inflated, pointing upwards and drifting gently toward the centre of the window at 5%.



## Pothecary Corner

After a bit of use, you get to realise that no matter how hard you slam this in to the ground with that resounding "WHUMP!" that makes everyone turn around doing that face with the pursed lips, turned up nose and squinting eyes whilst taking a short intake of breath and no matter how many times - you ain't gonna break it and it pulls back up into the sky and skips on like a spaniel that has just fell over the ball it was chasing. Yes, that bit is in the video on the Close Encounters You Tube channel.

I had trouble relaunching at first but once I realised that I didn't have to be careful like with a two line kite that has rods, I found that a quick flick of the wrist with one hand whilst releasing the other letting that line go slack, the Buzz would roll enough to let the wind under and then flip back up in to the sky.

Again, on the video.

### *Way to fly*

You need to be wary of just how much this kite can pull when there's a strong breeze.

It nearly had me on my face a couple of times but then, if you see me in the video (and photo here), I don't stand properly!



I am expecting yet another telling off from STACK super guy Keith Griffiths about that at any time.

As Keith will tell you; once you have the straps around your wrists (see photo in last paragraph) and a firm hold on them, adopting a posture where your hands are together with your arms, more or less, out straight, you should try to lean back against the pull.



Once you get this in to your muscle memory you should find this gives you more time to think and, therefore, so much simpler to keep control.

It's so worth persevering.

### *Beginner*

There was a young lad on the field with his mum - He was flying a sticked kite purchased from Decathlon and, mostly, keeping it in the air as he waved his arms about. So, Novice!

James was about sixteen and half as big as me again and was most keen to fly the Big Buzz when I offered.



We had the usual beginners problems getting launched and relaunched but I was soon able to walk away and leave him to it whilst we packed up our other kites across the other side of the field.

Even Mum felt safe leaving him to it and wandered off to put another ticket on the car.



## Pothecary Corner

I could hardly believe the progress when I walked back over.

True he was still scraping the ground and crashing as he tried more and more things to test himself but he was then flicking the kite back up and carrying on, face wreathed in smiles from ear to ear.

He was also enjoying the physical workout too because the wind strength had now increased.

Me? To see this, I was Buzzing too.

This is what we are about - getting people enjoying our sport at first hand - Result!

The Big Buzz comes in a good, strong bag and the flying lines are already attached putting this in to the category of "Flies straight out of the bag".

With the lines being much shorter than we are used to for a dual line kite it meant that a few more crashes occurred whilst we got the measure of timing and how tight circles had to be just above the ground but it also meant that less space was need to go fly.

### *What we thought*

Overall we would say that as long as due care was taken and consideration to the wind strength this would be a good family day out sort of kite, where even oldies like us could join in the fun.

It's easy to fly and very strong.

At the very least, the Big Buzz is a good starter for a complete beginner who wanted to get in to power kiting.

### **LINE ADJUSTMENT**

As mentioned earlier here is the simple method we have always employed for quick adjustment to line length for dual and quad line kites.

It's one of the reasons we have always gone against the norm by pegging our kite handles to draw out the lines rather than attaching them to the kite first and walking back.

Our usual mantra with set up is "Red is Right!" This goes against what manufacturers tend to set up when previously attaching lines or control bars.

I can just imagine anyone who has flown with us or ground crewed smiling as, in our demonstration here we've gone to the other way around but that's simply because we used the lines that came with the Big Buzz

which had moved a bit following the hammering we gave it and I am going to leave them that way because it should be less confusing when I teach beginners using this one when the kite is red on the left also!

### *Why so minimal?*

Well, maybe not quite as important with power kites when over a couple of centimetres difference in length but snapping sharp and accurate corners setting up and performing tricks it can make things much easier if you know that returning your hands back to level will also mean bringing the kite back to flying in a straight line without having to do a mental and physical adjustment and that turning the kite to left or right or throwing hands forward will be equal movements.

Many a time I have picked up someone else's kite only for it to veer off to one side on launching.

My hands were together but the lines were of different lengths.

That can also happen if you have been used to flying a kite incorrectly set and you are, subconsciously, holding your hands to compensate - discussion with owner follows (Haha!)

### *Be Prepared*

I have learned to carry pre made-up adjusters with me to festivals where we are often asked to help people who have just purchased their kites.

Lines that come with kites are rarely the best of quality and even less likely to be of the same length - and even if they are, they soon stretch in varying amounts.

I remember once making this point to the Powells when they relaunched production of their Dad's kite and you can see Peter himself proudly showing off the method he devised to ensure consistency in a video I made for our website.

### *How so!*

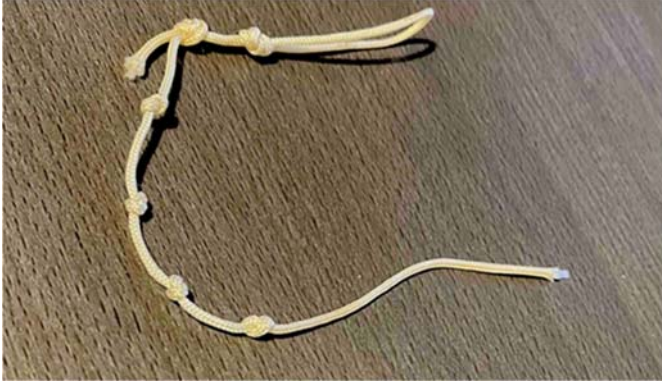


You can buy fancy pegs and pegs in sheaths, all sorts - been there, done that and I still ended out using a hefty screwdriver.

## Pothecary Corner

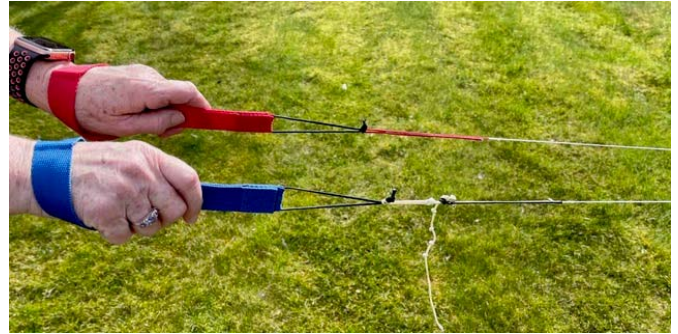
Hook over the handles and walk away down wind taking the kite with you.

When the lines are fully unwound take hold of the ends as shown here and apply even pressure.



Some people like to use the winder, using the hole as a fulcrum but, whatever you're most comfortable with!

For the adjuster, I generally use something like 250 pound single line with a loop at one end or doubled up bridle line - anything that is going to be stronger than the actual flying line that will be used.



Remember which colour line it was that had to be made longer (in this case it was the black one that was shorter) and remember by how much,.

Remove the line from the handle and replace it with the adjuster.

Then, Larks Head the flying line over the knot which is the length required to level things up!

Note that you can make the adjuster as long as you wish with loads of knots but some don't like it hanging down and getting in the way.

Simple! It's not fiddly, even I can do it!

We hope to be getting out with the kites and attending more events this year as restrictions allow, there certainly seem to be more festivals popping up again and more power to those that organise them, you have our admiration.

Please let me know if you want to see at first hand or to try kites we have reviewed recently or any from the more distant past and we are still giving free coaching but in the warmer weather these days though.

We have kites to review for the next edition and, hopefully, more on the way - something to please everyone!

See you next time.

Allan & Marilyn Pothecary

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





## One Sky One World

I was very deep in the negotiations when the call came from Jon and Gill to write something for the magazine. It is usually not too difficult to go back over some recent projects, collect some photos and away we go. Several topics came to mind. The Nagel Art Kite Sale of Paul Eubel's Goethe Institute exhibition kites was one. Another would be something on Afghan kites since I have to do a workshop with Afghan refugee children and the school teachers were at a loss since whatever they tried to get the children make seemed to turn into *gudi paran*. Good subjects, but I was having a headache, and still have one. My friends have been bombed out of Kherson and a little group of us have been planning the escape route.

It is not the place here to rant about the wrongs of what is going on. In fact we are powerless to make an impact. But not quite. For the past twenty or thirty years most of us have been actively aware of the fact that we share the sky with others. It means that when we meet people flying kites we will chat, smile and generally enjoy each others company. Malcom Goodman's Washington Kite Festivals and the Portsmouth International Kite Festivals are maybe best known here. Then there are the ones where we are the visitors. Perhaps the greatest festival of world friendship and kites is at Dieppe where kites from around the world come together and fly kites under the same sky. If only we could all do that.



## Paul Chapman

My friends are the Tarasenkos and they came to Dieppe from Kherson in Ukraine. It is that bit that is situated just above Crimea. The whole family came to Dieppe, including grandma. Elena was very conspicuous since she would wear the biggest straw hat imaginable. Whenever I felt like a spot of tea I would first visit Ludo Petit and the Manjha Club and, after acquiring some beautiful *patang* from my brother Abdul Rauf, I would collect together a bag of broken fighting kites and line and wander over to Ukraine and the Tarasenkos. It then became Sergey's job to light the samovar with the dead kites and then the circus would begin.

Very little language but a lot of communication. And the tea! At the time Polina, their daughter, was about 12 and when I heard that she played the trombone I managed to get her included in the UK floor show (we were the Guest of Honour) at the Kitefliers Grand Banquet and where she delighted everyone by playing Beatles tunes. We have stayed in contact ever since and it has been a privilege to see Polina develop into a serious musician. The week before the invasion she was playing in a concert in Barcelona and the family went to support her. They arrived home on the day of the invasion and then the nightmare began. This is when the kite family kicked in. Very quickly, and through the social media, a little group of us got together to support them. It was a wild ride, especially for them, where they would



pop up in one place after another and sometimes with very little safe chance of communicating. The first part of the plan worked and Polina is now back in Germany where she is studying while the others are staying somewhere safe and where the first priority is to buy another set of underwear for Sergey since they had to



So that brings me to the next lot of refugees, this time the Afghans. I was contacted by a teacher whose job it is to do her best with a group of 9 – 12 year old Afghan children. Since they, the teachers, had read the *Kite Runner* as their introduction to Afghan culture,

leave home in a big hurry. And so we are now on the second part of the plan which is to secure funding to keep them going until all this settles down. I suppose this just illustrates what kites are all about...fly kites and drink tea from the samovar in the sunshine and hang in together when a storm comes along. We all share the same sky after all.

Obviously (?) throughout all this I have taken a backwards view of Ukrainian kite history. It is a tricky subject since all the kite books I have were published in the days of the USSR so it is a bit tricky to decipher the Russian from the Ukrainian. One of the books "Kites" 1972 is by Dr. Oleskii Zviryk from Kherson. Oleskii told me that his book was the first Soviet kite book that was permitted to be released in the Ukrainian language. It is a fascinating book and draws not only on the pre WW2 kite books by Babjuk, but also includes a series of newfangled Ukrainian rocket kites.



they had thought it a good idea to do a kite workshop. This meant getting together bits of what they thought might be useful to make kites. The idea was to teach the children to make the conventional (non-flyable) flat diamond with a tail thing. Since communication has to be made through a few of the older children who know a bit of English together and with some of the various Afghan languages, it all turned into a bit of a flop, especially when the children wanted to whittle

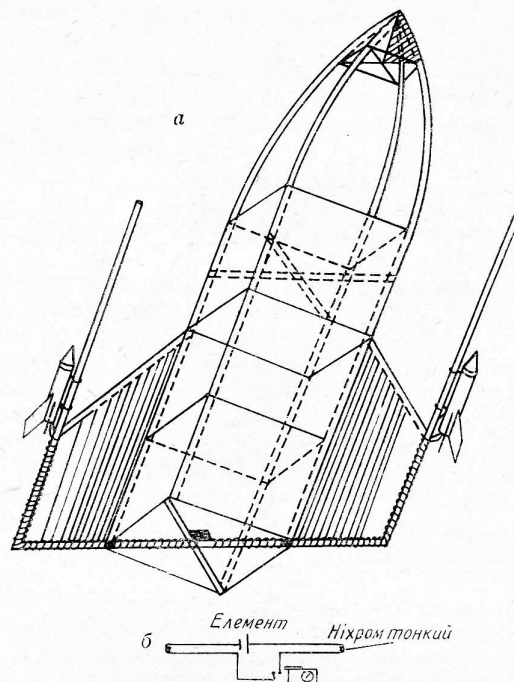
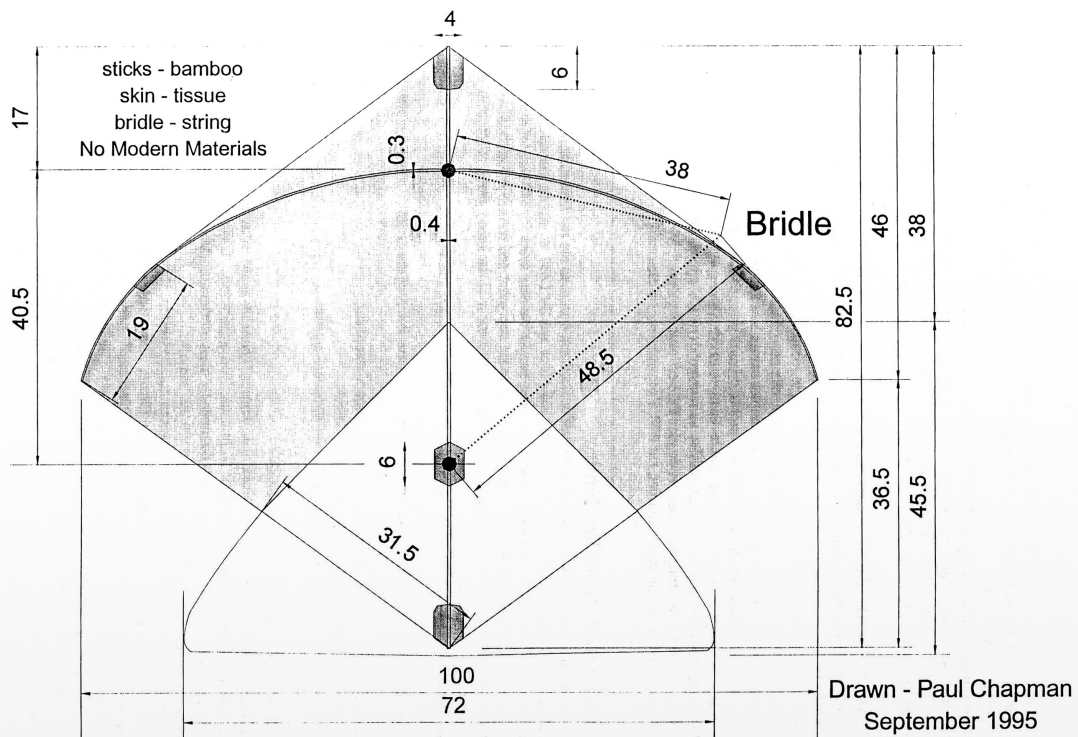


Рис. 65. Змій-ракетоносець АЗ-106: а) загальний вигляд; б) електрична схема.

the bits of dowel into bendy bamboo. They wanted to make *gudi paran*! This prompted the visit by the teacher to see whether I could help out. It just happens that I have a box of very large *gudis* and all things fighting kite so in a few weeks I'll be off to the school to talk to them and ask them how they make their *gudi paran*, and how they fly it. The plan is that we can rope in some of the family members and have a fly-off on the Bristol Downs. I have enough small Indian fighters to do the trick. No manjha though, just touch fighting. (it won't



## Fighting Kite from Afghanistan - dimensions in cm



work like that but that is what I am telling the teachers). The goal is, of course, to make the children happy and confident after all that they have been through. Hopefully it will be a two way kite exchange. What makes this extra fun is that the school is on the site of George Pocock's school in the 1820/30s so perhaps I will introduce them to the science of aeropleustics!

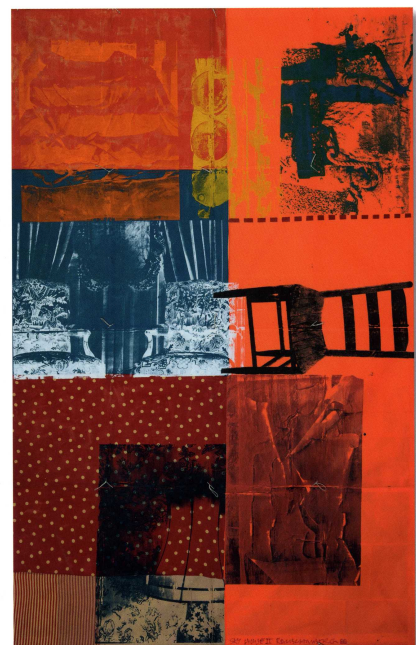
said that the kite works works would be flown and then exhibited worldwide and then they would be sold and the proceeds of the sale would go to international disaster relief. The

**NAGEL** | 100  
a u c t i o n . d e | Y E A R S



The business of the Art Kites sale obviously fades into insignificance compared with all the refugee problems but that too has relevance. A long, long time ago in the 1980s Dr Paul Eubel was the Director of the Goethe Institute Osaka. He came up with the idea of major art event based on inviting the worlds prominent artists to create works that would be mounted on Japanese kites. His manifesto suggested several traditional Japanese kite designs and he supplied the special *washi*. At the time he

23. FEBRUAR 2022  
**THE ART KITE COLLECTION**



object of dissipating the works in this way seemed to me to have a resonance in the Japanese concept that letting a kite go. Watching it disappear would take with it bad spirits and bring happiness.

The result of this appeal led to many positive responses and the works, when completed, included the suggested kite designs, but also included other imaginative designs. The actual kite construction was done by a team of distinguished Japanese kite makers that included people like Yoshizumi, Okajima and Masaaki Sato. They used almost all of the available *susudake* bamboo. The *susudake* is the woodfire smoked bamboo that forms the roof timbers of the traditional thatched houses in Japan. I am not sure how it happened but it seems that multiple (but different) works were supplied by the various artists. My friend Masaaki Sato makes the traditional horsefly (*abu-dako*) and cicada (*semi-dako*) kites and he told me how he made a number of kites from the paper supplied by his artist partner Hundertwasser. His Goethe Institute calendar shows at least a dozen different works.

I knew nothing of this when I was on a business trip to Brussels (a very odd event where I had to give a start up presentation at NATO HQ to the 8 nations of our project and were we had to have simultaneous translation and all that sort of 007 stuff). Since I was there all week I looked out Michel Dusariez of KAPWA and he told me about the kite exhibition at the Royal Palace Museum. I managed to wrap up the meeting early so had most of Friday to look at the kites. It really wasn't what I had expected! The



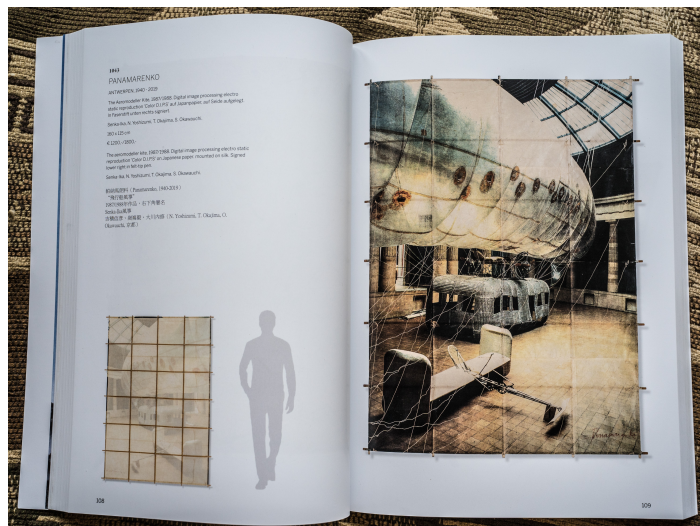
works were huge and the displays very dramatic. And there, in a case like the Crown Jewels, was the kite by Sato-san. It was a big one for Sato but tiny compared to the rest. But I was transfixed. All to soon it was time to go so I exchanged a few

evening meal allowances for the catalogue and various bits of ephemera.

The exhibition was a great success and seemingly each time it moved they brought out a different catalogue. I have the Japanese, French and English versions (the English one came from a second hand bookshop in Galicia!). They are all worth having since a proportion of the kites changed as well as new artists appearing.

And then the collection disappeared. It went off the radar. Gone. Rumours started. Occasional kites came up for sale. Some of these kites turned out to be the replica miniatures that you could buy in the exhibition shop. Those ones did not go cheap since the buyers cannot have actually the exhibition. Paul Eubel died in 1910 but the kites had vanished. Almost. The rumours seemed to coalesce on Italy and containers, but no-one would be specific.

And then suddenly the Nagel auction house in Germany announced the sale. There was an online catalogue and, if you could get through the smoke and mirrors, there was a hard copy catalogue too. Smoke? It was more like someone throwing

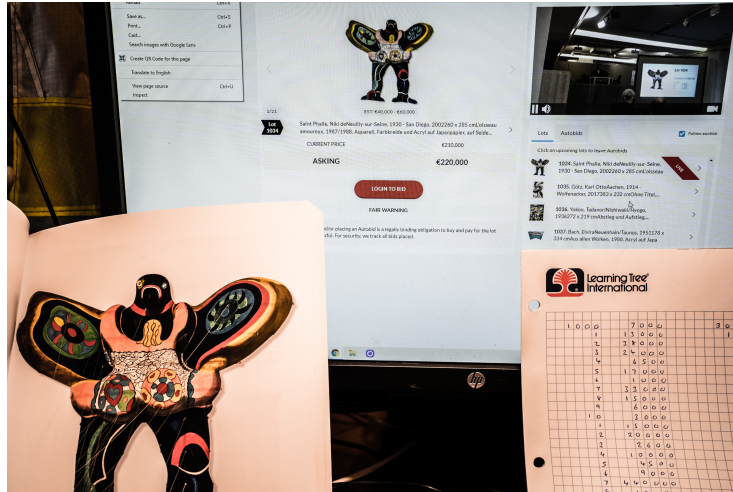




petrol onto dying embers! How dare they sell the collection? It must be saved. Can we set up a consortium to buy a few?

When you read the catalogue it says that the original objective of using the proceeds (less costs) will be honoured and that it will go to international disaster relief.

While that seems to satisfy Eubel's manifesto, the question remained whether the collection should have a single owner (a permanent display at the old Berlin airport at Templehoff was mooted). I wasn't involved but I can imagine that lawyers became very rich at this point. But the sale went ahead.



damage as well as kite flying impact damage. And there were oddities. There was one *suruga* (and there were others) where the artwork was mounted upside down and seems to indicate a misunderstanding between the artist and the kitemakers.

So in the end I came away with nothing. A vast amount of money was spent by the art

world. But as a kiter I think only a relatively small proportion could be termed true kites. It seemed to be the artist's name that drove the prices and that, in some way, devalues the Japanese kitemakers whose function is relegated to that of a picture framer.

I managed to sit through most of the sale. I had given up the hope of buying one of the cheaper kites...Panamarenko, stuck by Yoshizumi and Okajima was estimated at 12 -1800 euros and in nice undamaged condition. It featured a man-powered aircraft...my sort of stuff and not too big. It would be perfect. 10,000 euros plus the 29.5% buyers premium, plus \$\$! The new owner probably paid nearer 14,000 euros. I made a listing of the hammer prices. The highest price went to the enormously impractical and slightly damaged *tsugaru* by Kazuo Shiraga and stuck by Fukushi/ Kashima and Yoshizumi. It went for 1,140,000 euro plus the mark up!

But the kite I really wanted never appeared in the sale. Sato's collaboration with Hundertwasser is priceless! Who cares? My Sato traditional *abu* and *semi-dako* are treasures in their own right.



The damages? Many of the works showed signs of a combination of light and water



## Bits & Pieces

Around the Auctions  
*Invaluable.com*



Artist: John Lim; Title: Kite Flying; Dimensions: 22.5in. by 30in.; Edition: Numbered from the Rare Limited Edition of 275; Medium: Lithograph in Colors on Paper; Condition: Excellent  
Signature Details: Hand signed by the artist

Estimate \$300-600



Vintage gold tone enamel Bear with Kite pin. Measured 1 x 7/8 inches. Condition very good.

Estimate \$25-35



Glossy, highly detailed porcelain with color variations. Modeled as a man standing with his colorful kite.

Produced in very small quantities. Royal Doulton backstamp. Impressed 2657 to bottom base.

Artist: Bill Harper; Issued: c. 1977; Dimensions: 9.75"H; Manufacturer: Royal Doulton; Country of Origin: England

Estimate \$1500- 2000

*Tew Nai Tong (b. Selangor, 1936 - 2013) Joy Of Living (Kites Season); Happy Life, 2009*

Executed in delicate colours, the artist's poignant rendition of a village landscape allows insight into the daily lives of the village folk. Nai Tong returned to Malaysia and had his first solo at the British Council in Kuala Lumpur in 1964,



## Bits & Pieces

the year he won 2nd Prize in the Chartered Bank mural design competition. He furthered his studies at the Ecole Nationale Superieure des BeauxArts (1967-1968). The 1980s saw him winning several awards including the Shell Best Award (watercolour, 1981), Esso Best Award (1982) and Dunlop Best Award (watercolour, 1983).

He taught at various art academies namely the Malaysian Institute of Art (1969-1980), Central Academy of Art (1982-1985) and the Saito Academy of Art (1986-1988) before he decided to go full time in 1992. In 2007, he had a major survey exhibition at the National Art Gallery Malaysia, called Odyssey. In 2009, he won the Asia Art Award in Seoul, South Korea.



Estimate MYR5,500 - MYR8,500

### Meiji Gilt And Black Lacquer Tray



19th Century, Japanese, Scallop Edge, Scene Of Procession, And Kite Flyers, 12 X 15 X 1.5 Inches, Repair To Edge, Various Nicks And Scratches,

Estimate \$100—25000 (yes \$25K top end).

### Sacred Springs Kite Exhibition

Whilst the deadline for submissions has passed this is interesting. The information pack says:

*We are looking for original artwork expressly for this exhibition that are an extension of the artists' reverence for Nature and a belief that the right relationship with the Earth and natural systems is essential for the continued health of all life and specifically the prosperity of environmentally sensitive regions in Texas.*

*The artwork must be fairly large and colorful enough to be seen from a distance since all will be made into genuine well-flying kites. A wide border/frame made of ripstop nylon will be added to the paintings in some instances, giving them more square feet of lightweight sail area.*

*These paintings will mainly be displayed by hanging the kites in tall open areas in libraries, courthouses, airports, and public buildings across Texas and the United States. Occasionally they will be exhibited on walls. In most cases, they will be displayed in locations where the art needs to be bright and visible from at least 20 feet away. The art should be clear and powerful when displayed flying in the sky.*

*The new Austin Central Library will be the first venue for showing the collection. The exhibit opens on May 1, 2022 with a private reception for community leaders and participants. The twenty pieces of kite art will be on display in the large, high-ceilinged central atrium.*

There does not appear to be a need to fly though!

### New Disney Kites Mystery Pin Set Flies into Disney's Hollywood Studios

Let's go fly a kite! A new kites-themed mystery pin set has just landed at Disney's Hollywood Studios.

These pins are shaped as kites and themed to different Disney characters.

You have a chance of getting Mickey Mouse, Pinocchio, Stitch, Sorcerer Mickey, a Dalmatian, Alice, Peter Pan, or Dumbo.

Like with most mystery pin sets, each box contains two randomly selected pins of this eight pin collection.



Priced at \$17.99. May be available through Disney Stores in the UK?

## Bits & Pieces

### New dance-theatre piece inspired by India's world famous kite festival is heading to Newcastle

A new innovative dance show that transports its audience to a world-famous kite in North India is currently touring the UK.

Pagrav Dance Company's new show, Kattam Katti recently had its world premiere of two sold-out nights at Sadler's Wells, London's Home of Dance as part of a national tour.

The show vividly brings to life tales of competition, danger, excitement and unity wonderfully evoking both the solemnity and delight of this hugely important celebration.

Every January millions of people from different cities, religions and social classes come together to fly kites in a unique event marking the transition from winter into spring. Whilst it is a joyous event, Uttarayan which is held in Gujarat, North India, is also ruthlessly competitive. The aim is to fly your kite higher than anybody else's. Competitors coat their kite strings with glass pigment that while beautiful on the surface will also cut the strings of other kites.

Wounds to participants are not unknown and penthouse-owning rich people make full use of their advantages by launching their kites from high rooftops. Kattam Katti draws parallels with society's inequalities in India, the UK and around the world.

Kattam Katti (Cutting Through) is a neo classical work with a contemporary feel and strong roots in the South Asian dance tradition. It features live original music from four musicians who interact with, and move around with, the four dancers.

Founded in 2005 by acclaimed dancer, choreographer and teacher Urja Desai Thakore, Pagrav Dance Company creates work rooted in classical Indian Kathak styles, fused with contemporary storytelling and design. The company is also highly committed to nurturing the next generation by providing a supportive platform for emerging dancers.

Urja Desai explained more about the show: "Today there are many deeply divided societies around the world."

"I used kite flying and the festival as a metaphor for the inequalities of privilege I see in those societies and in the corporate world. It is also based on my personal observations of the festival and Gujarati heritage in general. I hope that by addressing such universal themes in this way we can introduce Asian dance to new audiences from diverse cultures."

Tapping into the chaos, creativity and colour of the kite festival, the company brings to life the

excitement of Uttarayan with lyricism, drama and exquisite technique. The work is created and performed by a new generation of British dancers of Indian heritage, accompanied by live musicians who collectively illustrate the highs, lows, loves and losses of lives that are lived out among the festivities. Kattam Katti is suitable for all ages and backgrounds.

Kattam Katti features dramaturgy by Lou Cope, set design by Simon Daw and lighting by Hector Murray.

Co-commissioned by Sadler's Wells it is funded by Arts Council England and Milton Keynes Council with partners Cambridge Junction, Bedford University, Akademi, SED, Gem Arts, Bedfordshire Dance and Bedford Creative Arts.

Pagrav Dance Company are also hosting kite-making workshops at each venue that Kattam Katti visits alongside dance workshops in local schools.



### Set of 10 Japan c.1960s matchbox labels depicting Kite Designs.



Set of 10 Old Japanese c.1960s Matchbox Labels Kite Designs. Good mint condition see scan. These matchbox labels have been in my vast collection and accumulation of matchbox labels for over 40 years.

Was £1.50 plus postage

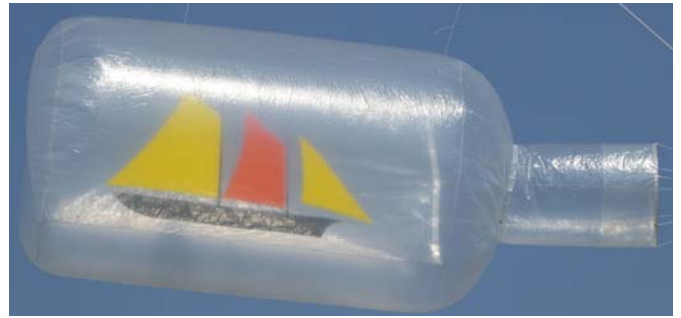
when last looked.



# Rosa Kite Festival, Italy

We had the pleasure of being invited to this festival. Great Italian hospitality and not such

great wind. Don't mention the dust!



# St Joseph's College Indoor Fly-in—Bob Cruickshanks

After a period of a few years absence the indoor fly-in's, previously sponsored and organised by Karl Longbottom, returned to the calendar. The 30th January saw the first session attended by 23 eager string pullers of varying age, ability and looks but all keen to cast off the closet nature of Covid restrictions. As I mentioned before the event, you didn't have to be an egg-spurt to attend just bring your enthusiasm, which is exactly what we got on the day.

Indoor/zero wind flying requires a slightly different approach to flying with wind and if you have never experienced low/no wind flying then the indoor fly-in is just the place to find out more from things like; how do you do it, what type of kites do you use, do I need to be fit for running around etc?

First thing to appreciate is principally there is no running involved and the only fans are those flying the kites. It can even be achieved seated so physical ability i.e., wheelchair users or less mobile people can also do it.

It goes without saying that the kites in general should be lightweight but this does not necessarily mean expensive. There are plans available for kites using lightweight ripstop and carbon etc plus much cheaper materials namely wood and paper/plastic etc, see the plan for a Trash bag Kite.

Two and four-line kites are generally flown in a similar fashion to that in wind but on much reduced lengths of line. Because of the lack of wind and shorter lines you are able to fly in smaller spaces and move the kites all around your central position i.e., overhead and 360 degrees.

Single-line kites come in all shapes and sizes but they generally have a gliding characteristic i.e., they tend to fly/glide horizontally. As with multi-line kites you can fly the single-line kites in any direction around you and with practise achieve spins and tricks.

The main difference with single-line flying is allowing the line to run through your hand when the kite glides away and then gently pull the line to recover or make the kite climb, not rapid pulls as you would in wind conditions.

Flying should be relaxing, watching the kite to see what it wants to do and then reacting or influencing its next move. There are no rights or wrongs to flying in no/low wind but there are a few tips and ways to make it easier.

Don't have a light/suitable kite, not a problem as there are generally kites available at the sessions and the fliers are usually happy to let you try theirs. As with kite flying there are no professionals but there may be people to offer assistance and show you their different tech-

niques. If you didn't make it to one of the indoor sessions there will hopefully be more in the future or failing that speak to myself or anyone at a kite festival that looks like they are a lightweight..... flier. ;-)

Make your own Trash bag kite see the plans.

See a short video of the kite in action at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2S5IK70s5Nw>

## Trash Bag Delta Kite Instructions

This kite originally appeared in Margaret Greger's book *More Kites for Everyone* (1990).

Several years ago Sam Huston modified the measurements and added to the construction instructions when he presented the kite at the Fort Worden Kitemakers Conference, [www.kitemakers.org](http://www.kitemakers.org).

When the Pierce County Kitefliers Association was looking for an easy and reliable workshop kite for the first Milton Indoor Kite Fest, we tried this kite and discovered it is a fabulous indoor flyer with the addition of a little bit of weight on the nose. We believe it is a great way to begin your adventures flying kites indoors. A few more instructions and hints have been added along the way.

### Materials:

- A tall kitchen trash bag (workshop kites are made from Costco kitchen bags)
- Two 1/8" x 48" wood dowels, cut: 1 spine 23-1/2"; 3 @ 19" (2 side spars, 1 spreader)
- 3/4" Scotch Magic Tape, 3/4" or 1" strapping tape (3M Shipping Strapping Tape Extreme is ideal). Cut the 2" wide tape in half if necessary.}
- Two W' long pieces of 1/8" inside diameter vinyl tubing
- Three round toothpicks, cut to same size as the width of your strapping tape (use middle)}
- Poster board for pattern 22" x 28"

### Procedures:

1. Lay the pattern on the bottom fold of the bag with the long side of the keel on the fold (not an edge that has been heat sealed). Draw around the pattern and continue the centre line between the wing and the keel sections. Mark the spreader spot and cut out. Mark the spreader spot on the other wing before unfolding the sail.

2. Carefully, open one wing to the centre line, making sure to butt the cut section of the centre line together. The keel will now be under one of the wings. Tape the entire centre line, centring the magic tape over the line. This is easiest if you place a small piece of tape at the nose, tail and middle to secure the seam, then fill in with two or three pieces of tape.



# St Joseph's College Indoor Fly-in—Bob Cruickshanks

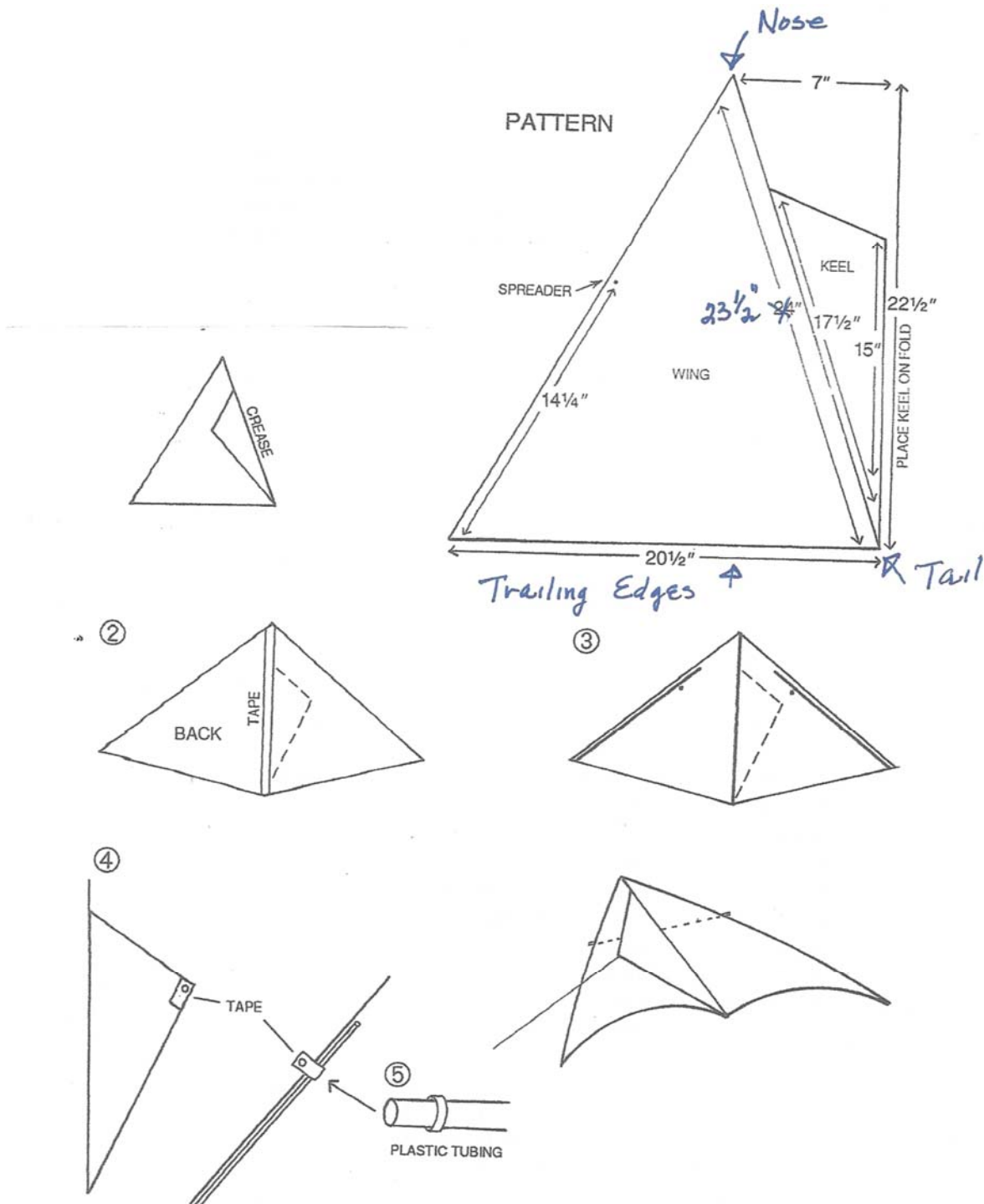
3. Lay the spine on the centre line and tape it to the kite the same way you secured the centre line. lay side spars close to the wing edges, placing the bottoms of the spars at the trailing edge. Tape the spars to the wings with the Magic tape in the same manner.

4. Cut three 2-1/2" pieces of strapping tape for keel tip and spreader attachments. Lay the toothpick pieces in the middle of the strapping tape before folding them over and attaching to kite at spreader points on wings and tip of keel. Punch 1/8" holes as shown.

5. Put plastic tubing pieces on each end of spreader. Place spreader into the kite sail. For flying indoors, the sail should be nearly flat, and you'll want to add a nickel sized piece of poster tack on top of the nose tip to add a little weight. To fly it outdoors try removing the poster tack and moving the spreader tubes closer to the centre of the kite ~ to 3/4" on each end, shortening the spreader. This gives the kite more dihedral and better stability.

6. Attach the pigtail to the keel tow point, and your line to the pigtail.

7. Go fly.



# Portsmouth 2022

## Portsmouth International Kite Festival 30th & 31st July

We are pleased to say that the 30th iteration of the Portsmouth International Kite Festival will be taking place on 30th & 31st July, Southsea Common, Portsmouth.

The change in date is the result of several other events having to move because of sea defence work being carried out around Southsea Castle.

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

As normal parking and limited camping is available to members and must be requested in advance by sending the required details to us. The passes will be sent electronically, or in a return self addressed and stamped envelope.

**Free parking** Please provide your name and car registration number. Passes are specific to your vehicle and NOT transferable to another vehicle without a new pass being issued.

**Camping** is not normally permitted, but as a concession is allowed just for the kite festival. Spaces are limited and will be allocated by ballot. 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**.

Requests for parking and camping passes should be sent to: [portsmouth@thekitesociety.org.uk](mailto:portsmouth@thekitesociety.org.uk).

This year we are back to a full international event with kitefliers from around the world. We also hope to bring together some of the European Air Gallery with the Hague Air Gallery, a collection of Edo kites painted by well known artists in the 1990's. More information about the gallery can be seen at <https://www.nekf.org/european-air-gallery/>



More information about the gallery can be seen at <https://www.nekf.org/european-air-gallery/>

These are some of the visitors to the festival—Wolfgang Schimmelpfennig known for his 3D inflatable designs

including the Cobra. Phil Broder (USA) with his unique selection of single line kites, Tony Jetland (USA) with his Dragon kites and other inflatables.

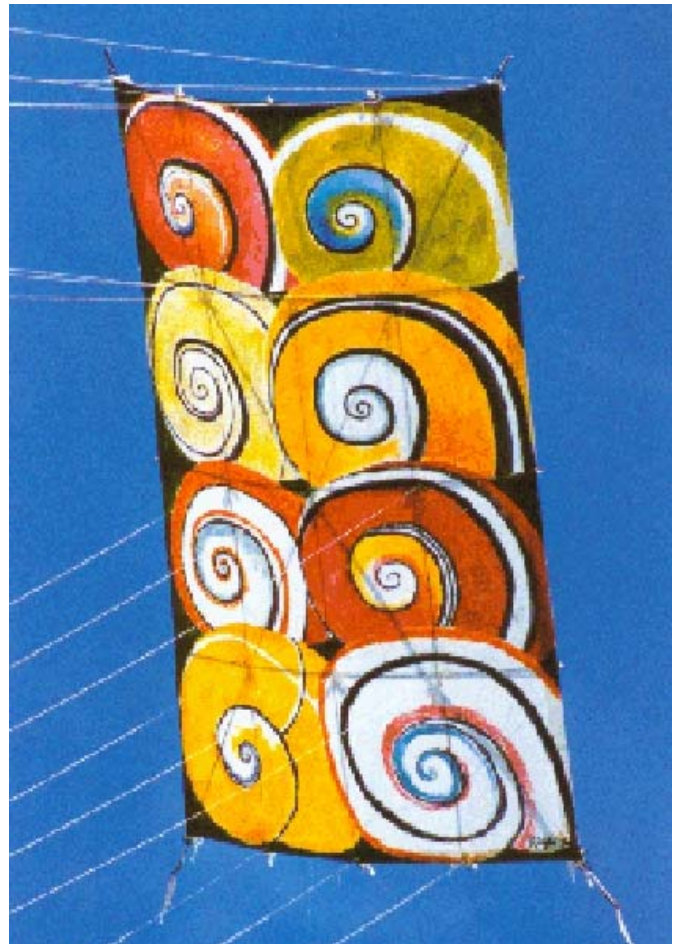
Regular visitors return from Belgium, Germany, Italy and Holland.

On the sports kite side we have the full 9 person team from France—Team Follies as well as Stephen Versteegh (Holland) - European champion.

Not forgetting our UK based talent of single and multi-line fliers.

There will be a get together Saturday Evening in the Halls of Residence (Rees Hall) with some form of auction (details to be decided).

More details will be on the web site ([www.portsmouthkitefestival.org.uk](http://www.portsmouthkitefestival.org.uk)) as available.



Design by Kaffe Facett, one of the European Air Gallery collection

We hope many of you will come to the festival—there are opportunities to help fly the kites of the Air Gallery!



## Events List

	<b>2022</b>	
	<b>April</b>	
23 – 1/5	Berck-sur-Mer Kite Festival, Berck-Sur-Mer, Nord-Pas-De-Calais, France	<a href="http://www.cerf-volant-berck.com">www.cerf-volant-berck.com</a>
23 – 1/5	Cervia International Kite Festival, Pinarella Beach, Cervia, Italy	<a href="http://artevento.com">artevento.com</a>
23-24	North Hants Kite Jolly Up 30, on the field off Southlea, Farleigh Road (B3046), Cliddesden, near Basingstoke, Hampshire RG25 2JL	<a href="mailto:roy@kitesup.co.uk">roy@kitesup.co.uk</a>
	<b>June</b>	
2-5	Margam Park Kite Event, Port Talbot, Wales.	<a href="mailto:margampark@npt.gov.uk">margampark@npt.gov.uk</a>
18-19	Bunn Leisure Kite Festival, Warners Lane, Selsey, West Sussex PO20 9EL	<a href="mailto:bunn@brkf.org">bunn@brkf.org</a>
25-26	Cardigan Bay Kite Festival, Cardigan Island Coastal Farm Park, Gwbert on Sea, Cardigan, Ceredigion, West Wales SA43 1PR	<a href="mailto:kites@skybums.com">kites@skybums.com</a>
26	Hampstead Heath Kite Display, Hamstead Heath, London	<a href="mailto:Hampstead@thekitesociety.org.uk">Hampstead@thekitesociety.org.uk</a>
	<b>July</b>	
2-3	Barmouth Kite Festival, on the beach opposite the Lifeboat Station, Barmouth, Mid Wales	<a href="mailto:kitesbarmouth@gmail.com">kitesbarmouth@gmail.com</a>
9-10	Leominster and Hereford Kite Festival, The National Trust's Berrington Hall, Leominster, Herefordshire HR6 0DW	<a href="http://www.kitefestival.org.uk">www.kitefestival.org.uk</a>
16-17	Shropshire Kite Festival, Lacon Childe School, Love Lane, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire DY14 8PE	<a href="mailto:kites@skybums.com">kites@skybums.com</a>
30 - 31	Portsmouth International Kite Festival, Southsea Common, Portsmouth	<a href="mailto:portsmouth@thekitesociety.org.uk">portsmouth@thekitesociety.org.uk</a> <a href="http://www.portsmouthkitefestival.org.uk">www.portsmouthkitefestival.org.uk</a>
	<b>August</b>	
6-7	North Hants Kite Jolly Up 31, on the field off Southlea, Farleigh Road (B3046), Cliddesden, near Basingstoke, Hampshire RG25 2JL	<a href="mailto:roy@kitesup.co.uk">roy@kitesup.co.uk</a>
27-29	Bognor Regis Kite Festival, King George V Playing Fields, Felpham, Bognor Regis, West Sussex PO22 8QS	<a href="http://www.brkf.org/kite-festival.html">www.brkf.org/kite-festival.html</a>
	<b>September</b>	
2-4	St Annes International Kite Festival, Lytham St Annes, FY8 1SB	<a href="http://www.discoverfylde.co.uk/kitefestival/">www.discoverfylde.co.uk/kitefestival/</a>
10-18	Dieppe Capitale du Cerf-Volant, Pelouses de la plage, Dieppe 76200, Normandy, France	<a href="http://www.dieppe-cerf-volant.org/">www.dieppe-cerf-volant.org/</a>

[tug.com](http://tug.com)

